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Executive Summary

Strategic Leisure, part of the Scott Wilson Group, was commissioned by Orkney Islands Council (OIC) in December 2010 to develop a Sports Facilities and Pitch Strategy. This report details the findings of the research and assessment undertaken and the recommendations made on the basis of this evidence. The recommendations provide the strategy for the future provision of sports pitches, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, guide management and operation and provide a framework for funding and investment decisions.

Aims, Objectives and Strategic Scope

The aim of the study is to produce a robust, well-evidenced and achievable Sports Facility and Pitch Strategy for OIC, which takes account of the demand for, and provision of, indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities that are readily available for community activities, with an accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy.

In meeting this aim, the key outcomes/deliverables of this study, as set out in the Council’s brief, are to develop:

- A strategy which sets out the strategic priorities and direction of travel for future provision over the next eight years, and provides a framework for future roles, responsibilities and delivery across all sectors.
- A robust Playing Pitch Strategy which considers the current and future supply of, and demand for, pitches for outdoor sports, particularly football, rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics.
- An Action Plan which sets out the priorities for future facility provision, development and improvement based on the findings and conclusions of the strategy

The output of this study is to present a clear assessment of the current and known future supply of indoor facilities and pitches, and how this satisfies current and future demand.

Strategy Scope

The strategy covers a number of key pitch sports and wider facility types that make up outdoor sports facility provision in Orkney Islands. In terms of pitch sports, the assessment and resulting strategy recommendations cover the sports of:

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Hockey

In addition the strategy considers facility requirements for:

- Bowling Greens
- Tennis Courts
- Athletics Tracks
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) (1), and Formal Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA’s) – three new all weather pitches are being built in 2011, as part of the School Investment Programme; 1 of these will replace the existing AGP
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- Golf facilities
- A range of outdoor sports which take place in the islands, given the natural environment eg sailing, swimming, rock climbing, abseiling, shooting, cycling etc

The strategy is based on an assessment of pitches using the guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field (Sport England and CCPR). The Towards a Level Playing Field approach covers all elements set out in sports Scotland’s ‘A guide to the Preparation of Pitch Sports Strategies’. This approach is based on an audit and assessment of the demand for, and supply of facilities. Its focus is on providing the means for deriving local standards, using local information, and developing policy to respond to local circumstances. An eight stage process is followed, and this is summarised below.

The assessment of bowling greens and tennis courts has followed the general approach of an audit and assessment of both supply and demand. The assessment of demand has drawn more on wider indicators of demand levels and supplemented with local research and consultation with stakeholders.

The overall aim of the assessment methodology has been to determine the number of pitches required for each specific sport. In the case of Orkney the methodology has been used to assess the adequacy of provision for:

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Bowls
- A range of indoor sports eg netball, basketball, volleyball, swimming etc

An overview has also been provided of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), which provide training facilities (and match facilities for Hockey) for several of the sports assessed.

The methodology for assessing pitch sports comprises an eight-stage approach, as summarised overleaf. This involves a number of specific research tasks to build a comprehensive audit. A series of toolkits are used to analyse the data collected with the resulting assessment figures interpreted in consideration to the local context and results of stakeholder consultation. The toolkits, data modelling and audit data is included within the appendices to this report. Given that the Orkney Islands are an archipelago, neighbouring authority provision has not been assessed for its impact on supply and demand. It is felt that assessing neighbouring provision for island communities is not appropriate.

The general register for Scotland mid 2010 population data estimates Orkney’s total population to be 20,210, an increase of 1,644 compared to the 2001 census population of 18,566. There is a female population of 10,202 (50.73%) in Orkney.

In relation to future growth, projections for population change are that Orkney will have a population of 21,501 by 2023 (an increase of 1,291 on the 2010 figures). All playing pitch future demand modelling has been based on the 2023 projections. Source: National Records of Scotland Orkney Islands Council Area – Demographic fact sheet.

In relation to demand, some of the population change projected is a result of housing growth, which will impact between 5 and 10 years from now.

The above illustrates that Orkney has a generally stable population level, which is unlikely to impact in terms of significantly increasing demand for sport and leisure provision. The factors that are, however, likely to impact on demand for provision are:
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- An increased population of young people
- The high percentage of females in the population, which may impact on the demand for specific sports, given that female participation may not focus to the same extent on those sports in which male participation is high
- Inward migration and de-population of the isles
- The School Investment Programme which will realise the development of new sports facilities by 2013; facilities include a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool and 3 squash courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, plus new artificial grass pitches at the Kirkwall Grammar (between the primary and secondary school) and Stromness Academy.

Summary of Assessment Findings: Football

The headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is sufficient, for senior teams if the supply and demand analysis is run based on 25 senior teams and 28 pitches. Although, this theoretical result does not take into account the impact of the poor quality of some of the pitches (6 average/poor), which impacts on the capacity of the overall stock, there is still a sufficiency of provision running the model based on 22 pitches.

2. If the PPM model is run based on 57 teams, there is a clear reduction in the sufficiency of pitches for senior teams, but there is still a surplus of provision.

3. Based on the PPM, there is a surplus of adult pitches across the Islands, and a deficiency in junior pitches (-2) on a Wednesday evening. Based local club and FA feedback, however there is a deficiency in provision as a result of the quality, and therefore the capacity, of some existing pitches. This deficiency does however appear to be localised; the majority of senior pitches are on the main island, but this is also where there are the most teams, and therefore most demand. Equally, on the isles, there may at times be an issue about access to pitches, if there is only 1 pitch, and a number of teams requiring a pitch because they have both league and cup games to play.

4. There are significant quality deficiencies – only 52% of all pitches available for community use are of a good quality. It is the pitch quality, impacting on accessibility and/or capacity that is the issue, NOT the number of actual pitches that is the issue. The quality of existing changing provision is also an issue on some sites, and particularly Burray Primary School, Evie Primary School, Rendall Community Centre, and Stenness Primary School.. It is important to note that the quality issue applies both to the quality of existing changing facilities, but also their accessibility; facilities are rated as poor if they are not accessible to support use of the playing pitches.

5. Access arrangements (in terms of fees, charges and distances travelled to access provision) vary significantly across the County – but there is a consensus that improved access to facilities locally is a priority. The development of the new artificial pitches through the School Investment Programme is critical in terms of extending the current football season into the winter period, addressing issues of pitch capacity, and stimulating increased junior demand.

6. There is significant potential to develop increased participation in junior, mini, women and girls’ football, but the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock would need to be improved.
### Summary of Assessment Findings: Cricket

**The headlines:**

1. There is currently sufficient pitch provision for the two cricket teams in Orkney, and each has a home pitch. Regular league fixtures are not played; the cricket season consists of some local games, but also several ‘tour’ games/competitive fixtures.

2. No issues regarding quality either of pitches or changing facilities has been identified.

### Summary of Assessment Findings: Rugby Union

**The headlines:**

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is adequate to meet current and future demand for competitive play. Whilst there is significant junior development work ongoing, there is now an identifiable target of establishing more senior teams.

2. There is a lack of appropriate training facilities for rugby; the short pile on existing and planned AGPs is unsuitable for contact rugby. The potential to develop an additional new AGP at the Dounby Centre could be considered as a means to address the lack of training provision for rugby, and particularly if player numbers continue to grow.

3. No issues concerning quality - pitch or changing, have been identified in relation to rugby union

4. No consultation response has been received from the Orkney Rugby Club. However, we are aware that sportscotland is in discussions with Orkney Rugby Club regarding potential improvements to the existing Pavilion. This is owned by PIC but there is potential to transfer the asset to Orkney Rugby Club, who might then apply for external funding.

5. There are no currently no women’s or girls’ rugby teams in Orkney, but potentially participation could be developed, which would increase access pressure on existing facilities, but could help to underpin the case for a further AGP at the Dounby Centre.

### Summary of Assessment Findings: Hockey

**The headlines:**

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is sufficient to meet demand. This is on the assumption that access is secured for hockey use at the Pickaquoy Centre pitch, at the appropriate times

2. The quality of pitches is relatively good – although the Pickaquoy Centre pitch is being re-surfaced this year. It is also floodlit.

3. Both respondent hockey clubs identify the changing facilities for the AGP as adequate.
4. Access to the existing AGP for hockey teams at some times can be very difficult given its level of use by local football teams for training and 5-a-side.

Key Issues for Playing Pitch Provision

Based on the pitch assessments overall, there are a number of key issues to consider in terms of future playing pitch provision in Orkney. These include:

- There are currently sufficient football pitches to meet demand; however, the quality of some of these existing facilities is poor, or very poor, and it is this fact that means current pitch supply is insufficient. Many games have to be cancelled due to the pitches being water-logged/flooded; this means games cannot be played and yet the quality of the pitches means the season cannot be extended into the winter season (current season is over the spring and summer months). The impact of pitches being used too early, to try and ensure all games are played also has an impact due to their poor quality.

- There is a lack of good quality changing provision across around half of the pitch stock

- OIC does not currently have any capital funding to invest in improving the quality of the pitches. The sport and leisure service used to have a budget of up to £40k per annum to upgrade pitches.

- The loss of the grass pitches at Kirkwall Grammar School for a temporary period will cause a short term problem for teams using these facilities

- The ‘show pitch’ at the Pickaquoy Centre would benefit from floodlights; this would enable the season to be extended. In addition, provision of a spectator stand at this venue would increase spectating opportunities, which could deliver increased revenue, through sponsorship, to the Centre.

- OIC does not always obtain the booking fee for club use of pitches, particularly those on school sites, if the club has not advised the school that they are using the pitch. There is also an issue with clubs using isles pitches without pre-booking.

- Whilst the development of synthetic pitches will address many of the pitch quality issues, it will be important to ensure they are appropriately maintained, to ensure they remain good quality, and can increase pitch capacity.

- Given the fact that with the development of 2 new AGPs there will be 1 specific hockey surface, and 2 football specific surfaces, there is a need to ensure that the one AGP suitable for competitive hockey use (as specified by Scottish hockey) is only used for hockey to improve the quality of the surface for hockey match play.

- Orkney Rugby club requires new facilities, but membership is declining, despite the clear and extensive development work being undertaken through the schools for Tag rugby.

- Given the locations of some of the existing OIC pitches, and the current financial context for OIC, where its revenue and capital budgets have reduced, there is significant potential to look at alternative means of managing, booking and maintaining pitches, particularly for those in the isles. A more local operation for pitches and other facilities eg play areas, could be a more effective way of managing existing resources. Adopting this approach could enable a co-ordinated delivery of indoor and outdoor facilities across the Islands.

The 1 AGP is currently used for all hockey league matches and football training. Key observations are:

- **Currently limited full size AGP provision – and no full size 3G pitches currently provided**

- **No full size AGP provision in the isles**
The development of the 2 new AGPs through the School Investment Programme will address the current lack of 3G provision.

Heavy demand for existing full size pitches from both hockey and football, including imported demand (i.e. use by teams from outside of the borough).

Less than half of the local football clubs access formal training facilities, and only a small percentage of these use the AGPs currently because it is on the Mainland.

Summary of Assessment Findings: Tennis

The headlines:

1. The assessment indicates that the current supply is sufficient for the estimated demand for tennis in Orkney. The issue is that all existing courts, indoor and outdoor, are on the Mainland. There are therefore no tennis courts in the isles, and there may be latent demand in these smaller islands for tennis, which cannot be addressed due to lack of facilities. Provision of multi-use games areas could help to address this and other previously identified needs eg football training facilities in the smaller communities.

2. No issues have been identified concerning the quality of existing outdoor or indoor tennis courts.

3. There do not appear to be any tennis clubs on the Islands.

4. There is unlikely to be significant additional future demand for tennis in Orkney given the stable future population, current levels of participation and the lack of facilities except for on the main island, unless there is a specific focused programme of tennis development through the local schools.

Assessment Summary: Bowls

The headlines:

1. The assessment indicates sufficient supply to accommodate estimated regular demand, in all areas of the Islands currently and when taking account of potential future growth

2. There have been no specific issues identified in relation to the quality of existing bowls facilities.

3. All existing bowls facilities are on the Mainland, which does mean there is an accessibility deficit in the isles, and this may be obscuring latent demand.

Headline Golf Assessment

There appears to be adequate provision in relation to levels of demand. There are a number of datasets and indicators to suggest this including:

- The optimum membership level per club (based on the EGU survey response) is around 645 per club. Profiled across the provision in Orkney, this suggests an indicative capacity for members of around 3,225, which is more than sufficient for estimated current demand.
It is estimated that most courses (depending on opening hours, tee times, split of foursomes v pairs and maintenance regimes etc) could accommodate around 30,000 (but potentially more) rounds per year. Based on this figure and the presence of 2 18 hole courses and 3 9\(^1\) hole courses in the Islands, there is an estimated capacity of around 115,000 rounds. Divided by an estimated 3,225 golf participants, this equates to each participant playing an average of 35-36 times per year, or 3 times per month.

**Athletics Overview**

**Demand**

Participation in athletics is assumed to be between 4-5% of the population. There has been no response from the athletics club to the consultation survey.

**Supply**

The Pickaquoy Centre is the home of the only athletics track in Orkney. The track is a synthetic, floodlit, 8 lane, 400m circuit track, together with facilities for field events. The track is of a good quality; OIC spent £90k 2 years ago in refurbishing the track. A new grass athletics track will also be provided at the new Kirkwall Grammar School.

**Headline Assessment**

The guide for provision levels is one outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 population within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas). Given that the population of Orkney is predicted to increase to 21,501 by 2023, the nature and level of existing athletics track provision fulfils both current future demand.

The accessibility issue is that the facility is based on the Mainland, and there is no athletics provision in the isles. However, the athletics track is located in the main town and on the Mainland, where 75% of the population of Orkney live.

**Sport by Sport Analysis – Indoor Facilities**

Indoor facilities provide for a wide range of indoor sports, although levels of participation vary significantly between sports, as set out below:

**Badminton** – there are 8 badminton courts at the Pickaquoy centre, 3 at Kirkwall Grammar School and 3 at the Dounby Centre. Courts are well used by groups, clubs and individuals, including sessions for the 50+ etc, often through the school day.

**Basketball** – there is a basketball court at the Pickaquoy Centre but there is currently little participation in this sport.

**Gymnastics** – there is no dedicated gymnastics facility in Orkney although ‘Get the Balance’ sessions are run at the Pickaquoy Centre. There is also currently no gymnastics club in Orkney, although there are proposals to develop one, and work with this to develop participation in the future.

**Martial Arts** – the majority of martial arts take place at Kirkwall Grammar School, run by clubs.

**Netball Overview**

**Demand**

Based on the survey response from Netball Orkney, 350 women currently play netball regularly. It is anticipated that this number could increase by 50 over the next 5 years. There are currently 15 senior teams playing in

\(^1\) Assumption that 9 hole course is equivalent to half a 18 hole course
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the Orkney League, 12 school teams playing in the Primary School League, various teams playing at U17, U15 and U13 level, and two Orkney representative teams at senior and U15 level. The majority of competitive netball is played indoors, and most training also uses indoor courts, but demand means some has to take place on outdoor courts.

Supply

There are 3 existing outdoor netball courts, all sited on the Mainland. There are courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall Swimming Pool and Sports Centre, Kirkwall, and at Stromness Academy.

There is also an indoor netball court at the Pickaquoy Centre, in the Arena.

Headline Assessment

Based on the identified demand for netball in Orkney and the current level of supply, Netball Orkney state that existing provision is insufficient to meet the current levels of need for both matches and training. Different age groups have to share training times; this is not ideal given the varying ability levels between ages of players.

Feedback from Netball Orkney identifies that the courts and changing provision at the Pickaquoy Centre, and Kirkwall Grammar School are good, but that the changing facilities at Stromness Grammar School is only average. All existing netball courts are based on the Mainland which means there is an accessibility deficiency for residents of the isles, and this may mask some latent demand.

Racquetball - Racquetball development work is ongoing to develop participation; the sport is played on existing squash courts.

Squash – the squash court at Stromness is used by Stromness Squash Club, but is managed through the Stromness Swimming Pool, which is adjacent. Development work would benefit the use of this court, to encourage increased participation. Kirkwall Squash Club, which will use the new courts at Kirkwall Grammar School is currently being supported to develop participation and grow the Club. The new courts will be managed through the dual-use arrangement at the site.

Swimming – there are currently 6 swimming pools in Orkney, 2 on the Mainland at Stromness and Kirkwall Grammar School, and 4 isles pools. The existing pool at Kirkwall Grammar Scholl will close once the new 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor opens at the Pickaquoy Centre. The opening of this new pool facility will link to the development of a new Swimming Development Plan for Orkney and a new Learn to Swim programme. In addition, the Regional Swimming Development manager is currently working with the two existing swimming clubs – Kirkwall Swimming Club and Stromness Swimming club to facilitate joint working and a shared developmental approach, to maximise the benefits of the new pool. Swimming lessons will continue to be provided at all 6 pools, in the future, as all sites except two have qualifies swimming teachers on site.

