

Playing Pitch Strategy

Action Plan Update

2025



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL

ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 The site-by-site Action Plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential at each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.
- 6.2 The Council should make it a high priority to work with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and other partners to create a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facilities and associated provision.
- 6.3 The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within Watford i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated impact on addressing shortfalls (identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole).

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in Watford. Priority sites for National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBS).	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an artificial grass pitch.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with National Governing Bodies guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with National Governing Bodies guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

- 6.4 Hub sites are of strategic importance and users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered. They are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site could have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.
- 6.5 Key centres are more community focused sites, although some are still likely to serve a wider area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.
- 6.6 Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.
- 6.7 Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.
- 6.8 For local authority sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities. It is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.
- 6.9 Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.
- 6.10 Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

Management and development

- 6.11 The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related development or enhancement:
- ◀ Financial viability.
 - ◀ Security of tenure.
 - ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
 - ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
 - ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
 - ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
 - ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
 - ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
 - ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
 - ◀ Football investment programme/ third generation artificial grass pitch development with the FA and Football Foundation.

Partners

- 6.12 The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resources are available, the partner will endeavour to provide support.

Priority

- 6.13 Although hub sites are mostly likely to be a high priority level as they have wider importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).
- 6.14 The majority of key centres are a medium priority, having a more localised importance and have been identified based on the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.
- 6.15 The low priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and are often club or education sites with locally specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

Costs

- 6.16 The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The categories are:
- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k;
 - ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k;
 - ◀ (H) -High £250k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Timescales

- 6.17 The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years);
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years);
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years).

Aim

- 6.18 Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; Enhance, Provide, Protect.

