



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – WEST SUFFOLK SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT**

January 2015

Prepared by



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY WEST SUFFOLK SPORTS PROVISION ASSESSMENT

- i. St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath District Councils working together as West Suffolk Council, are looking to develop a joint approach to strategic planning including the development of an overarching vision for sport and leisure provision across the two areas, which will help to meet two of their three priorities:
  - 1. Priority 1: Increased opportunities for economic growth**
  - 2. Priority 2: Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active**
- ii. To deliver its priorities West Suffolk wants to facilitate the creation of a network of community sport and leisure facilities with a strategic hub at the centre, managed by one Leisure Trust. The community network of facilities and partnerships will provide local opportunities to participate in sport and leisure activities for the broadest range of customer groups.
- iii. In order to deliver these priorities, West Suffolk has commissioned an Indoor Facilities Strategy and a Playing Pitch Strategy, which when considered alongside each other, will provide a comprehensive evaluation of sport and leisure facilities across West Suffolk.

### INDOOR FACILITIES STRATEGY

- iv. The aim of developing the Indoor Facilities Strategy assessment is to:
  - **Identify the nature and quantity of facilities required in West Suffolk, given there is recognition that the existing facility portfolio alone will not cope with demand from the existing and future local population having regard to the housing growth that is planned for the area.**
  - **Identify where opportunities exist in the West Suffolk area to develop this network of community facilities.**
  - **Inform which particular sports or facilities would best compliment the developments being considered in West Suffolk's main towns, given the projected population and housing growth.**
  - **Ensure that the current and future demand for sports and recreation facilities are planned for holistically and that the needs of the current and growing population of West Suffolk can be fully understood.**
  - **Take into consideration the contribution West Suffolk's sports facilities offer neighbouring authorities and the wider region in planning for the future**
  - **Provide an evidence base to support funding bids from National Sports bodies like Sport England, and support requests for contributions from Section 106 Planning Obligations or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**

- v. The rationale for developing a sports facilities strategy is that:
- **West Suffolk Councils wishes to understand both the needs of its indoor existing sports facility portfolio, and future need for provision, driven by increased population, and identification of gaps in the existing facility network.**
  - **The rural nature of the area, with five main towns – Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Newmarket, Mildenhall and Brandon means that the geographical location of provision is crucial to facilitating and encouraging participation.**
  - **The development of this new West Suffolk Facilities Assessment will enable West Suffolk Councils to shape its core sports facilities offer; both its direct provision and that undertaken with partners in the education, voluntary, community and private sectors.**
  - **At a strategic level the strategy will underpin the contribution that sport makes to the West Suffolk Strategic Plan and priority objectives. It will also help provide a rationale to enable National Governing Bodies to further invest and deliver their working outcomes as outlined in their Whole Sport Plans.**

The supporting document will act as an evidence base to guide and inform future investment and partnerships, develop local planning policies to future proof and increase participation opportunities to 2031.

## ST EDMUNDSBURY DISTRICT

- vi. Overall, St Edmundsbury has a very good range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area; however, some are now ageing, and will require investment and/or replacement. This is particularly true, in the medium term, of Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre and Haverhill Leisure Centre.
- vii. The simplistic analysis of “supply versus demand” in relation to sports halls within St Edmundsbury has identified an over-supply of sports hall space, based on both current and future demand. This assumes retention of all existing community accessible facilities and development of a new 4 court sports hall at Moreton Hall School in St Edmundsbury.
- viii. In St Edmundsbury there is also sufficient swimming pool, and fitness provision to meet current and future demand.
- ix. Whilst there are some facilities on education sites, which are not available for community use, these are in the minority. Proposals for new schools will incorporate formal community use arrangements for use of sports facilities.
- x. St Edmundsbury’s population will grow significantly over the next few years, particularly in and around the main urban areas, due to the growth sites identified in the local plan (Vision 2031 documents), so there is a need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality and affordable facilities to meet local need.

- xi. There is a range of facility providers in West Suffolk, and it is important that St Edmundsbury Council continues to work with these to develop and deliver facility provision, given that the Council can no longer be the provider and funder of last resort, instead adopting more of an enabling and facilitating role.