Volleyball - there is a volleyball court at the Pickaquoy Centre but there is currently little participation in this sport. (Check)

Identified Facility Needs

sportsScotland has a number of identified priority sports; OIC wish to link their priorities in terms of investment and development to these national priorities, whilst taking into account local needs. Each sportsScotland priority sport is able to call on the resources of a Regional Development manager, which is obviously critical for OIC, given that its own sport development resources have reduced significantly.

The priority sports OIC will focus on include: football, rugby, golf, swimming, athletics, squash and gymnastics, plus provision for disability sport, which is currently very under-developed in Orkney, although all the programmes offered are fully inclusive. Active Schools also run Botcha and Curling sessions, plus Top Disability.

On the basis of the assessment undertaken for indoor sports it is clear there is a need to consider additional indoor bowls rinks, provision for gymnastics, provision for disability participation, additional netball courts
(specifically for training), and multipurpose indoor space for both Sanday and Stromsay Junior schools, neither of whom currently have any indoor provision at all.

In addition to these needs, there is potential to further develop the existing Strength and Conditioning Gym which is located at the Pickaquoy Centre. An extended remit for this facility as part of the Western Isles Partnership (covers Orkney, the Shetlands and the Highlands), could support all sports, and enable identified talented athletes to use the gym (part of the Highlands Institute) as part of their training programme. £10k has already been contributed to the existing facility by sportscotland, and given the development of the new pool, there is now an opportunity to relocate the facility within the new pool area.

Key Issues

Based on the existing level and nature of provision, plus the stakeholder feedback received, there are a number of key issues for indoor facility provision. These are summarised below:

- Sports development is no longer OIC driven – therefore there is a potential role for local clubs to take this on
- Potential for development of Community Sports Officer role
- Potential to be the site of the sportscotland Area Institute - Highland; the conditioning room is already supported by sportscotland
- Potential for Community Associations to manage pitches, school facilities, isles pools and play areas – fewer better quality facilities
- Too many play areas 8/9 in Kirkwall alone – need to rationalise
- Kirkwall Squash Club losing members; now supported by Scottish Squash to develop participation at local level
- Need to ensure sustainability of existing provision, both in quality terms and long term sustainability, therefore appropriate resources will need to be identified
- Current number of operational management structures, resulting in pricing and management differences across facilities
- Given reducing resources, there is a need to ensure maximum effectiveness in terms of operational delivery of sport and leisure facilities moving forwards

Playing Pitch Recommendations

It is clear from the appraisals that although there is no one policy option that will adequately address the playing pitch assessment findings and issues and challenges emerging from these, a number do present a viable approach on which to base a future strategy.

However, a reality is that public sector funding is reducing and not increasing – this means the context for delivery of a future strategy is focused on protecting existing provision and that new and improved facilities have to be realised through external funding (capital and revenue). This means the following:

- **Recommendation 1 (R1) - Enabling leases and/or Community Asset Transfers to community sports hubs (multi-sport groups, collectives and social enterprises) where there are clear sports participation benefits, with appropriate access rights for schools, leagues and other user groups – this would required Dedicated Officer enabling support**
Orkney Island Council
Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy

- **Recommendation 2 (R2)** - Re-mark some existing senior football pitches as junior pitches ie 60m x 40m as participation in junior football develops

- **Recommendation 3 (R3)** - Ensure floodlights are provided at the Pickaquoy Centre to enable both hockey and rugby competitive matches at the appropriate level. Capital costs of this would be likely to be in the region of £100k - £150k, but to gain an accurate cost this would need to be looked at in relation to this specific site

- **Recommendation 4 (R4)** - Ensuring current pitch facilities are used as effectively as possible with clear management, maintenance and booking responsibilities

- **Recommendation 5 (R5)** - Develop an additional AGP at the Dounby Centre as resources allow

- **Recommendation 6 (R6)** - Delivery of improvements through partnership working with private, other public and voluntary sectors

**Indoor Facilities**

In terms of indoor sport and leisure provision there are a number of key recommendations moving forward. These are set out below:

- **Recommendation 7 (R7)** – The hierarchy of provision set out in section 5 is formally adopted as follows:
  - Main Orkney Community Hub – the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall (broad range of indoor and outdoor facilities, including specialist facilities such as athletics, strength and conditioning etc.)
  - Community Hubs – Stromness facilities (Stromness Swimming Pool and Squash court), and Stromness Academy; the Dounby Centre
  - Small facilities (may be single facility type) – located in the isles, and managed by community/voluntary organisations, and clubs

- **Recommendation 8 (R8)** – OIC considers managing all main community hubs through one organisation to improve operational effectiveness, ensure consistency of quality and operational policy, and sustain provision in the long term. This organisation should be the leisure and culture sector, to ensure economies of scale, effective use of expertise, experience and resources.

- **Recommendation 9 (R9)** – OIC works with the existing Community Associations and local clubs to devolve increased responsibility for facility management, particularly in the isles,

- **Recommendation 10 (R10)** – OIC works with local clubs to develop their role in terms of sports development, particularly focusing on the identified priority sports of football, rugby, gymnastics, athletics, netball, golf, swimming and squash

- **Recommendation 11 (R11)** – OIC works towards establishing a Gymnastics Club in Orkney to take forward the development of this sport

- **Recommendation 12 (R12)** – OIC works with Orkney disability organisations to develop a specific plan for developing disability sport in Orkney

- **Recommendation 13 (R13)** – OIC continues to work with Sanday and Stronsay Junior schools to assist them in accessing external funding to develop multi-purpose indoor space for the benefit of both curriculum delivery and community access and participation in physical activity
Recommendation 14 (R14) OIC continues to work with local sports clubs and schools to support and develop their aspirations for facility investment. Based on the assessment and analysis the following are considered to be investment priorities for indoor sport, (based on a ‘traffic light’ priority system):

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<th>SPORT</th>
<th>FACILITY INVESTMENT</th>
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<td>Gymnastics facilities</td>
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<td>AGP the Dounby Centre</td>
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<td>Floodlights, the Pickaquoy Centre</td>
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<td>Improved disability provision</td>
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<td>Indoor multi-purpose space, Sanday and Stronsay Junior schools</td>
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Introduction and Background

1.1 Strategic Leisure, part of the Scott Wilson Group, was commissioned by Orkney Islands Council (OIC) in December 2010 to develop a Sports Facilities and Pitch Strategy. This report details the findings of the research and assessment undertaken and the recommendations made on the basis of this evidence. The recommendations provide the strategy for the future provision of sports pitches, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, guide management and operation and provide a framework for funding and investment decisions. This is particularly important given that any new capital projects are unlikely to be considered before 2012/13, OIC’s role is increasingly one of strategic facilitator and enabler, as opposed to direct provider, and the financial climate is likely to remain challenging for some time.

1.2 The strategy, which covers the period 2010 to 2018, supports a number of other Local and national strategies recently developed, including Orkney’s Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2008-2013. This is closely aligned to the Scottish Government’s Strategy ‘Reaching Higher’, and sportscotland’s Corporate Plan 2009 – 2011, with the overall aim of delivering a network of good quality facilities across Orkney providing the maximum benefit to the community.

1.3 OIC has a statutory duty to provide adequate sports and leisure provision for the community. Over the last 15 years, OIC has invested significantly in these types of facilities because it recognises the wide range of community benefits derived from this provision, in terms of contributing to national policy objectives for health, inclusion, diversity and equity. In order to encourage participation in physical activity, OIC has developed provision to include isles swimming pools, a network of Healthy Living Centres, regional and community sports facilities. Although Orkney already has one of the highest levels of participation per 1000 population in Scotland in indoor sport, including swimming, OIC has now increased participation targets. Introduction of a number of new activities and initiatives will help to achieve these.

1.4 The study takes account of a variety of different indoor facilities, swimming pools and sports centres. It also comprises a robust playing pitch strategy which considers the long term needs of the community and the current and future supply/demand for outdoor facilities and pitches, particularly football, rugby, cricket, hockey and athletics. The strategy also covers bowls and tennis, and a range of other outdoor sports and activities, which take place in the islands, given Orkney’s natural environment.

1.5 This Strategy will support the Orkney Structure Plan, the Orkney Local Plan, and the Stromness Urban Design Framework; the latter sets out the land use planning policy and development land allocations for Stromness. The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide high level policy guidance in relation to future provision and delivery of playing pitch provision, as well as more detailed analysis of what is needed, where and why. The high level policy guidance relates specifically to the nature of pitches that should be considered as a priority for investment, the level of pitch provision needed to meet current and future demand, and options for addressing future demand.

Aims, Objectives and Strategic Scope

1.6 The aim of the study is to produce a robust, well-evidenced and achievable Sports Facility and Pitch Strategy for OIC, which takes account of the demand for, and provision of, indoor and outdoor sport and leisure facilities that are readily available for community activities, with an accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy.

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1.9 The strategy covers a number of key pitch sports and wider facility types that make up outdoor sports facility provision in Orkney Islands. In terms of pitch sports, the assessment and resulting strategy recommendations cover the sports of:

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• Tennis Courts
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• Golf facilities
• A range of outdoor sports which take place in the islands, given the natural environment eg sailing, swimming, rock climbing, abseiling, shooting, cycling etc

1.11 This strategy includes as separate, but linked assessment of indoor provision for OIC; this includes sports halls, swimming pools, fitness facilities, and other relevant indoor provision as follows:

• Swimming Pools (2 Mainland pools and 4 isles pools)
• Sports centres (3)
• Community Centres (2)
• Community Halls (32)
• Play Areas (42)
• Healthy Living Centres (10)
• Playing Fields (32)
Specific Issues to be tackled by the Strategy

1.12 The Government, via Scottish Planning Policy Guideline (SPP paragraphs 149-158) requires local planning authorities (LPA) to carry out assessments of open space, sport and recreation facilities as part of their planning process. It requires LPAs to prepare, update and regularly monitor and measure the quantity, quality and accessibility for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

1.13 An assessment of outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches is needed in the Orkney Islands to:

- Assist with decision making around funding by providing a robust needs and evidence base to inform the priorities for future provision and justify the enhancement of existing facilities
- Assist the local authority to deliver its Planning Services by informing the development of local planning standards and policy, by providing justification for retaining existing facilities in Development Plan Documents, helping assess the merits of planning applications, guiding investment achieved through planning obligations, informing Section 106 policy and providing evidence for use in planning appeals and Public Local Inquiries
- Support the development of community sport and physical activity in Orkney in helping to address the health improvements agenda by recommending levels of facility provision that will best serve needs and help in the effort to increase levels of physical activity
- Ensure provision planned as part of the development of new education provision is considered in the future strategy recommendations
- Help justify and inform land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing pitches within the borough
- Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision and playing pitches across Orkney
- Support external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches within and outside the Council
- Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision and playing pitches
- To help identify the opportunities for new facilities or enhancement of existing outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches, to meet deficiencies

1.14 The strategy principally covers the period 2010 – 2018 (i.e. 8 years), and in essence all of the recommendations require some action within this time period.

Orkney Islands

1.15 Orkney Islands are an archipelago, comprising around 70 islands, of which Orkney Island is the main one. Both of Orkney’s burghs (main towns), Kirkwall and Stromness, are on this island, which is also the heart of Orkney’s sea and air connections. Orkney Island is the most densely populated with approximately 75% of Orkney’s population resident. There are 13 parishes on Orkney Island.

1.16 The Orkney Islands are made up of six wards:

- East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray
- West Mainland
Orkney Island Council
Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy

- North Isles
- Stromness and South Isles
- Kirkwall East
- Kirkwall West and Orphir

1.17 A settlement hierarchy has been developed for Orkney as follows; this provides the basis for the supply and demand analysis for both indoor and outdoor facility provision:

- Main towns Kirkwall and Stromness
- Village settlements 400-600 residents
- Rural settlements 10-100 residents

Current Population and Projected Growth

1.18 The general register for Scotland mid 2010 population data estimates Orkney's total population to be 20,210, an increase of 1,644 compared to the 2001 census population of 18,566. There is a female population of 10,202 (50.73%) in Orkney.

1.19 In relation to future growth, projections for population change are that Orkney will have a population of 21,501 by 2023 (an increase of 1,291 on the 2010 figures). All playing pitch future demand modelling has been based on the 2023 projections. Source: National Records of Scotland Orkney Islands Council Area – Demographic fact sheet. In relation to demand, some of the population change projected is a result of housing growth, which will impact between 5 and 10 years from now.

1.20 The above illustrates that Orkney has a generally stable population level, which is unlikely to impact in terms of significantly increasing demand for sport and leisure provision. The factors that are, however, likely to impact on demand for provision are:

- An increased population of young people (check?)
- The high percentage of females in the population, which may impact on the demand for specific sports, given that female participation may not focus to the same extent on those sports in which male participation is high
- Inward migration and de-population of the isles
- The School Investment Programme which will realise the development of new sports facilities by 2013; facilities include a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool and 3 squash courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, plus new artificial grass pitches at the Kirkwall Grammar (between the primary and secondary school) and Stromness Academy.

Summary Strategic Context

1.21 There are a number of national, regional and local influences on the sports facility and pitch strategy. A brief review of these is included in the following paragraphs.

National Strategic Context

Active Schools – Annual Action Plan 2010 – 2011

1.22 The key aim of the Active Schools network is to offer all children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles both now and in the future. Active Schools Managers
and Coordinators are responsible for recruiting, sustaining and supporting a network of volunteers, coaches, leaders and teachers.

1.23 There are a number of delivery methods which are to be used in order to help the Action Plan achieve its aim of increasing the opportunities for children and young people to engage in physical activity and sport. The methods of delivery are as follows:

- **Build a sustainable volunteer network and provide an appropriate volunteering infrastructure for Active Schools within the wider community**
- **Provide opportunities for all children and young people to participate in physical activity and sport and enable the creation of pathways from the school to wider communities**
- **Increase participation amongst ‘hard to reach’ groups**

**sportscotland Corporate Plan 2009/11**

1.24 sportscotland is the lead agency for the development of sport in Scotland. sportscotland’s vision is a Scotland where sport is a way of life and it shares in the vision that “by 2020 people in Scotland will be enjoying the benefits of an active life”¹ [Let’s Make Scotland More Active]

1.25 Intrinsic to this is the common purpose “to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth”² [Scotland Performs]. The power of sport means it contributes to the five strategic objectives uniting all public organisations in Scotland: wealthier and fairer, smarter, healthier, safer and stronger and greener. The Scottish Government has two specific policies that guide our work: *Let’s Make Scotland More Active – a Strategy for Physical Activity and Reaching Higher Building on the Success of Sport 21*, the national strategy for sport. Sportscotland’s role is to put sport first: it will work alongside those who have a greater focus on other types of physical activity such as dance, active living and active play to ensure people in Scotland find it easy to lead an active life. Sportscotland programmes will have a sport and athlete focus but we recognise the crossover between playing, exercising, doing organised and informal sports and the foundation stones of people, places and joined up planning that make all of this happen.

1.26 A world class sporting system comprises six key components, all of which are linked and interdependent:

- **School sport** - Our flagship programme is to lead and manage the ‘Active Schools’ network of Active School Managers and Coordinators.
- **Club sport** - Our flagship programme is to establish and lead the development of community sport hubs (CSH) across Scotland.
- **High Performance** - Our key activity is to develop high performance programmes that deliver specialist services in flexible ways to meet the needs of sports and athletes.
- **People** - Our work in this area ensures that the number and quality of coaches, officials and leaders (voluntary and paid) meets and encourages the demand for sport.
- **Places** - Our work in this area will focus on developing an accessible network of places with the right quality and capacity to meet the needs

**Let’s Make Scotland More Active**

1.27 The vision for the Let’s Make Scotland More Active strategy is that “people in Scotland will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life”. The goal is to “increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland”. The target is to achieve 50% of all adults aged over 16 and 80% of all children aged 16 and under meeting the minimum recommended levels of physical activity by 2022. This will mean an average increase of 1% per year across the population and if this percentage is adhered to then it will lead to a decrease in the number of deaths due to activity by 157. The economic
benefit associated with the number of life years saved due to preventing these deaths is estimated to be at £85.2 million.

1.28 Let's Make Scotland More Active is asking Scottish Ministers to adopt a ‘spend to save’ mentality whereby government will spend more money now in order to save health costs later on. This strategy is about reducing inactivity over a long period of time and maintaining these reduced levels of inactivity.

