

Test Valley Borough
Playing Pitch Strategy & Sports
Facilities Strategy
Update Paper - Action List and
Timeline
December 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Test Valley Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) were approved in 2020. To ensure these strategies remain up to date, they are kept under review. In February 2022, the Council released the first update, and this is the second (December 2024).

1.2 The ambition for 2024 is to see this update turned into a more focused action planning document. We acknowledge that the sporting landscape is an ever-evolving picture with clubs' and people's aspirations changing and we intend to capture these ambitions.

2. Background

2.1 The PPS & SFS were produced to provide an assessment of sport and recreation facility needs across the Borough and understand how this may change in the future. The PPS looked specifically at the pitch-based sports of cricket, football, hockey and rugby. The SFS generally focuses on those sports and activities that may include a need for built sports facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools. However, the two strategies need to be considered together.

2.2 In preparing the original 2020 strategies, input was sought from local clubs, parish councils, schools and a range of other organisations. The work was co-ordinated by a steering group including the Council, Sport England, Energise Me, and the Governing Bodies for Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.

2.3 An action plan was prepared for each strategy, based on the understanding of current and future needs for the sports and activities. The actions involve a range of partner organisations, with some focusing on specific sites, whilst others are relevant across the Borough.

2.4 Sport England's PPS guidance¹ highlights the importance of keeping the strategies up to date and robust, through regular reviews. Such reviews should be undertaken with the input of the partner organisations that formed part of the steering group for the preparation of the strategy. It is recommended that the following matters are considered as part of the review:

2.4.1 How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed, and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others);

2.4.2 Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues;

2.4.3 Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport;

¹ [pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf](#)

2.4.4 How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt; and

2.4.5 Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

2.5 This update paper seeks to bring information together to cover the above points. It focuses on providing an update on progress in delivering the action plans, as well as identifying emerging issues and opportunities. It has been prepared with input from the Council, Sport England, and the Governing Bodies for Cricket, Football, Hockey, Tennis and Rugby.

2.6 As part of this update, the assessment of the quality of pitches has not been reviewed; nor has the supply and demand been recalculated. But the document does include a section which provides information on supply changes since the last PPS, and an anecdotal update from National Governing Bodies on demand in 2024.

3. Drivers for Sport and Recreation

The Local Plan

3.1 The adopted Local Plan remains the same as when the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy were prepared, namely the Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document 2011 – 2029.

3.2 Within the Local Plan, chapter 8 considers the theme of leisure, health and wellbeing. The Council is continuing to prepare the next Local Plan for the Borough, with a refined Issues and Options consultation having taken place in 2020.

3.3 As set out within the objectives of the two strategies, they will provide an evidence base for the next Local Plan in relation to playing pitches and sports facilities including protecting and enhancing the existing provisions and informing the approach to improving and enhancing facilities to include accounting for changes in population and demographics. The next Local Plan is anticipated to be written in 2025/2026.

3.4 More information on the next Local Plan is available at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-services/planningpolicy/local-development-framework>

Strategy Development

3.5 New strategies have emerged since 2021 which have supported the delivery of the action plans in addition to those already mentioned in the original documents, these are;

- Sport England’s 10-year strategy “Uniting the Movement”.
- Energise Me’s “We can be active” strategy which replaces their current physical activity strategy later in the year.
- The FA’s “Local Football Facilities Plan for Test Valley” (LFFP) which closely aligns with the PPS action plan.

- The RFU 2021 England Rugby Strategy.
- ECB Strategy Inspiring Generations 2020-24.
- ECB Facilities Strategy 2021.
- UK Actives' 2021 report The Decade of Change for public sector Leisure.

3.6 Many of the strategies mentioned above are in the process of being updated and are due to be released in 2025.

4. Supply and Demand Overview

4.1 In 2019 a full supply and demand assessment was completed as part of the strategy development works. The assessment concluded that there was adequate provision of grass pitches for all sports, although work could be done to improve the quality of some of the pitch stock in Test Valley.