Please direct all questions and comments to strategy@watford.gov.uk.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
1	Bromet School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches. No community use available on pitches.	Retain pitches for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>Update regarding Community Use Agreement to use MUGA.</i>	No change.
2	Callowland Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. Standard quality ancillary provision. There is a current proposal for the playing fields to be used by a new nearby primary school at Watford Junction (that will not have its own playing field).	Sustain the current maintenance programme for current uses. If the proposal for the new school is progressed, ensure that the capacity of the playing fields is not reduced by curricular use. Consider enhanced maintenance regime to increase site capacity.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	<i>No change since 2022 update. Includes a MUGA.</i>	No change.
		Cricket	Council			Cricket Council						<i>New wicket completed, and now marking out a pitch for taped ball cricket. WBC is in conversations with ECB / Herts Cricket around the proposal of replace – improve quality and retain capacity.</i>	No change.
3	Cassiobury Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches which are underused. Good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to youth 11v11 size to reduce identified shortfalls.	FA, FF Council	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Cricket		One poor quality cricket square with 12 wickets. Pitch is overplayed as a result of poor quality.	Explore opportunities to improve the quality of the square through a partnership approach with the ECB and Hertfordshire County Cricket.	ECB Council		H	S	L-M		<i>WBC is in conversations with ECB / Herts Cricket around new build capacity.</i>	No change.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
		Bowls		<p>One good quality flat bowling green.</p> <p>Home ground to Watford with Cassiobury Ladies BC.</p> <p>Car parking is a current issue for members.</p>	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Council		L	L	L		No update provided.	No update provided.
		Tennis		<p>Total of eight grass courts with four assessed as standard quality and four assessed as poor quality and two macadam courts assessed as good quality. No courts are floodlit.</p> <p>Grosvenor LTC submitted funding application to Sport England to develop new clubhouse.</p> <p>Courts managed and maintained by Veolia.</p>	<p>Consider the feasibility of floodlighting on courts to accommodate more usage in the autumn and winter months.</p> <p>Support Grosvenor LTC and Sport England in a potential development of a new clubhouse.</p>	LTA Council		H	S	H		<p>LTA completed survey of macadam courts in November 2023.</p> <p>Recommended works include clean, binder course and colour coating. New fence line to enclose courts and separate from Basketball. Added a Smartaccess gate to help manage bookings and support long term sustainability plan.</p> <p>Costs shared with WBC to discuss further opportunities for jointly funding work.</p> <p>Longer term it would be more cost effective to convert WBC maintained grass courts to floodlit macadam courts to enable all year round and make Cassiobury a hub park site.</p>	<p>No update on condition of the courts. Likely to have seen further wear to surface 18 months on from previous survey. Recommendation remains the same.</p> <p>LTA in contact with council to adapt SmartAccess gate as part of first phase of works.</p>
		Croquet		<p>Three good quality croquet lawns. The lawns are maintained by Veolia. The main user, Watford (Cassiobury) aspires to develop a</p>	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support any ancillary development to	Sports Club Council		M	M	M-H		Planning Permission granted in February 2024 for	No update provided.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
				new clubhouse to service demand.	service participation in Croquet.							<i>irrigation system (Ref. 23/01173/FUL)</i>	
4	Cherry Tree Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which has small levels of overplay. Used by Watford Youth Sports FC as an overspill site.	Sustain pitch quality on the site and explore options to potential transfer a proportion of demand off site to sites with spare capacity or a third generation artificial grass pitch to alleviate overplay.	FA, FF School	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	Exploring Grass Pitch maintenance funding with Everett Rovers.
5	Everett Rovers FC	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches, one poor quality youth 11v11, one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch and three standard quality mini pitches. Several pitches are over marked with smaller pitches to facilitate fixtures. Small levels of overplay across several pitches. Poor quality pitches due to basic maintenance regime. Portion of pitches have trees overhanging which impact on pitch playability during autumn and winter. The clubhouse and changing facilities are good quality. Pitches are identified in the Watford Local Football Facility Plan for pitch improvements.	Improve the quality of all pitches on site to reduce overplay. Look to utilise the Watford Local Football Facility Plan as a channel to improve quality.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance	<i>3G pitch has been delivered and is now open for use by the club and local community.</i> <i>Club have also received an award to include their kitchen facilities through the FA/FF Howdens Kitchen Programme.</i> <i>Club received neighbourhood grant funding for £20,000.</i>	Club have updated facilities again after achieving promotion and facility is working towards being ground grading compliant for Step 6 football. Grass pitch maintenance funding continues on site to help support continued improvement of grass pitches. Received Energy Audit through Greener Game programme.
6	Francis Combe Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches and one poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. Small levels of overplay on pitches. Pitches are basically maintained and drain poorly.	Explore potential opportunities to improve maintenance regime on all pitches to alleviate overplay.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby pitch due to a basic maintenance regime. Pitches at capacity through curricular use. Tenure unsecure on site.	Retain pitch for curricular use and improve when required. Work with school to secure tenure on site.	RFU School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
		Tennis		Four standard quality (floodlit) macadam courts.	Retain courts for curricular use.	LTA School		L	L	L		No change since 2022 update.	No change.
		Netball		Three (floodlit) macadam courts.	Retain courts for curricular use.	EN School		L	L	L		No change since 2022 update.	No EN activity.