National Strategy for Sport - Reaching Higher

1.29 This Strategy sets out the long term aims and objectives for sport until 2020 and outlines its delivery and evaluation. It aims to deliver the Sport 21 visions of a Scotland where sport is more widely enjoyed and available, where talent is recognised and nurtured, and where world class performance is achieved and sustained.

1.30 The proposed vision will have the following meanings:

- Everyone will need to have access to affordable, high quality community sports facilities, advice and guidance;
- Children should be enjoying sport both in and out of school;
- Individuals must be able to move from sport to sport depending on their life circumstances;
- Talent should be recognised early and developed to its full potential;
- There is a need to be a worldwide reputation that Scotland is a successful sporting nation and reputation for hosting a range of sporting events.

1.31 There should be no barriers stopping people from participating in sport or to develop an individual’s potential achievements. Scotland should be a place where opportunity, quality and success are expected and delivered.

Local Strategic Context

1.32 There are a number of key strategies and policies in place that will influence the Sports Facility and Pitch Strategy, where a contribution can be made to achieving aims and objectives. The relevant strategies are identified below.

Orkney’s Community Plan 2007 – 2020

1.33 The aim of the Orkney’s Community Plan is to ensure that local organisations work together and with communities to improve the quality of life for people, provide better services and create a shared vision for the future for people living on the Orkney Islands. There are 6 key principals to the work of the Community Plan:

- Promoting Survival – maintain communities as places where people are able to live and work
- Promoting Sustainability – meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Promoting Equalities – ensure that those in the most remote and ‘hard to reach’ communities feel included
- Working Together – assist services in being easy to access and efficiently delivered to the community whilst preventing any duplication of effort amongst businesses
• Working with Communities – deliver effective community engagement and involve local people in the process of community planning

• Working to Deliver Better Services – where services can not be delivered locally, it is important that local people are able to access them in other ways

1.34 There are 8 priority themes around which the Community Plan is based:

• Health and wellbeing – a healthy and caring community with health and social care services for all who need them

• Housing – ensure that everyone in Orkney has a suitable home

• Transport and travel – provide an effective and efficient transport network that supports the economic validity, community wellbeing and environmental integrity of all of Orkney

• Environment – a natural environment which is protected, enhanced and sustainably managed to combat climate change

• Economy – help the people and businesses of Orkney to achieve their full potential on a long term, sustainable basis

• Learning – a learning culture in which everyone develops enthusiasm and motivation for learning, determination to reach high standards of achievement, and an openness to new thinking and ideas

• Culture – enhanced cultural activity enabling heritage, arts and sport to thrive and grow in Orkney

• Keeping Orkney Safe – a community where everyone may live, work, visit and play safely without undue fear or risk of harm

Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy 2006

1.35 An audit of the current supply of outdoor space in Orkney highlighted the fact that in many areas the network of paths does not link up effectively. Around a third of all public rights of way are considered to be in poor condition and many routes are not accessible to all potential user groups. There is also a noticeable lack of signposting and information which could help the public make the most of the opportunities that are available in the area.

1.36 The vision for the Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy 2006 is ‘to promote enjoyment of the outdoors by providing high quality access provision, which satisfies the needs and aspirations of the local community and visitors to the island’.

1.37 The key aims for the Strategy are:

• To provide co-ordinated, actively promoted and well maintained network of paths

• To provide a variety of access opportunities that are suitable for different user groups

• To work with land managers to achieve a balance between the needs of access users and the needs of those who live and work on the land

• To ensure that communities, land managers, access user groups and partner organisations are involved in the development of access on the Orkney Islands
• To promote responsible behaviour in the countryside through education and information

1.38 This Strategy aims to provide access for countryside users of all ages and abilities. This includes families, ramblers, children, bike users, horse riders and any other group which may wish to access land. In order that access is improved it is important that the Strategy looks to enhance the networks of paths and keeps up with maintenance and the demand for the development of new paths. A key issue is the need for paths to be promoted through adequate signage and information points.

1.39 It has become apparent that lack of exercise is a major contributing factor towards many health problems including heart disease and obesity. Promoting walking and cycling is seen as a contributing factor to the encouragement of people to take exercise. This may be achieved through improving access routes and providing adequate signage and information points.

1.40 Access to the countryside can also play an important role in supporting the local tourist economy as many of the activities enjoyed by visitors rely on a good access infrastructure. Additionally, access paths can only be developed through a positive relationship with land managers. Land managers should be made aware of their responsibilities so that a network of paths can be developed and used by visitors and local residents.

The Orkney Structure Plan - Written Statement 2001

1.41 A structure plan is a statutory requirement under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The Structure Plan sets out the strategic framework for the development of land in the county over the next 10 years and provides a long-term development strategy, a strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of the quality of the natural heritage and historic environment and a local context for the Plan.

1.42 The Structure Plan will be combined with the Orkney Local Plan to form the Orkney Development Plan which will provide the planning framework against which all future planning applications will be determined.

1.43 It is proposed that the main focus of new development should be on existing towns, villages and smaller settlements where employment, housing and other services can be provided close together. In remote areas priority should be given to locating development and services in settlement which enable more people to benefit.

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

1.44 The health benefits of regular sport and physical activity are emphasised throughout the document. In particular leading an active lifestyle could prevent people from developing health issues including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer.

1.45 Physical activity includes active living, recreational activity, sport, exercise, play and dance. Activities which offer such opportunities locally should be promoted to local people to enable them to participate in line with activity targets, which are 30 minutes per day for adults and one hour on most days for children and young people.

Relevant Key Issues

• Life expectancy is high – females = 82.2 years as opposed to national average of 78.4 and males = 74.2 compared to an average of 73

• Obesity – a higher prevalence of diabetes compared to the Scottish average (4.2% compared to 3.5% Scottish average)

• A high level of Coronary Heart Disease and cancer deaths
• Smoking – and 16% of deaths locally at all ages are attributable to smoking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive, wider range of facilities supported by Healthy Living Centres in more rural areas</td>
<td>Aspiration of that all primary school pupils should receive 2 hours of PE per week by 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extensive club network and volunteers</td>
<td>Develop opportunities locally to increase participation amongst target groups, specifically those who are inactive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High levels of participation, participation per 1,000 population</td>
<td>Provide facilities and services for remote communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of Active Schools and Active Futures to increase participation</td>
<td>Lack of transport can be a barrier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wide range of competitions</td>
<td>Low number of all weather pitches, which limits year-round participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current high level at which sport is played in Orkney</td>
<td>Funding – maintaining and upgrading facilities, barriers for performance athletes, short-term programmes, voluntary sector, coach education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong working relationship with sportscotland</td>
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<td>Good partnership working</td>
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<td>Extensive local press coverage</td>
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1.46 There are five key themes underpinning the strategy’s action plan:

• Increase participation – aims to develop opportunities for all age groups and to strengthen community club infrastructures and encourage participation

• Access, provision and management – ensure access to quality sports, recreation and leisure facilities and increase levels of active travel

• Well trained workforce – establish an integrated education strategy, provide assistance for the voluntary workforce and ensure all organisations are well informed

• Strengthening pathways and improving performance – establish long-term player pathways and ensure support structure are in place to continue athlete development

• Planning and partnership – ensure cross departmental organisation, monitor and evaluate the strategy’s progress and promote the benefits of physical activity
Methodology

Introduction

2.1 The strategy is based on an assessment of pitches using the guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field (Sport England and CCPR). The Towards a Level Playing Field approach covers all elements set out in sportscotland’s ‘A guide to the Preparation of Pitch Sports Strategies’. This approach is based on an audit and assessment of the demand for, and supply of facilities. Its focus is on providing the means for deriving local standards, using local information, and developing policy to respond to local circumstances. An eight stage process is followed, and this is summarised below.

2.2 The assessment of bowling greens and tennis courts has followed the general approach of an audit and assessment of both supply and demand. The assessment of demand has drawn more on wider indicators of demand levels and supplemented with local research and consultation with stakeholders.

2.3 The overall aim of the assessment methodology has been to determine the number of pitches required for each specific sport. In the case of Orkney the methodology has been used to assess the adequacy of provision for:

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Bowls

2.4 An overview has been provided of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), which provide training facilities (and match facilities for Hockey) for several of the sports assessed.

2.5 The methodology for assessing pitch sports comprises an eight-stage approach, as summarised overleaf. This involves a number of specific research tasks to build a comprehensive audit. A series of toolkits are used to analyse the data collected with the resulting assessment figures interpreted in consideration to the local context and results of stakeholder consultation. The toolkits, data modelling and audit data is included within the appendices to this report. Given that Orkney are an archipelago, neighbouring authority provision has not been assessed for its impact on supply and demand. It is felt that assessing neighbouring provision for island communities is not appropriate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description and Key Output</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1</td>
<td><strong>Identification of the number of teams</strong>&lt;br&gt;Demand is established through a count of the number of teams for each sport using a variety of information sources, including pitch booking records, league handbooks, and a club survey. Latent demand and the impact of future population projections are also considered.</td>
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<td>Stage 2</td>
<td><strong>Calculating home games per team per week</strong>&lt;br&gt;In a ‘normal’ situation for all sports, the number of home games is calculated as 0.5 of the total number of teams, representing weekly ‘home’ and ‘away’ fixtures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 3</td>
<td><strong>Assessing Total Number of Home Games per week</strong>&lt;br&gt;This is the product of Stages 1 and 2, and is therefore not independent. The resultant figure indicates how many games have to be accommodated in the study area in the average week.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 4</td>
<td><strong>Establishing Temporal Demand for Games</strong>&lt;br&gt;This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. This Stage will determine what percentage of all games are played on a Saturday for example.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 5</td>
<td><strong>Defining pitches used / required on each day</strong>&lt;br&gt;This is the product of Stages 3 and 4, and is not therefore independent. The resultant figure will indicate the pitches used/required on each day and time e.g. Saturday p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 6</td>
<td><strong>Establishing pitches available</strong>&lt;br&gt;An accurate assessment of supply is produced which distinguishes between pitches for each sport and between ownership (public, private, voluntary and educational sites). In modelling the existing situation, only pitches currently available for the appropriate days/times will be relevant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 7</td>
<td><strong>Assessing the Findings</strong>&lt;br&gt;The requirements to accommodate demand assessed at Stage 5 are then compared with the facilities as available at Stage 6. If the existing situation has been accurately modelled there should be either a good numerical fit between requirements and facilities available, or even ‘surplus’ provision on some days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stage 8</td>
<td><strong>Identifying policy options and solutions</strong>&lt;br&gt;A range of policy options can be developed, such as new provision or pitch improvements, to help the problems identified at Stage 7. The method can then be used to further assess the impact of policy options, and contribute to the selection of the most cost-effective solution.</td>
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*Adapted from Toward a Level Playing Field – Sport England and CCPR (Page 11)*
2.6 The assessment of non-pitch sports has been completed using a number of different methodologies to the eight stage approach described above. In the main this is because demand for these sports manifests itself in various forms.

2.7 For example in both tennis and bowls, participation may be team based, individual participation, formal competitive sport or casual use. The assessments have therefore been completed through references to a number of demand databases and the existing and planned supply. A summary of the key method elements is included in the sport by sport summaries.

Auditing Techniques and Data Gathering

Assessment of Supply

2.8 The current supply of facilities was established through a series of data review, research and consultation exercised. These consisted of:

- Review of information held by Orkney Islands Council, including the work undertaken previously towards production of a playing pitch strategy;
- Review of information published on relevant websites - specifically local sports clubs and league websites.
- Site visits to pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens and the completion of quality audits using the Sport England Non-Technical Visual Assessment proforma;
- Consultation with key stakeholders (Governing Bodies of Sport, Council Officers, identified individuals involved locally in sport in Orkney, local sports Clubs, identified schools);
- Telephone consultation with identified Orkney schools,
- An email survey to all identified sports clubs as agreed with Orkney Islands Council.

Assessment of Demand

2.9 In establishing the current demand for facilities we completed a series of research consultation exercises, specifically:

- An initial sports club questionnaire sent to all identified clubs within the authority area;
- Additional telephone consultation with key sports clubs (focusing on non-respondents);
- A review of booking information from pitch sites within Orkney where applicable;
- Analysis of local league data (where publicly available); and
- Consultation with governing bodies of sport.

2.10 Inevitably, a number of key research tasks encompass the collection and collation of both supply and demand data, rather than an exclusive focus on one or the other.

Data Collection Issues

2.11 Establishing precisely how many facilities and clubs there are within the study area was difficult for a number of reasons.
2.12 For example, the number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons relating to management and husbandry. Team numbers also change from season to season.

2.13 The assessment of playing pitch supply and demand within the study should therefore be considered a "snapshot" in time and there is a need to ensure that the data used within the assessment is updated at appropriate intervals to ensure the on-going validity of the recommendations made.

Data Analysis and Sub Analysis Structure

Defining Community Use

2.14 A key component of the analysis was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified were in "secured public use". This was undertaken in the context of the Sport England definition of community use, and broadly embraces:

- All local authority pitches (Orkney Islands Council, Town and Parish Councils);
- Educational facilities where they are subject to formal dual use, community use agreements or similar formal hire arrangements with local teams (this was assessed through a specific question in the Schools’ consultation);
- Any other institutional facilities in Orkney which are available to the public as a result of formal dual / community use agreements;
- Any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals, which as a matter of policy or practice are available by large sections of the public through membership of a club or admission fees; and
- Formal playing pitches that are marked out and in use for the relevant pitch sports have been included in the modelling and analysis.

The evidence base: survey response rates

2.15 Final response rates for the surveys administered were:

- Football Clubs – 2 responses received from Kirkwall Hotspurs FC, and Westray FC 11% of clubs (representing only 6.4% of all identified teams).
- Cricket Clubs – No response received from either of the two existing cricket clubs.
- Rugby Union – Response received from Orkney Rugby Club.
- Hockey – 2 responses received, from Kirkwall Ladies Hockey Club, and Orkney Hockey Club approx. 22.2% of clubs.
- Netball - 1 response received from Netball Orkney.

2.16 All identified sports clubs (indoor and outdoor sport), in Orkney were written to and sent a questionnaire. Responses were requested twice during the consultation period. Personal contact was also made with clubs where possible. Despite this approach, the response received was very disappointing, and therefore has not provided as much information as anticipated in terms of current and future provision. To ensure the assessment provides an accurate picture of current and future provision, significant additional research has been undertaken through the internet, Orkey publications, and consultation with OIC officers.
Quantifying non-club / team demand for the major sports

2.17 Although the assessment is focused on community sport, with identified teams playing regular league/competitive fixtures as the ‘demand unit’ for pitch sports, the PPM prompts the need to consider other demands placed on sports pitches.

2.18 Some attempt has therefore been made to do this using the following assumptions.

2.19 **School sport and team equivalents** generated by PE use of facilities has been partially quantified and factored into the modelling accordingly. Although the focus of the assessment and resulting strategy is community sport, consideration has been given to the demand generated by school sport and the use of available supply. In Orkney the impact of school use of facilities is fair. As reported later, a very high percentage of school facilities are available and used by the local community. Accounting for and factoring in school use of pitches has been quantified slightly differently across the four major sports identified, depending on the availability and quality of information available.

Estimating and projecting future demand

2.20 For population growth, National Records of Scotland Orkney Islands Council Area Demographic Fact Sheet figures provided for 2023 have been used as stated in Section 1.

2.21 Housing growth is being planned for a number of strategic locations across Orkney -

2.22 OIC is building new housing in significant numbers for the first time in more than three decades. In Andersquoy it is proposed to build 18 new flats as part of the redevelopment of the former Andersquoy sheltered housing, all due to be completed in 2011. In addition the Council plans to build 140 new houses. Many of these 140 houses have started or will start on site in 2011.

2.23 The team generation rates established for the islands overall have been used to identify growth that is likely to occur as a result of population increases. This is based on current demand profiles and the current percentage of residents that fall within the ‘active population’ (i.e. of sport playing ages). These have been applied to future modelling to provide an indication of growth resulting from development work and specific programmes to increase participation in key sports. The rates used are:

- **Football**: based on a 3% growth rate over the next 10 years, given that the population level is anticipated to remain stable
- **Cricket**: a 1% growth rate over the next 10 years, given that the population level is anticipated to remain stable
- **Rugby Union**: a 1% growth rate over the next 10 years, given that the population level is anticipated to remain stable
- **Hockey**: Growth as projected by the individual clubs consulted, which is actually negligible – no specific national or regional target has been set.

