

**A STRATEGY  
FOR PLAYING PITCHES  
AND OTHER OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES  
IN THE BOROUGH OF BARROW IN FURNESS**

**Michael Presland  
for  
Leisure and the Environment**

**JANUARY 2003**



## INTRODUCTION

1. Leisure and the Environment was commissioned by Barrow Community Regeneration Company to undertake a study of playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities within the borough. The study was funded jointly by Sport England, Cumbria County Council and Barrow Borough Council.
2. In common with many other parts of the country there are growing issues surrounding the development and retention of playing fields, and the development of pitch sports:
  - Central Government has highlighted the problems associated with the loss of playing fields, especially on school sites and has put in place measures to prevent their loss.
  - Planning Policy Guidance, recently reviewed, advises local authorities to provide the strongest protection for open space and adopt a strategic approach to its provision and protection.
  - Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting sports pitches since 1996, and has adopted a Playing Field Policy and Strategy, the latter currently under review and due to be published in 2003.
  - An increasing pressure for the development of urban land is threatening green spaces, including sports pitches, in many towns
  - The availability of additional funding, especially from regeneration agencies and the Lottery, highlights the need to take a strategic and objective approach to the consideration of playing field issues
  - There is the opportunity to secure recreational and open space provision in conjunction with new housing and other development, and guidance is needed in advance of the preparation of local plans and other planning advice
  - The retention and provision of pitches is an important prerequisite to the future development of pitch sports themselves, especially for juniors and other groups not currently participating at desirable levels, and for those seeking to improve their standards of performance.
3. This study has therefore been undertaken with the following objectives:
  - To help the borough meet the demand for sports pitches
  - To identify external funding for their improvement and consider the need for additional provision
  - To inform the review of the local plan
  - To provide the Borough Council with adequate planning guidance to determine proposals affecting playing fields
  - To inform the preparation of subsequent development plans for pitch sports in the borough
4. The main work involved in the study can be summarised as follows:
  - An assessment of Barrow's outdoor sport and recreation facilities examining the supply of and demand for facilities for different sports. This assessment includes consideration of the availability and current use of facilities and identifies existing problems restricting their use, such as pitch condition or the inadequacy of ancillary facilities
  - An identification of opportunities to provide new facilities, or improve existing ones to allow them to be more intensively used, provide a wider range of activities or otherwise become more attractive to users
  - A consideration of how developers can contribute to future pitch provision together with other funding sources

- Guidance leading to the development of pitch sport development plans in the borough
5. The report is set out as follows:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Introduction  | Page 3  |
| • Executive Summary   | Page 5  |
| • Issues, Concerns and Context                                | Page 6  |
| • Method  | Page 11 |
| • Supply of and Demand for Pitches                            | Page 15 |
| • Towards a Standard and Overall Strategy for Playing Pitches | Page 46 |
| • Recommendations   | Page 50 |
| • Appendices and maps   | Page 56 |
6. The study deals primarily with the five main pitch sports of football, cricket, hockey, rugby league and union, which are by far the most significant pitch sports in terms of participation and impact. No other pitch sports have been identified which have any local significance. However the study does include consideration of other outdoor sports, such as tennis, bowls and netball, which are considered in the National Playing Fields Association's well known playing space standard, and this allows direct comparison with other studies.
7. The study is concerned only with public, or community, demand for pitches and other outdoor facilities. While this includes the contribution which sports clubs and school pitches make to wider community use, it does not consider demand from other sectors such as school curriculum development, universities and higher education and professional sport.
8. The study area is defined as the administrative borough of Barrow in Furness, and the detailed information on demand and supply set out in the report relates only to this area. However, it is recognised that in sports terms, Barrow is part of a wider functional area and the study attempts to consider any issues arising from teams and players travelling into and out of the borough, as well as the policies prevailing in the neighbouring district.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. There are 75 pitches in secured community use in Barrow in Furness. These take up 69.3 ha. of land, or the equivalent of 0.96 ha. per 1000 population, compared with the NPFA minimum standard of 1.21 ha. per 1000. Including an additional 4 pitches used by clubs and on school sites, the total area of pitches in community use is 73.5 ha, or 1.02 ha per 1000. Pitch provision almost exactly reflects the national average.
2. Generally the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities such as changing rooms is good, though improvements are required in some locations to ensure that all pitches are capable of two matches per week.
3. Based on estimates of future demand, changing activity rates, the impact of sports development initiatives and population changes, it is estimated that there is a future requirement for 88 pitches in secured community use in the borough up to 2016 (to correspond with the date of the next local plan review), requiring 83.7 ha. of land or the equivalent of 1.16 ha. per 1000 population.
4. For individual sports, it is recommended as follows:
  - Football - 57 pitches are required up to 2016, involving the provision of 6 additional pitches and the remarking of some senior and mini pitches for junior use.
  - Cricket - there are sufficient pitches to meet anticipated future demand based on clubs, although any increase in casual demand may require improvements to some school pitches
  - Rugby Union - 4 additional pitches area required to accommodate future demand especially for junior and female teams which are currently not well provided for in Barrow
  - Rugby League – 5 new junior rugby league pitches are required to enable each main club to have access to 2 pitches each , although 2 of these might be accommodated on existing unused pitches in Outer Barrow
  - Hockey - Park Leisure Centre ATP requires urgent refurbishment, and there may be a longer term justification in developing a further ATP on a school site, primarily for hockey but available for other activities including training
  - Other sports - provision for bowls, tennis, athletics and netball should be based on existing facilities, some of which, and in particular the Park Vale athletics track, require urgent improvement
  - MUGAs - a wide distribution of floodlit MUGAs in each of the 5 sub areas of the borough would improve opportunities for all-weather training, sports development and informal activities and reduce wear and tear on existing grass pitches.
5. Negotiations should be undertaken on all education pitches in current or anticipated use to ensure they are brought into secured community use by 2005, with the help of formal community use agreements.
6. A local standard of 1.16 ha. of playing pitches per 1000 population should be adopted as a planning guideline and incorporated in the local plan review. Developers of new housing should be required to provide pitches in accordance with an agreed formula.
7. A list of priority developments, enhancements and improvements should be considered up to 2016, the indicative current total cost of which is about £3.5m.
8. As a matter of urgency Barrow CRC and other bodies should use the findings of this strategy to inform the preparation of plans for the development of individual pitch sports throughout the borough.

## ISSUES, CONCERNS AND CONTEXT

### PLAYING FIELDS AND OPEN SPACE

1. There are few more emotive issues dealt with in the planning system than the loss of playing fields. The concern is part of a wider debate on the protection and management of urban open space in general, and has been particularly high on the political agenda since the early 1990s.
2. This study deals largely with playing pitches and other relevant outdoor sports provision. It is not concerned with children's play areas, informal open space, green lungs, country parks and other aspects of open space. Although these are related issues, they are often confused by local planning authorities when developing policies for recreational open space.
3. Playing fields, especially those in the public domain, can also be used for casual play, dog walking, picnics and many other activities not associated with formal sport. They may have an environmental role, in providing open views, natural habitats and amenity green spaces. Access to informal space for healthy activity and children's play can, of course, encourage people to take up formal sport. All of these potential relationships are acknowledged but remain outside the scope of this study.
4. There is often a general presumption against the loss of open spaces, on the basis that once lost to development, they can usually never be returned to that use. In principle this is a line which many local planning documents take on sports pitches. However, there are a whole range of sporting, operational and management reasons why playing fields need to be considered separately from wider open space considerations. A playing field may no longer meet the specific needs of existing users because:
  - Technological innovation in the sport has rendered the facility obsolete. Artificial turf pitches for example have replaced grass as the standard surface for competitive hockey.
  - Clubs may outgrow their facilities and cannot develop due to constraints imposed by the site on the number of pitches and teams
  - Ancillary facilities are required, such as changing, parking or floodlighting, which cannot be accommodated on an existing site.There may also be major strategic reasons why pitches are no longer required for sport. When school rolls fall, the closure of a school may reduce the curricular need for pitches. Similarly structural changes in industry over the years has led to the rationalisation and closure of many company sports and social club facilities.
5. It is against this background that planning and social policy on open space and playing fields has been developed.

### POLICY CONTEXT

6. National policies on planning for and protecting playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities have over the years attempted to strike a balance between the general desire to protect playing fields, and a pragmatic recognition that in some circumstances there may be a justification in sanctioning disposal of all or part of the site. This balance however has not always succeeded in protecting valuable facilities.
7. Government Planning Policy –originally published in 1991, PPG17 – Sport and Recreation recognised the special significance of all playing fields for their recreational

and amenity value, urged local planning authorities to recognise their long-term community value and advised that playing fields should be protected unless one of three criteria were met. In 2002, a revised PPG17 entitled 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' strengthened the need to protect playing fields, and reiterated the need for robust local assessments of need, which take into account quantity, quality and accessibility. Planning permission should not be granted for the development of playing fields unless the exceptions set out in Sport England's policy (see below) are met. Playing fields should also be considered in the wider context of open space in general, of which an adequate supply should always be maintained.

8. As a consequence of the growing concern at the loss of playing fields in the early 1990s, the government, by virtue of an amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 1996 designated the Sports Council (now Sport England), as a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting sports pitches. To strengthen these powers further, the Town and Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction 1998 required all local planning authorities to refer to the Secretary of State any planning application which they wish to approve contrary to an objection from Sport England. The effect of these two additional safeguards has been a significant drop in the number of developments leading to the loss or diminution of playing fields. In the year up to March 2002, Sport England was consulted on 988 applications affecting playing fields, and objected to 197. To date, 37 of these have been subsequently refused by the local planning authority, 43 withdrawn and 46 approved contrary to its advice (4% of the total).
9. General Government Policy For the first time, Government policy for sport was considered and published in 'A Sporting Future for All' (April 2000) by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in conjunction with then Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). Playing fields feature significantly in the section on 'Lifelong Participation' in 'Sport in the Community', and the strategy seeks to strengthen playing pitch protection by additional planning powers (see above), lottery funding through the Green Spaces and Sustainable Community Initiative, controls over the disposal of school sites (see below) and better monitoring.
10. DfEE (now Department for Education and Skills - DfES) A particular issue within the playing fields debate has been the disposal of education playing fields deemed to be surplus to school requirements. Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 gave the Secretary of State powers to protect school playing fields from disposal or change of use, and Circular 3/99 interpreted this in detail. The Circular introduced the need for widespread consultation with the community and other user groups, which reduced the number of school playing field disposals from 40 a month in 1998 to only 3 in 2002. Approval is only given where funds raised are ploughed back into sport and education, and where remaining playing fields fully meet the needs of the school and community now and in the future. About a half of approved disposals affecting school pitches have been at schools which are closing, and 70% of the remainder will lead to new or improved sports facilities. Circular 3/99 has now been superseded by new guidance from DfES entitled 'Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies', which emphasises wider community use and the need for asset management plans for schools.
11. Sport England Policy Central to the retention of playing fields has been the role of Sport England, and its predecessor, the Sports Council. Together with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), the Sports Council published 'The Playing Pitch Strategy' in 1991, which set out a 'considered approach' to the retention of playing fields, a range of issues to be addressed and a new methodology for assessing playing field need at a local level

(subsequently used in this study). The strategy has stood the test of time, and provided the background to Sport England's involvement in playing field issues. It is currently in the process of being reviewed to reflect more accurately more recent concerns identified over the ensuing ten years, but the methodology remains largely intact and unchanged.

12. Sport England lobbied strongly to become designated as a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields, and achieved this status in 1996. It developed a national policy to guide its approach to playing field retention and disposal. This policy is as follows:

*“(Sport England) will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, or land last used as a playing field or land allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of (Sport England) one of the specific circumstances applies.*

*The specific circumstances are:*

- 1. A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of (Sport England) that there is an excess of playing provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport*
- 2. The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use*
- 3. The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site*
- 4. The playing field or playing fields which could be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements prior to the commencement of development*
- 5. The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.*

It has also incorporated the need for positive policies for playing field protection and retention in its land use planning policy statement ‘Planning Policies for Sport’ (November 1999)

13. National Playing Fields Association Since 1938 the NPFA has urged a minimum standard for play and recreational open space, of 6 acres per 1000 population, traditionally known as the NPFA Six Acre Standard. This is a basic approach to planning for recreational open space used by many local authorities and based on a minimum level of provision to be sought. Application of the standard involves a simple calculation using an accepted ratio of space required per head of population. In the case of playing pitches, bowls greens, tennis courts and other similar outdoor facilities, this equates to 1.6 – 1.8 ha. per 1000 people (4 – 4.5 acres) of which pitches themselves are acknowledged to represent 1.21 ha. (3 acres). The standard has served its purpose well over the years, and indeed has recently been reviewed and confirmed as appropriate to the current day, with the NPFA urging an increased emphasis on implementation and best practice. It is recognised widely by local authorities, planning inspectors and others involved in planning policy, but is not

sensitive to local needs. It is a useful baseline, but is now increasingly being replaced by the need for local assessments as set out in the new PPG17.

## LOCAL POLICY

14. Cumbria Structure Plan sets out the framework for development in the county up to 2006. The Plan highlights the need to provide sports and open space facilities in areas of new housing or those currently lacking facilities, as well as protecting existing provision. To fulfil this requirement, local planning authorities are encouraged to carry out surveys of existing provision, against minimum standards such as the NPFA standard or the findings of the Cumbria Recreation Survey, protect sites from development by allocating them in local plans and work towards meeting shortfalls. Policy 53 of the Structure Plan states that '*recreational land and facilities will normally be (i) provided to an appropriate standard in new residential development and in areas where shortfalls exist, and (ii) protected from development in areas where a shortfall can be demonstrated*'.
15. Barrow in Furness BC Borough Local Plan Review (1996 – 2006) concluded that Barrow was well provided for most outdoor sports, but that problems existed with the condition of winter sports pitches and tennis courts. There was a heavy reliance on education authority pitches. The local Playing Fields Users Association advised that the level of provision in Barrow in 1997 was adequate for the number of existing teams, with the exception of Dalton. Future development of leisure linked to economic growth might increase the demand for pitches, and no loss of existing facilities should be sanctioned. The local plan review was supportive of clubs and organisations improving their outdoor and ancillary facilities, and of developing a network of kickabout and multi-games areas, ideally with floodlights.
16. The specific policies in the local plan review relevant to outdoor and pitch sports are:
  - *G2 Development proposals which involve the loss of existing or former public or private recreation or community facilities such as parks, play areas, sports fields, school playing fields, allotments, sports halls and village halls will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there is no shortfall of provision in the area, or an alternative site is provided at the developers' expense of equal size and quality, with associated changing facilities and at a comparable location*
  - *G5 Proposals for the provision of outdoor sports and related facilities such as changing rooms, or for the replacement of existing facilities that are becoming inadequate will be approved subject to favourable consideration against the following criteria:*
    - (a) *whether the site is within or adjacent to the existing built-up area of the town or village*
    - (b) *the impact on nearby residential properties*
    - (c) *the suitability of the site access and parking arrangements*
    - (d) *whether the proposal makes use of under-used land*
  - *G6 Proposals for multi-use games areas or all-weather kickabout areas with floodlights will be approved where they are situated in the built up area of towns and villages and residential amenities are not adversely affected*
17. Barrow Borough Sports Strategy was produced in 2000 by Barrow CRC in conjunction with the Borough Council and the County Council, with the main aims of increasing participation in sport, improving and enhancing sports facilities, ensuring equity in

sport, developing skills and performance and using sport as a tool in regeneration. Sports pitches are identified as a main activity area, the key issues being the requirement for a needs assessment and strategy, the lack of pitches in Dalton, some quality issues, affecting certain pitches, ancillary facilities and in particular the Park Leisure Centre ATP, the lack of any 'public' cricket pitches and the development of mini-soccer. An Action Plan was developed, the main items in which were the development of a playing pitch strategy, the creation of new floodlit multi-games areas, an assessment of the location of football facilities, the encouragement of dual use of school buildings and pitches, a review of the quality of the ATP and continuous monitoring and evaluation. Other Action Plan priorities include assessments of the feasibility of a suitable site for municipal tennis and all-weather tennis courts, and the production of specific plans for individual sports.