8	Garston Park	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is at capacity.	Sustain current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	New small skate park facility installed. In conversations with ECB / Herts Cricket for a practice facility partnership.	No change.
9	Harebreaks Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch and two standard mini pitches. Changing provision assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified through the Watford Local Football Facility Plan.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work with football partners to develop a new pavilion on site aligned to the Watford Local Football Facility Plan. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to youth 11v11 size to reduce identified shortfalls.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance	Herons Youth have secured a lease on site and are working towards improving the changing facilities.	No change.
10	King George V Playing Fields	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Changing provision site assessed as poor quality and needing either refurbishment or replacing as identified through the Watford Local Football Facility Plan.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work with football partners to develop a new pavilion on site aligned to the Watford Local Football Facility Plan. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to youth 11v11 size to reduce identified shortfalls.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	M	M	M-H	Protect	New cycle hub pavilion and new LTR facility. Lease has been granted, SLA including outputs developed. Process ongoing for new licence to use with cycle hub. Includes a MUGA.	NTP astro installed.
		Cricket	Council			Cricket Council						Installed fencing between cricket out field and cycle hub. WBC is in conversations with	No change.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
												<i>ECB / Herts Cricket to replace and build new wickets.</i>	
11	Kingsway Junior School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch and one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch.	Retain for school use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
12	Knutsford Playing Fields (Watford RFC)	Rugby union	Council	Two poor quality senior rugby union pitches and a small floodlit training area. The site is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. The site has good quality ancillary facilities. Home ground to Watford RFC.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality through an improved pitch maintenance programme and drainage solutions. Providing additional floodlighting on the site would provide an enhanced opportunity to improve the midweek training offer to members of Watford RFC.	RFU Council	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	<i>Facility Audit (updated Sept 22) the club have identified additional sports lighting as their on field priority; with green energy solutions (new boiler) identified as their off field priority.</i>	Facility Audit (updated Oct 2024) the club again identified the need for additional permanent lighting to the main pitch – this scheme has now been costed up with a contractor and achieved planning permission earlier this year. The club are currently fundraising with an intent to deliver the scheme in Oct/Nov 2025. The off-field priority for the club is still identified as a more energy efficient boiler replacement.
13	Leavesden Green	Football										<i>Football and MUGA pitch.</i>	No change.
15	Meriden Community Centre	Third generation artificial grass pitch	Watford Community Sports & Education Trust	One good quality (floodlit) small sided third generation artificial grass pitch.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	FA, FF Watford Community Sports & Education Trust	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	Not currently on the 3G register.
17	Radlett Road Playing Fields	Gaelic football	Council	One standard quality Gaelic football pitch. Good quality ancillary facilities due to being recently built.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	GAA Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>Includes a MUGA. Gaelic club received neighbourhood grant funding of £2,340 towards</i>	No update provided.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
												<i>purchase and installation of a defibrillator.</i>	
18	Stanborough Park	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to youth 11v11 size to reduce identified shortfalls. Consider feasibility of refurbishing changing facilities to service demand.	FA, FF Council	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
20	Sun Postal Sports and Social Club	Football	Sports Club	Three good quality adult pitches, two good quality youth pitches and three good quality mini pitches. Pitches are identified in the Watford Local Football Facility Plan for pitch improvements as to develop the site as a grass pitch hub site.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Look to utilise the Watford Local Football Facility Plan to improve pitch quality.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>Site currently being reviewed for some refurbishment work. Sun Sports Club have requested consideration for a 3G pitch on site.</i>	No change.
23	Watford FC (Vicarage Road Stadium)	Football	Sports Club	One good quality stadia adult pitch which services elite football.	Sustain and protect stadia provision.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
25	Watford Grammar School for Boys	Cricket	School	Two standard quality cricket squares. No community use on pitches.	Retain for curricular use. Work with school to secure community use.	ECB School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) rugby union pitches. No community use on pitches.	Retain for curricular use. Work with school to secure community use.	RFU School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Hockey		One good quality small sided artificial grass pitch which is sand dressed.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required. Explore opportunities for further use for recreational based hockey sessions such as those provided by	EH School		L	L	M		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
					Alex Danson Hockey Academy.								
		Tennis		Four standard quality (floodlit) macadam courts.	Retain courts for curricular use.			L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
26	Watford Grammar School for Boys (New Field)	Cricket	School	One standard quality cricket square. Tenure is unsecure on site. Home ground to Old Fullarians CC.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work with school to secure tenure on site for community access to FA.	ECB School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Rugby union		Four standard quality (M1/D1) rugby pitches which are unavailable for community use. Pitches at capacity through curricular use.	Retain for curricular use. Work with school to secure community use.	RFU School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Hockey		One good quality full size artificial grass pitch which is sand dressed. Home ground to West Herts HC which has a long term lease on the facility.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	EH School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change to facility since 2024 update. Quality of pitch rated good by West Herts HC. West Herts HC have grown in size; there are now 6 men's teams and 4 ladies' teams.