Quality Audit and Assessment

Natural Turf Pitches

2.24 The quality of natural turf pitches has been assessed using a non-technical visual assessment proforma. This is part of the *Towards a Level Playing Field* toolkit and is included within the technical report appendices. The quality proforma collects a range of information about pitches based on a visual inspection. Specific criteria rated include:

- **Grass cover**;
Length of grass;
Size of pitch (and suitability);
Slope;
Evenness;
Presence of common pitch problems; and
Availability of changing rooms.

2.25 Each pitch is scored out of a possible 100% and graded on a quality scale from ‘Poor’ through to ‘Excellent’. A proforma is also used to provide a quality rating for the ancillary facilities serving the site and rates the quality of the changing accommodation, parking facilities and general site access. In general, the quality of grass pitches in Orkney is affected by the climate, the clay soil, a reduction in investment (less maintenance and upgrading over recent years, as the £40k budget for investment has been cut, and a further 20% reduction in funding for grounds maintenance is likely), over play, and use by teams when the pitch is not in a sufficiently good condition to support match play.

Greens, Courts and AGPs

2.26 The quality of tennis courts, Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), Bowling Greens have been assessed on the same principles using Strategic Leisure’s in-house assessment proforma. As with pitches this works on the basis of a scored assessment (out of 100%).

2.27 In making recommendations and interpreting assessment results, pitch quality scores have been considered alongside sports club ratings of the facilities they use. A summary of the scores for all pitches identified is included in the report appendices.

Settlement Hierarchy Analysis

2.28 To build a more accurate picture of issues relating to surplus and deficiencies across the sports assessed, the data collected has been used to carry out a number of ‘sub-analysis area assessments’. Put simply this means focussing on a number of smaller defined geographic areas within Orkney to highlight particular hotspots of under or over supply or provision. For the purposes of this supply and demand has been considered on the basis of a hierarchy of settlements, as set out below:

- Main towns Kirkwall and Stromness
- Village settlements 400-600 residents
- Rural settlements 10-100 residents
3. Assessment and Analysis – Pitch Sports

Audit Overview

Supply of facilities in Orkney

3.1 A total of 24 playing pitch sites currently in use have been identified. These provide a total of 30 playing pitches across the sports assessed, plus 1 x Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) (ie total 31). Of these 31 playing pitches, all are currently available for community use, but not all are actually used (3 pitches at Stenness Primary School, North Walls Primary School, and Flotta Primary School (school is now closed)). A detailed audit is provided as Appendix 5 to this report, and is referenced as appropriate in the recommendations made.

3.2 In relation to tennis courts and greens, there are outdoor tennis courts provided at Stromness Academy, and indoor courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, in Orkney. There is a bowling green in Kirkwall, and another at St Margaret’s Hope, in Orkney. There are also 4 Golf clubs in the Islands.

3.3 There are also 42 play areas across the islands.

3.4 In terms of indoor facilities, the following facilities are available for community use:

- Swimming Pools (2 Mainland pools and 4 isles pools)
- Sports centres (3) (including the Pickaquoy Centre)
- Community Centres (2)
- Community Halls (32)
- Healthy Living Centres (10)

Ownership, management and community access

3.5 Pitches are predominantly owned and managed by OIC (this includes pitches on school sites). A few sites are owned and managed through Community Associations, or the Community Councils. An overview of where these sites are located is provided as Map 1 and summarised in the figure below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership/Management</th>
<th>Number of sites</th>
<th>Number of pitches</th>
<th>% (of sites) in community use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orkney Islands Council</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Associations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish/Town Council</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong> (excludes AGP)</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6 Tennis Courts and Bowling greens across the islands are also managed by OIC. As with pitches above, they are summarised by broad ownership categories and included in the figure below. Map 2 provides an overview of the location of these facilities. Kirkwall Bowling Club manage the facility through a lease of Brandyquoy. However OIC is responsible for repairs and maintenance of the building. OIC provides an annual grant to the club for upkeep of the green.
3.7 There is a higher rate of community access to courts and greens i.e. all of the available supply is already in community use. This is reflective of the provision being via the Council. In some cases the greens categorised as OIC provision may be operated under a management arrangement with a local club.

**Orkney Islands Council Pitches - Management and Access**

3.8 In terms of pitches that are available and accessible by the community, OIC is the main provider, both directly via Leisure and Culture Services, and via Education sites. The management of a very few public pitches is also delivered through Community Associations.

3.9 On-site school pitches are managed directly by OIC. Levels of community use are high, with all schools providing community access. There are some issues on the isles of clubs using pitches without booking through OIC; supervision of all playing pitches is impossible given the geography of the isles.

**Orkney Island Council Pitches – Management and Maintenance**

3.10 Across the stock of OIC pitches maintenance is provided by OIC Grounds Maintenance Contractors.

3.11 Grounds maintenance often emerges as a key issue in any pitch assessment. Many clubs using public facilities in particular hold negative views about the facilities they use. However, not all their views are attributable to grounds maintenance specifications or quality of service. In some cases, because public pitches are located on education sites, there is a ‘quality ceiling’ i.e. they are open to other recreational use. Overall there are quality issues with nearly 50% of the playing pitches across the islands. Some of the reasons for these quality issues relate to overuse by clubs, including playing without a formal booking, and playing when the pitches are unsuitable for use. Financial constraints also impact on pitch quality; the OIC Grounds maintenance contract is due to be renewed in April 2012, and there is potential that the budget for this work will be reduced.

3.12 Overall the responsibility for maintenance of pitches lies with OIC through the grounds maintenance contractors. Some clubs eg Harray FC undertake some maintenance to the pitch they use as a home ground.

**Changes to pitch supply as a result of the School Investment programme**

3.13 The School Investment Programme will realise the development of new sports facilities by 2011/13; specifically, the Programme will realise the development of 3 new AGPs, one of which will replace the existing facility. There will therefore be a net gain of 2 AGP facilities in Orkney.

3.14 The new pitches at Stromness Academy, the Pickaquoy Centre and Kirkwall Grammar School will all have secured community use. The Orkney FA plans to use these new pitches for a pre-season tournament to facilitate more games for teams.

3.15 The provision of these new pitches has been taken into account in future modelling of supply and demand.
3.16 The current provision in secured community use includes all facilities included within the current scenario modelling. Proposed provision includes all current provision and the additional facilities that will be built through the School Investment Programme.

Demand for playing pitches in Orkney – Community Clubs and Teams

3.17 There are 31 clubs across the pitch sports consulted. The majority of these play regular fixtures in affiliated and unaffiliated leagues. The clubs generate in the region of 77 teams. Football, as in most areas of the UK accounts for most of this demand – just over 74% of all teams identified are football teams playing regular games (league and cup). The number of teams and clubs varies considerably across the islands, with the majority of teams being from Orkney, the island with the majority of the population. Most demand for pitches comes from Kirkwall.

Team Generation Rates

3.18 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are a useful indicator of levels of demand (in terms of both population and geography) to identify variances in demand levels. The following table provides an overview of the TGRs for the four major sports for Orkney. The implications of these are covered in more detail in the sport specific assessments and commentary on each area within the technical report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport / team type</th>
<th>Team Generation Rates – Orkney Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini Soccer</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Football – Boys</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Football – Girls</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Football – Men</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Football- Women</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Cricket – Boys</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Cricket – Girls</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Cricket – Men</td>
<td>2387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Cricket - Women</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Rugby Union</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Rugby – Boys</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Rugby – Girls</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Rugby – Men</td>
<td>1610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Rugby - Women</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Hockey – Boys</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Hockey – Girls</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Hockey – Men</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Hockey – Women</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.19 Figures show the number of residents (of the sport playing age) required to generate one team. For example across the Islands, it takes 138 10 - 15 year olds to generate one junior boys’ football team. The TGRs demonstrate both the focus for participation in Orkney currently, ie football and women’s hockey. They also highlight the lower levels of participation in both cricket and rugby. The current TGRs demonstrate that there is significant potential to increase participation across all sports, and particularly for women and girls in football, rugby and cricket, for men in rugby, and for juniors in hockey, cricket and rugby. Future sport development programmes and participation increase targets could be aligned to this potential, given that the facilities already exist for these sports, and will be enhanced in terms of training provision, through the new AGPs to be developed as part of the School Investment Programme. Increasing participation across pitch sports will need to reflect levels of population, which are significantly
lower in the isles as opposed to Orkney, and also the location of provision. The majority of facilities are located on Orkney.

**Comparison with UK Average TGR’s**

3.20 Comparisons to TGRs nationally (i.e. to demonstrate whether demand in the Islands is generally higher or lower than other areas) is limited. The national database of TGRs is out of date and includes few studies completed within the last 3-4 years. It is also limited in relation to sports other than football (in relation to the number of studies included). A brief review of football and cricket has been completed. Key observations are highlighted below.

- **Football**
  - For mini soccer the national average is the generation of 4.56 teams per 1,000 population. In Orkney the team generation is negligible, given there are no mini soccer teams playing in leagues.
  - The Orkney wide rate of team generation for junior (youth) boys football is 67.8 (teams per 1,000 population), which is much lower than the national average of 11.
  - For adult male football, figures from the national database indicate that on average 2.8 teams per 1,000 population are generated. This rate for Orkney is much higher at around 7.3.
  - With regard to girls’ and women’s football, team generation is lower than the national averages, given that there are no girls or women’s teams playing in leagues in Orkney.

- **Cricket**
  - Team Generation across junior cricket is low for junior boys and girls in Orkney given there are no teams, compared to national figures (3.6 junior boys teams per 1,000). Adult rates in Orkney are also below the national average. 0.4 teams per 1,000 is generated in the Borough compared with almost 2 nationally.

3.21 The above comparisons are predominantly a result of the significant population level differences between the Orkney Islands and the mainland; generally, smaller populations have lower team generation rates. The comparisons do also emphasise the opportunities across pitch sports in Orkney to increase participation levels, particularly in terms of junior involvement. This would also be likely to have an impact in terms of adult participation, as individuals continue to play through junior age groups into adulthood.

3.22 It is interesting to note the relatively low team generation rate for men’s rugby at 0.62 teams per 1000, compared to that for junior boys at 7.6 teams per 1000 population, which suggests a high drop out rate as junior players become adults.

3.23 Team generation is also high for women’s hockey at 3.4 teams per 1000 population.

3.24 Consideration of TGR figures does also suggest there is some correlation between levels of supply and demand. That is, areas with a generally lower supply of pitches also have relatively low levels of demand and vice versa. This indicates that potentially a lack of facilities within a locality could stifle participation and cause latent demand in such areas. In Orkney the lack of cricket facilities for example, could be stifling demand to participate in cricket. There may also be some impact in terms of local culture, as some sports are traditionally more popular in some areas of the UK, and this can impact on local participation rates.

**Assessment and Analysis Summary – Pitch Sports**

**Football - Local Clubs**

3.25 In summary there are 18 local football clubs generating 31 league teams (6 junior and 25 senior); in total, however, 57 teams need to be accommodated on a regular, given the number of cup competitions etc (these are not, however, fixtures for the same teams week in, week out as are league games, so have
been attributed across midweek pitches). These teams play in a number of different leagues and cup competitions across the weekend and midweek.

School Demand and Team Equivalents

3.26 There are 18 schools (primary and secondary level) in the Islands impacting on both supply and demand. In terms of demand, assumptions have been made about the levels of use of facilities. Consultation with schools suggests there is significant variance in the use of on site facilities, influenced by priority sports, teacher preferences, pupil roll numbers and softer factors, such as the weather. Factoring in the potential impact of school use on facilities is specifically important if there is a heavy reliance on school provision for community sport. This is the case in the Orkney Islands as the majority of school pitches accommodate secured community use.

3.27 For the purposes of drawing conclusions and findings relating to pitch capacity, we have made an assumption that school use equates to a minimum of 1 full game per week. In simple terms, it has been assumed that a school with an adult pitch will use this to at least the equivalent of 1 game per week. Because school demand is effectively ‘off peak’ (i.e. during the week) it is the impact on overall capacity rather than peak demand that is important to consider. For the purposes of the assessment, school demand has been assumed to impact on 20 adult pitches. There is only 1 junior pitch currently provided in the Orkney Islands, and 6 junior league teams.

Supply

3.28 A total of 29 football pitches have been identified, of which all are available for community use, but 3 are currently not used. Of these 29 pitches, 28 are adult pitches, and 1 is a junior pitch, plus there 5 mini soccer pitches NOT included in the modelling. There is in addition one AGP. All pitches but 4 (Rendall, Holm, St Andrews, and Harray), are provided directly by Orkney Islands Council. Existing Football facilities are shown on Map 2.

Assessment

3.29 A summary of the application of the eight stage model assessment for football is provided in the figures overleaf. Figures show the results of the current and future modelling (12 years time), to ensure that the strategy for the next 8 years develops provision to provide for future demand. Future modelling has included the impact of natural population projections and growth estimated as a result of housing growth. Figures represent the surplus or deficiency in pitches required to meet demand, when modelled across the Islands. A further assessment of existing provision is then made in relation, to the settlement hierarchy.

Quantity of Pitches

3.30 Whilst a separate playing pitch model (PPM) has not been used for each of the identified settlement areas, given that playing population levels are too low to be relevant, an assessment of existing playing pitch location, the type of pitches provided, and the location for known future investment has been undertaken. This is to ensure that any future investment and/or development initiatives can be targeted appropriately.

3.31 In addition, any differences in peak demand periods across youth and adult football within the Islands needs to be accounted for. In the case of football in Orkney, all football cup games are played on a Saturday: 100% of all junior football league games are played on a Wednesday, whilst 28% of all senior games are played on a Thursday, 40% of all senior games are played on a Monday and 32% of all senior games are played on a Tuesday. In addition there are Fun 4s games played at Primary School level, but there are no clubs involved in this activity: it is run through Active Schools. Players from the Fun 4s may be asked to join Primary School Development Squads, but there is no clear development pathway currently from these through to the clubs. 5 aside Festivals are held over a 26 week period;
Orkney Island Council  
Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy

whilst this is a big event, again there is no participative or developmental link between this event and the clubs.

Quality of Pitches

3.32 Quality assessment results are also included in Figure 10 and are also illustrated on Map 3 (based on site averages). Figures indicate the percentage of pitches across the County as a whole) that were rated as at least ‘good’. These relate to community accessible pitches only.

**Figure 4 - Assessment Results - Pitch Quantity and Quality - Football: COMMUNITY TEAMS ONLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>ISLAND WIDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / deficiency in pitches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Soccer</td>
<td>5 pitches provided on the islands, but no league play</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Football</td>
<td>+1 Sat, Sun, Mon and Tues pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Football</td>
<td>Surplus at all times: Mon pm +23; Tues +24; Weds pm +28; Thurs pm +24.5; Sat and Sun pm +28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUTURE ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / deficiency in pitches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Soccer</td>
<td>N/a see above, unless mini soccer leagues start</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Football</td>
<td>+1 Sat, Sun, Mon and Tues pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Football</td>
<td>Surplus at all times: Mon pm +23.3; Tues +24.3; Weds pm +28; Thurs pm +24.7; Sat and Sun pm +28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QUALITY ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of pitches rated as 'good' or 'excellent'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Soccer</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Football</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Football</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factoring in other Demand

3.33 Any deficiencies in football pitches to serve community sport need to be considered alongside estimates for the amount of non-community demand they may also need to accommodate. As highlighted earlier, for the purposes of the Orkney assessment, an estimate has been made on the school use of pitches that are also available to the local community. Although the school use of pitches is confined to ‘off-peak’ periods, the demand generated does add to the overall use of pitches. This is demonstrated in the table below where an indication is provided of the total number of potential games each week versus the number of pitches in the area. For the basis of the calculations an estimate has been made for all schools and pitches in the specific area, including just those with community use and assuming school use is the equivalent of one game.
Overall it is estimated that there is the equivalent of 18 games of football per week, played on 20 pitches, equating to an average of 0.9 games per pitch per week. This re-emphasises the conclusions of the PPM in that supply is plentiful, given that a good quality pitch should have the capacity to accommodate 3 games per week. It should be noted that this is an indicative estimate only. Given that the majority of football pitches in Orkney are on education sites, the capacity to service both school and community demand is critical. The quality of facilities (school and non-school) does have an impact (at least theoretical) on capacity; overall the quality of nearly 50% of OIC pitches is ‘average to poor’; the pitches at Evie, Hope, Stenness and Burray primary Schools are ‘very poor’ quality. This is considered later in this section, with the results of the quality audits used to illustrate capacity issues.

Latent Demand

Latent demand has been assessed through consultation with clubs and consideration of the TGRs for the Islands (in comparison to national figures). A comparison of TGRs for the Islands compared to national averages suggests relatively low levels of demand; there is, however, significant potential to increase demand, if mini, junior, women’s and girls’ football is developed. There is a women’s football team on Orkney, but it only plays competitively at inter-county level. There is also potential to increase junior participation if the ‘fun’ events were better linked to the clubs, who could ‘talent sport’ potential players. The 5 aside indoor league is mixed, so again there is potential to increase the number of regular female players linked to this competition.