#### POLICIES OF NEIGHBOURING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

18. As suggested above, Barrow is part of a wider operational area for sport, where teams, players and catchments may bear little relationship to administrative boundaries. The prevailing policies and current situation of pitch provision in the neighbouring authority have therefore been researched.
19. South Lakeland DC Local Plan contains policies for the protection of sports facilities, including pitches, for the district outside the National Park, and thus the remainder of the Furness area adjacent to Barrow. Policy L1 protects playing fields against development unless this is ancillary to the site's recreational use, a suitable playing pitch replacement is provided or there is evidence of lack of need. This is judged against national standards, and in particular the NPFA standard of 2.4 has/1000 population. However the local plan fails to contain any analysis of the current level of playing field provision or whether the standard is met throughout the district.

#### PLAYING FIELDS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT

20. Playing fields are necessary prerequisites for the development of pitch sports – without pitches, sport simply would not take place. However, just as important as facilities are individuals, coaches, programmes and people, who are responsible for organising, managing, promoting and sustaining sport. A playing pitch strategy will not lead to increased participation and improved levels of performance by the consideration of pitch provision alone – a comprehensive review of all of the issues relating to the 'people' side of sports development is also necessary. This study must therefore be viewed in this context, and Barrow CRC is encouraged to undertake, in conjunction with all those other bodies involved, a fundamental review of all the pitch sports in Barrow, drawing on the results of this study as a starting point.

## METHOD

### OVERALL STUDY PROCESS

- The study of playing pitches and other recreational open space involved a two-staged process, comprising data collection and data analysis:
  - Data collection** An audit was conducted of all known pitches and other relevant outdoor recreational facilities within the borough, and an examination of their use. The audit was based on an inspection of league handbooks, contacts with local league representatives and development officers and a visit to all pitches and other potential sites within the borough.
  - Data analysis** While the audit aimed to identify all pitches, an important part of the analysis was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified are available for use by 'the community' (in this case meaning the wider sporting public). The following categorisation of pitches, based on previous studies undertaken, was employed and is crucial to subsequent policy determination.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Examples</b>
A	All pitches that are in 'Secured Community Use' and are available for use at most times	Facilities in local authority or other public ownership or management, possibly on public open space. Facilities within the voluntary, private, commercial or industrial sector which serve the needs of their members or the wider public
B1	Pitches that do not fall in the above category, but nevertheless are in 'Secured Community Use' and are available for use during times of peak demand	Schools where pitches and other outdoor facilities are available to the public through formal community use agreements
B2	Pitches not included in A or B1 that are nevertheless available for use by the community (free or for a charge) at times of peak demand	Schools and other facilities where pitches are regularly available as a matter of policy or practice to the public, through membership or admission fee, at reasonable and affordable cost
C	Pitches not currently considered to be available for community use	Schools which as a matter of policy or practice do not hire out pitches

### METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

- The supply of and demand for pitches were assessed using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Methodology' (see Appendix 1 for a fuller explanation). This methodology differs from more widely used techniques for assessing pitch and recreational space provision, such as the NPFA six-acre standard (see above).

3. The Sport England methodology, in contrast to the general approach adopted by the NPFA, seeks to assess the specific requirements of individual teams, which it then translates into an assessment of 'peak demand' for pitches. A study based on this method can then be used to develop locally derived standards for incorporation into local plans and other policy documents.

#### SUB AREAS

4. In sports terms, the extent to which players and teams are prepared to travel to play matches varies greatly depending on factors such as the standard of competition, age group, income and the geographical nature of the area. Junior leagues and teams are likely to draw their players from a small area, while adult teams, especially those in the less popular sports or at a higher standard of competition, will be prepared to travel further to play opponents or secure use of better facilities. Catchments from which teams draw players can be especially large if specialist and expensive playing facilities, such as artificial turf pitches, are concerned.
5. Barrow in Furness is a compact borough with four separate and distinctive settlements. While Barrow itself is the main town in the area, it has close links with the towns and villages in the rest of the Furness peninsula, and does not operate as a self-contained entity, certainly not in sporting terms. In order to reflect local circumstances in pitch sport demand and identify potentially different factors within the sub areas of the borough, the study area has been broken down into five sub areas, and data collection, analysis and subsequent policy formulation undertaken separately as follows:
  - Central Barrow, comprising the priority wards of Barrow Island, Central, Hindpool, Ormsgill and Risedale
  - Outer Barrow, including the remainder of the wards in the town
  - Walney (North and South ward)
  - Dalton, comprising Dalton South ward and part of Dalton North
  - Askam, Ireleth, Lindal and the remainder of the Borough (most of Dalton North ward)

#### QUALITATIVE FACTORS

6. While the methodology is based on the number of pitches available and required, information on their quality is also imperative. Due regard has therefore been paid to the existence or not of ancillary facilities (changing rooms, parking, floodlighting, etc), the quality of pitches and their maintenance, accessibility and other factors. Such considerations can influence the use and popularity of pitches among local clubs. For example, many football leagues required clubs to have access to changing and shower facilities at their home ground. The quality of drainage and playing surface will influence how many games can be played, and whether postponements have to occur. The extent to which pitches (especially in public parks) are used for other purposes can affect the quality of the playing surface – use by bicycles for example can produce rutting of the surface which is often unfair to players, if not dangerous, and regular fouling by dogs is unpleasant and a health hazard.

#### HOW WERE PITCHES COUNTED?

7. Establishing precisely how many pitches exist can prove difficult for several reasons:
  - The number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons of management and husbandry – the findings in one season may therefore differ from those the following year

- Goals may only be erected on match days, and site inspections may thus fail to identify pitches
  - The time of year may greatly influence the existence of pitches
  - Winter and summer pitches often occupy much of the same space, which must be considered when developing local standards
  - Junior and mini-soccer often involves portable goals and small-sided pitches are therefore often difficult to identify. Indeed, mini soccer may take place on part of a larger pitch, as is often the case with mini rugby
8. Because of these problems, it was important that the study did not become a rigid 'snap-shot in time' counting exercise. The overall aim was to estimate the total capacity of the available playing field stock to provide pitches in the context of overall current and future demand. The study therefore includes pitches, which are currently unused, or have fallen into disuse over the past five years, but could be used in the future.
9. Pitch dimensions vary for different standards of play, grades of competition and age of players, and are often in reality determined by the space available. There is a range of standards for football recommended by the Football Association, Sport England, NPFA, DfES, English Schools Football Association (ESFA) and other governing bodies. The Laws of Football prescribe a minimum size for adult pitches, but there are no minimum or maximum dimensions for junior or youth football, and no FA stipulation that junior teams must play on junior pitches – in practice, many youth and junior teams play on full size adult pitches. The extent to which this practice occurs depends on how rigidly local league rules are enforced. The NPFA does recommend certain pitch sizes for different age groups (see Appendix 1), and the ESFA strongly recommends that for junior players of middle school age
- “wherever possible, the playing area should have a length of no more than 82m, nor less than 70m, with its breadth no more than 56m or less than 42m”.*
10. Primary school aged teams are covered by the FA's new mini-soccer regulations (discussed more fully later). The FA stipulates that children must play on the following pitch sizes:

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number per team</b>	<b>Recommended pitch size</b>
Over 6 and under 8	4 v 4 and 5 v 5	27.5 – 36.6m long 18.3 – 27.5m wide
Over 8 and under 10	6 v 6 and 7 v 7	45 – 55m long 27.5 – 36.6m wide

It is too early to establish how rigidly these new regulations will apply, and the impact on future pitch demand. Evidence from elsewhere, however, suggests that many mini-soccer games are in fact played on part of a larger pitch, with portable goals. As suggested above this can add to the difficulty of counting pitches accurately.

#### PITCH AREAS

11. The study requires the number of pitches to be converted into an overall area. It was impossible, because of time and resource limitations, to measure every pitch, and the information on the size of playing fields was often not available. Some assumptions

have therefore been made about the size of pitches, their run-off areas and other space requirements, based on guidance supplied by the NPFA (see Appendix 1).

## TEAMS

12. Teams were counted from current local league handbooks, information provided from the club survey, league and club officials and other sources, such as local newspapers. Where it was known definitively that clubs identified in the league handbooks had folded, these were excluded. Teams were categorised as far as possible into individual age groups, based on their need for different sized pitches. For the purposes of assessing local need for football, for example, three age-groups were used – under-10 (mini), 10-14 (junior) and 15-44 (youth using full sized pitches, and senior).

## POPULATION

13. Population information was taken from the recently published results of the 2001 Census. Because of the timing of this, and its relative incompatibility with previous ONS mid-year estimates, projections have not yet been prepared for future dates, and assumptions based on previous information have therefore been used. The current (2001) population of Barrow in Furness is 72,000 (rounded).
14. Team Generation Rates have been used to compare activity rates with other studies elsewhere. A TGR is the result of dividing the number of teams generated in a particular area into that section of the population providing the players (normally males 15-44 years). Accurate comparison depends on the existence of fairly detailed population data for the study area and its constituent sub-areas.

## OTHER SPORTS

15. The Sport England method is concerned solely with the demand for and supply of playing pitches. The study of other outdoor sports in the borough is therefore based on alternative methods.

## KEY TERMS – DEFINITIONS

16. The term 'pitch' used in this study is derived from the relevant planning legislation as a delineated area, together with any run-off, of 0.4 ha. and above, and which is used for association football, American Football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo. This definition originates from before the advent of mini-soccer which can have an area of 0.3 ha. including run-off. The study takes this into account.
17. The term 'playing field' is used to describe the whole of a site which includes at least one pitch.

## SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR PITCHES

### SUPPLY

1. There are estimated to be 130 pitches in total in Barrow in Furness. Of these only 75 are in secured community use (A and B1), and a further 4 are in some other form of community use ( B2).
2. There are 69.3 ha. of pitches in secured community use (0.96 ha. per 1000 people). This compares with a recommended minimum level of 87.1 hectares of pitches in Barrow in accordance with the NPFA standard of 1.21 ha. per 1000 population. There are 73.5 ha. of pitches in wider community use or 1.02 ha per 1000 people.
3. This can be broken down as follows according to the sub areas within the borough

Area	Population 2001	Area of Pitches in Secured Community Use	Ratio (ha/1000)
Central Barrow	25,700	12.4 ha	0.48
Outer Barrow	22,500	34.6 ha	1.54
Walney	11,400	8.4 ha	0.74
Dalton	6,400	5.8 ha	0.91
Askam	6,000	8.1 ha	1.35
Total	72,000	69.3 ha	0.96

The main outdoor sports and recreation facilities in the borough are summarised in Appendix 2. There is thus a wide disparity between pitch provision, particularly in Central Barrow and Outer Barrow, while the Askam area is also well provided. To some extent this picture is distorted by the selection of the sub-area boundaries, but the lowest levels of provision do correspond with the areas of densest housing and population, and the identified priority wards of Walney and Central Barrow.

4. Overall pitch provision can be broken down as follows:

Availability	Senior Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey incl ATP
A	31	7	11	7	3	9	1
B1	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
B2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
C	6	9	15	4	0	7	10
Total	40	16	27	11	3	22	11

5. The total number of pitches in the study area equates to one pitch per 827 people (senior pitches only to allow comparison with other studies) as follows:

Local Authority	Ratio
Kennet	1:365
Bromley	1:602
Cambridge Area	1:621

Hounslow	1:625
Daventry Town	1:658
Lincolnshire	1:684
Castle Morpeth	1:718
Leicestershire	1:747
<b>Barrow in Furness</b>	<b>1:827</b>
Stevenage	1:852
St. Helens	1:970
Portsmouth	1:1087
Thurrock	1:1150
Wansbeck	1:1164
Redcar and Cleveland	1:1269
Southwark	1:2842
Average	1:973

The figures cover a range of areas from rural to heavily urbanised, but the Barrow figure is above the average for the sample available (and almost exactly the average if Southwark, a densely populated inner city area, is excluded)

6. Local ratios for specific sports pitches (full-sized) have been compared with the national picture as far as it is known

	<b>Barrow</b>	<b>England</b>
Senior Football	1:1800	1:1840
Cricket	1:6545	1:4243
Hockey/ATP	1:6545	1:8968
Rugby Union/League	1:2880	1:8271

Barrow therefore has an average number of pitches overall, with slightly fewer cricket pitches and rather more hockey and rugby. The rugby figure is inflated because of the prevalence of rugby league in the area (it is not possible to separate league and union because of the lack of comparable national data). These figures should be treated with some caution as all pitches (and in particular hockey), whether available to the community or not, are included and the comparative national data is derived from an unpublished Sports Council document from 1990 and is therefore somewhat dated. However the general conclusion is that the overall level of pitch provision in Barrow broadly conforms with the national average.

7. Ownership The pattern of ownership for all pitches in the borough is set out below

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Number of pitches</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
BBC/PFUA	27	21%
Cumbria CC	10	8%
Club	37	28%
Education	56	43%

This demonstrates that about one third of all pitches are owned by the local authority and other public bodies (much lower than the national average of 43%), although in this case management is vested mainly in the Barrow Playing Field Users Association, and clubs who manage them on their own behalf. A large proportion of pitches (43% compared with the national average of 29%) are on school and college, although most

of these in the borough are not in community use. A significant number (28%) belong to and are managed by clubs. Within this overall picture, the following details emerge:

- public' facilities fulfil an important role in accommodating much of the football in Barrow, especially on Sundays, though most of the 'senior' clubs have their own ground
- all cricket clubs play on their own pitches, and there are no public cricket facilities in the borough
- there is very little community usage of school pitches

8. **Quality** The following conclusions emerge from site surveys and questionnaire responses on the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities:

- In general pitches are considered to be in good condition, the main problem being poor drainage in some locations
- Clubs with security of tenure and control over the management and maintenance of their own grounds normally tend to have the best facilities, though the 'public' pitches are also, with the exception of drainage, generally good
- Ancillary facilities such as changing, showers and parking are again in plentiful supply, and generally in good condition – a significant number of changing facilities in the borough have received funding in recent years from Sport England, Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Football Foundation and other bodies
- Training facilities, especially with floodlights are relatively rare, though there are some examples.

Detailed quality considerations are dealt with under individual sports below.

9. **General conclusions about the supply of pitches**

- **Barrow in Furness has almost the national average amount of pitches overall, although the local standard per head of population is below the minimum recommended by the NPFA.**
- **In common with most areas, the majority of pitches cater for football, but the relatively large number of rugby league pitches reflects the importance of this sport in Cumbria.**
- **Ownership and management is varied, but school pitches make little overall contribution to community sport.**
- **The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities is generally good, and in the case of some private facilities very good, but drainage problems inhibit use of some 'public' facilities.**

PARTICIPATION IN PITCH SPORTS

CURRENT PARTICIPATION AND PAST TRENDS

10. National participation figures for sport are derived from the General Household Survey (GHS), the latest information on sport being available from the 1996 survey.

<b>Sports</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1996</b>
Walking	37.0%	40.7	40.8	44.5
Swimming	13.0	14.8	15.4	14.8
Keep fit/yoga	8.6	11.6	15.4	14.8
Snooker/pool/billiards	15.0	13.6	12.2	11.3
Cycling	8.4	9.3	10.2	11.0
Weight training	4.5	4.8	5.5	5.6
Soccer	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.8

Golf	3.9	5.0	4.6	4.5
Running/jogging	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.5
Tenpin bowling/skittles	1.8	3.8	4.0	3.4
Badminton	3.4	3.3	2.7	2.4
Tennis	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.0
Bowls	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.9
Fishing	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7
Table tennis	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.5
Squash	2.6	2.5	1.9	1.3
Horse riding	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0

Of the pitch sports, only football appears amongst the 10 most popular activities, with 4.8% of the adult population taking part in 1996. Cricket (0.9%) rugby (0.6%) and hockey (0.3%) are much less significant.

11. Trends are notoriously difficult to predict and GHS figures must be treated with caution as totals are low and information in successive GHS years is sometimes presented slightly differently. It is necessary to consider other sources of information.

#### 12. Football

- The FA estimates that there are over 40,000 affiliated football clubs in England with 1.5m adult players and 5m junior players
- Participation in senior football is likely to remain static in the foreseeable future. However a variety of local pitch assessments all suggest that mini-soccer is thriving
- While football is mainly a male sport and at adult level in a static state, growth in female participation has increased dramatically. In 1990 there were 80 girls teams, while in 1998 this had grown to 1,000. Female players increased from 21,500 in 1996 to 34,000 in 1998. The FA claims women's/girls football as the fastest growing sport in the country (though a number of other sports claim similarly!), and it is now evident that football is the largest female participant sport. It is likely that interest will continue to increase as sports development campaigns thrive (girls football is one of ten sports identified for priority action in Sports England's Active Sports Initiative) and media interest continues (the recent Women's World Cup was heavily promoted)

#### 13. Hockey

- The advent of artificial turf pitches has led to increased participation in hockey. English Hockey estimates that 0.5m adults play hockey at least once a year and there are about 100,000 regular adult players, the slight majority being men.
- Clubs are decreasing in number, but fielding more teams (50% of clubs run more than 4 teams), although women's clubs run fewer than men's. The majority of clubs have increasing or steady membership
- Almost 50% of children have taken part in hockey over the previous 12 months, although outside school lessons it ranks only 26<sup>th</sup> of all sports in popularity
- There are in excess of 600 full size ATPs in England, the number having doubled since 1990, and a total of 18 water-based facilities which are necessary for top-level competition. 80% of clubs use pitches not associated with a dedicated clubhouse, and 63% of clubs travel between 5 and 20 minutes to get from their pitch to the post-match social venue.