4.2 The table below details the secured use pitch supply for 2019, 2020 and 2022. The increase in pitch supply is attributed to the opening of Ganger Farm Sports Park 2022 which supplied an additional 5 football pitches (adult / junior) and increases the AGP supply for both 3G and sand dressed pitches in Test Valley by one each.

Table 1: Secured community use pitch supply

Sports pitches	2019	2020	2022
Cricket	26	26	26
Football	107	109*	114**/**
Hockey	5	5	6**
Rugby	11	11	11**
AGP (full size sand)	5	5	6**
AGP (full size 3G)	3	3	4**

* Abbotswood ** Ganger Farm *** Picket Piece

Hockey

4.3 Hockey has continued to see steady growth in the number of players playing across Test Valley in 2024. Romsey Hockey Club have seen an increase in players which could be attributed to the facilities at Ganger Farm Sports Park. Trojans Hockey Club continue to grow rapidly and have also achieved Talent Centre status, promoting their junior development pathway. Trojans Hockey Club are also Clubmark Accredited demonstrating their standards of delivery, welfare and quality of programmes. Due to the rapid growth of the club, there is increasing demand for a second hockey pitch at the club. Andover Hockey Club have also shown steady growth in numbers since the 2022 update. The women's section of the club is oversubscribed and currently has a waiting list. This update shows steady growth and development pathways for Hockey in Test Valley, where clubs can be supported through access to high quality facilities.

Football

4.4 There has been a significant increase in the number of teams across the Borough with some teams having to be displaced outside of the Borough for match play. Since the PPS was released in 2019, we have seen an increase of over 100 teams registered in Test Valley, making the total number just over 300 teams of both adult and junior. As teams are having to be displaced outside of the Borough for match play, there is a continued demand for high quality football pitches which will only continue to grow.

Table 2: Football clubs that have at least ten teams in Test Valley.

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Andover New Steet	20	COVID Year	33	33	47
Andover Town	20	COVID Year	23	23	16
Baddesley Park	13	COVID Year	13	13	13
Braishfield Bees	12	COVID Year	13	13	22
Romsey Town Youth	30	COVID Year	42	39	49
St Francis	22	COVID Year	21	21	26
Shooters	15	COVID Year	21	21	20
Upper Clatford (10 teams in 2024)	7	COVID Year	12	12	11
Number of 10 plus teams	139	N/A	178	175	204
Overall teams in Test Valley	197	N/A	212	281	316

Rugby

4.5 Uptake in players has remained stable across all sections since the last PPS was released.

4.6 Trojans continue to field 5 senior teams (3 male / 2 female). The club also provide full boys Age Grade provision with teams for U6 through to U18, with consistent numbers at all age groups. They also have full girls Age Grade provision with established teams at U12, U14, U16 and U18.

4.7 Andover Rugby Club also continue to field 4 senior teams (3 male / 1 female). The club also provides boys junior teams from U6 through to U18, all consistent in numbers at all ages. Andover Rugby Club are also developing their girl's provision, there are no individual age groups at the moment but they all train together and cluster with other clubs for fixtures.

4.8 Romsey Rugby Club are fielding 2 senior male teams this season and have boys age grade provision for all teams from U6 through to U18 but are inconsistent in numbers at the lower age groups. There is no evidence of girls Age Grade provision at present, other than in the minis.

Cricket

4.9 As with the rest of the sports across Test Valley, Cricket has continued to grow in players too. A few teams have merged to field stronger sides which is attracting more players to the more dominant clubs. There has also been a considerable growth in the number of junior cricketers due to the All Stars and Dynamos cricket programmes being offered by clubs across Test Valley.