Kirkwall Hotspurs FC has identified potential issues relating to latent or suppressed demand, due to a lack of appropriate facilities and volunteers. This club would like to run another two teams. The provision of the new AGPs (surface appropriate for football) will address the current lack of facilities, given that the FA will encourage their use for both training and competition.

Feedback from identified league secretaries supports that there are some issues about access to sufficient pitches for some teams in some of the divisions of the league. This appears to be related to the large number of cup and other competitions, more than the weekly league matches, because there are 28 senior pitches available and only 25 senior teams ie 13 home games per week, whereas the cup and other competitions involve many teams and pitches, on an irregular basis.

The main (only) league is the Orkney Amateur FA League, structured as shown below. The majority of cup games are played on a Saturday and league games in the evening during the week. Orkney Cheese Streamline ‘B’ Monday evening, Streamline ‘A’ Tuesday, Intersport KT Sports Junior League Wednesday and Streamline Reserve League Thursdays.

- ‘A’ Division – 8 teams
- ‘B’ Division – 10 teams
- Reserve League – 7 teams
- Junior League – 6 teams

The key conclusion from the data collected is that there are some issues of access and capacity for some teams at some times, depending on the number of overall matches they have to play in both league and cup games (whereas the PPM demonstrates a sufficiency of senior pitches, based on a supply of 28 pitches and the demands of 25 teams, if the model is run based on 57 teams requiring a pitch there is clearly a reduction in the sufficiency of pitch provision). The access issues derive from the fact that nearly half of the pitches are not of a good quality (48%), and get waterlogged easily, and therefore the football season is not always able to start on time, or matches are cancelled through the
season. It is the pitch quality, impacting on accessibility and/or capacity that is the issue, NOT the number of actual pitches that is the issue. As previously stated the pitch quality is as much to do with over use, particularly when pitches are not in a condition to support competitive play, as the Orkney climate, the clay soil.

3.40 Some latent demand is also attributable to the potential to grow sports (on the basis of TGRs). Recommendations to address these issues are included later in the report.

Club and League Secretary Views

3.41 Feedback from local clubs has not been extensive to date, however, it does appear from those received that some clubs, and schools, rate facilities slightly more positively than the results of the non-technical quality assessments. However, despite the differences there is an overall view that quality is an issue for nearly 50% of the available pitches. However the quality of changing provision, and, in some cases, the lack of changing provision, is raised as an issue. The lack of changing provision relates to the fact that there is no accessible changing provision at some sites, as some changing facilities, despite being on site, are not accessible to user teams. The data collected provides both an independent objective viewpoint and a user perspective with similar conclusions.

3.42 League Secretaries generally agreed that the quality of pitches could be improved; drainage is a specific issue. The new synthetic pitches to be developed at Kirkwall and Stromness are, in the view of the Orkney FA, critical to the future of league football in Orkney. There needs to be a focus on use of artificial floodlit pitches to extend the season into the winter, particularly for youth football, given this a focus for the FA.

3.43 The quality of some existing changing facilities is poor, or the facilities are inappropriate, and in some cases whilst there exists changing provision, it cannot be accessed by teams using the pitches, due to caretaking constraints. Appendix 5 sets out the location of changing provision, and whether it is accessible to community teams using pitches.

Impact of Quality on Capacity

3.44 If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand and this could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. The results of the quality inspections have therefore, in line with guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field been used to show how quality might affect capacity.

3.45 Map 3 identifies football pitch sites and their average quality rating.

3.45 The analysis completed suggests that only 52% of pitches (all of which are available for community use) are of a good quality standard. Based on an assumption that excellent/good pitches can accommodate 3 games per week, average pitches 2 games per week and those rated below average only carrying 1 game per week, the following points can be made:

- The capacity of pitches currently available for community use is (theoretically) significantly limited by the fact that nearly half of them are of poor or average quality.
- Pitch quality is also affected by over playing – either because matches are played when the pitch is not in a good enough condition, or there has not been a booking made for the game in the first place.
- Some sites eg Dounby suffer particularly from over use; in the case of Dounby pitches are used for both rugby and football. The pitch at Bignold will also now suffer from over use because the pitches at Kirkwall Grammar School will be out of use for 4 years, given the impact of the construction under the Schools' Investment Programme.
Ancillary Facilities

3.47 Of the sites accommodating football pitches, only 14 across the Islands are served by changing rooms and for some sites, whilst changing facilities exist, community users are unable to gain access. Clubs, and some schools also report issues in relation to access to changing rooms. Further analysis shows that of those known 14 sites with changing facilities on site, 9 were rated as average, or very poor (4). The audit result, coupled with feedback from clubs themselves indicates a significant issue with access to good quality changing facilities. This fundamentally affects the quality and capacity of existing pitch facilities and addressing this will be a key priority moving forward. This issue needs to be explored as all pitches (except Burray) should have access to the school changing rooms through the janitor.

Pitch Access

3.48 Access has been considered from a number of perspectives, including, affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire) and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective, taking account of the capacity for new members at the clubs as identified through their survey responses. The assessment highlights that:

- The football clubs who have sent survey responses to date do not identify costs as an issue in terms of accessing pitches. However, Kirkwall Hotspur identifies a lack of appropriate facilities, as an issue for their club.

- Travel distances are not highlighted as an issue; this is likely to reflect the fact that residents of the Islands are used to having to travel, given the geography of the Islands. Catchment distances/accessibility standards are less applicable to an island environment.

- Hire fees appear, from the limited responses received, to be very similar levels; this is unsurprising given that the majority of pitches are in the ownership and management of OIC, and fees levied are the same for pitches across the islands.

- Responses received from the 2 football and hockey clubs identify that membership levels are likely to stay the same, or decrease. Reasons given include an ageing population, lack of volunteers, and difficulties in recruiting/retaining members.

- All 4 clubs identify a lack of internal and external funding as issues.

- The respondent clubs state that their members travel to access facilities for 7-10 miles. Access on the smaller islands is not considered an issue given the size of the islands. 2 of the 4 respondent clubs would be happy to travel further to good quality facilities. This underlines the fact that there is a need to improve the quality of some of the existing pitch stock across the Islands.

Other Issues and Challenges

3.49 The collection of raw data and application of the PPM overlooks a number of key characteristics of supply and demand that need to be highlighted and considered within the assessment conclusions. These include:

- A relatively high number of pitch sites without access to changing facilities (despite there being on-site provision), or with poor quality changing facilities

- The majority of pitch sites are single pitch sites, except for those on Mainland Orkney

- Capacity, quality and usability of a number of key sites would all be greatly enhanced with ancillary facilities. The introduction of ancillary facilities on a relatively small number of sites would increase significantly the percentage of pitches served by changing rooms.
• The development of the new artificial pitches will improve pitch quality, facilitate extension of the football season into the winter period, address some of the existing pitch capacity issues for the senior teams, and help to stimulate development of the junior game

• There are currently only 6 junior football teams (boys) playing in a league

• There are no mini soccer teams playing in leagues on the Islands

• Given the existence of the online Football Forum (run by the Community Sports Hub officer), there is potential to achieve increased ‘working together’ between clubs, teams, the FA, referees and other officials, to ensure that bookings are made before a pitch can be played on, that pitches are not over-played, nor are played on when in an unsuitable condition, and that usage of the two new artificial pitches is maximised for both training and where appropriate, competitive play. Adopting a common stance on these issues will assist to improve pitch quality, and therefore benefit both players and the game.

• There is significant potential to improve existing participation and developmental pathways between junior events and local clubs

• A lack of coaches and volunteers impacts on the organisation and development of football at local level

• The lack of artificial grass surfaces in the isles means that teams have to play and train on grass

Summary of Assessment Findings: Football

The headlines:

• The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is sufficient, for senior teams if the supply and demand analysis is run based on 25 senior teams and 28 pitches. Although, this theoretical result does not take into account the impact of the poor quality of some of the pitches (6 average/poor), which impacts on the capacity of the overall stock, there is still a sufficiency of provision running the model based on 22 pitches.

• If the PPM model is run based on 57 teams, there is a clear reduction in the sufficiency of pitches for senior teams, but there is still a surplus of provision.

• Based on the PPM, there is a surplus of adult pitches across the Islands, and a deficiency in junior pitches (-2) on a Wednesday evening. Based on local club and FA feedback, however there is a deficiency in provision as a result of the quality, and therefore the capacity, of some existing pitches. This deficiency does however appear to be localised; the majority of senior pitches are on the Mainland, but this is also where there are the most teams, and therefore most demand. Equally, on the isles, there may at times be an issue about access to pitches, if there is only 1 pitch, and a number of teams requiring a pitch because they have both league and cup games to play.

• There are significant quality deficiencies – only 52% of all pitches available for community use are of a good quality. It is the pitch quality, impacting on accessibility and/or capacity that is the issue, NOT the number of actual pitches that is the issue. The quality of existing changing provision is also an issue in some areas.
Access arrangements (in terms of fees, charges and distances travelled to access provision) vary significantly across the County – but there is a consensus that improved access to facilities locally is a priority. The development of the new artificial pitches through the School Investment Programme is critical in terms of extending the current football season into the winter period, addressing issues of pitch capacity, and stimulating increased junior demand.

There is significant potential to develop increased participation in junior, mini, women and girls’ football, but the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock would need to be improved.
Cricket

Local Clubs

3.50 There are 2 local cricket clubs generating 2 teams in total. Most games are played on Sundays. The two clubs are Stromness Cricket Club and Sanday Cricket Club. In June of each year, these two teams compete for the Embers Trophy in a single match on the island of Sanday.

3.51 Each season, players from the two clubs represent Orkney in a three-match Inter-county Series against Caithness and an Intercounty Match against Shetland.

3.52 Players from Orkney also play in a combined Orkney and Caithness (OrCa) XI in the North of Scotland Cricket Association (NOSCA) Reserve Cup. ‘Home’ games are played at Ross County CC’s ground at Castle Leod in Strathpeffer, Inverness-shire. OrCa won the Reserve Cup in 1999, 2007, 2009 and 2010, and was runner-up in 2008 and 1998.

3.53 Each August Bank Holiday Weekend, OrCa players go on a three-match tour of Perthshire, playing friendly matches at locations such as Kinross, Comrie, Crieff and Ross County.

3.54 There are no junior or female teams in the Islands.

School demand and team equivalents

3.55 School demand has negligible impact on the modelling for community sport, as there are no education facilities servicing both school and community use. As a result, school cricket has been deemed to have little impact on supply available to the community.

Supply

3.56 A total of 2 cricket pitches exist in Orkney. One team plays on an artificial wicket at the Pickaquoy Centre, and, and the other on a grass pitch at Stromness Academy. There are not very many cricket games played. An overview of where cricket facilities are provided is included as Map 2.

Assessment

3.57 A summary of the application of the eight stage model assessment for cricket is provided in the figure overleaf. Figures show the results of the current and future modelling (10 years time). Figures represent the surplus or deficiency in pitches required to meet demand, when modelled across the Islands. Future modelling includes both the impact of natural population projections and growth estimated as a result of housing growth, although overall this is a very small increase.

3.58 Because the fixtures played are adhoc, and the teams also play several fixtures away from home, a demand factor of 0.5 has been used in the assessment. That is, an assumption has been made that on average cricket teams will not participate in more than one game per week during the peak season. In reality, in Orkney matches are much less frequent than this.

Quantity of Pitches

3.59 Given the fact that there are only 2 teams, each has a pitch, and there are not regular league matches, as the majority of cricket is played away on tour, quantity of provision is not currently an issue in Orkney. However, if demand increased, and participation grew, additional good quality pitches would be required.
Quality of Pitches

3.60 Quality assessment results are also included in the table and illustrated on Map 8 (on the basis of site averages). These relate to all pitches identified and rated using the non-technical visual inspection proforma.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRICKET ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>ISLAND WIDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSESSMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / deficiency in pitches</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUTURE ASSESSMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / deficiency in pitches</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUALITY ASSESSMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of pitches rated as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factoring in other Demand

3.57 As highlighted early, school demand, due to the fact that there are no school facilities in community use, will have little impact on community sport.

Latent Demand

3.58 Both cricket clubs are keen to attract new members, but there is no clear aspiration to develop additional teams.

Club Views

3.59 To date no responses have been received from either cricket club.

Impact of Quality on Capacity

3.60 No issues have been identified with pitch quality.

Ancillary Facilities

3.61 Changing room provision has not been raised as a specific issue in relation to cricket.

Pitch Access

3.62 No issues concerning access have been identified. This is largely due to the very low level of teams requiring a pitch, and the fact that each team has a home pitch.

Other issues and challenges

3.63 No issues have been identified for cricket, other than both clubs are keen to recruit new players.
Summary of Assessment Findings: Cricket

The headlines:

- There is currently sufficient pitch provision for the two cricket teams in Orkney, and each has a home pitch. Regular league fixtures are not played; the cricket season consists of some local games, but also several ‘tour’ games/competitive fixtures.

- No issues regarding quality either of pitches or changing facilities has been identified.
Rugby Union

Local clubs

3.64 There is 1 Rugby Club – Orkney Rugby Club, with 250 members and 2 teams. Membership is anticipated to increase by 50-80 members over the next 5 years. The first team plays league rugby mainly at the Pickaquoy Centre (two of the existing pitches provide for training, but also get used for football, whilst one pitch is used for competitive rugby, including National League matches, which means floodlights are required). The second team only plays cup games, mainly at Dounby. There is also junior training, and local tours, and mini training, with a monthly competition. Juniors also play games at the Pickaquoy Centre, but only when the seniors do not have a game.

3.65 Mini rugby is played on 4 sites in Orkney. The minis play in two different age groups: P4/5 and P6/7 and is open to both boys and girls. These sites include the Dounby Centre, Kirkwall Grammar School, and Stronness Academy.

3.66 There is also an annual Tag Rugby Festival; in 2011 over 500 school pupils from all over Orkney attended the event held at the Pickaquoy Centre. The membership of the Rugby Club is increasing as a result of these large junior participation events.

School demand and team equivalents

3.67 Although schools across Orkney play rugby, this does not impact upon community rugby, given that schools play on facilities on site and at off peak times. The pitch used by the Orkney Rugby Club is at the Pickaquoy Centre, which is not a school site.

Pitch Supply

3.68 There are 3 rugby pitches at the Pickaquoy Centre (only one really used for matches, as others are for training), plus one that is used in the off football season, but is in reality a football pitch, which causes some conflicts over use (at Dounby Primary School). In addition, there are 2 junior pitches which are used for training (there are some issues with these because of size, quality etc). Feedback suggests that there is a lack of training pitch facilities for rugby in Orkney. The existing rugby pitches are shown on Map 2.

Assessment results

3.69 Given that there are 5 full size pitches and 1 team playing regular league fixtures, there is sufficient pitch provision to meet demand for competitive play, but not necessarily for training, given the number of junior players involved.

Summary of assessment findings: Rugby Union

The headlines:

- The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is adequate to meet current and future demand for competitive play. Whilst there is significant junior development work ongoing, there is now an identifiable target of establishing more senior teams.

- There is a lack of appropriate training facilities for rugby; the short pile on existing and planned AGPs is unsuitable for contact rugby. The potential to develop an additional new AGP at the Dounby Centre could be considered as a means to address the lack of training provision for rugby, and particularly if
player numbers continue to grow.

- No issues concerning quality - pitch or changing, have been identified in relation to rugby union.

- No consultation response has been received from the Orkney Rugby Club. However, we are aware that sportscotland is in discussions with Orkney Rugby Club regarding potential improvements to the existing Pavilion. This is owned by OIC but there is potential to transfer the asset to Orkney Rugby Club, who might then apply for external funding.

- There is currently only 1 women's rugby team in Orkney, and no girls' rugby teams in Orkney, but potentially participation could be developed, which would increase access pressure on existing facilities, but could help to underpin the case for a further AGP at the Dounby Centre.
Hockey

Local clubs

3.70 There are 9 hockey clubs, generating 12 teams; all existing teams are female. The clubs all play at the Pickaquoy Centre as this is currently the site of the only AGP in Orkney. This position will change when new AGPs are constructed at Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy, as part of the School Investment Programme.

3.71 Currently, all league hockey games are played Monday – Thursday evenings at the Pickaquoy Centre; the season runs May to July. On average, 2 games are played on the AGP per night.