#### 14. Rugby Union

- The RFU estimates that there are over 0.5m regular rugby players each weekend. Increased media exposure, the formation of leagues, professionalism and the

success of especially the British Lions and English teams suggest that levels of participation in rugby will at least hold up

- The RFU website claims women's rugby to be 'one of the fastest growing women's sports' (sic), with now over 230 clubs and 8,000 regular participants
- The formation of a network of regional RFU development officers, the development of mini and non-contact rugby have combined to make the sport very much more popular among younger players

#### 15. Rugby League

- When BARLA was formed in 1973 as a breakaway from the RFL there were fewer than 150 amateur teams and about 30 youth sides. By 1999 14,000 teams including 900 youth and junior teams played regularly each weekend involving on average over 23,000 players (at the time of writing BARLA and the RFL have just announced that they will once again amalgamate to jointly develop the game).
- Close links remain between BARLA and the RFL, and there is a coordinated development programme for rugby league including player development, coach development and match official development. A Modified Games Programme is in place at under-16 level to reduce demand on players.
- Girls' and women's rugby league development is a priority, involving the recent employment of regional development staff covering Yorkshire and the North West.

#### 16. Cricket

- The (until recent) poor performance of the England side and the decline of cricket as a curriculum sport suggest that participation in cricket is on the wane, although the Chairman of the ECB recently claimed that more people are playing than ever before. The advent of soft-ball initiatives, such as Kwik Cricket, and the more recent establishment of County Development Officers, in the overall context of a fundamental review of cricket at all levels, is aimed at increasing junior participation
- Cricket is also actively seeking the development of female participation. The ECB website claims that 'the number of primary school girls involved has recently increased from 350,000 to 435,000, and secondary schools from 139,000 to 175,000'. Most women's teams are incorporated into men's clubs.

### FUTURE DEMAND

17. Future demand is influenced by a number of factors, none of which is easy to predict with certainty. Population changes form the baseline, but other issues such as changing fashions, the advent and success of sports development campaigns, supply-led demand and latent/suppressed demand could all affect pitch provision up to 2016.

18. Population change The recent publication of the results of the 2001 Census do not yet allow reliable projections to be made of future population change in the Borough. However based on past trends, the level of out migration, new housing allocations, the state of the local economy and broad projections for the region, it is reasonable at this stage to assume that the current population of 72,000 will at best remain steady over the period of the strategy, and could in fact continue its present trend and decline further. More importantly the age structure will continue to demonstrate a fall in the numbers of younger people (i.e. those who take part in pitch sports). Based on the only information currently available (from regional trends) the number of people in the age groups from 5-15 and 16-44 are likely overall to decline by between 5 and 10%. This by itself could have a small impact on pitch provision (involving maybe up to 8 pitches in total). However in order to allow some flexibility, and take account of unforeseen circumstances, this has not been reflected in specific figures. Rather it

should be assumed that the projections of future pitch provision represent the most optimistic scenario.

19. Latent/suppressed demand There is little evidence from the survey that demand for pitch sports is being suppressed by the lack of facilities. A number of football teams have recently folded, but this is because of the normal rationalisation of teams, the natural decline of clubs and the lack of helpers and volunteers, and not because of a lack of pitches. The analysis that follows therefore incorporates only a small element of suppressed demand where appropriate.
20. Sports development campaigns The Government, Sport England, local authorities, governing bodies of sport, schools and others are all involved in a range of initiatives, the aim of which is to increase choice and participation in sport. In 'A Sporting Future For All' (April 2000), the Government set out a vision and action plan for improving opportunities for sport among all groups and improving international performance. Proposals included new school sports facilities (recently backed by NOF lottery funding), 110 specialist sports colleges, out of school sports clubs, 600 school sports coordinators, measures to protect and provide green spaces, including sports pitches, and better coaching and support services, including the development of the UK Sports Institute and English Institute of Sport. While the resources available to implement these proposals were incorporated in the document, no specific numerical targets for increased participation by the community were included.
21. In its strategy 'England – the Sporting Nation', the then English Sports Council in 1997 set an (ambitious) overall target of a 20% increase in the number of adults taking part in regular sporting activity by 2002, together with similar targets for more specialised areas, such as young people and extra curricular sport, improved numbers receiving coaching and better international performance. Active Sports is a development programme coordinated by Sport England and delivered by 45 partnerships throughout the country, aimed at helping young people to achieve more from their chosen sport. Ten sports are highlighted for action, including the pitch sports of hockey, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and girls' football. As part of the wider Sport England More People Programme, Active Sports aims to make a contribution to several of the strategic targets highlighted above, including a 10% increase in boys joining clubs and taking part in sport regularly, a 20% for girls and a 20% increase in overall participation by adults, especially among women.
22. Governing bodies of sport have for some years embraced 'abridged' versions of their sport to enable young people to develop their basic skills in a friendly environment. These include mini-soccer, mini-hockey, Kwik cricket and mini-rugby, and the indications are that early involvement in small-sided games encourages a legacy of long-term involvement in these sports.
23. Influence of new facilities on participation Demand can in some instances be supplied – that is the provision of new or improved facilities can by itself generate demand that may not have existed before. The construction of new leisure centres by local authorities in the 1970s was not generally based on detailed research of demand, but their ultimate success illustrates how demand is often articulated once new opportunities become available. ATPs demonstrate the same phenomenon. The improvement or provision of pitches and ancillary facilities could equally generate their own demand for pitch sports.
24. Media exposure of individual sports National success at events such as rugby and football world cups, world and European championships, The Ashes (sic!), and the Commonwealth and Olympic Games raises the profile of sport, and can often lead at

least in the short term to heightened interest and greater participation. Increased exposure of the Premier League, the recent success of the England football team and the emergence of new role models like David Beckham, Michael Owen and Wayne Rooney have elevated football to a new level of popularity. However, it is quite possible that demand arising from such factors has peaked, and could well begin to fall as interest wanes naturally. The success of national hockey teams in the Olympics up to 1992 has been tempered by relative failure since, with a consequent effect on interest in hockey, although the notable success of the England women's team at the recent World Cup could reverse this decline. It is clear that participation in pitch sports arising from these factors will continue to fluctuate as always.

25. Conclusion The effect of all of these factors is likely to be an increase in the demand for pitches over a 15-year period. Small but significant reductions in demand brought about by demographic change will be more than mitigated by the targeted increases in junior and female participation, and subsequently in adult sport. The precise implications for each of the five main pitch sports are considered below.

## THE SITUATION IN BARROW

### FOOTBALL

26. Players and Teams The clubs and teams known to be based in Barrow in Furness are summarised in the sub-area sections below, in their respective leagues. This study differentiates between senior, junior and mini teams, although junior teams do not necessarily have access to junior pitches (for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that junior teams up to under 15s require junior size pitches, while under 16 teams and older can play on adult pitches)
27. It is estimated that there are about 2000 regular footballers within the borough, the vast majority of whom at present are male. This is broadly in line with the national average participation rate in football. Nearly a half of all footballers are under 15 years old. Teams and players are split down as follows by age:

	<b>Under 10</b>	<b>10 - 14</b>	<b>15 and over</b>
Teams	29	23	54
Players	450	450	1100

28. Most of the local football teams, with the exception of those playing on Sundays, have more than one team. A number of clubs have teams across the whole age range from mini soccer through each junior age band to seniors, and it appears that there is the opportunity for progression through many clubs. Few clubs responded to the question of whether numbers of players were changing, but from those that did it can be confirmed that participation has been relatively stable over recent years. Two junior clubs have ambitious plans and have increased teams and numbers. Conversely it is well known that over a longer period, the number of football teams in Barrow has declined rapidly over the years – there are probably half as many teams now as in the 1960's and even up to the 1980's there were 100 senior teams in the borough. About 8 teams have folded in the last two seasons, mainly from the Sunday league, but most of these have either reformed or the players have joined other clubs.
29. Unsurprisingly, most players tend to be drawn from a fairly small catchment area, mainly less than 5 miles from the home ground. At higher levels of competition,

players increasingly come from further afield, but in general local clubs are fulfilling a local need and playing on local pitches.

30. Team Generation Rates are the ratio between the number of teams within a defined area, and the total population within a given age range for that area. TGRs for football in previous studies have been calculated for the 10-44 years age group, as this tends to be the 'football team generating' section of the population most closely coinciding with available population data. Identifying TGRs provides the means to:
- Compare participation in competitive football between Barrow and other areas where similar studies have been undertaken, and therefore identify how typical is local participation
  - Assist modelling future demand for pitches
31. TGRs essentially reflect the status quo, as they are based on existing teams, and may therefore ignore other teams. Other shortcomings can include:
- An inability to differentiate between local demand and that generated by teams travelling into an area to play their home games
  - An inability to help model demand where team generation may be constrained through a shortage of facilities
  - An inability to project demand in areas of rapid housing growth, where there is currently no team generation (not applicable here)
- Latent and other demand must therefore be considered, but TGRs are useful as a means of assessing basic existing provision.
32. By dividing the estimated number of football teams catering for players of 10 years old and over within Barrow into the estimated number of males aged 10-44 (16,300), a TGR of 1:211 is produced. This can be compared with estimated TGRs for other areas where similar studies have taken place.

<b>Table 10</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>TGR</b>
Thurrock	1:141
Daventry Town	1:150
Cambridge area	1:158
Stevenage	1:169
Ellesmere Port	1:182
Kennet	1:183
Crawley, Horsham, Hastings, Bexhill, Maidstone	1:183
Wansbeck	1:210
Barrow in Furness	1:211
Portsmouth	1:236
Castle Morpeth	1:260
Tyne and Wear	1:290
Redcar and Cleveland	1:434
Average	1:216

The estimated TGR for Barrow therefore is almost exactly the average for the sample, which is taken from previous studies by Leisure and the Environment.

33. Previous pitch studies using Sport England's methodology have concentrated on the male 10-44 years age group, but the development of mini-soccer, with its requirement for small pitches and goals, necessitates a more detailed analysis of TGRs. To plan effectively for future demand it is therefore appropriate to consider three separate TGRs:

- Under 10s, to cater for mini-soccer
- 10-14s to cater for junior football on small pitches
- 15s and over to cater for youth and senior football

34. Estimated TGRs for these age-groups in Barrow are as follows:

	<b>Under 10</b>	<b>10 - 14</b>	<b>15 -44</b>
Male population	4621	2594	13718
Teams	29	23	54
TGR	1:159	1:113	1:254

These figures suggest the following:

- Very high participation rates in junior football – it is estimated from these figures that almost 15% of all boys aged 10-14 in the whole borough play in a junior side, reflecting a well developed junior club structure.
- Mini soccer is also very well represented, in comparison with other areas, and again demonstrates a well organised infrastructure
- Significant fall-off rates in adult participation as young people’s interest in football declines in the face of other interests and commitments, and older age and physical decline set in – this is common to all similar studies.

35. No female teams are currently identified in the Borough, although Barrow Wanderers formerly had a team in the regional league ( since disbanded). However girls’ football development has begun under the auspices of Barrow AFC ‘Football in the Community’, the CRC and Barrow Sports Council, with the aim of establishing junior girls’ football leagues in the area.

36. Supply of Pitches The following pitches have been identified in the borough:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Mini</b>
Askam Utd FC	A	Club	A	1	1	1
BAE Barrow	OB	Club	A	2		
Barrow AFC	CB	Club	A	1		
Barrow Rangers (Training Ground)	CB	Club	A	1		1
Biggar Bank PFs	W	BBC/PFUA	A	3		1
Cavendish Park	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	2	1	1
Crooklands Casuals	D	Club	A	2		1
Duddon Spts & S Club Askam	A	Club	A	1	1	
Furness Rugby Club	OB	Club	A	2		
Lesh Lane (Barrow Wanderers)	OB	CCC/Club	A	1	1	
Newby Terrace	CB	CCC/Club	A	1		
Park Vale	W		A	1		
Railway Meadow, Dalton	D	Club	A	1		
Rakesmoor Lane	OB	Club	A	2	1	
Rampside Rd, Roose	OB	Club	A	2		

Rating Lane/Ostley Bank	OB	BBC/Club	A	1		
Roose Pioneers/P School	OB	CCC/Club	B1			1
Schneider Road, Ormsgill	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	3	1	2
Thornclyff Youth Fields	OB	BBC/PFUA	A	4		4
Tummerhill PFs	W	CCC/Club	B1	1	1	
Dowdales School	D	Education	B2	2		
Total				34	7	12

Some of the above pitches are currently unused eg at Thornclyff Youth Fields (2 senior, 2 mini)

37. The supply of pitches needs to take into account their capacity to accommodate matches. Recent adverse weather conditions, certainly those experienced in autumn 2000, at certain times in 2001 and in early 2002, may increasingly become the norm, with obvious repercussions for pitch conditions, wear and tear and fulfilment of fixtures. Sports Council advice in 'The Playing Pitch Strategy', states that undrained pitches should be able to accommodate 2 adult matches by community teams each week on a regular basis, before they deteriorate to an unacceptable standard. Discussions with league, club and other representatives in Barrow have suggested that most pitches are capable of 2/3 adult matches per week by community teams on a regular basis before they deteriorate to an unacceptable standard. However there is evidence that some pitches are rested in favour of better drained ones in the winter, and that there is a large number of postponements. For the purposes of this study therefore, it is assumed that pitches in Barrow can on average accommodate the recommended level of use ie two matches per week. Where school pitches fulfil a wider community use, it is reasonable to assume a maximum capacity of one additional match per week.
38. Mini-soccer facilities are able to accommodate more usage, as younger children, smaller sides and shorter games produce appreciably less wear. This enables clubs operating multiple mini-teams to play consecutive games in the same time slot (usually Saturday morning) on the same surface or pitch.
39. Current Demand for Pitches The temporal demand for football occurs almost entirely at weekends, although some matches will be played mid-week by senior clubs and at the end of the season. Nationally there has been a trend towards Sunday as the most popular day for playing football, reflected in a 20:80 split between Saturday and Sunday. In Barrow, this trend is bucked and only 14% of demand for football comes on Sundays. One of the possible explanations for this is the popularity of rugby league.