5. Key developments within Test Valley

- 5.1 There have been many successes as a result of the PPS and SFS 2020, which most recently includes the recruitment of a Sport Development Officer to help improve the links with local clubs, supporting their ambitions and development. The Sports Development Officer also supports the delivery of projects outlined within the PPS/SFS 2020 and establishes sports initiatives to increase the community's participation in sport.
- 5.2 The approach to capturing clubs' ambitions is now seen through the use of Club Development Plans. The Council have developed a guide to writing a Club Development Plan for clubs within the Borough, which is a free tool for clubs to access. This guide offers suggestions for the clubs to consider, ensuring that they clearly outline the clubs' longer term strategic aims, and how they set out to achieve them, promoting club sustainability. As a result of the Club Development Plans, the Council will gain a clearer understanding of the club's ambitions but also help clubs to approach wider funding bodies and organisations who may be able to help them achieve their goals.
- 5.3 The Council adopted and opened Ganger Farm Sports Park to the local community in October 2022, supporting local clubs to make best use of the site. This led to the relocation of Romsey Rugby Club, and Romsey Park Run, along with an additional facility for Romsey Hockey Club to hire.
- 5.4 Upgrades were made to Council owned tennis and adventure golf sites. The park tennis improvement work represents a significant investment from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and overall modernisation of the booking procedure of Council owned and managed tennis venues.
- 5.5 There have been ongoing improvements to Council owned leisure centres via contract-based investment from Places Leisure.
- 5.6 Trojans have received significant funds from both Test Valley Borough Council and Eastleigh Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) investment and are in the process of upgrading their club house and changing facilities.

5.7 We acknowledge that any additional 3G pitch is a significant undertaking which will not be achievable by the Council alone. The development will require partnership working with the FA, Hampshire FA and the Football Foundation, along with considerations for the wide range of clubs and venues who wish to explore the opportunity of an artificial pitch.

5.8 The Council also adopted the Picket Piece Sports Ground pavilion in September 2024 and hosted the official opening in November 2024. The Council aim to support local clubs to make the best use of the site. This has been reflected in the addition of a netball court added to the MUGA, as well as improved accessibility to the grass pitch and online booking systems to modernise the approach to booking.

6. Updates on the Action Plans

6.1 Appendix 1 and 2 of this update report give detailed updates for the short and long-term actions published as part of the 2020 strategies. However, the information below gives an overview of the most significant progress points from both strategies and sets out key achievements in 2024.

Rugby Action Plan Update

6.2 All three of the Borough Rugby clubs have made significant steps to improve their club infrastructure in the past few years and continue to do so.

6.3 Andover Rugby Club's on Field Priority is upgrading the floodlight heads to LED lamps to minimise energy consumption and carbon footprint at their home ground, The Goodship Ground at Foxcotte Park. Similarly, Andover Rugby Club are keen to explore solar panels to reduce the club's energy bills and carbon footprint. Another project that the club would like to explore is the potential to upgrade the security gate to improve the safeguarding provision.

6.4 Romsey Rugby Club moved over to Ganger Farm Sports Park in 2022 so are benefiting from the improved pitch provision with access to two grass pitches, a 3G AGP and a pavilion. The club plan to investigate mobile lighting solutions to improve the use of the grass pitches. The club aspire to grow their community rugby offering and are in discussions with the Council to understand how to best roll this out, with the aim to improve the offerings sustainably.

6.5 Trojans Rugby Club are working towards increasing their pitch capacity, either through the provision of improved drainage or additional space. Trojans have received significant contributions towards the redevelopment of their club house. The Council's support for this project was facilitated by the strong evidence of needs supplied in the 2020 strategies which formed part of the club's funding applications to the Council's CAF (Community Asset Fund) and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy).

6.6 It's important to highlight that England will be hosting the Women's Rugby World Cup in 2025 and as such, we expect there to be a heightened focus on female participation in rugby across Test Valley.

6.7 As part of the movement to promote women's rugby, the RFU are supporting clubs to accelerate the accessibility of all aspects of rugby for women and girls via their Rugby World Cup 2025 Impact Programme Facility Fund.

6.8 Andover Rugby Club and Trojans Rugby Club both successfully applied and delivered the Female Toilet Upgrade project in which was an open application for £5,000 to improved female toilet provision linked to social spaces. Both clubs were also successful in applying for and delivering the Sanitary Provision Package to upgrade the clubs current offer, ready for the start of the season.