School demand and team equivalents

3.72 Given that hockey is played on AGPs with few capacity issues, and that community hockey (training and matches) are played outside of school time, school demand does not impact negatively on the use of pitches by community teams. However, other demand, from football teams for example, for training use of pitches does need to be considered.

Supply

3.73 There is currently only 1 AGP in Orkney suitable for hockey use. The existing AGP is shown on Map 2. This pitch has now been replaced by a sand-dressed facility to the rear of the Pickaquoy Centre. This is the only pitch in Orkney which is suitable for hockey at a level higher than S2/S3 level; the two new AGPs to be developed at Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy will be short pile 3G (40mm), this type of surface is only suitable for competitive hockey up to S2 / S3 level (position of Scottish Hockey).

Assessment

3.74 Given that there is currently only 1 AGP, and this is used by all existing 9 teams in Orkney, the assessment for hockey, given its modest presence in the borough focuses on specific issues and challenges faced by the local clubs.

Quantity of pitches

3.75 Because AGPs can generally support back to back fixtures, and the presence of floodlighting extends their use, they have significantly greater capacity than a natural turf pitch. Taking these factors into account, the current and future Playing Pitch Modelling for Hockey has been completed on the basis of an AGP being able to support up to 4 matches per day. Although this level of use may not actually be possible to accommodate, particularly in the evenings, theoretically, a good quality AGP should be capable of being used for 8 hours per day.

3.74 Peak demand for league hockey in Orkney is spread across weekday evenings. The demand generated by the 12 teams identified equates to an average of 2 matches each weekday evening. There is therefore currently sufficient provision to meet current demand. This is subject to priority use for hockey and does not necessarily take account of any specific access challenges.

3.75 In modelling the future levels of demand, consideration has been given to the levels of projected growth reported by the local clubs, which is negligible. Despite the fact that growth in the sport at local level appears unlikely, there is a need for at least one high quality full size floodlit AGP with hockey as the primary sport.

3.76 Planned capital expenditure through the School Investment Programme will see the development of 2 additional AGPs - 1 on Mainland Orkney (Kirkwall Grammar School, and this will also provide access for
Papdale Primary School), and 1 in Stromness. These additional facilities will relieve the pressure on the existing 1 AGP at the Pickaquoy Centre in terms of both training and matches for hockey, and training for football; local hockey clubs report having to ‘slot’ their games in around football training/5 aside, as football is the other main user of the pitch.

Quality of Pitch

3.77 Of the 2 clubs responding to the consultation, 1 thinks the pitch is good quality, and the other does not. During the period of developing this study, the new sand-dressed AGP has opened at the Pickaquoy Centre (June 2011). Clubs’ views on the quality of the changing rooms at the Pickaquoy Centre therefore vary on both the pitch and changing provision. The specific issue identified with the original pitch is the level of sand on the surface, which is too much for hockey play. Specific comments are also made on the distance of the new AGP from the Pickaquoy Centre, and the lack of changing and toilet provision adjacent to the pitch.

Factoring in other demand

3.78 The adequacy of the current 1 AGP provision could be challenged if the other potential use of AGPs is considered. In particular the potential demand for AGP use from the 30 football teams identified, casual sport and other forms of football (small sided games etc) all place demands on the existing facility.

Latent Demand

3.79 There are few indicators of latent demand. The clubs do not report any issues relating to suppressed demand. However, Orkney Hockey Club does identify that they would like to increase their current membership of 190 through developing junior membership.

Club Views

3.80 Views were only received from 2 of the 9 clubs identified. As reported above, there are some issues reported by the clubs related to availability and high levels of demand placed on the pitch as a result of a lack of other AGPs in the Islands.

Impact on Quality on Capacity

3.81 Given the high quality and high capacity in general of AGPs, subject to good levels of access and prioritisation for hockey, the assessment suggests quality does not adversely affect capacity.

Ancillary Facilities

3.82 Both Orkney Hockey Club and Kirkwall Ladies’ Hockey club rate the changing facilities at the Pickaquoy Centre as average. The non-technical visual inspection assessed the changing rooms as being a ‘good’ quality. Overall, facilities are broadly deemed to be adequate.

Pitch Access

3.83 Access has been considered from a number of perspectives. Specifically, access to affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire), and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective. The assessment highlights that:

- **Kirkwall Ladies Hockey Club** identify that the level of football use of the AGP pitch means it can at times, be difficult to get a hockey booking. The club also comments that the impact of studs being used on the AGP surface impacts on its suitability for hockey.
• Both respondent clubs think their membership numbers will remain static.

• Travel to the pitch ie distance and time, is not flagged as an issue by the clubs.

Summary of Assessment Findings: Hockey

The headlines:

• The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is sufficient to meet demand. This is on the assumption that access is secured for hockey use at the Pickaquoy pitch, at the appropriate times

• The quality of pitches is relatively good – although the Pickaquoy Centre pitch is being re-surfaced this year. It is also floodlit.

• Both respondent hock clubs identify the changing facilities for the AGP as adequate.

• Access to the existing AGP for hockey teams at some times can be very difficult given its level of use by local football teams for training and 5 aside.

Key Issues for Playing Pitch Provision

3.84 Based on the pitch assessments overall, there are a number of key issues to consider in terms of future playing pitch provision in Orkney. These include:

• There are currently sufficient football pitches to meet demand; however, the quality of some of these existing facilities is poor, or very poor, and it is this fact that means current pitch supply is insufficient. Many games have to be cancelled due to the pitches being water-logged/flooded; this means games cannot be played and yet the quality of the pitches means the season cannot be extended into the winter season (current season is over the spring and summer months). The impact of pitches being used too early, to try and ensure all games are played also has an impact due to their poor quality.

• There is a lack of good quality changing provision across around half of the pitch stock.

• OIC does not currently have any capital funding to invest in improving the quality of the pitches. The Sport and Leisure section used to have a budget of up to £40k per annum to upgrade pitches.

• The loss of the grass pitches at Kirkwall Grammar School for a temporary period will cause a short term problem for teams using these facilities.

• The ‘show pitch’ at the Pickaquoy Centre would benefit from floodlights; this would enable the season to be extended. In addition, provision of a spectator stand at this venue would increase spectating opportunities, which could deliver increased revenue, through sponsorship, to the Centre.

• OIC does not always obtain the booking fee for club use of pitches, particularly those on school sites, if the club has not advised the school that they are using the pitch. There is also an issue with clubs using isles pitches without pre-booking.

• Whilst the development of synthetic pitches will address many of the pitch quality issues, it will be important to ensure they are appropriately maintained, to ensure they remain good quality, and can increase pitch capacity.

• Given the fact that with the development of 2 new AGPs there will be 1 specific hockey surface, and 2 football specific surfaces, there is a need to ensure that the one AGP suitable for competitive hockey use
(as specified by Scottish hockey) is only used for hockey to improve the quality of the surface for hockey match play.

- Orkney Rugby club requires new facilities, as membership is increasing, facilitated by the clear and extensive development work being undertaken through the schools for Tag rugby.

- Given the locations of some of the existing OIC pitches, and the current financial context for OIC, where its revenue and capital budgets have reduced, there is significant potential to look at alternative means of managing, booking and maintaining pitches, particularly for those in the isles. A more local operation for pitches and other facilities eg play areas, could be a more effective way of managing existing resources. Adopting this approach could enable a co-ordinated delivery of indoor and outdoor facilities across the Islands.
4. Assessment and Analysis Summary – Non Pitch Facilities

Introduction

4.1 This section of the report includes an overview of non-pitch outdoor sports facilities and the key considerations for future planning. It provides the findings of assessments for AGPs, MUGAS, tennis courts and bowls greens, and considerations for athletics, golf and outdoor netball facilities based on desk research and basic modelling.

Artificial Grass Pitches and Formal Multi-Use Games Areas

4.2 This section of the report provides a summary of the current provision of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs). AGPs and MUGAs provide facilities for training for a number of the pitch sports assessed, in addition to accommodating more casual forms of the sports, such as 5-a-side football. Ensuring the provision of a network of accessible and high quality facilities is therefore a key priority, both in relation to providing an infrastructure to increase sports participation, but in relation to easing pressure and preventing over use of natural turf facilities.

Supply

4.3 A summary of the supply of AGPs and MUGAs is provided in the tables below.

AGP Assessment

4.4 There is currently limited AGP provision across the Island, particularly in relation to full size AGPs. The current provision identified is summarised in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Number of pitches</th>
<th>Type of Surface</th>
<th>Floodlit?</th>
<th>Community Use?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pickaquoy Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sand-based</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TO BE BUILT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkwall Grammar School</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Short pile 3G</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stromness Academy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Short pile 3G</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5 There is currently 1 full sized AGP in Orkney, at the Pickaquoy Centre, that is available for community use. This has now been replaced and re-located to the rear of the Pickaquoy Centre. Map 2 shows the current location of the full size AGP. There is currently discussion over whether this new pitch can be floodlit as a result of the new location’s proximity to housing; given the issues over pitch quality, and the demand for artificial surfaces, plus the aim of extending the season it is critical that this facility is floodlit. An option would be to consider dedicating this facility for hockey use which would enable it to be used until 9pm every night, as opposed to later if usage was required by both football and hockey.

4.6 This 1 AGP is used for all hockey league matches and football training. Key observations are:

- Currently limited full size AGP provision – and no full size 3G pitches currently provided
- No full size AGP provision in the isles
- The development of the 2 new AGPs through the School Investment Programme will address the current lack of 3G provision
• Heavy demand for existing full size pitches from both hockey and football, including imported demand (i.e. use by teams from outside of the County)

• Less than half of the local football clubs access formal training facilities, and only a small percentage of these use the AGPs currently because it is on the Mainland.

Future development of AGPs

4.7 An additional 2 AGPs are currently being developed as part of the School Investment Programme. Although these facilities are primarily for education use, all of the sports facilities on each site are subject to a community use agreement, which will secure access for local clubs, teams and individuals. There is also potential for another AGP to be developed at the Dounby Centre.

MUGA Assessment

4.8 The audit identified that there are currently no Multi-Use Games areas *(MUGA) in Orkney, although one is being developed at the new Stromness Primary School. There are separate tennis and netball courts (see Section 4), but no formal MUGAs, although there is an Arena System at the Pickaquoy Centre which provides for basketball and football. The provision of further MUGAs could provide local training facilities for teams and individuals, particularly in the isles, where there is heavy reliance for both match play and training on (usually), a single grass pitch.

Tennis Assessment Summary

4.9 As highlighted in the methodology overview, the Toward a Level Playing Field assessment methodology does not apply to tennis provision. The assessment therefore has followed the general principles of a supply and demand assessment. It has focussed more on local factors and an overview of current and planned provision in the context of an overall aspiration to provide an accessible network of facilities across the borough.

Demand

4.10 It does not appear that there is a formal tennis club in Orkney, although there are courts in three locations.

4.11 Given the relatively small population, the fact that this is stable over the next 10 years, and the current participation levels in the main pitch sports, it is assumed that demand for tennis is around 1% of the population, and is predominantly casual use.

4.12 This equates to 201 potential regular adult participants (at least once in a four week period).

Demand Assumptions

4.13 For the purposes of the modelling completed it has been assumed that regular players will participate at least once per week, particularly during the summer months. The number of weekly players is therefore estimated to be in the region of 201 equating to demand for at least an hour session per week. It has been assumed an average of 3 players per court, to take account of some singles and some doubles usage.

4.14 Based on an average availability of 20 hours community use per week per court (this will be higher or lower for some courts, and for some periods during the year) there is an estimated need for around 3 courts to accommodate current demand across the borough (demand for 67 hours accommodated within a peak period of 20 hours). This is calculated on the basis of demand being evenly spread across the 20 hour peak period. The model provides an indication only and is the minimum level of demand. Many other factors, including seasonal fluctuations, local initiatives etc will impact on demand levels.
Supply

Court Quantity and Access

4.15 There is limited current provision with only 5 tennis courts in total across 3 different sites. Of these sites, all have secured community access,

**Figure 7 - Tennis Court Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orkney Islands</th>
<th>Number of Courts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirkwall Swimming Pool and Sports Centre</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Margaret Hope School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dounby Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Islands Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.16 The information above illustrates that there is limited provision of tennis courts currently across the Islands, and that all existing provision is on the main island of Orkney. The development of multi-use games areas in some of the isles could address this situation, as MUGAs can be used for tennis, netball, football training etc.

4.17 There are also indoor tennis courts available in Orkney at the Pickaquoy Centre. These courts are in the Arena area of the Centre, and are mainly used for short tennis.

Court Quality

4.18 The assessment did not identify any issues with the quality of the existing outdoor tennis courts which are average to good, although the court at the Dounby centre is starting to deteriorate. The indoor courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, are good.

Summary of assessment findings: Tennis

The headlines:

5. The assessment indicates that the current supply is sufficient for the estimated demand for tennis in Orkney. The issue is that all existing courts, indoor and outdoor, are on the Mainland. There are therefore no tennis courts in the isles, and there may be latent demand in these smaller islands for tennis, which cannot be addressed due to lack of facilities. Provision of multi-use games areas could help to address this and other previously identified needs eg football training facilities in the smaller communities.

6. No issues have been identified concerning the quality of existing outdoor or indoor tennis courts.

7. There do not appear to be any tennis clubs on the Islands.

8. There is unlikely to be significant additional future demand for tennis in Orkney given the stable future population, current levels of participation and the lack of facilities except for on the main island, unless there is a specific focused programme of tennis development through the local schools.
Bowls Assessment Summary

Demand

4.19 The audit identified 3 bowling clubs in Orkney (see paragraph 4.230, none of which responded to the consultation exercise completed. It is therefore difficult to be clear about the number of club members and the current level of active players. However it is known that the Brandyquoy Bowling Club has a very active membership, and operates effectively. This Club leases its premises from OIC, who grant aid the Club. The West Mainland Bowling Club is proposing to develop a 3 rink green at the Dounby Centre and is currently seeking funding. This will include an all weather surface.

Demand Assumptions

4.20 For the purpose of modelling levels of demand, we have made an assumption that there are around 200 regular participants in Orkney. For Bowls we have made the assumption that demand equates to a 2 hour weekly visit (or 2 x 1 hour sessions) and that all of the regular bowling participants will visit at least once per week during the peak season.

4.21 We have assumed that this demand will be spread over a 20 hour period across the week to take account of casual and competition play during the day and during evenings. This does not necessarily reflect the total time greens are available, but is on the basis of most players being members of local clubs and the absence of significant floodlit facilities or any artificial greens.

4.22 On the basis of the number of weekly players estimated to be in the region of 200 demand equates to around 400 hours per week of individual usage. This equates to a weekly average of around 40 hours of demand based on an average capacity of 10 people per green at any one time. If the 40 hours is evenly distributed across a peak period of 20 hours then there is an estimated need for around 2 greens.

Supply

Bowling Green Quantity and Access

4.23 The audit identifies 3 sites providing a total of 5 greens which currently have public use and are included in the assessment calculation. A list of bowling greens is provided in Figure 15. One issue to consider is that all existing bowling facilities are on the main island and therefore there is an accessibility deficit for those in the isles, which may mean there is unidentified latent demand.

Figure 15 – Bowls Greens in Orkney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bowling Greens</th>
<th>Number of Greens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandyquoy Green, Kirkwall Bowling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Margaret Hope</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Mainland Bowling Club</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands Total</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.24 It is known that the existing bowlers are keen to see the provision of new indoor rinks to enable year round participation in bowling, given the weather in Orkney; they would like to see indoor rinks built at the Pickaquoy Centre.

Bowling Green Quality

4.25 There have been no issues identified in relation to the quality of existing bowling greens,
Assessment Results

4.26 The current level of provision would appear to be sufficient to meet estimated demand from bowling participants. Given that no bowling clubs have provided any additional information it is difficult to identify the specific issues they have in relation to facilities. It may be that the weather is a driving force behind the desire to develop a new dedicated indoor bowling facility in Orkney, to enable year round play and increased and more regular participation.

4.27 Given that the population of Orkney will remain stable over the next 10 years, there is unlikely to be significant additional demand for bowls in the future.

Assessment Summary: Bowls

The headlines:

4. The assessment indicates sufficient supply to accommodate estimated regular demand, in all areas the Islands currently and when taking account of potential future growth
5. There have been no specific issues identified in relation to the quality of existing bowls facilities.
6. All existing bowls facilities are on the main island, which does mean there is an accessibility deficit the isles, and this may be obscuring latent demand.

Golf Overview

Demand

4.28 Based on UK figures around 3.5% of the population play golf on a regular basis. In Orkney this equates to around 707 people who play golf on a regular basis. On average most golf clubs with an 18 hole course would have a membership of between 600-700 members. Based on this figure, there is a relatively low golf playing population in Orkney, but significant provision. There is however significant development work undertaken through the Regional Golf Development Manager, and also the Active Schools Manager. One initiative includes every Primary 5 age child having an experience of golf.