	<b>Saturday am</b>	<b>Saturday pm</b>	<b>Sunday am</b>
15 and over	11%	62%	27%
10 – 14	100%	-	-
Under 10	100%	-	-
Total	56%	30%	14%

These figures are for the whole borough and are intended to represent the overall picture – figures for each of the sub-areas will vary (see below)

40. Suppressed demand As mentioned previously at least 8 clubs have folded in the past few seasons, but 6 of these have either reformed under a new name or amalgamated with other clubs in the Borough. A small allowance to reflect this factor has been incorporated in the calculations below.
41. Future demand is composed of a number of factors:
- Population change – the effects of this on the demand for football pitches is dealt with in more detail above.
  - Sports development initiatives – existing participation rates are already high, especially among juniors, and the scope for additional development is limited. However there is evidence of a desire to form additional junior teams at Askam, Dalton and Crooklands Casuals, and in particular the formation of girls' teams. Initiatives to develop girls' soccer have recently begun, with over 100 girls attending the first sessions at Park Leisure Centre. In accordance with Active Sports and FA targets, the need for u13 and u15 girls' teams in each sub area of the borough and the re-forming of a women's team borough-wide over the next ten years is a realistic proposition. If these initiatives are successful, a consequent increase in adult participation by up to 20%, in line with Sport England and Active Sports targets, could be achieved, and these are considered in more detail below.
42. Taking into account the existing temporal demand outlined in table 13, together with the factors outlined above, the demand for football pitches in each sub-area of the borough up to 2016 is estimated below.
43. Central Barrow
- There are 34 football teams in Central Barrow, comprising 19 adult and youth teams, 6 junior and 9 mini as follows:

<b>Table 14</b>			
<b>Clubs</b>	<b>Teams</b>	<b>League</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Barrow AFC	2 senior	Unibond Premier/Lancs League	Holker St
Barrow Rangers	1 senior	West Lancs	Barrow Training Pitch
Barrow Celtic	2 senior	Furness Prem	Newby Terrace
Barrow Island	1 senior	Furness Prem	Cavendish Park
Royal British Legion	1 senior	Furness Prem	Cavendish Park
Albion	1 senior	NW Sunday	Ormsgill
Britannia	1 senior	NW Sunday	Cavendish Park
Dads & Lads	1 senior	NW Sunday	Cavendish Park
Inter Victoria	1 senior	NW Sunday	Ormsgill
Navy Club	1 senior	NW Sunday	Cavendish Park
Ormsgill	1 senior	NW Sunday	Ormsgill
Real Peacock	1 senior	NW Sunday	Cavendish Park
Strawberry	1 senior	NW Sunday	Ormsgill
Tally Ho	1 senior	NW Sunday	Ormsgill
Travellers Rest	1 senior	NW Sunday	Cavendish Park
Barrow Celtic	4 junior u11, u12, u14(2)	Barrow & District Junior	Ormsgill
Barrow Island	1 junior u12	Barrow & District Junior	Cavendish Park

Barrow AFC	2 junior u14, u16	Barrow & District Junior	Ormsgill
Vickerstown CC	1 junior u16	Barrow & District Junior	Ormsgill
Barrow Celtic	7 mini u8(2), u9(2), u10(3)	Barrow & District Junior	Ormsgill
Barrow Island	2 mini u8, u9	Barrow & District Junior	Cavendish Park

- There are 14 pitches in secured community use (SCU) in Central Barrow as follows:  
8 senior pitches  
2 junior pitches  
4 mini pitches
- On the basis of 0.5 home games per week, the temporal demand for pitches up to 2016 is as follows:

Pitches	8 pitches in SCU			2 pitches in SCU			3 pitches in SCU			Female
	Senior 15+			Junior 10-14			Mini under 10			
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	
Existing demand	1	4	5	3	-	-	5	-	-	-
Suppressed demand	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Future demand	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Total	1	6	6	4	-	-	6*	-	-	2

\*Up to 4 mini games can be played consecutively on the same pitch, so this figure is reduced by 75%

- Peak demand is therefore for 15 pitches, comprising 8 senior pitches (including provision for 1 women's team), 5 junior (including girls) and 2 mini pitches. The figure for senior pitches includes a peak demand for 6 on each of Saturday and Sunday plus an additional 1 on Saturday am for youths, which is required as each pitch is only capable of two games per week.
- While there are sufficient senior and mini pitches, there is a shortfall of at least 3 pitches for junior use including girls.
- All existing pitches should be retained and any qualitative improvements made where necessary (see below).

#### 44. Outer Barrow

- There are 36 football teams in Outer Barrow, comprising 16 adult and youth teams, 9 junior and 11 mini as follows:

Clubs	Teams	League	Venue
Holker OB	3 senior	NW C'nties/Furness Prem	Rakesmoor Lane
BAE Barrow SC	3 senior	West Lancs/Furness Prem	BAE Sports Ground
Furness Cavaliers	2 senior	West Lancs/Furness Prem	Rampside Road
Barrow Wanderers	2 senior	Furness Prem	Lesh Lane
Furness Rovers	2 senior	Furness Prem	Furness RFC/ Ostley Bank
SDO Seniors	1 senior	Furness Prem	Ostley Bank

Furness Rovers	6 junior u11, u12, u14(2) u16(2)	Barrow & District Junior	Furness RFC/ Youth Fields
Holker OB	4 junior u11, u12, u14(2)	Barrow & District Junior	Rakesmoor Lane
Furness Cavaliers	2 junior u12, u16	Barrow & District Junior	Rampside Road
Furness Rovers	6 mini u8, u9(2), u10(3)	Barrow & District Junior	Youth Fields
Holker OB	5 mini u8, u9(2), u10 (2)	Barrow & District Junior	Youth Fields

- There are 21 pitches in secured community use (SCU) in Outer Barrow as follows:  
14 senior pitches  
2 junior pitches  
5 mini pitches
- On the basis of 0.5 home games per week, the temporal demand for pitches up to 2016 is as follows:

Pitches	14 pitches in SCU			2 pitches in SCU			5 pitches in SCU			Female
	Senior 15+			Junior 10-14			Mini under 10			
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	
Existing demand	2	6	-	5	-	-	6	-	-	-
Suppressed demand	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Future demand	1	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	3	8	-	7	-	-	7*	-	-	1

\*Up to 4 mini games can be played consecutively on the same pitch, so this figure is reduced by 75%

- Peak demand is therefore for 18 pitches, comprising 8 senior pitches, 8 junior (including girls) and 2 mini pitches.
- There are adequate pitches overall in Outer Barrow to meet peak demand, and particularly at senior and mini level. However there is a need for an additional 6 junior pitches, which can be accommodated by remarking senior facilities.

#### 45 Walney

- There are 20 football teams in Walney, comprising 10 adult and youth teams, 4 junior and 6 mini as follows:

Clubs	Teams	League	Venue
Walney Island	3 senior	Furness Prem	Tummerhill
Vickerstown	3 senior	Furness Prem/NW Sunday	Park Vale/Biggar Bank
Furness Hotel	1 senior	Furness Prem	Biggar Bank
Ambrose	1 senior	NW Sunday	Biggar Bank
Institute	1 senior	NW Sunday	Biggar Bank
Walney Island	5 junior u11, u12, u14 (2), U16	Barrow & District Junior	Tummerhill/Biggar Bank
Walney Island	6 mini u8(2), u9 (2), u10 (2)	Barrow & District Junior	Tummerhill

- There are 7 pitches in secured community use (SCU) in Walney as follows:  
5 senior pitches  
1 junior pitch  
1 mini pitches
- On the basis of 0.5 home games per week, the temporal demand for pitches up to 2016 is as follows:

Pitches	5 pitches in SCU			1 pitch in SCU			1 pitch in SCU			Female
	Senior 15+			Junior 10-14			Mini under 10			
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	
Existing demand	1	3	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	
Suppressed demand										
Future demand	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Up to 4 mini games can be played consecutively on the same pitch, so this figure is reduced by 75%

- Peak demand is therefore for 8 pitches, comprising 4 senior pitches, 3 junior (including girls) and 1 mini pitch
- There is a shortfall of 1 pitch overall and in particular of 2 junior pitches, which will involve the provision of an additional pitch and some remarking.

46. Dalton

- There are 12 football teams in Dalton, comprising 7 adult and youth teams, 3 junior and 2 mini as follows:

Clubs	Teams	League	Venue
Dalton Utd	3 senior	West Lancs/Furness Prem	Railway Meadow/Biggar Bank
Crooklands Casuals	3 senior	West Lancs/Furness Prem	Longlands Park Dalton
Dalton Utd	4 junior u11, u12, u14, u16	Barrow & District Junior	Dowdales School
Dalton Utd	2 mini u9, u10	Barrow & District Junior	Ormsgill

- There are 4 pitches in secured community use (SCU) in Dalton (plus 2 in community use - CU) as follows:  
3 senior pitches in SCU (plus 2 in CU)  
0 junior pitches  
1 mini pitch
- On the basis of 0.5 home games per week, the temporal demand for pitches up to 2016 is as follows:

Pitches	3 pitches in SCU			0 pitches in SCU			1 pitch in SCU			Female
	Senior 15+			Junior 10-14			Mini under 10			
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	
Existing demand	1	3	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	
Suppressed demand										
Future demand	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Up to 4 mini games can be played consecutively on the same pitch, so this figure is reduced by 75%

- Peak demand is therefore for 10 pitches, comprising 4 senior pitches, 5 junior (including girls) and 1 mini pitch.
- There is therefore a significant shortfall of football pitches in Dalton, across all sizes except mini. This will require new pitch provision, especially for juniors, or the investigation of improvements to and usage of school pitches at Dowdales School, which is currently available on an informal basis.

#### 47. Askam

- There are 4 football teams in the Askam area, comprising 2 adult and youth teams, 1 junior and 1 mini, as follows:

Clubs	Teams	League	Venue
Askam Utd	2 senior	West Lancs/Furness Prem	Duddon SC Askam
Askam Utd	1 junior u12	Barrow & District Junior	Duddon SC
Askam Utd	1 mini u10	Barrow & District Junior	Duddon SC

- There are 5 pitches in secured community use (SCU) in Askam as follows  
2 senior pitches  
2 junior pitches  
1 mini pitches
- On the basis of 0.5 home games per week, the temporal demand for pitches up to 2016 is as follows:

Pitches	2 pitches in SCU			2 pitches in SCU			1 pitches in SCU			Female
	Senior 15+			Junior 10-14			Mini under 10			
	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	
Existing demand	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	
Suppressed demand										
Future demand	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2*</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Up to 4 mini games can be played consecutively on the same pitch, so this figure is reduced by 75%

- Peak demand is therefore for 6 pitches, comprising 2 senior pitches, 3 junior (including girls) and 1 mini pitch.
- There is therefore a minor shortfall in Askam of 1 junior pitch, which needs to be met on a new site or in conjunction with a local junior school if appropriate.

48. Barrow in Furness Borough

- There are 106 football teams in Barrow, comprising 54 adult and youth teams, 23 junior and 29 mini.
- Over the whole borough, there are 51 pitches in secured community use (SCU) plus a further 2 in community use (CU) as follows:  
32 senior pitches in SCU (plus 2 in CU)  
7 junior pitches in SCU  
12 mini pitches in SCU
- Aggregating peak demand for each of the sub-areas, future demand for football pitches is as follows:

	Existing in SCU	Existing in CU	Peak Demand
Senior incl. Women	32	34	26
Junior incl. Girls	7	7	24
Mini	12	13	7
Total	51	54	57

49. Compared with the existing situation of pitches in secured community use the estimated distribution of pitches by 2016 should be as follows:

	Senior incl. women	Junior incl. girls	Mini
Central Barrow	+1	+3	-1
Outer Barrow	-7	+6	-4
Walney	-1	+2	0
Dalton	+1	+5	0
Askam	0	+1	0
Total	-6	+17	-5

(+ indicates additional number of pitches required, - indicates a potential surplus)

50. Training facilities The use of a home ground remains the favoured option for training by those clubs who responded to the questionnaire. 50% of responding clubs use their own venue all year round, with the benefit of training lights, and a further 2 clubs during the light evenings. Few clubs have separate training areas, and there is some evidence of excessive use causing wear and tear and deterioration of grass surfaces. A smaller proportion of clubs have use of all-weather facilities at the Park ATP and on school sites, and some use indoor halls. Ideally all clubs require access to a dedicated training area, which if outside requires floodlights to enable all year round use. However, a 2-hour training session on a grass pitch is the equivalent of one match in playing terms, and at this point it is not considered feasible to demand this level of additional provision in the near future. Moreover, training facilities are relatively worthless without floodlights and there are planning and funding issues involved in their provision. Rather than determine the appropriate specific level of grass pitches to meet training requirements in the borough the study suggests that where required private clubs should seek to improve training facilities on their existing grounds if appropriate, but separate from pitches, and that the 'public' facilities be provided with a number of floodlit hard play training areas as part of a network of floodlit multi games areas throughout the borough (see below).

51. Other issues Of those clubs responding to the questionnaire, there was a generally positive attitude to pitch quality. 82% of clubs rated the size of pitches, drainage, levelness, grass cover, goalmouths, markings and overall condition good or adequate.

Only 10% of responses considered pitches poor, and this related for the most part to drainage and worn goalmouths, in particular on 'public' pitches at Thorncliff Youth Fields and Ormsgill. Clubs' own pitches were almost without exception rated good. Despite these findings however, over 125 matches were called off last season at clubs responding to the questionnaire because of poor ground conditions, an average of about 7 per club across all teams, which in some cases represents nearly 50% of all home fixtures. Certainly there was evidence during the fieldwork that some pitches were very wet, and could not sustain a match at that time. Weather conditions in autumn 2002 were very wet (rainfall in November was the highest ever recorded for that month) and a continuation of the adverse weather conditions experienced in the previous two years could signify more long-term climatic change. The general conclusion to be drawn about football pitch conditions in Barrow is that quality is relatively good, but that there are significant drainage problems in certain locations which require resolution.

52. Ancillary facilities Similarly there was general satisfaction with the quality of ancillary accommodation, including clubhouse, pavilion and changing, toilets, showers, storage, parking, disabled access and spectator provision, where it exists at all, with 87% of respondents rating facilities good or adequate. Private clubs and 'public' facilities were equally favoured. Of the 7% of individual facilities considered poor, most comments related to the inadequacy of toilets and showers or the lack of training facilities.
53. Specific comments on pitches and facilities were few, but included the following:
- No floodlights for training, usage can clash with cricket in summer when summer mini league is operating (Askam Utd Juniors FC)
  - When wet weather arrives, the pitch at Ormsgill holds a lot of water, mainly in the goalmouths and centre circle (Barrow AFC Juniors)
  - Floodlights and all weather training facilities required (Barrow Celtic FC)
  - Not allowed to train on home ground nor allocated any secure space for equipment (Barrow Island FC)
  - Club only has one pitch and therefore has to use LA pitches for 1 senior and all junior teams (Dalton Utd FC)
  - Problems with livestock damaging boundary fence and getting on to pitch (Furness Cavaliers FC)
  - Club desperately needs to improve drainage on existing pitch and acquire additional land for 2 mini and small junior pitch, requiring work and finance (Furness Rovers FC)
  - Dog muck, dirty toilets, drainage problems (Inter Victoria FC)
  - Lack of changing rooms when 3 different age groups are all at home (Walney Island Juniors FC)
54. Clubs were given the opportunity to outline their plans for improvements to facilities, with a limited response as follows:
- Minor improvements to car park, major improvements to changing rooms, showers and refs' room (Crooklands Casuals FC)
  - Improved car park, develop waste land for at least one junior pitch (Dalton Utd FC)
  - Modernise hot water system, constantly improve pitch and drainage (Furness Cavaliers FC)
  - Essential drainage work on 1 pitch, which is unplayable after October, acquisition of adjacent land for 2 mini/1 junior pitch (Furness Rovers FC)
  - Drainage (Holker OB FC)
  - New drainage (Inter Victoria FC)
  - Dug-out tops, showers (Walney Island FC)

55. Clubs were also asked to outline any plans they have to increase membership, or undertaken special initiatives with target groups such as young people. The following specific proposals were made:

- Would like junior teams at all age groups from 8-16, to ensure continuity but problems with facilities and helpers (Askam Utd FC)
- Aiming to improve links with youth clubs in area (Barrow Island FC)
- Would like to accommodate disabled (Barrow Wanderers FC)
- Development of junior teams (Crooklands Casuals FC)
- Further develop junior section and form girls' teams (Dalton Utd FC)
- Junior development dependent on volunteers (Furness Cavaliers FC)
- Keen to accommodate all minority groups (Furness Rovers FC)

#### 56. Summary

- **By 2016 there is an estimated requirement for 57 football pitches, comprising 26 senior and youth pitches, 24 junior and 7 mini over the whole borough. This represents an increase of 6 pitches overall, mainly involving the provision of facilities for juniors.**
- **Training facilities should also be improved where available and provided where not, in particular as hard court floodlit facilities in each of the main sub-areas.**
- **Some pitch improvements are necessary, particularly drainage to some of the 'public' facilities, and enhancements to changing and other ancillary facilities are also required. These are specified in the Action Plan below.**

#### CRICKET

57. Teams and Players The clubs and teams known to be based in Barrow are summarised below:

<b>Club</b>	<b>Senior teams</b>	<b>Junior teams</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>League</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Barrow CC	3	4	OB	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	Ernest Pass Meml Ground Barrow
Dalton CC	2	3	D	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	Dalton
Duddon CC	2	3	A	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	Duddon Sports Club Askam
Furness CC	2	4	OB	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth Lancs Women's	Furness Park
Lindal Moor CC	2	3	A	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	Lindal Moor
BAE Barrow CC	2	3	OB	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	BAE Barrow
Vickerstown CC	2	3	W	N Lancs & Cumbria Barrow & D Youth	Walney

This number of teams yields an estimated 450 regular junior and senior players throughout the borough, which is slightly below the national average. There is currently little female participation in cricket, with one team based at Furness CC. There is also a mid-week cricket league comprising about 12 teams, mostly playing on school pitches on a regular casual basis.