**Table A: Summary of Facility Needs in West Suffolk**

<b>FACILITY TYPE</b>	<b>FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES</b>
<b>SPORTS HALLS</b>	<p>Badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball NGBs support the need for additional sports hall capacity in St Edmundsbury.</p> <p>Although there is sufficient current and future provision of sports halls in St Edmundsbury, there is a lack of sports halls capable of accommodating indoor netball, basketball, and volleyball. There is only one 8 badminton sized sports hall in St Edmundsbury (Samuel Ward and that has a tarmacadam floor), and only one 6 court hall (Culford Sports and Tennis Centre).</p> <p>Improvement in the quality of some ageing facilities, in the medium term, Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill Leisure Centres.</p>
<b>SWIMMING POOLS</b>	<p>There is sufficient provision to meet both current and future swimming needs in St Edmundsbury.</p> <p>There is a need to start planning now for investment in existing pool facilities, all of which are ageing. i.e. Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre and Haverhill Leisure Centre.</p>
<b>SQUASH COURTS</b>	<p>Existing squash courts should be retained where possible, to ensure public access is retained in St Edmundsbury.</p> <p>If any new facilities are developed, consideration should be given to provision of squash courts; two adjacent courts are needed to facilitate development of participation and club development.</p>
<b>CYCLING FACILITY</b>	Off road track, approx. ¾ mile, closed track.
<b>ARCHERY</b>	Dedicated facility to facilitate increased participation by those with a disability.
<b>INFORMAL FACILITIES</b>	Cycling and walking routes; safe cycling routes

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION 1(SER1)

St Edmundsbury Council will need to consider the future nature and level of provision of sports halls and swimming pools in Bury St Edmunds, given the age of the existing facility.

### RECOMMENDATION 2 (SER2)

St Edmundsbury Council will need to consider the future provision of sports halls and swimming pools in Haverhill, given the age of the existing facility.

**RECOMMENDATION 3 (SER3)**

St Edmundsbury Council explore opportunities to work in partnership to enable the development of an 8 court sports hall.

St Edmundsbury Council works with:

**RECOMMENDATION 4 (SER4)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with existing indoor bowling clubs to monitor participation increases and the need for new provision in the future, aligned to population growth in and around Bury St Edmunds.

**RECOMMENDATION 5 (R5)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with British Cycling and local cycling clubs to develop an off road cycle track (minimum 1.5km).

**RECOMMENDATION 6 (R6)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with local groups for the retention, or replacement of existing squash courts in future facility development.

**RECOMMENDATION 7 (R7)**

St Edmunds Archers to review in detail the proposals for the development of a facility providing doe archers with a disability in Bury St Edmunds.

**RECOMMENDATION 8 (R8)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with work closely with Suffolk County Council, and local secondary schools to review and explore the options for re-development of ageing pools and sports halls on an ongoing basis

**RECOMMENDATION 9 (R9)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with Suffolk County Council, existing, and all new secondary schools to encourage the development of formal community use agreements for on-site sports facilities

**RECOMMENDATION 10 (R10)**

St Edmundsbury Council works with Town and Parish councils to agree the strategic facilities where investment in informal space for use for fitness stations, and sports hall activities should be prioritised

**RECOMMENDATION 11 (R11)**

St Edmundsbury Council uses the West Suffolk Facilities Assessment as an evidence base to secure S106/CIL contributions to future investment in open space, sport and leisure provision in the Borough.

**RECOMMENDATION 12 (R12)**

St Edmundsbury Council uses the West Suffolk Facilities Assessment as an evidence base to secure S106/CIL contributions in all new housing developments for the development of walking and cycling routes in the District