Supply

4.29 There are currently 6 golf courses in Orkney. A summary of existing provision is outlined below:

1. **Kirkwall Golf Course** (municipal) is located in Kirkwall, and is an 18 hole course, on the main island of Orkney. Orkney Golf Club is based at this course.

2. **Stromness Golf Course** (municipal) is an 18 hole course located in Stromness, on the main island. The Club here is seeking to develop existing facilities.

3. **South Ronaldsay Golf Course** (municipal) provides a 9 hole course located in the isles.

4. **Westray Golf Course** (municipal) is a 9 hole seaside links course located in the isles. The Club has received monies for course improvement and coastal erosion works.

5. **Sanday Golf Course** is a 9 hole (municipal) fun-sized links course located in the isles.

6. **North Ronaldsay Golf Course** – 9 hole links course (municipal)
Headline Golf Assessment

4.30 There appears to be adequate provision in relation to levels of demand. There are a number of datasets and indicators to suggest this including:

- The optimum membership level per club (based on the EGU survey response) is around 645 per club. Profiled across the provision in Orkney, this suggests an indicative capacity for members of around 3,225, which is more than sufficient for estimated current demand.

- It is estimated that most courses (depending on opening hours, tee times, split of foursomes v pairs and maintenance regimes etc) could accommodate around 30,000 (but potentially more) rounds per year. Based on this figure and the presence of two 18 hole courses and three 9 holes courses in the Islands, there is an estimated capacity of around 115,000 rounds. Divided by an estimated 3,225 golf participants, this equates to each participant playing an average of 35-36 times per year, or 3 times per month.

Athletics Overview

Demand

4.31 Participation in athletics is assumed to be between 4-5% of the population. There has been no response from the athletics club to the consultation survey.

Supply

4.33 The Pickaquoy Centre is the home of the only athletics track in Orkney. The track is a synthetic, floodlit, 8 lane, 400m circuit track, together with facilities for field events. The track is of a good quality; OIC spent £90k 2 years ago in refurbishing the track. A new grass athletics track will also be provided at the new Kirkwall Grammar School.

Headline Assessment

4.34 The guide for provision levels is one outdoor synthetic track (6 or 8 lanes) per 250,000 population within 20 minutes drive (45 minutes in rural areas). Given that the population of Orkney is predicted to increase to 21,501 by 2023, the nature and level of existing athletics track provision fulfils both current future demand.

4.35 The accessibility issue is that the facility is based on the Mainland, and there is no athletics provision in the isles. However, the athletics track is located in the main town and on the Mainland, where 75% of the population of Orkney live.

Other Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities

4.36 The natural environment of Orkney means they provide significant opportunities for a range of other outdoor sports and activities. Existing activities include walking, climbing, sailing, cycling, golfing, fishing and a range of water sports including surfing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, diving and kayaking. Water sports take place on inland lochs, and in the sea. Orkney also provide spectacular scenery and lovely beaches.

4.37 Orkney’s natural environment and the opportunities it provides for a range of outdoor pursuits and activities are well promoted in terms of the islands being a holiday and visitor destination, as well as providing for its residents.

---

2 Assumption that 9 hole course is equivalent to half a 18 hole course
4.38 The main opportunities for outdoor activities and sports are summarised below in Figure 16:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUTDOOR ACTIVITY/PURSUITS</th>
<th>NATURAL PROVISION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>500 miles of coastline&lt;br&gt;Island of Hoy – breathtaking scenery&lt;br&gt;Mull Head, East mainland&lt;br&gt;Binscarth Wood – 7.5 acre woodland&lt;br&gt;Wasdale loch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Observation</td>
<td>Seabird colonies – over 1m gather in great ‘cities’ on the cliffs&lt;br&gt;Dolphins, porpoises, whales&lt;br&gt;RSPB nature reserve, West mainland&lt;br&gt;Wetland bird habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diving</td>
<td>Scapa Flow 24km x 13km, with 8 German warships preserved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>Various routes across the Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Sights</td>
<td>Neolithic heartland – World Heritage status&lt;br&gt;Skara brae&lt;br&gt;Skaill beach&lt;br&gt;Churchill Barriers&lt;br&gt;Stenness Standing Stones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Loch fishing&lt;br&gt;Sea and Shore angling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>Safe and attractive anchorages,&lt;br&gt;Annual Orkney Challenge Yacht race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing</td>
<td>Hoy sea cliffs – the Old Man&lt;br&gt;St John’s Head – highest UK vertical sea cliff 351m&lt;br&gt;The kame – 1000 ft cliffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking and canoeing</td>
<td>Sheltered shorelines close to the Churchill Barriers&lt;br&gt;Open water crossings to the far flung islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing and kitesurfing</td>
<td>Large sandy and unspoilt, uncrowded beaches&lt;br&gt;Open water crossings to the far flung islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi sports</td>
<td>Orkney plays host to a middle distance Triathlon, and the Hoy Half marathon,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kite flying</td>
<td>Excellent facilities on flat sandy beaches and in Bignold park, Kirkwall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motocross</td>
<td>Several events held by local clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseriding</td>
<td>Indoor arena, market stance, Kirkwall&lt;br&gt;Outdoor routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Centres</td>
<td>3 OIC centres running residential courses in a range of outdoor activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.39 OIC developed an Outdoor Access strategy in 2006; this document highlights the need for improved signposting to local outdoor opportunities and facilities, particularly walking routes, to ensure awareness of the path network.

4.40 Given the wide range of outdoor participative activities in the Islands, it is clear that there is a need for good quality, well-co-ordinated information advising people where to go and where not to go, and when; publicised information sources for advice about weather and wind conditions is also important.

4.41 Safety is a further critical issue to consider in promoting activities, which, in the main are unsupervised, and undertaken at individual risk. Tourist information points and material should provide appropriate advice and guidance, updated through good communication links with local clubs, participants and OIC.
4.40 It is important to preserve and conserve both the natural environment of Orkney, and ensure that outdoor activities can be undertaken in such ideal natural environments. The opportunities for a wide range of activities in such beautiful surroundings is unique and clearly has an economic and well and environmental value to Orkney.

**Play Areas**

4.42 There are a significant number of play areas currently provided across Orkney; there are 14 in Kirkwall and 6 in Stromness on the Mainland alone. A further 11 play areas are provided elsewhere on the Mainland, and 12 around the isles.

4.43 Provision of a range of good quality play areas is very important, and should be accessible to all communities. However, trying to provide and maintain an excessive number of play areas can be counter productive, as the quality of provision will suffer.

4.44 It may be that there is an opportunity to rationalise some of the existing play areas currently provided, without impacting negatively on the range and value offered to local communities, and particularly young people, as part of alternative future operational deliver arrangements. Adopting this approach may also provide the opportunity to link a range of indoor and outdoor facility provision on one site and deliver it locally, as opposed to the current multi-site management, where there appears to be a myriad of different arrangements for different facilities.
5 Assessment and Analysis Summary Indoor Facilities

Introduction

5.1 The Orkney Islands as a whole has an extensive range on indoor sports facility provision, both formal and informal. Overall, the provision is of a very good quality.

5.2 The majority of the formal indoor sports facilities are on the Mainland; the five key community sites are:

- The Pickaquoy Centre,
- Kirkwall Grammar School, (there will be no community sport and leisure provision here for 2 years during the School Investment Programme developments)
- Stromness Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre,
- The Dounby Centre
- Stromness Academy

5.3 Of these key sites, only the Pickaquoy Centre is a community leisure facility; the other three facilities have secured community use after school, evenings, weekends, and school holidays. Facilities at the three school sites are used by the schools during the day.

5.4 The rest of the existing indoor sports facility provision comprises Healthy Living Centres, Community Centres – both these facility types are operated by OIC, Community Halls, and some Independent Halls. Community Associations across Orkney operate Community Hall, outside of school times, and manage the isles pools, and schools mange facilities during the school day; each management arrangements is site specific. Where there is a pool on site in the isles, Community Associations take the income from usage of this facility.

5.5 OIC has invested significant capital in the development of its indoor facilities over recent years, including provision of the Healthy Living Centres (a total of £1m, including £500k from sportscotland). OIC takes the income from usage of the Healthy Living Centres.

Quantity of Provision

5.6 Indoor sports facility provision in Orkney comprises:

- Swimming Pools (2 Mainland pools and 4 isles pools)
- Sports centres (3)
- Community Centres (2)
- Community Halls (32)
- Play Areas (42)
- Healthy Living Centres (10)
- The Pickaquoy Centre

5.7 Figure 16 illustrates the extensive range of indoor sports facility provision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY NAME</th>
<th>FACILITY LOCATION</th>
<th>FACILITY PROVISION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS CENTRES AND SWIMMING POOLS</td>
<td>Kirkwall</td>
<td>Arena/sports hall 8 court; Fitness Zone; Health Zone; Quayside Suite; Jungle World; Stadium Café; Stadium Bar; Cinema; Meeting rooms; Creche; AGP; Athletics Track;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### FACILITY NAME | FACILITY LOCATION | FACILITY PROVISION
--- | --- | ---
Kirkwall Swimming Pool and Sports Centre | Kirkwall | 25m x 10.8m swimming pool; 4 court Sports hall; Climbing Wall; Gymnasium; Teen gym; Outdoor Pitches
Stromness Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre | Stromness | 25m x 9m Swimming pool; Health Suite; Fitness Suite, Squash Court
Dounby Centre | Dounby | 4 badminton court sports hall; Fitness Suite; general purpose rooms; 2 Outdoor pitches
Stromness Academy | Stromness | 4 Badminton Court Sports Hall; Gymnasium

### COMMUNITY CENTRES
Stromness Community Centre | Stromness |
Kirkwall and St Ola Community Centre | Kirkwall |

### INDEPENDENT HALLS
Deerness | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Rendall | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Birsay | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Sandwick | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Firth | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Cromarty | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Tankerness | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall
Holm | Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall

### SWIMMING POOLS
North Walls Junior High Isles | 9m x 4.5m |
Westray Junior high Isles | 15m x 6m |
Sanday Junior High Isles | 15m x 6m |
Stromsay Junior High Isles | 15m x 9m |

### HEALTHY LIVING CENTRES
St Margaret’s Hope Papdale | 9 station gym |
North Walls Junior High Isles | 9 station gym |
Westray Junior High Isles | 7 station gym |
Sanday Junior High Isles | 12 station gym |
Stromsay Junior High Isles | 12 station gym |
Shapinsay Primary school Isles | 12 station gym |
Rousay Isles | 9 station gym |

### COMMUNITY HALLS
Eday Isles | – generally around a badminton court sized hall |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITY NAME</th>
<th>FACILITY LOCATION</th>
<th>FACILITY PROVISION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flotta (school is mothballed)</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Ronaldsay</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronsay</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanday</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westray</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Walls</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rousay</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapinsay</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papa Westray</td>
<td>Isles</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY HALLS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burray</td>
<td>Burray</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dounby</td>
<td>Dounby</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evie</td>
<td>Evie</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firth</td>
<td>Firth</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Margaret’s Hope</td>
<td>Papdale</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papdale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Andrews</td>
<td>St Andrews</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stenness</td>
<td>Stenness</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stromness</td>
<td>Stromness</td>
<td>– generally around a badminton court sized hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.8 There is significant community involvement in many of the above facilities, particularly at the Community Halls (Community Associations, and the Healthy Living Centres). At the latter, which are open for around 16-18 hours per week, and have an annual usage of around 9,000, a ‘buddy system’ is now being trialled to enable access through the day. The idea is that users go in pairs to address safety concerns; this will enable increased access and potentially could increase usage levels. There is always a designated keyholder for the facility on site.

5.9 At the Isles pools, trained members of the community undertake lifeguarding duties.

5.10 Map 4 shows all the swimming pools in the Isles. Map 5 shows all the sports halls in the Isles, and Map 6 shows all the fitness suites in the Isles, including the Healthy Living Centres.

5.11 In addition to the facilities identified above, there is other indoor provision across the Mainland. This includes the Stromness Squash Club, Air Rifle facilities at the TA Centre, Kirkwall, Dance Studios, and an Indoor Riding Arena. There are also archery facilities at the Pickaquoy Centre and Market Green, Stromness (both use airfields).
5.12 Clay Pigeon facilities are provided at Quoloo Quarry, Sandwick. The Clay Pigeon Shooting Club is very keen to see a new facility developed and provided. Unfortunately the Club has not responded to consultation so further details need to be identified to assess this need.

5.13 Full details of the existing facilities are included at Appendix 8.

Quality of provision

5.14 As previously stated the majority of the indoor facilities are of a very good quality. It will be critical to maintain this level and nature of quality in the future to ensure the current levels of usage and revenue generation.

5.15 Given the current level of provision maintaining quality will be a challenge, because there is less funding available for investment. This issue needs to be taken into account in determining the way forward for operational delivery.

Accessibility – dual use etc

5.16 No issues have been identified, or raised in relation to accessibility of indoor facilities. Given that Mainland Orkney is the location of 75% of the local population, it is inevitable that the majority of provision will be in Kirkwall and Stromness. This ensures maximum opportunities for usage, and critically means provision is more sustainable. However, focussing provision on the Mainland does not, and should not, imply that there is no need to provide for communities living in the isles. Facilities provided in the isles should complement that on the Mainland, and should provide access to core indoor and outdoor activities eg a multi-purpose hall, fitness suite and outdoor play and pitches. Facilities such as swimming pools need to be more strategically located, given their operational costs and management responsibilities.

Management and Operation

5.17 The majority of existing indoor facilities in Orkney are operated by OIC. The Pickaquoy Centre is however operated by a separate Trust; this means that currently different prices are in place for OIC and The Pickaquoy Centre facilities.

5.18 The exceptions are the OIC Community Centres and Community Halls, which, out of school hours, are operated by Community Associations. In addition, Stromness Academy facilities are currently managed by the School, but would benefit from management by the Sport and Leisure section, given that it already manages Stromness Swimming Pool, to maximise usage and community benefit, and deliver economies of scale in operational management arrangements.

5.19 Examples could include improved marketing, a range of classes, and improved operational arrangements, which would increase usage and income and improve operational effectiveness.

5.20 OIC has limited current and future financial and other resources which it can dedicate to sport and leisure provision. Therefore it needs to invest these resources as effectively as possible, to make sure its provision is accessible to as many of the local community as possible.

Hierarchy of Facility Provision

5.21 Developing a hierarchy of provision, relating to the identified settlement hierarchy is critical to inform and guide future operational structures. The Pickaquoy Centre is clearly the largest facility, providing the widest range of indoor and outdoor provision in Orkney. Appropriately this facility is located in Kirkwall. Operated by a stand alone trust, this facility is complemented by the 3 dual use facilities at
Stromness (operated by Stromness Academy), Kirkwall Grammar School and the Dounby Centre (operated by OIC). OIC also operates Stromness Swimming Pool.

5.22 Given the existing locations of facilities, and the planned investment in provision across Orkney, it is clear that the facility hierarchy provides three main community hubs:

- **The Pickaquoy Centre**,
- **Stromness Swimming Pool and Squash Court, and Stromness Academy**
- **The Dounby Centre**,

5.23 These three community hubs provide both indoor and outdoor provision, and correspond to the main population settlements. Other smaller provision, often single facility types eg pool, pitch is located around the isles and provides for settlements of less than 100 people. Relating this hierarchy to the identified settlement levels in the Orkneys clearly provides most effectively for the population levels:

- **Main towns Kirkwall and Stromness** – The Pickaquoy Centre, Stromness facilities
- **Village settlements 400-600 residents** – The Dounby Centre, Healthy living Centres
- **Rural settlements 10-100 residents** - Healthy Living Centres, Community Associations

5.24 Given that there is already a Trust operating the Pickaquoy Centre there is significant potential to consider extending the remit of this organisation to manage all sport and leisure facilities in Orkney, as part of a wider leisure and cultural sector. The Leisure and Culture sector will potentially see a budget reduction of 24% in the next three years and savings will be sought across service areas. Including existing community hub facilities under the remit of the trust would be likely to realise National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) savings, and potentially also some VAT savings. There would also be likely to be operational management efficiencies through this wider and integrated approach.

5.25 Managing all community hub sport and leisure facilities under one organisation would be beneficial in terms of consistency of quality, service delivery, pricing and operational approaches. It would also be more effective for one body to support the community associations and potentially local clubs to take on increased management responsibility for a range of indoor and outdoor facilities in the isles. Critically, managing all main facilities under one organisation would be more likely to ensure equity of access to provision, (a key strand of Scotland’s Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan), and long term sustainability. It would also ensure all current management and expertise in the operational delivery and development of sport and leisure facilities, (and potentially the Outdoor activity Centres) was maintained in one organisation. This approach would complement the operational management and delivery of the cultural and arts provision in Orkney, for which a Trust is also being considered.