58. The role of TGRs in assessing future demand is explained above. Cricket teams of different age groups tend to use the same pitch, albeit often with varying boundary lengths. The TGR for cricket is therefore calculated overall, by dividing the number of teams into the estimated male population between the ages of 10 and 44. In Barrow this is estimated as follows:

<b>Table 27</b>	
Population	16312
Teams	38
TGR	1:429

This can be compared with TGRs generated through similar studies elsewhere:

<b>Table 28</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>TGR</b>
Mid Devon	1:271
Castle Morpeth	1:295
North Devon	1:298
Kennet	1:407
Barrow in Furness	1:429
Torbay	1:463
Redcar and Cleveland	1:629
Thurrock	1:760
Wansbeck	1:805
Daventry Town	1:875
Cambridge area	1:908
Stevenage	1:1158
Portsmouth	1:2808
Average	1:723

This represents a very small sample, from a variety of different areas, but the Barrow rate is well above the average and probably a more accurate indication of the level of cricket participation than the general figure set out in para 57 above.

59. Demand for Pitches The temporal demand for pitches throughout the week depends on the league and competition structure, and the demand from junior teams. Adult cricket mainly takes place at weekends with mid-week cup competitions, while junior cricket is played on midweek evenings and Sunday mornings. Demand over the week is estimated as follows:

<b>Table 29</b>	
Weekday evenings	42%
Saturday	37%
Sunday	21%

On the assumption that 50% of games are played at home, the overall temporal demand for pitches is estimated as follows (the number of teams x % demand for a given time x 0.5):

<b>Table 30</b>	
Weekday evenings	8
Saturday	7
Sunday	4

The figures have been rounded up as appropriate

60. Supply of Pitches The following cricket pitches have been identified as accommodating community use in the borough:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Pitches</b>
BAE Barrow	OB	Club	A	1
Ernest Pass Meml Ground Barrow	OB	Club	A	1
Dalton CC	D	Club	A	1
Duddon Spts Club	A	Club	A	1
Furness Park	OB	Club	A	1
Lindal Moor	A	Club	A	1
Vickerstown Walney	W	Club	A	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>7</b>

61. Cricket can accommodate more 'game days' per season than winter pitch sports, for a variety of reasons:
- Individual wickets can be rotated – most cricket squares in the borough contain 10 or more separate strips. In total these pitches accommodate more than 70 separate wickets including a number of artificial wickets.
  - Pitches are less susceptible to wear and tear as ground conditions in summer are better
  - Artificial wickets where they exist can sustain more usage
  - Most local matches are played on a limited overs basis and pitches can often absorb more than one match per day, especially if one of these is a junior match.
62. Findings There are 7 cricket pitches in the borough in secured community use. This is sufficient to accommodate peak weekly demand which occurs on Saturday afternoon (weekday demand is spread over several evenings), and no clubs have identified a lack of pitches for current demand
63. Other Issues Only three clubs responded to the questionnaire, but there was general satisfaction among these with the quality of the playing facilities, including the size of pitches, drainage, levelness, grass cover and general condition, reflecting the fact that clubs themselves are responsible for upkeep and maintenance.
64. The quality of ancillary accommodation including clubhouse, pavilion and changing, toilets, parking and disabled access is also generally good. Specific improvements planned from a limited response include
- Improving equipment and practice area (Furness CC)
  - Recovering of drive, renovation of clubhouse roof and additional netting (Barrow CC)
65. None of the clubs responding had specific development plans to improve participation although there is a Barrow District Cricket Development Group coordinating junior activity and development.
66. Future Demand Population changes will not lead to an increase in demand for pitches over the period of the strategy, although an ageing population may have less of an impact on cricket where players often continue into their 50s. Adult male cricket can therefore be accommodated on existing pitches, and all the pitches should be retained as they each serve a club in a distinctive geographical area, and there is little scope or need for sharing.

67. There is one women's cricket team based at Furness CC and playing in the Lancashire Women's League. Girls' cricket is currently being established as part of the Active Sports programme in Cumbria. It is reasonable to assume that there will be sufficient demand generated as a result of this initiative for 1 or 2 girls' teams at u15 level, based at say Barrow or Furness CCs over the next 10 years which can feed into the existing senior team at Furness. There is considered to be sufficient spare capacity at existing club grounds to accommodate additional matches by girls, though it is essential to the development of the sport that suitably designed and welcoming facilities are provided to ensure sustainability.
68. There is little cricket played in schools in Barrow, and junior activity is promoted by the Borough Development Group in conjunction with the Barrow and District Junior League and the Cumbria Cricket Board. There is according to the league handbook a good range of age group teams already playing at most clubs, though it is likely that some of the arranged fixtures were not in fact fulfilled last year. The formation of district teams at u13, u15 and u17 level is currently being pursued, and these are likely to play fixtures at existing club grounds, possibly during a festival week. It is also proposed that better links be established between senior clubs and neighbouring secondary schools, which will pair Barrow CC with Chetwynde and St Bernard's, Furness CC with Thorncliff and Parkview, Vickerstown with Walney and Dalton with Dowdales, and further links with feeder junior school. Kwik cricket is already established in some junior schools, including Yarlside. Most (if not all) senior schools have cricket wickets and some have artificial strips. Additional cricket pitches are not necessary to accommodate future junior cricket development, though some schools would be better placed to deliver cricket, and forge closer links with clubs with the use of an artificial wicket.
69. The midweek cricket league is less active than in former years. It is assumed that any future increase in demand for midweek and other casual cricket arising from youth development, work with schools or for other reasons will be able to be accommodated on existing school grounds or club facilities. There are particular problems associated with providing and maintaining 'public' facilities for cricket, and new cricket squares and pitches on any of the existing public grounds is therefore not favoured.

**70. Summary**

**No additional cricket pitches are required as existing and future demand based on youth development can be accommodated at existing club grounds. If this results in an increased demand for casual cricket, or the midweek league expands, this could be accommodated on existing school pitches, where some improvement might be necessary and would benefit both school-based development and links with clubs. Some improvements to the quality of pitches and facilities on club grounds are required (see Action Plan).**

**RUGBY UNION**

71. Teams and Players Two rugby union clubs play within the borough, both in the Outer Barrow sub area. It is estimated that there are about 100 regular senior players and about 40 juniors associated with the clubs. This is low compared with the national average. Numbers have probably declined over the past five years.

<b>Club</b>	<b>No of senior teams</b>	<b>No of junior teams</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>League</b>
BAE Barrow RFC	3	0	BAE Sports Club	North Lancs/Cumbria
Furness RFC	2	3	Furness RFC	Cumbria

72. In view of the limited number of clubs in the borough, the future requirements for rugby are assessed on the basis of the clubs own views and aspirations rather than TGRs as used elsewhere.

73. Supply of Pitches The following pitches have been identified in the borough:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Pitches</b>
BAE Sports Club	OB	Club	A	1
Furness RFC	OB	Club	A	2*
Total				3*

\*1 of these is currently shared with a football pitch

74. Demand for Pitches Senior teams play on Saturday afternoon, with junior and mini teams playing on Sunday mornings. Demand over the week for pitches is therefore estimated as follows (number of teams x 0.5):

Saturday pm (senior)	3
Sunday am (junior)	2

75. Future demand is unlikely to be affected by population change, and depends to a great extent on the success of development programmes in the borough including Active Sports. There is little junior rugby union in Barrow and a particular gap at youth and colts level. At BAE there is a specific problem with the lack of alternative playing facilities and an inadequate supply of volunteer helpers. Over the next ten years it is reasonable to assume that one club would have a full range of mini and junior teams from u8s through to u17s. This would increase the number of teams requiring pitches by 5. In addition BAE have plans to develop a women's team. 6 additional teams over this period therefore would increase the need for at least 1 senior pitch and up to 3 junior pitches.

76. Other Issues Pitch and facility quality are variable. The BAE pitches are good, and considered to be so by the club. Even so, 4 matches were called off last season due to poor pitch conditions. BAE also have the use of a purpose built training area and have plans to improve spectator stand facilities. The club's plans to develop are considered to be constrained by the lack of a second pitch. Furness's overall pitch and ancillary facilities are not of such a high standard.

#### **77. Summary**

**Pitch provision for rugby union by 2016 requires 4 senior pitches and 3 pitches available for juniors, involving the provision of 4 additional pitches. Some pitch and facility improvements are also required (see below).**

## RUGBY LEAGUE

78. Teams and players The clubs and teams known to be based in Barrow are summarised in the table below. It is estimated that there are 900 regular rugby league players in the borough, comprising 300 seniors including 20 women, and 600 juniors. This represents about 1.3% of the population of Barrow which is many times the national average, but reflects the regional importance of rugby league.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Senior teams</b>	<b>Youth teams (U16-18)</b>	<b>Junior teams (U12-14)</b>	<b>Mini teams (U8-10)</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>League</b>
Barrow Border Raiders	CB	2				Craven Park	Northern Ford Prem
Walney Central	W	2	2**	2	2	Cavendish Park/Walney School	National Conf Barrow & D
Askam	A	2	1*	2	2	Fallowfield Park	National Conf Barrow & D
Barrow Island	OB	2	2**	2	2	Rating Lane	Barrow & D
Dalton	D	1	1*	2	2	Crooklands Park	Barrow & D
Roose Pioneers	OB	2 +1	2	2	2	Holbeck Park/Redwaters	Yorks/ Lancs Women Barrow & D
Marsh Hornets	OB	1			2	Rating Lane	Barrow & D
Hindpool	CB	1	2	2	2	St James	Barrow & D

\*/\*\* indicates teams shared between clubs

79. It is not relevant to use TGRs to assess future demand or enable comparison, as few other studies have addressed rugby league. However as an indication of the demand for rugby league in Barrow, the following age group TGRs are estimated.

	<b>U10</b>	<b>10-14</b>	<b>15-44</b>	<b>overall</b>
Population	4621	2594	13718	20933
Teams	14	12	21	47
TGR	1:330	1:216	1:663	1:445

Overall there is a very buoyant participation in junior and youth rugby league, and the inevitable decline at senior level in line with most sports. TGRs across the board are not as high as with football, but compare favourably with cricket. Rugby league clearly provides an alternative to both of these activities. There is some evidence that juniors are playing both football and rugby league during the winter. The possible move

towards rugby league in the summer could have an impact on participation in all these activities.

80. Supply of pitches The following pitches have been identified in the borough.

Location	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Pitches
Fallowfield Park	A	Club	A	1
Cavendish Park	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	1
Craven Park	CB	Club	A	1
St James CE Jun School	CB	Education	B1	1
Dalton ARLFC	D	Club	A	1
Walney ARLFC, Central Drive	W	Club	A	
Flass Lane	OB	Club	A	2
Rating Lane/Ostley Bank	OB	BBC/Club	A	2
Roose Pioneers/P School	OB	CCC/Club	B1	3
Walney School	W	Education	B2	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>15</b>

Of these 4 pitches are currently unused at Flass Lane, Central Drive Walney and Holbeck Park (2).

81. Demand for pitches The temporal demand for pitches throughout the week is based on league playing days, and the demand from junior teams. Some clubs are forced to play especially junior fixtures when pitches are available, but the following is based on preferred fixture days.

Saturday pm	30%
Sunday am winter	40%
Sunday am summer	30%

On the assumption that 50% of games are played at home the overall temporal demand for pitches is estimated as follows (no of teams x % demand for a given time x 0.50

Saturday pm	7
Sunday am winter	10
Sunday am summer	7

82. Findings There are 13 pitches in the borough in SCU, although 4 of these are currently not being used, and 2 pitches on Walney in CU. This is broadly sufficient in total to accommodate senior demand on Saturdays, and junior and mini demand on Sundays. Junior matches tend to be played consecutively during Sunday morning and into the afternoon, and in most cases clubs play all their age range fixtures at home on alternate Sundays. Mini rugby is currently played during the summer across existing senior pitches.

83. Junior matches are relatively short, and young players tend to cause less wear and tear on pitches. However, in terms of player development it is not appropriate that juniors play on full size pitches, which is the case in the borough. The provision of junior-sized pitches is therefore recommended.
84. Future demand As there is already a high level of existing participation at junior level, further development opportunities are restricted. Marsh Hornets have plans for age group teams through from under 8 to under 18s, but most other clubs already have full coverage at junior level. There is one existing women's team at Roose, which currently holds taster days for girls and gives every encouragement to girls to participate. It is reasonable to estimate that by 2016 there will be sufficient demand for two girls' teams in the borough in addition to the existing women's team at Roose. Training currently takes place on existing grounds during early and late season when conditions allow and evenings are sufficiently light – some clubs have discrete training areas, most use the main pitches. In some cases clubs have to hire indoor facilities at schools during the winter. Additional pitches to accommodate junior development and training can therefore be justified. Overall it is recommended that all clubs should have access to 2 pitches (where this does not currently occur), one of which should be primarily suitable for juniors. It is estimated that a further 5 pitches are required and that these should be located in each of the sub-areas. It is noted that Roose Pioneers currently have access to 5 pitches and that 2 of these might be available to meet the future deficit in Barrow generally.
85. Other issues Most clubs responded to the questionnaire survey, and pitch facilities, including size, drainage. Levelness, grass cover and markings were generally considered adequate or good (75%). Of those features rated poor, drainage and the levelness of some pitches were highlighted. 52 games were cancelled from clubs responding, an average of about 8 per club, though these were concentrated mainly on Central Drive Walney and St James. Some pitches were playable all season.
86. Ancillary facilities were less well rated, about 70% being considered poor or adequate. A number of individual features were considered poor, but these were concentrated on Rating Lane where facilities clearly need improvement
87. Specific comments on pitches and facilities included the following:
- Biggest problem is drainage and pitches (Walney Central)
  - Not enough changing space (Hindpool)
  - Building works suspended due to inadequate sewerage facilities in the area (Barrow Island)
  - Disabled toilets needed (Askam)
  - Access road unmade, with potholes here and in car park (Roose)
  - Normal pitch unavailable because priority given to senior club (Marsh Hornets)
88. Clubs were given the opportunity to outline their plans for improvements to facilities, with the following responses:
- Extension to clubhouse for more changing and showers, and floodlighting to ground (Walney Central)
  - Increase storage area (Hindpool)
  - New clubhouse, levelling of pitch, provision of all weather training area ( Barrow Island)
  - Upgrading of boiler, improved access for disabled, improvements to car park (Askam)
  - General improvements to Cavendish Park for all teams and residents of Barrow Island (Marsh Hornets)

89. The following clubs highlighted plans to increase participation:
- Plans to extend membership but constrained by lack of second pitch (Walney Central)
  - Establish junior age groups across complete range (Marsh Hornets)
90. **Summary A further 5 pitches, preferably laid out primarily for junior players, are required throughout the borough, though 2 of these could be on existing facilities currently unused at Roose Pioneers' two grounds. Some drainage works are required to pitches, and improvements to some ancillary facilities (see below).**

#### HOCKEY

91. There is only one hockey club in the borough, Barrow Ladies. They currently field 2 teams in the Cumbria League (Sunday) and Netherwood League (Saturday) with about 15-20 players ranging in age from juniors to relative veterans. There is no junior team. Barrow Ladies play at Park Leisure Centre ATP but the pitch is considered to offer a poor facility – flooding occurs, the surface is sinking and the lines are wavy. The local leagues have threatened to disallow teams to fulfil fixtures at the pitch. Development of junior players is constrained by a variety of factors, not least the inadequacy of the playing facilities.
92. Players from Barrow also play for 2 other clubs in the Furness area but outside the borough, namely Glaxo and Ulverston. Both clubs field men's and women's teams and play their fixtures at Ulverston Leisure Centre. About one third to one half of club members at Glaxo live in Barrow, and together with some players from Ulverston it is estimated that there are about 60 regular hockey players in Barrow, which is below the national average of 0.3% of the population. Glaxo has a better-developed junior programme, and 50-60 juniors regularly attend weekly sessions at Park Leisure Centre, despite the pitch problems, ranging in age from mini 7-11 to u16 mixed.
93. There is limited curriculum hockey and little after school activity in the borough, especially among boys, though Alfred Barrow, Park View and St Bernard's Schools are known to be active. The development of juniors through the Active Sports programme is a priority in Barrow, and it is therefore hoped and anticipated that participation will increase over the coming years.
94. Given the existence of 2 ATPs within 8 miles serving a population of only about 85,000, it is difficult in strategic terms to make a strong case for an additional pitch in Barrow. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model identifies no priority for such a facility in the area. **The current emphasis should be placed on improvements to the existing pitch at the Park Leisure Centre, and in particular the replacement of the surface. However both pitches and in particular the Park ATP are known to be heavily used, for competition and training in a variety of sports, and it is difficult to make bookings. A longer term aspiration therefore may be to seek the provision of an additional ATP possibly on a school site, linked to a detailed sports development programme involving clubs, governing bodies, sports development agencies and schools, primarily for hockey but also incorporating mid-week training opportunities for other pitch sports.**

#### OTHER OUTDOOR SPORTS

95. As part of the overall study, and in order for full comparisons to be made with supply and demand in other areas over the whole range of outdoor recreational space, an

assessment was made of facilities for tennis, bowls, netball and athletics, including the provision of floodlit multi-games area (MUGAs).