## FOREST HEATH DISTRICT

- xii. Although Forest Heath has a good range of facilities across the District, there are some poor quality and ageing facilities, particularly the Mildenhall Dome and Mildenhall Swimming Pool, and Brandon Leisure Centre.
- xiii. The simplistic analysis of “supply versus demand” in relation to sports halls within West Suffolk has identified an under supply in Forest Heath, based on both current and future demand. This assumes retention of all existing community accessible facilities, closure of the Mildenhall Dome and opening of the new Mildenhall Hub in Forest Heath. Sports halls in Forest Heath district are currently full in peak periods.
- xiv. There is also insufficient capacity in the existing pools to accommodate future increased participation and population growth, having regard to the housing growth that is anticipated for the area, and an under-supply of fitness facilities.
- xv. The options for future provision of facilities now need to be considered. The operation of the Mildenhall Dome, and specifically the condition of Mildenhall Swimming Pool need to be considered urgently; the proposed Mildenhall Hub development offers a critical opportunity to re-provide high quality new sports facilities (swimming pool, sports hall and fitness suite) in the town, and to address the current under-supply. Based on the assessment of need undertaken, and the analysis of all relevant factors the minimum facility mix should include:
- **6 lane x 25m pool**
  - **4 badminton court sports hall**
  - **71 Station fitness suite**
  - **Multi-purpose studio space (ideally 2)**
  - **Squash courts**
- xvi. The future provision of Brandon Leisure Centre also needs to be considered in the context of the possible demographic changes that may result from the anticipated changes at RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath over the next 5-10 years, the scale of the Mildenhall Hub development and the over supply of provision in that specific area.
- xvii. The anticipated population growth in Forest Heath to 2031 needs to be appropriately catered for in terms of demand for sports facilities – both formal facilities and informal, multi-purpose spaces. In Forest Heath this means better geographical distribution of facilities to enable more people to access facilities in the urban area by walking, and/or cycling. It also means better quality facilities, given the age and condition of existing Forest Heath provision.
- xviii. In Forest Heath, addressing the needs of a growing population means both better quality provisions, but also additional facilities, to meet both current and future needs for participation.

**Table B: Summary of Facility Needs in Forest Heath**

<b>FACILITY TYPE</b>	<b>FACILITY NEEDS/PRIORITIES</b>
<b>SPORTS HALLS</b>	<p>Badminton, volleyball, basketball and netball NGBs support the need for additional sports hall capacity in West Suffolk.</p> <p>There is a lack of sports halls capable of accommodating indoor netball, basketball, and volleyball in West Suffolk. There is only one 8 badminton sized sports hall in West Suffolk, and only two 6 court halls.</p> <p>Improvement in the quality of some ageing facilities, the priorities are Mildenhall Dome, and Brandon Leisure Centre, The Mildenhall Hub development offers the opportunity to replace Mildenhall Dome.</p>
<b>SWIMMING POOLS</b>	<p>There is a current and future under-supply of swimming pool provision in Forest Heath.</p> <p>The ASA has identified the need for increased swimming pool provision in Forest Heath. In addition, there is a need to start planning now for investment in existing pool facilities, all of which are ageing.</p> <p>The priority for significant investment is Mildenhall Swimming Pool. This should be replaced; the development opportunity to achieve this is the Mildenhall Hub.</p>
<b>HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES</b>	Additional 126 fitness stations by 2031
<b>GYMNASTICS FACILITIES</b>	Increased access to dedicated facilities for club use; significant potential for a dedicated hall in Newmarket.
<b>SQUASH COURTS</b>	<p>Existing squash courts should be retained where possible, to ensure public access is retained in Forest Heath.</p> <p>If any new facilities are developed, consideration should be given to provision of squash courts; two adjacent courts are needed to facilitate development of participation and club development.</p>
<b>INFORMAL FACILITIES</b>	Cycling and walking routes; safe cycling routes

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **RECOMMENDATION 1(FHR1)**

Forest Heath District Council proceeds with the development of the Mildenhall Hub, but reviews the facility mix and scale of provision to reflect the need for a larger sports hall, and potentially additional swimming pool provision, plus additional fitness stations. Provision of replacement squash courts could also be considered.

### **RECOMMENDATION 2 (FHR2)**

Forest Heath District Council confirms the closure of the Mildenhall Pool facility once the new Mildenhall Hub is open for use.

**RECOMMENDATION 3 (R3)**

Forest Heath District Council and Abbeycroft Leisure work in partnership to maximise the use of Brandon Leisure Centre

**RECOMMENDATION 4 (R4)**

Forest Heath District Council works with local gymnastics clubs to increase access to purpose-built gymnastics provision.

**RECOMMENDATION 5 (R5)**

Forest Heath District Council supports the retention, or replacement of existing squash courts, where possible, in future facility development.

**RECOMMENDATION 6 (R6)**

Forest Heath District Council seeks to work closely with Suffolk County Council, and local secondary schools to review and explore the options for re-development of ageing pools and sports halls on an on-going basis.