27	Watford Grammar School for Girls	Tennis	School	Six standard quality macadam courts with no floodlighting.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Netball		Six macadam netball court.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	EN School		L	L	L		<i>Back to Netball sessions now held here.</i>	No change.
28	Watford Leisure Centre - Woodside	Hockey	Commercial Management	One poor quality full size artificial grass pitch which is sand dressed. Poor quality is a result of the pitch having exceeded its ten year lifespan expectancy and having limited repair/maintenance works undertaken. Pitch managed by Everyone Active. Watford Borough Council has developed a masterplan which proposes that the existing artificial	Work with football partners to explore opportunities to develop a full size third generation artificial grass pitch on current artificial grass pitch to reduce identified shortfall of third generation artificial grass pitches in Watford. Ensure that the development is not at a detriment to hockey and that any small sided	EH Commercial Management	Local Site	H	S	H	Protect Enhance	<i>Surface of AGP converted from sand dressed to 3G in 2022.</i>	Not suitable for hockey as now a 3G surface. No longer relevant to hockey for the purpose of this action plan.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
				<p>grass pitch at the site is converted to a third generation artificial grass pitch.</p> <p>This site is identified in the Watford Local Football Facility Plan as having the potential to convert the current artificial grass pitch to a full size third generation artificial grass pitch.</p>	<p>recreational hockey can be provided elsewhere in Watford. The small sided artificial grass pitch at Watford Grammar School for Boys is most suitable for use and is good quality.</p> <p>Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.</p>								
29	West Herts Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which has small levels of overplay, one standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Sustain current maintenance regime. Explore options to transfer a proportion of overplay off site to alleviate identified overplay.	FA, FF Sports Club	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide	<i>Small sided 3G AGP provided in 2021.</i>	No change.
		Cricket		One good quality cricket square. The square is identified as being overplayed.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore options to reduce identified overplay through the installation of a non-turf-pitch to support a transfer of demand from the natural turf wickets on site from on-site junior teams.	ECB Sports Club		L	L	L		<i>New cricket practice nets provided in 2021.</i>	New pavilion or refurbished pavilion.
		Tennis		<p>Four good quality floodlit macadam courts, three good quality (non-floodlit) macadam courts and three good quality (non-floodlit grass courts.</p> <p>West Herts Sports Club has a live planning application to provide floodlighting around three of its macadam courts.</p>	<p>Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Support West Herts Sports Club to provide additional floodlighting to it's unflood lit macadam courts.</p>	LTA Sports Club		L	L	M		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		-		The Club has gained planning permission which will enable it to sell a proportion of its land on Cassiobury Road for the development of 23 apartments. The Club is expected to receive £1.75 million from the sale of land which will be directed into the refurbishment of its ageing ancillary provision which is identified as being poor quality. Enhancements will also be made to its fitness suit, car parking and fencing. A new floodlit multi-use-	Ensure that the any development on site is provided to a good quality and that it will provide long-term opportunities for people to participate in sport and recreational opportunities as part of a varied offer for members of West Herts Sports Club.	Council		-	-	-		<i>Land has been sold, planning permission granted (Ref. 19/00366/FULM) and improvements to the club completed in March 2024.</i>	No update provided.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
				games area, practise cricket nets and a non-turf cricket wicket will also be provided.									
30	Westfield Academy	Football	School	<p>One adult, two youth and two mini pitches which are all standard quality.</p> <p>The ancillary provision servicing the grass football pitches and third generation artificial grass pitch is an old porta cabin facility which is poor quality.</p> <p>The Watford Local Football Facility Plan identifies the grass pitches and changing pavilion need improvement linked to current and to potential future demand generated by a secondary third generation grass pitch.</p>	<p>Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Look to utilise the Watford Local Football Facility Plan to improve pitch quality.</p> <p>Work with school to secure tenure on site.</p> <p>Work with football partners to develop a new pavilion on site aligned to the Watford Local Football Facility Plan.</p>	FA, FF School	Hub Site	H	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide	<i>At this stage, no pavilion or additional 3G pitch will progress on site.</i>	No change.
		Third generation artificial grass pitch		<p>One good quality (floodlit) full size third generation artificial grass pitch.</p> <p>This site is identified in the Watford Local Football Facility Plan as having the potential to accommodate a secondary full size third generation artificial grass pitch to service identified shortfalls within the Playing Pitch Strategy.</p>	<p>Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Work with football partners to explore opportunities to develop a secondary full-size pitch to reduce identified shortfall of third generation artificial grass pitches.</p> <p>Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.</p>			H	M	H		<i>Additional 3G pitch option is on hold at this phase.</i>	Renewed 3G pitch register status until 2028.
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior rugby pitch which is at capacity through curricular use. Pitch is available for community use but is unused.	Retain pitch for curricular use and improve when required.	RFU School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Tennis		Five standard quality (no floodlighting) macadam courts.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA School		L	L	L		<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Netball		<p>Four macadam netball courts.</p> <p>Back to netball sessions take place outdoor at Westfield Academy.</p>	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	EN School		L	L	L		<i>Back to Netball sessions no longer held here.</i>	No EN activity.