6.9 The fund is also available for Social Spaces Upgrades and Changing Room Upgrades on an invite only basis.

Football Action Plan Update

6.10 Since the strategy was released, the Borough Council has adopted and opened Abbotswood Sports Ground in October 2020, a two-pitch football site in Romsey. Which is shown in Table 1 above.

6.11 Similarly, Ganger Farm Sports Park was adopted in October 2022 which provided the community with a 3G pitch, adult football pitch and multiple mini pitches open for use by the local football clubs in 2022.

6.12 In September 2024, TVBC adopted the Picket Piece Pavilion which officially opened for football matches in November 2024. This provided the Borough with an additional junior match pitch with suitable ancillary facilities.

6.13 As identified in the 2020 PPS Action Plan, the 3G pitch at Charlton was due to be resurfaced. Following a recent pitch inspection, the pitch remains on the FA register but will need resurfacing within the next 3 years.

6.14 Broughton has received significant funding from Test Valley Borough Council in the form of CIL and CAF for the development of their pavilion. The project has now started, and good progress is being made.

6.15 The FA's Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) was launched in 2020 and continues to identify priority projects for Football Association (FA)/Football Foundation (FF) investment, this is currently being rewritten and is anticipated to be released mid-2025. The FA are continuing to use their digital process "Pitch Power" for site assessments to develop the new LFFP.

6.16 We are keen to work closely with the FA and FF to deliver their LFFP, supported by the FF Funding that is available for AGP development. Primarily this includes the delivery of additional Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) in the North and South of the Borough, this will be part of a strategic approach to AGPs, securing provision for sports which rely on these types of facilities across the Borough.

Cricket Action Plan Update

- 6.17 The ECB have reported growth in the number of children participating in the All-Stars Cricket programmes (ages 5-8) and Dynamos Cricket programme (8-11); one of their centralised priorities. These programmes are run across the Borough, predominantly at Andover Cricket Club, East Anton Cricket Club, Wellow Cricket Club, Old Tauntonians & Romsey Cricket Club and Ampfield & North Baddesley Cricket Club.
- 6.18 Other ECB centralised priorities include women and girls' cricket and urban cricket in non-traditional settings. This includes a 12-point Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) action plan in response to Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC) Report findings of structural discrimination in the game based on race, gender and class.
- 6.19 As a short-term priority in the PPS action plan 2020, a Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) in the pipeline is at London Road 2, a site that Andover Cricket Club use as an additional pitch. This will provide a more consistent playing surface to support junior cricket within the Andover area.
- 6.20 The replacement of Andover Cricket Club's pavilion remains an aspiration for the club. Andover Cricket Club have developed detailed plans for this development, along with a comprehensive Club Development Plan and are in the process of raising the funds to begin the project.
- 6.21 Unfortunately, Wherwell Cricket Club folded. This has enabled Thruxton Cricket Club to utilise the Wherwell's previous home ground.
- 6.22 Ampfield & North Baddesley received an ECB County Grant towards tackling climate change to invest in a battery powered mower.
- 6.23 Old Tauntonians & Romsey Cricket Club self-funded a refurbishment of their pavilion social space and cricket square. The club recently agreed to let the Romsey Health Walk group use the pavilion twice a month for coffees after their walk around Romsey.
- 6.24 Compton & Chandler's Ford Cricket Club, playing in Winchester district, continue to use Hunts Farm, demonstrating imported demand.
- 6.25 The ECB continue to support clubs via funding streams, including the County Grants fund, which provides up to £10,000 of support to clubs for capital projects. They also provide an ECB Interest Free Loan (up to £50k over 5 years), alongside the Grass Pitch Improvement Fund.
- 6.26 The Grass Pitch Improvement Fund is linked to their digital process "Pitch Power". This is a new pitch assessment tool that ECB Pitch Advisors use to assess the quality of pitches.