## BOWLS

96. Clubs known to be based in Barrow are set out below

<b>Club</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Askam & Ireleth	A	Fallowfield Park
Barrow Island	CB	Cavendish Park
Barrow Park	OB	The Park
Biggar Bank	W	West Shore
Co-op	OB	Dane Ave
Dalton CC	D	Dalton CC
Dalton Cons	D	Dalton Cons Club
Furness Abbey Ladies	OB	The Park
Institute	W	Central Drive Walney
King Alfred	W	King Alfred PH Walney
Lindal	A	Lindal Moor
Newdale	CB	Bridgegate Avenue
North Scale	W	Walney
Police	D	Dalton CC
Post Office	W	West Shore
Red River	OB	Rating Lane
Roose Cons	OB	Roose Cons Club
Salthouse	CB	Roose Road
South Walney	W	Caravan Site South Walney
Vickers	OB	BAE Sports Club
Walney Park	W	Walney
West Mount	OB	Off Abbey Road
West Shore	W	Biggar Bank Road

Teams play variously in the Furness and District Bowling League, Walney League, Ulverston & District League, Furness Senior Citizens League and Furness Ladies League. Based on the information provided by clubs, it is estimated that there are about 1850 regular bowlers within the borough, about three quarters of whom are men. There are about 200 juniors within this overall number. The total represents about 2.5% of the borough's population, which is significantly above the national average of 1.9%.

97. The following facilities were identified in the study:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Greens</b>
Cavendish Park	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	1
Fallowfield Park	A	Club	A	1
The Park	OB	Club	A	4
West Shore	W	Club	A	1
Dane Avenue	OB	Club	A	1
Central Drive Walney	W	Club	A	1
King Alfred PH Walney	W	Club	A	1

Lindal Moor	A	Club	A	1
Bridgeway Avenue	CB	Club	A	1
North Scale	W	Club	A	1
Dalton CC	D	Club	A	1
Dalton Cons Club	D	Club	A	1
Rating Lane	OB	Club	A	1
Roose Cons Club	OB	Club	A	2
Salthouse	CB	Club	A	1
South Walney Caravan Park	W	Club	A	1
BAE	OB	Club	A	2
Walney Park	W	Club	A	1
West Mount	OB	Club	A	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>24</b>

98. It is not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used elsewhere, or by the use of TGRs. Adoption of an old Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60,000 population ('Planning for Sport' 1970) would give a requirement of 12 greens in Barrow. The current level of provision is clearly in excess of this, and reflects the popularity of crown green bowls in the borough. Future participation is likely to grow slightly as the ageing population structure increases activity in a sport known to cater especially for older people. In addition the governing bodies have recently taken steps to popularise the game among younger people – indeed at elite level bowls is very much a young person's domain. The clubs themselves are keen to attract young players to the sport, and have in many cases been quite successful. Walney Park BC for example have introduced coaching for school-aged children and accommodated 40 last season. Some however have highlighted the difficulty of attracting young people to bowls, in the light of competition from other activities. Existing levels of provision are likely to be adequate to meet future demand, although the construction on one additional all-weather surface at an existing club would enable more year-round play
99. The quality of playing facilities is generally considered good or better. Only one club rated its green as poor. Ancillary facilities are more variable, and there are examples of inadequate changing, toilets and storage areas. Clubs expressed specific improvement plans as follows:
- Spectator provision improvements, toilets close to playing area and floodlighting (BAE)
  - New machine hut, bowling hut, covered viewing area (Lindal)
  - Machine store and toilets (Salthouse)
  - Internal clubhouse improvements, second green, improvements to front of clubhouse (Walney Park)
  - Spectator facilities (West Mount)
  - Structural changes to clubhouse to improve changing and toilets (Barrow island)
- 100. Summary With a high level of existing provision, there are adequate bowls greens to meet anticipated demand. Two greens have recently been closed, with no apparent impact on participation, a new all-weather surface has been provided, and one club has plans for an additional rink - the provision of one further all-weather green might be justified to allow year-round use. There are two greens at The Park unallocated for club play and available for casual use. All existing facilities should be retained and promoted, especially among young people, and a programme of quality improvements to greens and ancillary facilities (as set out below) implemented.**

## TENNIS

101. Teams and Players There are 4 clubs in Barrow affiliated to the Cumbria LTA.

Club	Sub area	Venue
BAE Systems	OB	BA Sports Club
West Mount	OB	West Mount
Dalton CC	D	Dalton CC/Ulverston ICT
St. Bernard's	OB	St. Bernard's School

It is estimated that there are about 100 affiliated members at these clubs, about 20% of whom are juniors.

102. Facilities specifically available for tennis have been identified as follows:

Location	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Courts
BAE Sports Club	OB	Club	A	3 grass 5 hard (3 floodlit)
West Mount	OB	Club	A	6 grass 1 hard
Dalton CC	D	Club	A	3 grass
St. Bernard's School	OB	Education	B1	4 all-weather
The Park	OB	BBC		4 hard
Total				12 grass, 14 hard

103. Tennis activity levels are low and existing facilities are considered adequate to meet current demand. Activities in Barrow are concentrated on existing clubs, especially BAE, and in mini-tennis, where primary schools, summer holiday schemes and independent coaching are involving upwards of 400 children. The current focus of activity for tennis in the Furness area is the indoor centre at Ulverston.

104. Future provision for tennis in the borough centres on the development of facilities at Thorncliff School, in connection with its recent designation as a Specialist Sports College. Facilities planned from spring 2003 include 4 floodlit outdoor courts, together with 8 mini-tennis red and three mini tennis orange courts. These facilities will provide a focus for junior tennis development, including the Active Sports Programme, with links with St. Bernard's and Walney Schools and feeder primary schools. Much of the development is likely to be coach-led, involving the use of Ulverston Indoor Centre and existing courts in the borough. However, these activities could well lead to an increased demand for casual participation in tennis and existing public facilities at the park could be enhanced to meet additional public demand.

105. **Summary.** Despite the lack of existing activity and the limited range of facilities, it is considered that the proposed Thorncliff tennis facilities will be sufficient to meet future demand for tennis, in conjunction with existing courts. Some refurbishment may be required at existing clubs (eg. West Mount) to accommodate future usage generated as a result of these development activities, and there may be some longer term justification in the improvement of public courts at the Park and the use of proposed floodlit MUGAs (see below).

## NETBALL

106. The South Lakeland Netball League currently comprises 18 teams, about 8 of which are based in Barrow in Furness. It is estimated that there are about 80-100 regular netball players in the Borough, all female, about half of whom are juniors. The winter league is currently played at a central venue on Monday evenings at Hoops Indoor Centre, where there are 2 courts, while a summer league is based at Barrow Sixth Form College and outside the borough at the Ulverston ATP on a Thursday. Artificial turf is not an approved surface for competitive netball.
107. Junior development is linked to existing secondary schools in the borough, in particular Chetwynde, Park View and Thorncliff, and significant numbers of school students play for clubs in the league.
108. While existing facilities enable fixtures to be fulfilled, the league maintains that there is a growing need for courts for summer play and for training during the winter, which requires the provision of floodlights. Additional facilities would also facilitate more after school coaching and junior development. **The provision of a network of floodlit multi use games areas, built to accommodate a netball specification, in strategic locations throughout the borough would fulfil netball's future requirements (see MUGAs below).**

## ATHLETICS

109. There is one athletics club in the borough, Barrow and Furness Striders, with about 180 members divided equally between juniors and seniors. They use the one existing track in Barrow at Park Vale, which is a 400m 6 lane/8 lane straight. The track was built in 1981, but is in a poor and unsafe condition, and no longer open to the general public. Competitions cannot be held there, and the club has to fulfil fixtures on 'away' tracks in Carlisle and Lancashire. Training, however, does take place at the track during the summer, but the lack of safe, operational floodlights means winter training must take place indoors elsewhere.
110. Refurbishment of the track with lottery funding has been rejected on two occasions. There is a current application to the Sport England Lottery Fund which also involves renovation of the changing facilities and 2 tennis courts/MUGA, together with new provision of three floodlit courts/MUGA and two additional grass pitches. Sports development is good, much school liaison currently takes place and athletics is in phase 3 of Cumbria's Active Sports Programme. It is anticipated that partnership funding for the lottery bid may be difficult to obtain. **The future development of athletics in the borough depends on the availability of a refurbished track in this area. No other facilities can be justified.**

## MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

111. While there are a number of schools with hard play areas which accommodate some community use in the evening, mainly for training, the existence of purpose built floodlit multi use games areas in Barrow is limited. The only facilities which offer a range of potential uses for sport have been identified at the Park, Ormsgill Community Centre and Park Vale (though the latter is in poor condition), and there is no evidence of levels of usage or information on numbers.
112. MUGAs have an important role to perform both for formal sport and for informal play, and when planned as part of an overall strategy can fulfil an invaluable developmental function. They do however require positive management and promotion, and ongoing

maintenance to deter and prevent vandalism. The role of the local sports development officer can often be crucial in ensuring their proper use. They can then be suitable for a range of sports including tennis, basketball, netball and five-a-side football. It is considered desirable that all residents of the borough should have easy access to a floodlit MUGA, which is well run, maintained and promoted. **It is recommended therefore that 5 new facilities (of at least double court size) are provided at strategic locations throughout the Borough in the following areas – Walney (Park Vale), Central Barrow (Cavendish Park or Ormsgill), Outer Barrow (Thornclyff Youth Fields), Dalton and Askam. All new facilities must be located to avoid existing grass pitches where appropriate.**

113.A number of outdoor basketball posts have been erected as part of the English Basketball Association's Outdoor Basketball Initiative and the following have been identified.

<b>Table 44</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Sub area</b>	<b>Posts</b>
Skelwith Drive	OB	1
St Bernards School	OB	4
The Park	OB	1
Alfred Barrow School	CB	2
School Street	CB	2
Ormsgill School	CB	2
Walney Social Club	W	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>

The aims of this programme are to provide a network of outdoor facilities for casual and organised play, which encourages young people to develop a healthy lifestyle, awareness and self-promotion, and an alternative to anti-social behaviour. The original target was for 10,000 posts by 2000, ultimately enabling 50% of the population to gain access to a facility within one mile, and ensure the use of goals formed part of an overall sustainable basketball development programme. There is no evidence that activity rates meet these targets at the facilities in Barrow and development initiatives are required.

## **TOWARDS A STANDARD AND OVERALL STRATEGY FOR PLAYING PITCHES**

### **STANDARD**

1. One of the objectives of this study is to consider the possibility of a local standard, to replace the NPFA standard currently used for planning purposes, with a view to:
  - Disaggregating pitch sport requirements from overall open space/recreational land
  - Adopting standards which reflect both existing and potential demand
2. The findings of the study suggest that as a whole the existing amount of pitch space in secured community use in Barrow is estimated at 0.96 ha. per 1000 population or 1.02ha/1000 population in community use.
3. To meet anticipated future demand for pitches up to 2016 arising from population and participation changes and other indicators, it is estimated that future playing provision in the borough in secured community use should equate to 1.16 ha. per 1000 population. This is calculated by dividing the anticipated area of pitch provision (83.7ha) by the estimated 2016 population of 72000.

### **ROLE OF SCHOOL PITCHES**

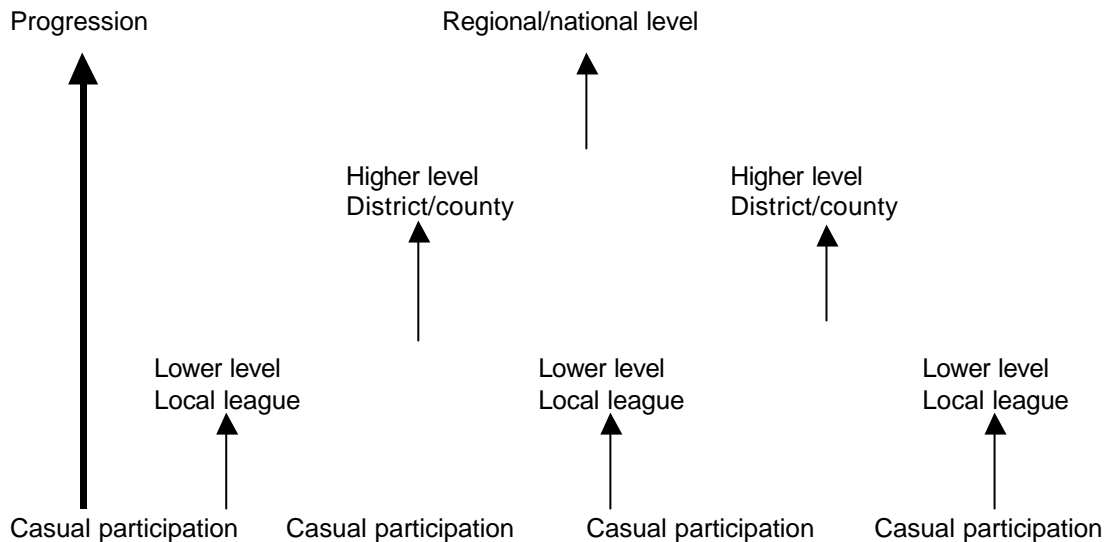
4. School pitches currently make a limited contribution to community pitch provision.. School managers and governing bodies often consider community usage to be problematic in terms of cost, security, wear and tear and management, and the primary need to retain pitches for their own curricular requirements. However, as is the case in Barrow, there are many advantages in making pitches available – raising income through letting, forging closer links with sports clubs and the community and improving sports standards among the school's own students. Many junior teams appreciate the flexibility which school pitches offers, especially where multiple teams from the same club are involved.
5. Given that schools and the community require access to sports pitches at different times, there is continuing scope for the use of school pitches to meet future demand. However, there are several provisos:
  - The pitches must be physically capable of accommodating extra use by the community
  - School management and letting policy must ensure that clubs have unhindered season-long access, subject to ground conditions, and at least some say in postponements, and that pitches are available at a rent which clubs, especially those catering for young people, can afford
  - Ancillary facilities must be available, to include changing rooms and showers
6. It is suggested that the availability of school pitches to meet any future shortfall in playing pitch provision be further investigated with schools and other relevant bodies. In some areas of the borough, community use of school pitches may be the only option for meeting future demand.

### **STRATEGY**

7. The study has made it clear that it is not simply the overall quantity of pitches that is critical in meeting demand, but also the quality of both pitches and ancillary facilities. Teams will always prefer, costs permitting, to use good facilities in preference to poorer ones, and may be unable to develop and improve if they are constrained by

poor facilities. Many facilities will therefore require considerable enhancement and overhaul.

8. There may be a benefit in developing a conceptual hierarchy to guide future investment in pitches and attract funding from other sources including the Lottery, Football Foundation, regeneration funds and the like. This would also provide the link with overall sports development objectives. This hierarchy could look as follows:



Within this diagram:

- The casual (foundation) level would include practice areas, kick-about areas, MUGAs and rough pitches for casual play, encouraging initial participation. In Barrow this could comprise small grass areas available within walking distance of all communities, together with a network of MUGAs throughout the borough
- The local league (participation) level would include pitches for regular competitive play, adequately drained with a flat playing surface, and normally including changing accommodation. This would correspond with most of the pitches currently available within the borough, but would involve some improvement to pitches and especially changing and other facilities.
- District/County/Regional (performance/excellence) level, where teams have reached the higher standard of play and require enhanced facilities, would include spectator areas, floodlights and higher standard pitches. At this level clubs and the private sector are likely to be more important in provision.