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		-		There is no formal community use agreement in place on site. As a priority, this should be addressed.	Work with the School to secure a formal community use agreement. Consult with Sport England as part of the process to ensure a suitable agreement is established.	School Council		H	S	L		<i>No update provided.</i>	No update provided.
32	Woodside Playing Field	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches, one poor quality adult pitch, two poor quality mini pitches pitch and two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches which have small levels of overplay. Pitches are identified in the Watford Local Football Facility Plan for pitch improvements.	Work with football partners to identify opportunities to improve the quality of football grass pitches on the site. Consider reconfiguration of one or two adult pitches to youth 11v11 size to reduce identified shortfalls.	FA, FF Council	Key Centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
		Cricket		The site has three natural turf cricket squares and is the home venue to Watford Cricket Club and several teams which use the site on a more varied, adhoc basis. The primary square used by Watford Cricket Club is standard quality but would benefit from being relayed. This square is complimented by a good quality non-turf pitch. The remaining two squares have football pitches overmarked on the outfield. One is poor quality and one is standard quality. The poor quality square is overplayed, and this is primarily due to its poor quality.	Explore funding opportunities to improve the quality of the existing stock of natural turf cricket squares on the site to service current and future users.	ECB Council		M	L	L		<i>New cricket nets have been installed (through successful CIL funding). Work has been completed on the cricket square.</i> <i>Planning permission granted for upgrade to the existing pavilion.</i>	No change.
		Bowls		Disused – currently one disused green following the closure of Owl Bowls Club in March 2019.	There is no evidence to suggest that this needs to be retained as a bowling green and therefore options should be explored to utilise the land for other sporting uses. If this is not feasible and the bowling green is lost for non-sporting uses, mitigation should be provided by making qualitative improvements to	BE Council		L	L	L		<i>In early conversations with Everyone Active around a paddle tennis offer.</i>	No update provided.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
					the surrounding sports provision.								
		Athletics		<p>One good quality athletic track which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track located at Woodside Athletic Stadium.</p> <p>The stadium provides a 700 seater covered spectator stand.</p> <p>The Woodside Track currently has a 'working towards' status for accreditation. Of the six units, it has passed two, has two pending accreditation and is working toward another two (see footnote for details of TrackMark units).</p>	<p>Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Work towards gaining full TrackMark certification.</p>	EA Council		L	L	L		<p><i>Refurbishment of Toilet block commenced in 2024.</i></p>	No change.
		-		<p>Watford Borough Council has been working to develop a masterplan and feasibility study for Woodside Playing Field. The outline plans feature a new community sports hub which will service existing and future sporting demand on the site.</p> <p>The current ancillary offer is poor quality.</p>	<p>Given the identified ancillary offer for both football and cricket is poor, the opportunity to develop a new community hub which can service all current sporting users which be highly beneficial to the area. The Watford Local Football Facility Plan identifies the existing pavilion as needing replacement and this may provide a potential funding opportunity if so required.</p>	FA,FF ECB Council		H	M	H		<p><i>Woodside Development masterplan has a delayed decision and is paused until 2025.</i></p>	Discussions with Football Foundation regarding changing room designs and funding opportunities are in progress.
33	Garston Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No update provided.</i>	<p>No Change since 2020.</p> <p>Maintenance being sustained</p>
34	Lea Farm Recreation Ground	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<p><i>No change in terms of recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Survey completed in Nov 2023</i></p>	No update on condition of courts. Likely to have seen further wear to surface as now 18