- 6.27 Local authority pitches are likely to be a strategic priority, augmented by a small pot of local EDI funding.

Hockey Action Plan Update

- 6.28 Romsey Hockey Club are one of the key clubs hiring the sand dressed hockey pitch at Ganger Farm Sports Park. The club hire the pitch at Ganger Farm with additional use based at Romsey School.
- 6.29 Trojans Hockey Club will benefit from the pavilion works on the Trojans Sports Ground, which has already been mentioned in the football update above along with the funding support given to the project by TVBC.
- 6.30 Andover Hockey Club have been working hard to grow the club. They have been focusing on keeping teenage girls in the sport through the development of their junior coaches.

Tennis Action Plan Update

- 6.31 There have been increasing trends of adults and children playing tennis in the past 12 months, with adult annual participation reaching 5.6 million across the UK, a record high. Accelerating the opportunity to grow participation by investment in park public tennis facilities.
- 6.32 TVBC have worked in partnership with the LTA to have smart access gates installed at War Memorial Park, Romsey and Vigo Recreation Ground, Andover. The smart access gates are linked to an online booking system, called ClubSpark, which generates a unique code per booking. The courts remain free for the public to use. This work was completed in May 2024 and has demonstrated the value of the facilities in the community through the high quantity of bookings each week.
- 6.33 Vigo Recreation Ground has also received improved fencing, and the courts were also cleaned and repainted. An accessibility ramp was also installed to improve the inclusivity of the courts.
- 6.34 Similarly, the tennis court at Picket Piece and Picket Twenty have also been added to the ClubSpark, online booking system. The gates at these courts had a combination padlock installed in July 2024, with the aim to install smart access gates in the future.
- 6.35 The tennis court at Picket Twenty is due to be cleaned and repainted in 2025 to ensure that TVBC are continuing to provide the community with high quality courts.
- 6.36 North Baddesley courts have been reopened following resurfacing and gate access installation in April 2024. North Baddesley Parish Council secured a £35,000 grant from the LTA for the refurbishment of their courts and worked in partnership with the LTA to deliver the project.

- 6.37 Chilworth Parish Council applied for and received match funding from Sport England's Movement Fund to treat, repair and repaint their tennis court after the lack of usage during COVID-19. The Parish Council have also set up their own ClubSpark booking system to promote community use at their court. There is a small fee to book the court, but this is reinvested into the site to ensure sustainability of the facility.
- 6.38 Romsey and Abbey Tennis Club have grown significantly since the PPS/SFS 2020 were published. The club's aim is to transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2024. The club have ambitions to build a clubhouse which will provide an enhanced social aspect to the club to support the retention players. It would also provide toilet and changing facilities which will further support the club's junior programmes.
- 6.39 Wellow Tennis Club are in the process of trying to secure funding to support the resurfacing of their tennis courts to artificial grass. They have raised significant funds on their own to support the project.
- 6.40 In the long term, the Council look to explore the possibility of public tennis at Ganger Farm Sports Park and in the Charlton area of Andover.

SFS Action Plan Update: Leisure Centres

- 6.41 Public leisure services are unique for their reach and support for communities, providing lifelong opportunities for all to be active, especially in some of the most deprived communities. All Places Leisure sites have continued to grow in the number of Health and Fitness Club live memberships, and Swimming lessons at both Romsey Rapids and Andover Leisure Centre have also grown each month. Numbers are now higher in most areas compared to pre-pandemic levels.
- 6.42 The Net Promoter Score for Andover Leisure Centre continues to remain high, achieving 40.7% in September 2024.
- 6.43 Ageing leisure assets make a significant contribution to carbon emissions, and investment in decarbonising assets can help to meet net-zero targets and reduce running costs in the longer term. Romsey Rapids have been supported to become more energy efficient through the governments Swimming Pool Support Fund, however public leisure services continue to face long-term financial pressures, exacerbated by the energy crisis, as well as cost of living crisis.
- 6.44 Places Leisure, Leisure facilities provide exercise on referral schemes, social prescribing activities and rehabilitation services.
- 6.45 Primary schools across the Borough continue to rely on publicly provided pools to deliver their statutory responsibility for children to learn to swim.