**RECOMMENDATION 7 (R7)**

Forest Heath District Council works with Suffolk County Council, existing, and all new secondary schools to develop formal community use agreements for on-site sports facilities

**RECOMMENDATION 8 (R8)**

Forest Heath District Council works with town and parish councils to agree the strategic facilities where investment in informal space for use for fitness stations, and sports hall activities should be prioritised

**RECOMMENDATION 9 (R9)**

Forest Heath District Council uses the West Suffolk Facilities Assessment as an evidence base to secure S106/CIL contributions to future investment in open space, sport and leisure provision in the District.

**RECOMMENDATION 10 (R10)**

Forest Heath District Council uses the Strategy evidence base to secure S106/CIL contributions in all new housing developments for the development of walking and cycling routes in the District

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- xix. The objectives of the West Suffolk PPS are;
- **To identify supply and demand issues for playing pitch provision across West Suffolk**
  - **To identify priority sports, pitches and clubs for the area based on clear evidence-based justification and also based on National Governing Bodies (NGB) targets**
  - **To provide evidence to guide and support bids to external funding partners and to support the delivery of new and improved sports and recreation facilities in the local area**
  - **To provide a robust needs and evidence base to support the preparation, adoption and implementation of sport and leisure planning policies**
  - **To develop a priority list of pitches and projects for investment and use of resources secured through CIL and Section 106**
  - **To identify opportunities to deliver new and improved sports pitches and ancillary facilities as part of the strategic development of Local Authority owned sites.**
- xx. The PPS is split into two key documents. The PPS Analysis includes a detailed strategic context and evaluation of each sport included in the study. This also includes the detailed site-by-site analysis that forms the basis of the Action Plan. The PPS Analysis can be use as the evidence base for actions and recommendations in the PPS. It includes details of all consultations and evaluation; therefore the document is complex and lengthy.
- xxi. The PPS Action Plan and Strategy includes a reduced strategic context, in addition to the summary of findings for each sport and the final site-by-site Action Plan to inform future planning and long-term leisure decision making.
- xxii. A PPS is a strategic needs assessment which provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand regarding playing pitches (grass and artificial) which serve the following core sports;
- **Football**
  - **Rugby Union**
  - **Cricket**
  - **Hockey.**
- xxiii. The PPS can act as a guide and inform future investment and partnerships, influence the Local Plan, future proof and increase participation opportunities to 2031.

## ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- xxiv. The key output of the PPS is a detailed Action Plan that identifies priorities for playing pitches in West Suffolk. This Action Plan will now be used to inform a West Suffolk Strategic Leisure Action Plan taking into account the assessed need and suggested actions to develop a strategic approach to the provision of sports facilities, working with our community partners that ensures participation opportunities for all, opportunities for growth and provision that is sustainable. Recognising the key role of representatives from partner organisations such as Sport England, each of the four PPS National Governing Bodies (Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey), West Suffolk council's and Abbeycroft Leisure. This Action Plan is shown in Table C overleaf.
- xxv. As illustrated throughout the analysis, West Suffolk has sufficient provision for the current and future levels of demand for 'playing pitch' sports. This has been calculated using projected population growth and the future housing development plans in mind, emphasising the recommendation that the focus should be on improving the quality rather than quantity of provision.
- xxvi. The exception to this is AGP provision, as West Suffolk currently has a deficit of 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches across the two local authorities. There are currently multiple development plans for facilities across West Suffolk and the Action Plan identifies how these should be supported and where further development is required.
- xxvii. The quality of pitches across West Suffolk is relatively ordinary apart from cricket, which scored well across a number of high quality sites. A major contribution to this is the clay soil that is unavoidable for the region; however it is compounded by the lack of winter training space. The maintenance and quality of rural sites has been identified as a key issue, with pests causing some playing fields deemed to be almost dangerous for sporting activity.