#### PLANNING FOR THE CYCLE OF DEMAND AND REMARKING PITCHES

9. Demand for pitches fluctuates over time, and it is imperative that sufficient pitches are available to meet peak demand in the foreseeable future, through the availability of land. Comparative demand for adult and junior pitches, especially football and rugby, will change. Although in practice many junior (i.e. 10-14) football teams play on adult pitches with full sized goals this is clearly unacceptable in terms of the development of individual skills and the enjoyment of the young people concerned. The same is true of rugby and other sports. Any future pitch provision should ensure that there is the possibility of flexibility in playing field layout to ensure that junior and adult pitches are interchangeable according to fluctuating demand.

## PROTECTING PLAYING SURFACES

10. There is some evidence that the quality of pitches is affected by unhindered access to public areas, which allows other users, such as horse riders and motorcyclists, to adversely affect pitch surfaces. Suitable solutions can include physical barriers to (wheeled and other) access (by for example the construction of knee-rails), ensuring adequate access around pitches for other casual activities, different management arrangements ensuring clubs have more say on the use of pitches and the ability to remove posts and other hardware when matches are not in progress.

## ANCILLARY FACILITIES

11. Facilities such as changing rooms, training areas, floodlights, social accommodation and parking all play a crucial role in developing opportunities to play sport. At the most basic level, changing and shower areas for both players and officials, are prerequisites, though many clubs and teams have become accustomed to even this basic level of provision being lacking.
12. There are some venues in particular need of overhaul, although Barrow is fortunate that all playing fields used by the community have at least a basic level of ancillary accommodation. Investment in such facilities is expensive and providers need to be assured that such facilities will be used. However, it is surely appropriate at this time to ensure clubs and players actually enjoy the experience of playing sport and developing further opportunities, without having to 'make do and mend'. The recommendations include suggestions for the most urgent improvements on the basis that the minimum provision is for home and away changing areas for each pitch, showers and officials' accommodation (guidance and costs are set out in Appendix 3).

## RESOURCES

13. Inevitably the lack or availability of finance is a major determining factor in the development of sports clubs and pitches. Local authority finance had for many years suffered from restrictions, including capping, and other reasons for prioritisation, and the transfer of Barrow BC's main public facilities to the Barrow Playing Field Users Association is a reflection of its inability to finance properly the retention and provision of outdoor sports facilities.
14. There are various other external sources of funding, and in Barrow these are possibly more freely available than in many areas, including the following:
  - Lottery funding through Sport England and NOF Green Spaces Programme
  - Football Foundation
  - Football Association
  - Foundation for Sport and the Arts
  - Regeneration funding
  - Landfill Tax Credits
  - RDA Funding - NWDA
15. Lottery funding in particular is increasingly difficult to achieve as additional demands are placed on a diminishing fund. Priorities have therefore been established, in particular concentrating on the most deprived parts of the country. In the Index of Local Deprivation 2000 published by the Government, Barrow is ranked 24<sup>th</sup> worst out of 354 districts in the country, comparable with Birmingham and Rochdale. Six wards (Central, Risedale, Hindpool, Barrow Island, Ormsgill and Walney North) out of a total of 13 are in the worst 10% of wards nationally and a further 2 in the top 20%. Much of

the borough therefore has high priority for funding from the Sport England Lottery Fund and other agencies. All sources of potential funding, not least the Lottery, are increasingly taking a strategic approach to grant distribution and the development of a playing pitch strategy is a necessary first step in improving local success in achieving external grants.

16. Two other sources of funding should be introduced:

- Developer contributions arising from new residential and other development, through planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act. It is clear from planning regulations that in principle recreational facilities are legitimate recipients for funding through such means. It is increasingly common to secure assistance towards off-site improvements, as well as on-site provision, so long as the beneficiary is related to the development in question. In an area like Barrow with limited building programmes and low land costs, the potential for this avenue of funding may be more restricted than in other places, though there are some large housing allocations as yet undeveloped which offer such an opportunity. (Further advice is given in Sport England's recently published Good Practice Guide entitled 'Providing for Sport and Recreation Through New Housing Developments').
- Appropriately scaled social accommodation, including a bar, can often generate sufficient revenue to keep clubs in existence. Subject to planning considerations, this option could be considered on certain sites, and the involvement of breweries and other private companies in sponsorship or barrelage addressed.

17. The general issues set out in this section are reflected in more particular priorities and policies below. They concentrate mainly on building the base of the hierarchy of local facilities discussed earlier. It is at this fundamental level that the public bodies, such as the Borough and County Councils and the Community Regeneration Company especially can make the most cost-effective contribution to improving local opportunities to play sport.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GENERAL

1. The recommendations made in this section relate to the main objectives of the study set out in the Introduction
2. There are 75 pitches in the borough in secured community use, comprising 69.3 ha. of land, the equivalent of 0.96 ha. per 1000 people. This compares with the NPFA minimum requirement of 1.21 ha. per 1000. In addition, there are 4 pitches, mainly on educational sites, which together with the above provide 1.02 ha. per 1000 population in overall community use.
3. With the addition of anticipated future demand, it is estimated that up to 2016 a total of 88 pitches in secured community use will be required. These will be of different sizes to meet changing requirements. The total required area of playing pitches is therefore estimated as 83.7 ha, the equivalent of 1.16 ha. per 1000 population.

**RECOMMENDATION 1** A future standard of 1.16 ha. of playing pitches per 1000 population should be adopted as a future planning guideline, and incorporated in the Review of the Local Plan.

4. The quality of facilities is as important an issue as the availability of pitches in terms of pitch drainage, layout, ancillary facilities etc. It is essential that urgent improvements, and in particular drainage, are made to certain pitches in community use in the borough to ensure that at least two matches per week are possible throughout the season. Adequate resources should therefore be directed to qualitative improvements to the borough's playing pitch stock, as set out in Recommendation 15

**RECOMMENDATION 2** An agenda of improvements should be implemented with the priorities outlined in Recommendation 15

5. Although school and other education pitches make only a small contribution to community sports provision in the borough, it is desirable that all such pitches which have a current or anticipated future role are brought into secured community use. This would involve formal community use agreements or other arrangements to ensure that clubs have security of tenure and use, and control over the management of their facilities. At the same time some physical improvements may be necessary to pitch drainage and changing facilities to ensure full community access.

**RECOMMENDATION 3** Negotiations should be undertaken on all school and education sites in current or anticipated use by community sports teams to bring all such pitches into secured community use by 2005, with the help of more formal community use agreements, and any necessary improvements made to pitches and ancillary facilities.

6. All existing pitches should be protected and enhanced, at least in the short term, to meet future needs, in accordance with an agreed planning policy which is in line with Sport England advice and the guidance contained in the new PPG17, and incorporated in the Local Plan Review. While some pitches have no current use, they should be retained to allow flexibility in management, rotation to reduce wear and tear and alternative open space uses pending future development for sport as a result of development initiatives and unforeseen changes in demand. Some limited

reorganisation and rationalisation, including the re-marking of pitches, may be acceptable so long as the resources saved, or realised, are diverted into enhancing pitch and ancillary facilities elsewhere.

**RECOMMENDATION 4** All existing pitches should be retained, unless sports facilities can best be protected through redevelopment of a small part of the site, alternative provision of equivalent standard is made elsewhere, or qualitative improvements are made to other local sports facilities, or the proposed development is for another sports facility the benefit of which would outweigh the loss of pitches

7. The developers of all new housing in the borough should bear the responsibility for the future provision of quality playing pitches required to service new housing developments, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act, and provide land, lay out pitches and build essential ancillary facilities in accordance with the agreed standard. Where new pitch provision is unjustified because the scale of the development is too small, the interests of sport may best be served by contributions to off-site provision or enhancements/improvements to existing facilities. This should be done to an agreed formula, an example of which is set out in appendix 3, together with a sum to cover future maintenance. It is recommended that a Local Plan policy be incorporated which includes contributions to the provision of sports facilities from developments of all sizes, and that a communal fund be established for the purpose of pitch provision and improvement.

**RECOMMENDATION 5** The developers of all new housing should be required to contribute to on- and off-site playing pitch and other outdoor sports provision and enhancement in accordance with accepted levels of design and layout, an agreed formula and the standard of 1.16 ha. per 1000, and a communal fund established by the local planning authority to implement pitch provision and improvements

8. Playing field provision, enhancement and retention are only parts of an overall strategy for pitch sports which should be undertaken by the Community Regeneration Company as a consequence of this study. This should reflect a hierarchical approach to the planning and management of pitches, and meet the actual identified needs of individual sports people, clubs and governing bodies, building on the findings of this study.

**RECOMMENDATION 6** The Community Regeneration Company should initiate and coordinate, in conjunction with appropriate partners, a local pitch sports development plan which reflects 'planning for the cycle of demand', the role of clubs in developing and managing their own facilities, the protection of playing surfaces, the enhancement of ancillary facilities and detailed sources of finance. The development plan should be based on the precise needs of the individual pitch sports, and recommend actions leading to increased opportunities for all sections of the community to participate at all levels of the sports in question.

#### SPORTS SPECIFIC

9. Football Overall there is a need for 57 football pitches in secured community use, which will involve the provision of 6 additional pitches. More importantly, some senior pitches will need to be re-marked for junior use and provided with the appropriate sized goals. The quality of pitches and ancillary facilities is as important a consideration as their quantity, and some improvements especially to drainage are necessary. In particular there is a need for user-friendly accommodation for juniors and girls and women.

**RECOMMENDATION 7** All football pitches should be retained, and 6 new pitches provided. Some reorganisation and re-marking for junior use will be necessary. A major emphasis should be on improving pitch quality to ensure all pitches are capable of two matches per week, and the provision (where absent) and refurbishment of clubhouses and changing rooms to agreed standards.

10. Cricket There are enough cricket pitches to accommodate anticipated future club-based demand, but school pitches should be improved and made more available to meet any future casual demand. Appropriate ancillary facilities are needed to help girls' and women's cricket to develop. Quality is less than a problem than with football.

**RECOMMENDATION 8** All cricket pitches should be retained, school facilities enhanced and some improvements made to ancillary facilities.

11. Rugby Union Four additional pitches are required, in particular for junior teams, and some qualitative improvements are necessary to pitches and facilities.

**RECOMMENDATION 9** All rugby union pitches should be retained, 4 additional junior pitches provided and essential enhancements made to facilities

12. Rugby League While there are enough pitches in total to meet anticipated future demand, these are not necessarily in the right places. To allow all clubs access to at least 2 pitches, 5 extra pitches are required, mainly for juniors, two of which might be located on existing unused pitches in Roose. Some quality improvements are needed.

**RECOMMENDATION 10** 5 new junior rugby league pitches are required and some facility improvements necessary

13. Hockey Refurbishment of the Park ATP is a priority, and longer-term plans for another additional ATP at a school might be justified, linked to a programme of development.

**RECOMMENDATION 11** The Park Leisure Centre ATP should be improved and consideration given to a new ATP on a school site.

14. Other Sports All bowls facilities should be retained, although no additional greens are considered necessary. Tennis development is likely to be concentrated at Thorncliff School, but the refurbishment of existing club facilities is desirable, together with public facilities at the Park. The refurbishment of the existing athletics track is a priority. Netball development would benefit from the provision of additional floodlit MUGAs.

**RECOMMENDATION 12** Provision for other sports should concentrate on the improvements of existing facilities where appropriate and additional floodlit MUGAs.

15. MUGAs A network of good quality, well-used, floodlit MUGAs would provide the opportunity for much foundation-level activity, and provide training facilities for the main pitch sports, while reducing wear and tear on existing pitches.

**RECOMMENDATION 13** A network of floodlit MUGAs, serving each part of the borough, should be developed, including the provision of one new facility in each of the 5 sub-areas, and improvements to existing courts where necessary. All facilities must incorporate positive management and promotion within an overall pitch sports development plan.

## AREA POLICIES

RECOMMENDATION 14 Future pitch requirements throughout each sub area of the borough are as set out in the following section

16. Central Barrow

- The following pitches are required in Central Barrow by 2016 (figures in brackets indicate current provision)
 

Senior football	8 (7)
Junior football	5 (2)
Mini soccer	2 (3)
Rugby League	3 (3)
Total	18 (15)
- 3 additional pitches in total are required, primarily for junior football. These could be accommodated partly by a rationalisation of pitches on the existing 'public' grounds such as Ormsgill and Cavendish Park, but additional land would be required. This may be available adjacent to existing pitches at Ormsgill, though a joint scheme with Thorncliff Youth Fields in the Outer Barrow are could be considered (see below).
- A floodlit MUGA should be provided at one of the 'public' sites, at Ormsgill where there is space available or Cavendish Park
- Pitch and facility improvements are necessary as set out below

17. Outer Barrow

- The following pitches are required in Outer Barrow by 2016 (figures in brackets indicate current provision)
 

Senior football	8 (15)
Junior football	8 (2)
Mini soccer	2 (6)
Cricket	3 (3)
Rugby Union	7 (3)
Rugby League	7 (7)
Hockey/ATP	1 (1)
Total	36(37)
- 6 senior pitches should be remarked for junior use, and this could release spare land, say at Thorncliff, to accommodate unmet demand from Central Barrow (see above). Additional junior pitches at Ostley Bank may also be possible.
- 4 additional rugby union pitches are required ideally on or near existing club grounds. Some of these could be located adjacent to Thorncliff Youth Fields where additional land is available, and some on the Furness RUFC ground which would require relocation of the football pitches there
- A floodlit MUGA should be provided at a central location, on a 'public' site or at Ostley Bank where the club has expressed the need for such a facility
- Pitch and facility improvements are necessary as set out below

18. Walney

- The following pitches are required in Walney by 2016 (figures in brackets indicate current provision)
 

Senior football	4 (5)
Junior football	3 (1)
Mini soccer	1 (1)
Cricket	1 (1)
Rugby League	2 (1)
Total	11(9)

- Overall 1 additional football pitch and 1 rugby pitch are required, and options for these include an additional pitch at Park Vale, and the dual use under a secured community use agreement of existing school pitches at Walney School or Alfred Barrow Playing Fields on Cows Tarn Lane
- The refurbishment of the athletics track at Park Vale is a priority, and the overall scheme could include improvements to other facilities on this site, and a new or refurbished floodlit MUGA
- Pitch and facility improvements are necessary as set out below

#### 19. Dalton

- The following pitches are required in Dalton by 2016 (figures in brackets indicate current provision)
 

Senior football	4 (3)
Junior football	5 (0)
Mini soccer	1 (1)
Cricket	1 (1)
Rugby League	2 (1)
Total	13 (6)
- 7 new pitches (6 football 1 rugby league) are required in the Dalton area, or sufficiently close to it to be able to accommodate local demand. Given the terrain in and around the town, it is acknowledged that sites may be difficult to find. More formal use of school pitches might be considered, and in particular the developers of new housing be required to make new provision.
- A new floodlit MUGA should be provided possibly on a school site or in conjunction with an existing club
- Pitch and facility improvements are necessary as set out below

#### 20. Askam

- The following pitches are required in the Askam area by 2016 (figures in brackets indicate current provision)
 

Senior football	2 (2)
Junior football	3 (2)
Mini soccer	1 (1)
Cricket	2 (2)
Rugby League	2 (1)
Total	10 (8)
- 2 additional pitches are required, for which sites need to be identified
- A new floodlit MUGA should be provided, possibly at Fallowfield Park
- Pitch and facility improvements are necessary as set out below

#### ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION 15 The following specific detailed priorities should be considered:			
		Priority	Budget Cost (£k)
<b>Central Barrow</b>			
Ormsgill	Pitch improvements & drainage	High	30
	3 additional pitches	Medium	100
	New floodlit MUGA	High	85
Cavendish Park	Pitch improvements & drainage	High	42
	Improvements to bowls clubhouse & toilets	Low	20
Newby Terrace	Floodlights and training area	Medium	115

St James Park	Increased clubhouse storage	Medium	20
Salthouse BC	Machine store and toilets	Low	10
<b>Outer Barrow</b>			
Thornclyff Youth Fields	Pitch improvements & drainage	High	100
	4 new pitches	Medium	140
	New floodlit MUGA	High	85
Ostley Bank	Drainage to 1 pitch	High	20
	Mini/junior soccer pitch	Medium	30
Furness Cavaliers FC	Improved drainage, security of pitch and modernise clubhouse	High	40
Holker OB FC	Drainage to pitches	High	30
Barrow Wanderers FC	Disabled access to clubhouse	Medium	10
The Park	New surface to ATP	High	100
	Refurbished tennis courts	Medium	20
Furness CC	Improved equipment, practice area	Low	10
Barrow CC	Work to clubhouse, drive and nets	Low	20
Barrow Island RLFC	New clubhouse, levelling the pitch, new floodlit hard training area	Medium	300
Furness RUFC	Improved clubhouse facilities	Medium	50
West Mount LT&BC	Spectator facilities, refurbished courts	Medium	50
BAE BC	Improvements to facilities	Low	20
<b>Walney</b>			
Park Vale	Refurbishment to athletics track, floodlit MUGA, 1 pitch, clubhouse and 1 new pitch	High	1.2m
Biggar Bank	New changing provision	High	100
Walney Central RLFC	Improvements and drainage to 1 pitch, including floodlights, improvements to clubhouse	High	100
Tummerhill	Improvements to changing, dugouts	Medium	20
Walney Park BC	Clubhouse improvements	Low	20
Unspecified	1 new pitch	Medium	40
<b>Dalton</b>			
Dalton United FC	1 new pitch, improved car park	High	60
Crooklands Casuals FC	Improved changing rooms, showers and refs room	Medium	30
Unspecified	1 additional rugby league pitch	High	40
	5 additional junior football pitches	High	150
	New floodlit MUGA	High	85
<b>Askam</b>			
Askam RLFC	Improvements to clubhouse (including toilets) and car park	Medium	30
	1 additional rugby league pitch	Medium	40
Fallowfield Park	New floodlit MUGA	High	85
Lindal BC	Improvements to ground, machine hut, bowls hut, covered viewing area	Low	20
Unspecified	1 additional junior football pitch	Medium	30

The total cost of implementing this programme amounts to about £3.5m. These costs are based on information incorporated in Appendix 3, and are only a **broad indication** of budget costs. Precise figures will depend on a range of factors, including site conditions, and further detailed work is required at the appropriate stage.