SFS Action Plan Update: Swimming Update

- 6.46 The latest statistics in the Active Lives adult survey shows almost 4.2 million people took part in swimming activities at least twice a month between November 2022 and November 2023, a rise of more than 400,000 from the previous 12 months².
- 6.47 It means the number of adults who are swimming twice a month has returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- 6.48 In Test Valley swimming lesson uptake at the sites run by Places Leisure have recovered back to pre-pandemic levels. The sites continue to find ways to increase capacity for swimming lessons onsite.

SFS Action Plan Update: Athletics

- 6.49 The athletics track at Charlton was resurfaced in September 2021 and ongoing maintenance to the track continues. The track was cleaned in October 2024 with line repainting due to follow. This continued investment from the Council will see the site protected for long term use by Andover Athletics Club, Andover Triathlon Club, local schools and the wider community.

SFS Action Plan Update: Sports Halls

- 6.50 A new community sporting venue will be delivered at East Anton (Augusta Park) Andover. This will comprise of a two-court sports hall, exercise studio/gym space and community cafe. Planning for the new venue is underway and we expect construction to commence in early 2026.

SFS Action Plan Update: BMX track sites

- 6.51 Andover BMX Club has been instrumental in a project to install floodlighting at the Andover BMX track to increase the usability of the site. This was completed in December 2023. Invested partners included British Cycling, Andover BMX Club and the Council.
- 6.52 Knightwood BMX Club have secured funding to replace the current start gate. The plans are underway to provide electricity to the BMX track at Knightwood Leisure Centre in order to reduce the requirement to provide power through the use of generators.

SFS Action Plan Update: Bowls

- 6.53 Andover Bowling Club are working to improve their bowls pavilion and changing rooms. The club secured planning permission for an extension to the building in November 2024.

² [Active Lives Adult Survey November 2022-23 Report](#)

SFS Action Plan Update: Golf

- 6.54 At the start of 2025, there will be a replacement of all 18 golf tees taking place at Charlton Lakes Golf Course, following investment from the Council. It is anticipated that this will increase the number of users of the golfing facilities at Charlton.

Sport Development initiatives and delivery

The LTA Tennis Project

- 6.55 The following actions were not listed in the original action plans but do have a positive impact on the landscape of sport in Test Valley so are worthy of mentioning them.

- 6.56 As mentioned above, the Council have worked closely with the LTA to renovate the tennis courts in the Test Valley area.

- 6.57 As part of the project, the Council have connected with local Tennis Clubs to develop 6-week coaching programmes for both juniors and seniors. The aim was to develop a pathway to bridge the gap between community participation and club participation. The programmes were offered to encourage residents to engage with tennis.



Figure 1: The new accessibility ramp at Vigo Recreation Ground

- 6.58 We are working to establish the LTA's Free Park Tennis initiative to encourage Free Tennis within the Borough. The initiative provides Free Tennis for the community and is run by Volunteers, called Free Park Tennis Activators. We are working to recruit Activators into the scheme.

- 6.59 Another smart access gate will be added to court 2 at Vigo Recreation Ground in 2025 to ensure both courts are fully accessible.

Providing free sport opportunities to engage the community

- 6.60 The Council offers and facilitates different free sporting initiatives in the Borough. We are working to improve the free opportunities to engage in sport and physical activity by encouraging installation of outdoor gyms, table tennis tables, and chess tables at venues which would most suit these types of informal activity.