**Club Comments**

5.26 Unfortunately, no consultation feedback, other than received from netball (see end Section 4), has been returned by identified clubs/stakeholders in relation to indoor provision.

**Planned Facility Developments**

5.27 The Pickaquoy Centre is due to be extended to provide a new swimming pool; this will complement the existing extensive range of indoor and outdoor community facilities on this flagship site.

5.28 There will be 3 new squash courts at the Pickaquoy Centre once the investment in facilities is complete. This will mean four squash courts in total (including the one adjacent to Stromness swimming pool) will be available for community use.
5.29 Sanday and Stronsay Sports Halls have aspirations to deliver indoor sports facilities in the future and they are currently considering options and funding opportunities. This could provide an opportunity to provide indoor space eg a 3 court sportshall, which is currently lacking in both schools. Both schools struggle to deliver PE at the moment, which clearly impacts on the levels of physical activity of their pupils.

**Sport by Sport Analysis**

5.30 Indoor facilities provide for a wide range of indoor sports, although levels of participation vary significantly between sports, as set out below:

5.31 **Badminton** – there are 8 badminton courts at the Pickaquoy centre, 3 at Kirkwall Grammar School and 3 at the Dounby Centre. Courts are well used by groups, clubs and individuals, including sessions for the 50+ etc, often through the school day.

5.32 **Basketball** – there is a basketball court at the Pickaquoy Centre but there is currently little participation in this sport.

5.33 **Gymnastics** – there is no dedicated gymnastics facility in Orkney although ‘Get the Balance’ sessions are run at the Pickaquoy Centre. There is also currently no gymnastics club in Orkney, although there are proposals to develop one, and work with this to develop participation in the future.

5.34 **Martial Arts** – the majority of martial arts take place at Kirkwall Grammar School, run by clubs.

**Netball Overview**

**Demand**

5.35 Based on the survey response from Netball Orkney, 350 women currently play netball regularly. It is anticipated that this number could increase by 50 over the next 5 years. There are currently 15 senior teams playing in the Orkney League, 12 school teams playing in the Primary School League, various teams playing at U17, U15 and U13 level, and two Orkney representative teams at senior and U15 level. The majority of competitive netball is played indoors, and most training also uses indoor courts, but demand means some has to take place on outdoor courts.

**Supply**

5.36 There are 3 existing outdoor netball courts, all sited on the Mainland. There are courts at the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall Swimming Pool and Sports Centre, Kirkwall, and at Stromness Academy.

5.37 There is also an indoor netball court at the Pickaquoy Centre, in the Arena.

**Headline Assessment**

5.38 Based on the identified demand for netball in Orkney and the current level of supply, Netball Orkney state that existing provision is insufficient to meet the current levels of need for both matches and training. Different age groups have to share training times; this is not ideal given the varying ability levels between ages of players. Feedback from Netball Orkney identifies that the courts and changing provision at the Pickaquoy Centre, and Kirkwall Grammar School are good, but that the changing facilities at Stromness Grammar School is only average. All existing netball courts are based on the Mainland which means there is an accessibility deficiency for residents of the isles, and this may mask some latent demand.
5.39 **Racquetball** - Racquetball development work is ongoing to develop participation; the sport is played on existing squash courts.

5.40 **Squash** – the squash court at Stromness is used by Stromness Squash Club, but is managed through the Stromness Swimming Pool, which is adjacent. Development work would benefit the use of this court, to encourage increased participation. Kirkwall Squash Club, which will use the new courts at Kirkwall Grammar School is currently being supported to develop participation and grow the Club. The new courts will be managed through the dual-use arrangement at the site.

5.41 **Swimming** – there are currently 6 swimming pools in Orkney, 2 on the Mainland at Stromness Pools and Fitness Centre and Kirkwall Grammar School, and 4 isles pools. The existing pool at Kirkwall Grammar Scholl will close once the new 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor opens at the Pickaquoy Centre. The opening of this new pool facility will link to the development of a new Swimming Development Plan for Orkney and a new Learn to Swim programme. In addition, the Regional Swimming Development manager is currently working with the two existing swimming clubs – Kirkwall Swimming Club and Stromness Swimming club to facilitate joint working and a shared developmental approach, to maximise the benefits of the new pool. Swimming lessons will continue to be provided at all 6 pools, in the future, as all sites except two have qualified swimming teachers on site.

5.42 **Volleyball** - there is a volleyball court at the Pickaquoy Centre; there appears to be considerable interest and has been played to a reasonable standard in recent years. There is an Orkney team (male and female and mini leagues)

**Identified Facility Needs**

5.43 **sports**scotland has a number of identified priority sports; OIC wish to link their priorities in terms of investment and development to these national priorities, whilst taking into account local needs. Each **sports**scotland priority sport is able to call on the resources of a Regional Development manager, which is obviously critical for OIC, given that its own sport development resources have reduced significantly.

5.44 The priority sports OIC will focus on include: football, rugby, golf, swimming, athletics, squash and gymnastics, plus provision for disability sport, which is currently very under-developed in Orkney, although all the programmes offered are fully inclusive. Active Schools also run Botcha and Curling sessions, plus Top Disability.

5.45 On the basis of the assessment undertaken for indoor sports it is clear there is a need to consider additional indoor bowls rinks, provision for gymnastics, provision for disability participation, additional netball courts (specifically for training), and multipurpose indoor space for both Sanday and Stronsay Junior schools. Currently both schools have very limited indoor provision through their school/community halls.

5.46 In addition to these needs, there is potential to further develop the existing Strength and Conditioning Gym which is located at the Pickaquoy Centre. An extended remit for this facility as part of the Highlands and Islands Regional Sports Partnership (covers Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles and Highland Councils), could support all sports, and enable identified talented athletes to use the gym (part of the **sports**scotland Area Institute - Highlands as part of their training programme. £10k has already been contributed to the existing facility by **sports**scotland, and given the development of the new pool, there is now an opportunity to relocate the facility within the new pool area.

**Key Issues**

5.47 Based on the existing level and nature of provision, plus the stakeholder feedback received, there are a number of key issues for indoor facility provision. These are summarised below:
Orkney Island Council
Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy

- Sports development is no longer OIC driven – therefore there is a potential role for local clubs to take this on
- Potential for development of Community Sports Officer role
- Potential to be the site of the sportscotland Area Institute - Highlands; the strength and conditioning room is already supported by sportscotland
- Potential for Community Associations to manage pitches, school facilities, and play areas – fewer better quality facilities
- Too many play areas 8/9 in Kirkwall alone – need to rationalise
- Kirkwall Squash Club losing members; now supported by Scottish Squash to develop participation at local level
- Need to ensure sustainability of existing provision, both in quality terms and long term sustainability, therefore appropriate resources will need to be identified
- Current number of operational management structures, resulting in pricing and management differences across facilities
- Given reducing resources, there is a need to ensure maximum effectiveness in terms of operational delivery of sport and leisure facilities moving forwards
6 Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the key conclusions of the assessments and research completed.

6.2 In order to develop specific recommendations that form the basis of strategy and action moving forward, a number of policy options have been appraised in relation to the assessment results. The outcome of this review has helped to shape the overall strategy and approach to tackling the deficiencies highlighted. A brief summary of the review is detailed below.

Policy Options Appraisal

6.3 Any option to address the findings of the assessments and the priorities emerging from these is going to require significant investment (not necessarily financial) and time to address. There is no quick fix, and any strategy needs to be phased and incremental. It needs to have partnership working at its core and adopt the ‘sweating the asset’ principle as a fundamental approach. Underpinning this is a need to be realistic about the current position (or baseline), the ideal position, and the amount of progress that can be made towards this.

6.4 An appraisal of a number of policy options has been completed to determine which are most appropriate to address the assessment findings.

Changing the use of existing pitches: ‘Re-designation’

6.5 This policy is most appropriate when there is a large surplus in provision for one sport, and deficiency in others, particularly in relation to winter sports. It is normally particularly relevant for football where junior and mini soccer provision is relatively easy to provide on existing adult pitches. It is less straightforward to re-designate surplus football pitches into rugby pitches. In addition to different pitch dimension and specifications, rugby is very much a club focussed game. Addressing any deficiencies in rugby provision for example must take into account the location of clubs, the location of existing demand and the subsequent usability of these pitches. It is also important to consider the ownership of the current stock of pitches – from the Council’s perspective re-designation is ordinarily only viable across pitch stock in their direct control. The usefulness of this option needs to be considered in light of the overall assessment findings. In football in particular, there is in most areas a ‘net’ sufficiency.

There is a need to consider this option in relation to potentially providing new facilities for rugby and if there is significant investment in developing junior and mini football, for both boys and girls, and junior cricket.

Dual-use facilities and greater use of education pitches

6.6 This policy option is most appropriate when there is a large stock of high quality education facilities not in community use, and commitment from schools to open their facilities for wider use. In the case of Orkney, all existing and the planned pitches, on school sites are available for community use.

This option is in effect already in place, and is being further extended through the School Investment Programme developments.

Enhancing carrying capacity through improving the quality of pitches

6.7 This option has most impact where there is generally poor provision across available stock, but the potential to improve provision at a number of key sites to increase capacity. The audit identified that only around half of existing football pitches are viewed as being of a ‘good’ standard, and in many cases access to quality changing provision is poor. There is therefore potential to target some
investment at key sites to increase the overall capacity of key sites. This would need to be done in conjunction with other policy options and through ensuring the use of all pitches, and managed appropriately (i.e. not overplayed).

This option should be explored and a number of priority sites are identified in the recommendations, with a focus on multi-pitch sites, where practicable, given the geography of the Islands. The option needs to be considered alongside other options, particularly those involving potential changes to management and maintenance, of both indoor and outdoor facilities. There is a potential to develop community partnerships to maximise sustainability. Carrying capacity needs to be monitored as current multi-pitch sites are over used - any investment in improvements to quality needs to be supported by sufficient maintenance packages. Given the climate in the Orkneys additional investment in AGPs may provide the optimum solution to pitch quality and over use. There is potential to develop another AGP at the Dounby centre site, which could benefit both rugby and football, given the current level of pitch use at this site.

Changing the use of other existing recreational open space

6.8 This option is most appropriate when there is a known surplus of provision across other types (typologies) of open space that could, at modest cost be brought into use as sports pitches.

This option is not relevant to Orkney given the topography and geography of the islands, and the population distribution etc.

Bringing into play unmarked and disused facilities

6.9 This option is relevant where there is existing land designated as playing pitch provision which is currently disused or unmarked and could address local deficiencies. Currently, 4 pitches are not being used for football in Orkney due to their quality; investment is needed to improve quality and stimulate demand. (Some sites are under used, and have low levels of demand because their quality is lacking).

The audit has identified a number of sites that were recently used for playing pitches. This option therefore has some potential to help address some of the findings, but it is not viewed as much a priority as improving the quality and access to existing multi-pitch, or good quality sites.

Management options, including Community Asset Transfer and long term leasing

6.10 This option is most appropriate where there is a track record of this policy resulting in more effective investment and access to external funding, improvements in quality etc and where there is also adequate provision to service demand created by the emergence of new clubs / teams. The option is more attractive where there is a surplus or adequate provision in a local level, and less pressure on facilities. In relation to Orkney, there may be opportunity to manage isles pitches at a more local level, given the models already in place for indoor facilities.

6.11 There is also an opportunity to transfer assets in different models and governance arrangements e.g. community sports hubs and community interest companies. There are already a number of models used across the Council’s current portfolio of pitches.

6.12 Under certain arrangements, through a partnership model, assets can be made available to service several sports, clubs, teams and schools and enough flexibility can be built in to allow for other ad hoc casual hire, particularly if quality and carrying capacity is improved and specialist provision (e.g. AGPs) are installed.
There is significant potential for this option to be explored further, dependent on the Council’s policy on priority use of pitches. In some areas, transferring assets to one club when there may be several clubs demanding additional facilities could have an overall negative impact. It is suggested that the option is piloted in more detail, and further research is needed to explore capacity and willingness of sports clubs, leagues and community associations to adopt this approach.

Develop new playing pitch facilities on new sites

6.13 This option is generally a ‘last resort’ approach when all other options have been explored given the capital investment implications. It is only appropriate where there is a lack of provision overall and deficiencies across a number of sports which cannot be fully addressed by implementing the policy options outlined above.

This option is not deemed relevant for Orkney in light of the assessment findings, with the exception of highlighting the opportunity at the Dounby centre for provision of an additional AGP to continue to address the pitch quality issue. The supply audit has identified a substantial number of former pitch sites with potential (subject to investment) for bringing back into use should the need arise.

Playing Pitch Recommendations

6.14 It is clear from the appraisals that although there is no one policy option that will adequately address the playing pitch assessment findings and issues and challenges emerging from these, a number do present a viable approach on which to base a future strategy.

6.15 However, a reality is that public sector funding is reducing and not increasing – this means the context for delivery of a future strategy is focused on protecting existing provision and that new and improved facilities have to be realised through external funding (capital and revenue). Therefore the following prioritised recommendations are made in relation to future playing pitch provision:

• Recommendation 1 (R1) - Enabling leases and/or Community Asset Transfers to community sports hubs (multi-sport groups, collectives and social enterprises) where there are clear sports participation benefits, with appropriate access rights for schools, leagues and other user groups – this would required Dedicated Officer enabling support

• Recommendation 2 (R2) - Re-mark some existing senior football pitches as junior pitches ie 60m x 40m as participation in junior football develops

• Recommendation 3 (R3) - Ensure floodlights are provided at the Pickaqoy Centre to enable both hockey and rugby competitive matches at the appropriate level. Capital costs of this would be likely to be in the region of £100k - £150k, but to gain an accurate cost this would need to be looked at in relation to this specific site

• Recommendation 4 (R4) - Ensuring current pitch facilities are used as effectively as possible with clear management, maintenance and booking responsibilities

• Recommendation 5 (R5) - Develop an additional AGP at the Dounby Centre as resources allow

• Recommendation 6 (R6) - Delivery of improvements through partnership working with private, other public and voluntary sectors
Indoor Facilities

6.16 In terms of indoor sport and leisure provision there are a number of key rand prioritised ecommendations moving forward. These are set out below:

- **Recommendation 7 (R7)** – The hierarchy of provision set out in section 5 is formally adopted as follows:
  - Main Orkney Community Hub – the Pickaquoy Centre, Kirkwall (broad range of indoor and outdoor facilities, including specialist facilities such as athletics, strength and conditioning etc)
  - Community Hubs – Stromness facilities (Stromness Swimming Pool and Squash court), and Stromness Academy; the Dounby Centre
  - Small facilities (may be single facility type) – located in the isles, and managed by community/voluntary organisations, and clubs

- **Recommendation 8 (R8)** – OIC considers managing all main community hubs through one organisation to improve operational effectiveness, ensure consistency of quality and operational policy, and sustain provision in the long term. This organisation should be the leisure and culture sector, to ensure economies of scale, effective use of expertise, experience and resources.

- **Recommendation 9 (R9)** – OIC works with the existing Community Associations and local clubs to devolve increased responsibility for facility management, particularly in the isles,

- **Recommendation 10 (R10)** – OIC works with local clubs to develop their role in terms of sports development, particularly focusing on the identified priority sports of football, rugby, gymnastics, athletics, netball, golf, swimming and squash

- **Recommendation 11 (R11)** – OIC works towards establishing a Gymnastics Club in Orkney to take forward the development of this sport

- **Recommendation 12 (R12)** – OIC work with Orkney disability organisations to develop a specific plan for developing disability sport in Orkney

- **Recommendation 13 (R13)** – OIC continues to work with Sanday and Stronsay Junior schools to assist them in accessing external funding to develop multi-purpose indoor space for the benefit of both curriculum delivery and community access and participation in physical activity

- **Recommendation 14 (R14)** OIC continues to work with local sports clubs and schools to support and develop their aspirations for facility investment. Based on the assessment and analysis the following are considered to be investment priorities for indoor sport, (based on a ‘traffic light’ priority system):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>FACILITY INVESTMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor bowls rinks (could be an extension to existing outdoor provision, or a stand-alone facility)</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics facilities</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball – additional courts</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Football pitches</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved rugby club pavilion</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGP the Dounby Centre</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodlights, the Pickaquoy Centre</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved disability provision</td>
<td>Green</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## SPORTS FACILITY INVESTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>FACILITY INVESTMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor multi-purpose space, Sanday and Stromsay Junior schools</td>
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