## APPENDIX 1 A SUMMARY OF THE SPORT ENGLAND METHOD

### Summary of Sport England Method

The local assessment of supply and need for pitches in the four main pitch sports has been undertaken using the methodology that Sport England has developed over a number of years. The method can be summarised as follows:

- Stage 1** – Identifying teams
- Stage 2** – Home Games per Team per Week
- Stage 3** – Total Home Games per Week
- Stage 4** – Temporal Demand for Games
- Stage 5** – Pitches Used/Required on Each Day
- Stage 6** – Pitches Available
- Stage 7** – Discussion of any Problems or Issues, and
- Stage 8** – Discussion of Options

This method can be tailored to meet local circumstances as well as budgetary and time-scale constraints.

One of the outcomes arising from this exercise is the production of local standards for the provision of pitches. Such standards need to be based on notional areas for individual pitch types, together with an allowance for the desired pitch surrounds. The following are based primarily on NPFA guidance.

Pitch Type	Area (ha)
Adult Football	0.9
Junior Football	0.82
Mini-Soccer	0.3
Rugby	1.2
Cricket	1.6
Hockey	0.9

Within these overall areas can be incorporated the dimensions of the pitch surface proper (i.e. excluding pitch surrounds):

**Adult football:** the NPFA recommends dimensions for adult football at regional, county or lesser levels is 96-100 metres x 60-64 metres

**Junior football:** there are no regulation dimensions for junior size pitches. However, NPFA recommends different minimum and maximum dimensions for various junior and youth age groups:

Under 18	90 x 46-55 metres
Under 15	82 x 46 metres
Under 13	73 x 41 metres

**Rugby Union:** from each dead ball line the maximum length of a Rugby Union pitch is 144 metres and the maximum width should be no more than 69 metres. Junior pitch for 13-15 year olds should be 95 x 50m maximum

**Rugby League:** Maximum pitch size is 144 x 68m (senior), 106 x 60m (junior 13-15 year olds)

**Hockey:** the specification of 91.44 x 54.86 metres at least for club/county levels

## APPENDIX 2 DATABASE OF EXISTING PITCHES AND OTHER OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Site No	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey (grass)	ATP	Tennis (grass)	Tennis (hard)	Netball	Bowls	Athletics	MUGA	OBBI	Changing	Grid Ref
1	Askam Utd FC	A	Club	A	1	1	1													1	21277
2	Duddon Spts & S Club Askam	A	Club	A	1	1		1												1	21477
3	Fallowfield Park	A	Club	A					1											1	21377
4	Lindal Cricket Club	A	Club	A				1												1	25576
5	Askam & Ireleth BC	A	Club	A												1				1	21477
6	Lindal BC	A	Club	A												1				1	25576
7	Barrow AFC	CB	Club	A	1															1	19470
8	Cavendish Park	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	2	1	1		1							1				2	20368
9	Craven Park	CB	Club	A					1											1	19469
10	Newby Terrace	CB	CCC/Club	A	1															1	20070
11	Schneider Road, Ormsgill	CB	BBC/PFUA	A	3	1	2													1	19471
12	Newdale BC	CB	Club	A												1				1	21369
13	Salthouse BC	CB	Club	A												1					20968
14	School Street	CB	BBC	A															2		20269
15	St James CE Junior School	CB	Education	B1					1											1	19369
16	Ormsgill Community C	CB	BBC	A																	19672
17	Barrow Rangers (Training Ground)	CB	Club	A	1		1													1	19370
18	Crooklands Casuals FC	D	Club	A	2		1													1	23773
19	Dalton ARLFC	D	Club	A					1											1	23874
20	Dalton Cricket Club	D	Club	A				1					3			1				2	23474
21	Railway Meadow, Dalton	D	Club	A	1															1	23273
22	Dalton Cons BC	D	Club	A												1				1	23173
23	Skelwith Drive	OB	BBC	A															1		20972
24	BAE Barrow	OB	Club	A	2			1	1				3	5		2				2	20571
25	Barrow Cricket Club	OB	Club	A				1												1	21271
26	Flass Lane	OB	Club	A					2											1	22070
27	Furness Cricket Club	OB	Club	A				1												1	20671
28	Furness Rugby Club	OB	Club	A	2				2											1	21071
29	Lesh Lane (Barrow Wanderers)	OB	CCC/Club	A	1	1														1	21070
30	Rakesmoor Lane	OB	Club	A	2	1														1	20772
31	Rampside Road, Roose	OB	Club	A	2															1	22668
32	Rating Lane/Ostley Bank	OB	BBC/Club	A	1				2											2	21470
33	Roose Pioneers/P School	OB	CCC/Club	B1			1		3											1	22469
34	The Park	OB	BBC	A							1		4		4			1	2	1	20769
35	Thornclyff Youth Fields	OB	BBC/PFUA	A	4		4													1	20371
36	Coop BC	OB	Club	A												1				1	20471
37	Red River BC	OB	Club	A												1				1	21869
38	Roose Cons BC	OB	Club	A												2				1	22369
39	West Mount LT&BC	OB	Club	A									6	1		1				1	20770
40	St Bernards LTC	OB	Education	B1										4							21771

Site No	Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	League (grass)	ATP (grass)	Tennis (hard)	Netball	Bowls	Athletics	MUGA	OBBI	Changing	Cost (£)	
41	Biggar Bank PFs	W	BBC/PFUA	A	3		1											1	17768	
42	Park Vale	W	CCC	A	1										1	1		1	18069	
43	Tummerhill PFs	W	CCC/Club	B1	1	1												1	17967	
44	Vickerstown Cricket Club	W	Club	A				1										1	17768	
45	Walney ARLFC, Central Drive	W	Club	A					1									1	18068	
46	Institute BC	W	Club	A									1					1	18568	
47	King Alfred BC	W	Club	A									1					1	18668	
48	North Scale BC	W	Club	A									1					1	18070	
49	S Walney BC	W	Club	A									1					1	20963	
50	Walney Spts & S Club	W	Club	A									1				1	1	18668	
51	West Shore BC	W	Club	A									1					1	18067	
	<b>TOTALS (SCU)</b>				<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>49</b>
52	Dowdales School	D	Education	B2	2														22874	
53	Barrow Sixth Form Coll	OB	Education	B2									2						21571	
54	Walney School	W	Education	B2					2										17768	
	<b>TOTALS (CU)</b>				<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>49</b>

Name	Sub area	Sector	Availability	Sen football	Jun football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey (grass)	ATP	Tennis (grass)	Tennis (hard)	Netball	Bowls	Athletics	MUGA	OBBI	Changing
Abbotsmead Junior School	CB	Education	C			1													
Alfred Barrow School (Cows Tarn La)	W	Education	C	1					1	1									1
Alfred Barrow School	CB	Education																2	
Askam School	A	Education	C			3													
Barrow Sixth Form College	OB	Education	C			2							4						
Dalton St Mary's CE School	D	Education	C			2													
Dane Ghyll School	OB	Education	C		1														
Dowdales School	D	Education	C					1	2										
George Romney J S Dalton	D	Education	C		1														
Greengate Infant School	CB	Education	C			1													
Ireleth St Peter's CE Primary	A	Education	C			1													
Newbarns P School	OB	Education	C		2														
Newton School	OB	Education	C			1													
North Walney Primary School	W	Education	C		2	2													
Ormsgill Primary School	CB	Education	C		1													1	
Our Lady's RC School	D	Education	C			1													
Our Lady's, Chetwynde	OB	Education	C																
Park View School	OB	Education	C	3			1	2	2			6	4						1
St Bernard's School	OB	Education	C	2			1	2	2				3					4	1
St Paul's CE J School (Clovelly Terr)	OB	Education	C		2														
St Pius RC School	CB	Education	C			1													
Thornclyff School	OB	Education	C				1	1	1			5	5						1
Vickerstown School (Mill La)	W	Education	C			1													
Victoria Junior School	OB	Education	C			2													
Walney School	W	Education	C				1		2			3	3						1
Yarlside School	OB	Education	C			1													
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

## APPENDIX 3 INDICATIVE COSTS AND DESIGN GUIDANCE

### Location and Layout of Sports Pitches

The precise value of individual playing fields and pitches to individual sports teams will be dictated by the requirements of the league of which they are a member. The higher the standard of play, the greater the requirements in respect of the pitch(es) and ancillary facilities. The needs of the football clubs playing in the 'semi-professional' leagues (with requirements for floodlighting, pitch barriers, enclosures, and changing accommodation etc), will be much greater than those of the local Sunday league teams. However, the following notes and accompanying illustrations might be considered to represent sound general principles of design. The principles will include the following:

- Location
- Accessibility
- Playing surface
- Floodlighting
- Availability of changing rooms/toilets
- Social facilities
- Site suitability and security
- Parking

*Location:* the NPFA suggests that most active members of the public want facilities for informal training and home games in their own neighbourhood, and consider that 20 minutes travelling time, or three quarters of a mile distant from home is a reasonable yardstick. For specialist facilities, such as artificial turf pitches, or higher level league grounds, the preparedness for travel may be greater. On the other hand, junior teams would probably prefer home pitches and training facilities to be located within easy and safe walking distance to young players.

When considering the location of new pitches, the potential for conflict between recreation activities and other land uses in the area, particularly residential, must be taken into consideration. Proximity to housing makes a site more accessible, although nuisance can arise from noise, parking, traffic generation, etc.

*Accessibility:* for team sports it is probable that at least half of the players will be coming from out of the immediate area, and will therefore rely on some form of transport. The provision of convenient space for parking, preferably off-road and within the site, and a location near to public transport will make the site more accessible, and therefore more attractive to users.

*Playing surface:* pitches that are not drained and otherwise maintained cannot be used as frequently as those that are. Open pitches are vulnerable to dog fouling and other abuse. Guidance on the increase to playing capacity brought about through drainage improvements is available from various Sport England and NPFA publications.

*Floodlighting:* this can increase levels of usage of facilities, including for training. Floodlighting is essential for higher-level clubs, and highly desirable for artificial turf pitches. Sport England offers the following guidance on floodlighting levels for association football:

Class	LUX
Class 1: national and international football	500
Class 2: medium level football	200
Class 3: low level football and training	75

Additional specific guidance is provided in relevant Sport England factsheets.

*Availability of changing rooms and toilets:* the provision of changing facilities is desirable for all local sports teams, and essential for some. The detailed specifications for changing accommodation really depend on the nature of the sports played at a given site. Changing accommodation for senior teams will need to provide space for teams and reserves. For football teams, this will normally mean 15 spaces. For rugby teams, it may be 20 spaces. A two-pitch complex would call for two home and two away team changing rooms. There will also be a requirement for separate match official's rooms (1 per game). The requirement for special facilities for junior and or female teams really depends on the specific circumstances. Specific guidance on these matters plus considerations such as disabled facilities, toilets, security, etc are provided in the Sport England fact sheets.

*Social facilities:* local sports teams value social facilities highly, particularly when hosting matches to visiting players. Such facilities make sites more attractive to players and spectators alike. Social facilities, especially where they include bar facilities and function rooms, can also be an important revenue generator for clubs. However, the development of such facilities may become sensitive issues as they will generate additional noise, traffic for local residents. Such facilities (as well as other ancillary accommodation) can also be a sensitive issue in the countryside and the green belt.

*Site suitability and security:* for multi-sport community pitches, the key features of any layout are as follows:

- A site big enough to accommodate multiples of at least two football/rugby pitches, with a cricket table in between. The cricket outfield is shared with the other pitch sports on a seasonal basis
- Planting around the site edge to provide shelter
- The use of residue grass for training and/or mini-soccer, together with floodlighting to enable midweek training during the winter. Floodlighting of one or both of the main pitches is sometimes difficult to install on 'shared space' layouts.
- Changing block located close to both pitches for quick access at half-time
- Vehicular access and parking availability
- A secure equipment shed (for goals, flags, mower, etc) is provided

### General costings for pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms

ITEM	Mean	Sample	Spread of rates				
	£/m2	No	Lowest	25% Quartile	50% Median	75% Quartile	Highest
Pavilions, clubhouses, and changing rooms	936	298	254	702	877	1074	3556
Up to 500 m2	931	247	2254	692	871	1070	3556
500 m2 to 2000 m2	942	49	297	736	905	1063	1727
Over 2000 m2	1362	2	1255				1469

Based on 2002 figures (3rd quarter) from the Sport England More Places Unit

### Artificial Turf Pitches

Artificial Turf Pitch (assuming full-size, sand-based and floodlit) in the order of £300-£350K, although the actual price very much depends upon the detailed specification of the facility, and the local physical circumstances.

### Indicative Costings

The indicative costs of implementing the priorities set out in Recommendation 14 are based on the following information taken from relevant Sport England and NPFA publications:

MUGA (2 court)		£85000
New football pitches (drained) - adult		£40000
	- junior	£30000
	- mini	£14000
Pitch drainage		£20-30000
Re-marking/new posts	- junior	£2000
	- mini	£1000
Artificial cricket wicket		£7000
Bowls - new green (turf)		£64-80000
	- new green (synthetic)	£80-100000
	- ditch provision	£17000
Floodlighting (per pitch)		£30000
Changing rooms/pavilion - 2 team, 100m <sup>2</sup>		£120000
	- 4 team, 150m <sup>2</sup>	£180000

### Developers' contributions

The method of establishing developers' contributions involves dividing the established costs of the required facility by the number of eligible dwellings. More detailed guidance is set out in Sport England's Good Practice Guide 'Providing for Sport and Recreation Through New Housing Developments'.

Actual contributions will depend on a range of local factors, including ground conditions, land ownership, fee levels, and regional economic circumstances. As an example, the following illustrates the methodology for assessing the level of contribution:

Typical playing field development	
2 drained winter pitches	£80000
1 cricket pitch	£40000
4 team changing room	£180000
Parking, other ancillary accommodation and contingencies	£50000
Total	£350000

Area of site 2.1 ha, the equivalent of £193000 per 1.16 ha (recommended local standard per 1000 people)

Total cost per person £193 x 2.5 (average occupancy rate) = £483 per house

This is an illustration only and should not be used as a precise requirement for Barrow where a more detailed local calculation is required.

**APPENDIX 4 PITCH REQUIREMENTS 2016**

	<b>Pitches required</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b>	<b>Area of pitches (ha)</b>
<b>Football – senior</b>	26	0.9	23.4
<b>-junior</b>	24	0.82	19.7
<b>-mini</b>	7	0.3	2.1
<b>Rugby Union</b>	4	1.2	4.8
<b>-senior</b>			
<b>-junior</b>	3	1.0	3.0
<b>Rugby League</b>	13	1.2	15.6
<b>- senior</b>			
<b>-junior</b>	3	1.0	3.0
<b>Cricket</b>	7	1.6	11.2
<b>Hockey</b>	1	0.9	0.9
	<b>88</b>		<b>83.7</b>