**Table C: Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan**

SITE	SUB AREA	ACTION ID	ISSUE / OPPORTUNITY TO BE ADDRESSED	KEY ACTION(S) NUMBERING INDICATES ORDER OF PREFERENCE	DELIVERY OWNERS (BOLD INDICATES LEAD)	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
<b>FOREST HEATH – SUB AREA CODES: NORTH (N), CENTRAL (C), SOUTH (S)</b>								
Beck Row Aspal Close Nature Reserve	C	FH-Foot1	The ancillary facilities at Beck Row Football Club are extremely poor and do not attract new participants to the club.	1. Utilise existing Section 106 to install a basic ancillary block on the site. Alternatively the teams could make greater use of the nearby Beck Row primary school and their changing facilities.	<b>FHDC</b> FA	FHDC Officer time Shared ancillary funding with FA	Medium	Low
Brandon Leisure Centre	N	FH-Foot2	The clubhouse at the Brandon Leisure Centre pitches is adequate but not of a sufficient standard to attract new members.	1. Refurbishment of the pavilion, with high quality changing rooms for players and referees.	<b>Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields Trust (BRPFT)</b> FA FHDC Abbeycroft Leisure	BRPFT time and resources Ancillary development funding	Long	Low
Eriswell Road Playing Fields	C	FH-Crick1	This is a high quality site but long-term tenure and community use is not secured	1. Secure long term community use agreement with the Lakenheath Playing Fields Association	<b>Lakenheath CC</b> ECB FHDC	Officer time for negotiation	Short	High
Lakenheath Football Club	N	FH-Foot3	Lakenheath Football Club is heavily used by a number of junior sides and two senior sides. The current provision does not meet demand and the quality of the pitch will require further maintenance in future to maintain the current level of use.	1. Seek additional training facilities, utilising the pitches at Brandon Leisure Centre and the associated facilities. 2. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.	<b>Lakenheath FC BRPFT</b> FA	FA support to grounds maintenance improvement	Short	Med
Mildenhall	C	FH-	Parking is an issue on match	1. Seek additional parking facilities,	<b>FHDC</b>	Officer time	Medium	Low

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Cricket Club		Crick2	days and during busy junior periods	as part of the new Mildenhall Hub build		during Mildenhall Hub planning		
Newmarket RFC - Scaltback Middle School	S	FH-Rug2	The clubhouse at Newmarket Rugby Club is not currently fit for purpose. This cannot be addressed, as the clubhouse does not have long-term security. A long-term lease is a pre-requisite for any funding application compiled.	1. Agreement of a long-term lease for the former Scaltback school site 2. A full refurbishment/replacement of the existing clubhouse in order to satisfy the social demands of the club and attract new members. 3. Agree an improved maintenance programme, based on best-practice examples from nearby clubs	<b>Newmarket RFC</b> RFU Suffolk County Council	Club staff/volunteer fundraising time RFU groundsman and pitch improvement programme	Medium	High
Red Lodge Sports Club	C	FH-Rug3	Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC does not currently work closely with the RFU and is struggling to grow its membership base and improve playing facilities.	1. Undertake maintenance training programme with M&RL RFC, using expertise from Bury St Edmunds and the RFU to increase the quality of supply and improve membership numbers.	<b>Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC</b> RFC FHDC	Increased grounds maintenance effort Visit and mentorship from a nearby high quality club RFU pitch improvement programme	Medium	Med
The Severals Sports Pavilion	S	FH-Crick3	There is currently no long-term community use secured at the site. The pitch quality is also not sufficient to provide a home ground for high quality cricket.	1. Secure long-term community use agreement with a local club or cricket user 2. Invest in the pitch quality, both on the square and outfield. Conduct small-scale feasibility study to confirm expected costs	<b>FHDC</b> ECB	FHDC Officer time ECB support on pitch improvement	Short	Med

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Tuddenham Playing Fields	C	FH-Crick4	The ground does not currently have a non-turf pitch, which increases the demand on the grass square	1. Install a non-turf wicket on the square, to allow for midweek training and junior matches.	<b>ECB</b> Tuddenham CC	Non-turf wicket installation costs	Medium	Low
<b>ST EDMUNDSBURY – SUB AREA CODES: BURY ST EDMUNDS (BSE), RURAL AREAS NORTH (RN), HAVERHILL (HAV), RURAL SOUTH (RS)</b>								
Bardwell Playing Fields	RN	SE-Crick1	The ancillary facilities at Bardwell Playing Fields are not sufficient for a growing club with high quality pitches.	1. Refurbishment of the ageing pavilion	<b>Bardwell CC</b> ECB SEBC	Consultant/adv isor time for a feasibility study. Construction Costs	Medium	High
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre (West Suffolk AWP)	BSE	SE-Hock1	The quality of the pitch surface is poor and needs to be replaced. There is still a requirement for recreational hockey at the site, however this is unlikely to be sufficient to justify re-surfacing the pitch as a sand-based AGP, given the demand for football in the area and the commercial benefits of a 3G surface.	1. Resurface the current AGP with a 3G surface. If acceptable by all key stakeholders, re-surface the current sand-based surface with a short pile (30mm) 3G surface in order to satisfy the requirements of recreational hockey and football.	<b>Abbeycroft Leisure</b> EH SEBC SCC King Edwards School	Pitch resurfacing costs.	Medium	Med
Bury St Edmunds Football Club	BSE	SE Foot 1	The current facility mix is not fit for purpose for a club playing at Step 4.	Either relocate facility and build new facilities or; Replace current ancillary facilities	<b>Bury St Edmunds Football Club</b> FA SEBC	Infrastructure associated with a Step 4 football club	Medium	Med
Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club	BSE	FH-Rug2	Training and match facilities are not sufficient at Bury St Edmunds RFC to satisfy the growing demand, especially at	1. Club to continue developing in line with the RFU growth plan agreed between the club and the NGB.	<b>Bury St Edmunds RFC</b> RFU FA	Club staff/volunteer fundraising time	Medium	Med