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
												<i>recommends courts to be cleaned, binder course and re-colour coating to maintain and prolong life of courts. Risk of being unsafe due to moss build up. There are small areas of re-construction required (2sqm)</i> <i>Costs shared with WBC to discuss further opportunities for jointly funding work.</i>	months on from previous survey. Recommendation remains the same. LTA in contact with council to adapt SmartAccess gate as part of first phase of works.
35	North Watford Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green. The Club highlight a need to replace its heating system to service its membership. It is currently exploring potential funding opportunities to do this.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support the Club in trying to secure funding to replace its heating system.	BE Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No update provided.</i>	No update provided.
36	Herts Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality flat bowling green.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	BE Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No update provided.</i>	No update provided.
37	Orchard Park	Tennis	Council	Three standard quality macadam courts with no floodlighting. The site previously accommodated mini football pitches	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Protect grass playing field to meet potential grass pitch shortfalls for football.	LTA Council	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change in terms of recommendation.</i> <i>Survey completed in Nov 2023 which identified a defect in the tarmac and therefore requires resurfacing to prolong the life and maintain safe court playing surface. Includes approx. 22m2sq of reconstruction.</i> <i>Costs shared with WBC to discuss</i>	No update on condition of courts. Likely to have seen further wear to surface as now 18 months on from previous survey. Recommendation remains the same. LTA in contact with council to adapt SmartAccess gate as part of first phase of works.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
												<i>further opportunities for jointly funding work.</i>	
38	Cassiobury Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality macadam courts with no floodlighting, one good quality (floodlit) macadam court and three good quality (floodlit) artificial courts.	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	LTA Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	Planning approved and additional LED floodlights installed. All six courts now Floodlit.
39	Fullerians RUFC	Rugby union	Sports Club	<p>Five good quality (M2/D1) senior rugby pitches and seven mini rugby pitches.</p> <p>One senior pitch is floodlit which accommodates all midweek training for all 23 teams. This pitch is significantly overplayed due to it accommodate all midweek training.</p> <p>The ancillary facilities which service the site are very good quality and meet all of the latest RFU technical build specifications.</p>	<p>Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work to develop additional floodlighting on the site across a further full senior pitch as a minimum.</p> <p>In the long term, consider the site for the development of a World Rugby Regulation 22 third generation artificial grass pitch to service demand from the Club and others in South West Hertfordshire.</p>	RFU Sports Club	Local Site	H	S-M	M	Protect Provide	<i>Full pitch sports lighting project completed in early 2022. From Herts RFU Facility Audit (updated Dec 23) the club have identified further additional sports lighting to the main match pitch as their on-field priority; and upgraded social space provision as their primary off-field priority in order to increase revenue generation and provide a more inclusive environment. The club also reference working with the council to install solar heating to reduce energy costs and carbon footprint.</i>	Facility Audit (last response Jan 2024) again identifies additional sports lighting to the main pitch as the on-field priority. Off-field the club have again identified upgraded social space provision and have recently been engaged in the RFU Impact25 programme in order to deliver a scheme for Summer 2026. The club also benefited from local authority funding to install solar panels to the building which is a step change in making the club more sustainable and energy efficient.
40	Oxhey Bowls Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality flat bowling green.	Look to improve quality to service club members.	BE Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No update provided.</i>	No update provided.
41	Coats Way JMI and Nursery School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
42	Holy Rood Catholic Primary school	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
43	The Grove Academy	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	FA, FF School	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	<i>No change since 2022 update.</i>	No change.
-	Former Meriden Primary School Playing Field	-	Hertfordshire County Council	Lapsed school playing field at the former Meriden Primary School. The playing field is proposed as a development allocation in the emerging Watford Local Plan (Site HS8). The playing fields are the detached playing fields of Parkgate Junior School but these are not used by the school.	<p>Site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.</p> <p>Given that the site is lapsed, if it is considered that mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites, local sites which require improvements to pitch quality and/or ancillary provision are Harebreaks Recreation Ground and Lea Farm Recreation Ground.</p>	Hertfordshire County Council Sport England	Local site	-	-	-	-	<i>Site currently being used as Parkgate Junior School - Playing Field (detached). Is designated as ED01 in the Watford Local Plan.</i>	No update provided.
-	Land at Alban Wood Former Playing Field	-	Hertfordshire County Council	Lapsed playing field site. Previously accommodated demand from Alban Wood Junior School.	<p>Site should be protected from development or replacement (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.</p> <p>Given that the site is lapsed, if it is considered that mitigation can be delivered through qualitative improvements to existing sites then Woodside Playing Field is the nearest site in its locality. The site requires improvements to its cricket squares, football</p>	Hertfordshire County Council Sport England	Local site	-	-	-	-	<i>Site is being used as Alban Wood Primary School and Nursery detached Playing Field.</i>	No update provided.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Status 2020	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	Update 2024	Update 2025
					pitches and onsite ancillary provision.								
	Oxhey Grange	Tennis	Courts managed and maintained by Veolia	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts. An online booking system is in place using LTA ClubSpark system. There are 314 unique users at the site and an active Local Tennis League	Sustain court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. LTA maintenance recommendation* is provided to help protect the surface which was improved at WBC cost in 2017. LTA are recommending installation of SmartAccess gates to manage and track usage, plus providing a mechanism to generate income from court use which can contribute to a sinking fund and sustainability of the courts.	LTA Veolia	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	<p><i>No change in terms of recommendation to add gate access systems to manage bookings and support sustainability of courts.</i></p> <p><i>Survey completed in Nov 2023 which identified a defect in the tarmac and therefore requires resurfacing to prolong the life and maintain safe court playing surface. Includes approx. 22m2sq of reconstruction.</i></p> <p><i>Costs shared with WBC to discuss further opportunities for jointly funding work.</i></p>	<p>No update on condition of courts. Likely to have seen further wear to surface as now 18 months on from previous survey.</p> <p>Recommendation remains the same.</p> <p>LTA in contact with council to adapt SmartAccess gate as part of first phase of works.</p>