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			peak time on a week night or Saturday PM. The key priority for the club is the mid week training demand as the current level of supply leads to training cancellations.	2. Work with the RFU, FA and SEBC to deliver a training facility that suits the needs of the rugby club. Need to retain existing training capacity in the short term while migrating football demand onto a new training and match site. 3. Begin dialogue between Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club and Bury Town Football Club on the potential of sharing training and matchplay resources.	SEBC	ECB development grants		
Chalkstone Playing Field (The New Croft)*	HAV	SE-Foot2	The grass pitch quality needs to be improved in order to provide a large, high quality council owned site. Unwanted community use is currently leading to dog fouling and broken glass, which does not make the sites attractive to new users.	1. Investment in increased signage and security for pitches to be provided by local council. Introduction of penalties for community damage to be monitored by grounds maintenance team. 2. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. 3. Plan for the loss of grass pitches caused by the development of the planned 3G AGP facility.	<b>SEBC</b> SCC	Infrastructure associated with penalty system.  FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Med
		SE-Foot3	A grant offer has been made from the FF for a new 3G facility and this has planning consent. A full funding plan is currently in	1. Support plans for a 3G pitch at the New Croft.	<b>SEBC</b> FA	AGP build costs Officer time to project	Short	High

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			development.			manage build		
Clare Playing Fields	RS	SE-Foot4	The pitches currently suffer from flooding due, making the pitches unplayable during periods of high rainfall.	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. As part of this programme, undertake further site surveys to determine the correct long term drainage solution for the site	<b>Clare Town</b> Council SEBC	Funding for drainage improvement FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Medium	Low
Culford Sports & Tennis Centre	BSE	SE-Ten1	The site currently provides high quality tennis courts to the community however this access is not secured and could be withdrawn at any time.	1. Seek agreement with Culford school to sign a mutually beneficial agreement formalising the community use of their tennis courts.	<b>Culford School</b> SEBC LTA	Officer team for agreement negotiation and signature	Short	Med
		SE-Hock2	There is no long term security for cricket use at this high quality education site	1. Seek a formal, long-term community use agreement for hockey at Culford School 2. Support the development of an additional AGP at the school site	<b>Culford School</b> EH SEBC	Officer time to negotiation agreement	Short	Med
		SE-Hock3	The carpet on the existing sand-based AGP is nearing the end of its expected lifecycle and will therefore require replacing.	3. Re-carpet the current pitch within 3 – 5 years.	<b>Culford School</b> EH SEBC	Officer time to negotiation agreement	Medium	High

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Euston Park	RN	SE-Foot5	The significant slope on the pitches is a limiting factor for competitive football. The Pavilion is in need of replacement in order to service that large number of teams currently playing at the facility.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct a feasibility study for re-leveling of the adult pitches</li> <li>2. Replace or refurbish the pavilion</li> </ol>	<b>Euston Estate</b> SEBC FA	Officer time and consultancy costs to undertake feasibility study. Long-term costs for ancillary refurb	Medium	Low
Gainsborough Recreation Park	BSE	SE-Foot6	The current ancillary is very poor and needs replacing,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.</li> </ol>	<b>SEBC</b>	Officer time to project manage new development. Build costs	Short	Med
Hardwick Heath	RS	SE-Foot7	The pitches can have issues with drainage and improvements to this would create a high quality, large football site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. As part of this programme, undertake further site surveys to determine the correct long term drainage solution for the site</li> </ol>	<b>SEBC</b> FA	Increased maintenance team to manage pitch improvement and maintain higher quality surface. FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	High

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Haverhill and District RFC - Castle Playing Fields	HAV	FH-Rug3	The current drainage and maintenance system at Castle Fields is not fit for purpose, with a number of games called off for waterlogging.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree an improved maintenance programme, based on best-practice examples from nearby clubs. Deliver in line with the RFU Capital Investment Programme.</li> <li>2. Progress with the protecting playing fields project (currently under review).</li> <li>3. Invest in new mid week floodlights for midweek training</li> </ol>	<b>Haverhill and District RFC</b> RFU SEBC	Increased grounds maintenance effort Visit and mentorship from a nearby high quality club RFU ground improvement funding and funding for floodlighting.	Short	High
Haverhill Bowls and Sports Club	HAV	SE-Crick2	This is one of the only sites across the two local authorities that are over-capacity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seek solution to under-supply, through ground share (Withersfield Parish CC) or by seeking alternative supply of grass wickets</li> </ol>	<b>Haverhill CC</b>	Rental costs for ground share.	Short	High
Mottsfild Playing Field	HAV	SE-Foot8	The changing facilities are not currently adequate for this two-pitch site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct further consultation with AFC Haverhill to confirm support in development of new facilities.</li> <li>2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.</li> </ol>	<b>SEBC</b> AFC Haverhill FA	Officer costs. Ancillary build costs	Medium	Low
Pakenham Playing Field	RN	SE-Foot9	Both the pitch quality and the ancillary are extremely poor and there is not an opportunity to displace demand due to the rural nature of the site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the grounds maintenance team with further resource in order to improve the quality of the pitch.</li> <li>2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation</li> </ol>	<b>Pakenham Parish Council</b> SEBC FA	Parish Council Effort to raise funds. Officer costs Ancillary build costs	Long	Med

SITE	SUB AREA	ACTION ID	ISSUE / OPPORTUNITY TO BE ADDRESSED	KEY ACTION(S) NUMBERING INDICATES ORDER OF PREFERENCE	DELIVERY OWNERS (BOLD INDICATES LEAD)	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY
				park users.				
Puddlebrook Playing Fields	HAV	SE-Foot10	Both the pitch quality and the ancillary are extremely poor and there is not an opportunity to displace demand due to the rural nature of the site.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.</li> <li>2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.</li> </ol>	<b>SEBC</b> FA	Officer costs Ancillary build costs Increased maintenance costs FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Long	Low
Risby Community Trust Playing Field	RN	SE-Crick3	This is a good quality site that is secured for long-term community use but not used extensively.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate this ground as an additional ground for a large club nearby, such as Bury St Edmunds. Note: There are no clear candidates for this currently, but Bury St Edmunds CC require additional space if they continue to grow</li> </ol>	<b>Risby Parish Council</b> ECB	ECB development team to market additional space to larger clubs	Long	Low
Stanton Recreation Ground	RN	SE-Foot11	The pitch has an issue with molehills, which has a direct impact on the quality and safety of provision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.</li> </ol>	<b>Stanton PC</b> SEBC	FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Med
The Great Meadow	RS	SE-Foot12	While the club cited the pitch provision as adequate, the site assessment deemed the provision to be poor and requiring additional investment, particularly around the maintenance regime.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.</li> </ol>	<b>SEBC</b>	FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Low

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Victory Sports Ground –	BSE	SE-Crick4	The practice capabilities at Victory Sports ground are adequate, but should be improved if the club is looking to grow.	1. Refurbish the current 2 net practice area to maintain an adequate quality of training supply	<b>ECB</b> Bury St Edmunds CC	Grant aid funding for additional nets	Short	High
		SE-Crick5	The practice capabilities at Victory Sports ground are adequate, but should be improved if the club is looking to grow.	1. Install additional non-turf permanent nets in order to increase practice capacity	<b>ECB</b> Bury St Edmunds CC	Grant aid funding for additional nets	Medium	Low
Withersfield Parish Sports Ground	RS	SE-Crick6	This is a high quality site that is not currently fully utilised and could be used as a second ground for larger nearby clubs.	1. Seek agreement with Haverhill CC to be used as an additional ground for matches and training, generating revenue for the club	<b>Withersfield Parish Council</b> Haverhill CC ECB	ECB development team assistance in ground share negotiation	Short	Med