- 6.61 Park Run is a popular free weekly event in Andover and Romsey, for all abilities. Charlton Lakes hosts the Andover Park Run and Ganger Farm Sport Park host the Romsey Park Run. Each run is attended by hundreds of people each week.
- 6.62 Health Walks provide opportunities for anyone who is looking to enjoy a social walk with likeminded people. Each walk is led by qualified volunteer walk leaders with some offering a fast, moderate and gentler paced walk. They last around 60 minutes with the distance being between 2-3 miles. Most walks end with a chance to stay for a drink and chat.
- 6.63 Both Park Run and Health Walks are very popular and cater to a range of residents providing regular, informal, and free opportunities to get active.
- 6.64 Table Tennis is a fun sport which is accessible for all and easy to learn. The Council worked with the Chantry Centre management team to begin offering free Table Tennis in the Chantry Centre's Indoor Garden during the summer holidays. Andover Table Tennis Club kickstarted the initiative with free coaching on the first day. It proved to be a very popular community initiative, although it did attract the occasional anti-social behaviour incident which was handled faultlessly by the Chantry Centre's team. The initiative is now being trialled at Ganger Farm Sports Park, in the south of the Borough, on a Pay & Play basis.
- 6.65 In summer 2024, the Council offered free Back to Netball sessions at Picket Piece Recreation Ground, Andover, this will be a trial ahead of an ambition to roll a similar version out in the south of the Borough in 2025.

7. Application of the PPS/SFS – Section 106/CIL

- 7.1 All previous versions of the PPS and SFS (or similar) have been used historically to support local planning applications and to secure financial contributions for formal sport. They have also been used as evidence bases for many of the successful funding applications for sport in Test Valley, including the CIL and CAF projects discussed in this report.
- 7.2 Trojans have received significant funding from Test Valley Borough Council in the form of CIL and CAF towards the development of their new Clubhouse. This will be a multisport clubhouse for Rugby, Cricket and Hockey. Trojans are still trying to secure additional funding to begin works.
- 7.3 Likewise, Broughton Parish Council also received funding from CIL and CAF for the development of their pavilion. The pavilion work has now well underway.

8. New Issues and Opportunities

- 8.1 Due to an increase in demand for football, alongside pitch quality management, careful consideration to pitch bookings will continue to be a priority for the Council.
- 8.2 The LFFP is anticipated to be published by Hampshire FA in mid-2025. The report will provide Test Valley Borough Council and the FA with a better understanding of supply and demand of both grass pitches and artificial pitches within the Borough. This will clarify potential opportunities for artificial pitch developments within Test Valley based on demand and suitability.
- 8.3 Sports Hub sites continue to provide value to communities and should remain a priority for the Council when delivering the current and future Local Plan. The new developments across the Borough provide significant opportunities for new sports facilities to be developed to meet the needs of the community.
- 8.4 The Council aim to work with more sports clubs across the Borough to offer more free sports opportunities. This will include an Easter 2025 Sports Club initiative, where we will be working with our communications team and external clubs to promote the full range of activities on offer across the Borough, including the promotion of free trial days or taster events, led by the clubs within Test Valley.
- 8.5 Padel tennis is a sport growing rapidly across the UK. Trojans Sports Club have installed 2 outdoor padel courts and are in the process of installing an additional 4 indoor courts. The development is in partnership with PadelStars. The LTA oversee Padel and are in the process of collecting the data to understand participation trends

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

- 9.1 Since the 2020 PPS and SFS strategies were published, and the 2022 update was written, there have been significant pressures on the sector leading to a changing landscape. The Council and steering group have made progress in delivering the strategies action plans.
- 9.2 Participation in sport and physical activity remains very strong in Test Valley with signs of growth in participation for most formal sports. The Active Lives Survey (2023) indicates that sporting participation within the Borough has returned to pre-pandemic levels, and increased in sports including youth football, tennis, as well as growing participation in running, cycling and walking. We acknowledge that the landscape in Test Valley has evolved significantly within the 5 years since adoption. We are now at a point where we no longer believe there to be an oversupply in any sporting provision, and understand a more robust update would be valuable, including renewing data sets of supply and demand, and growth.
- 9.3 Over the next 12 months, the Council will continue to seek developer contributions for sport where possible and appropriate to do so, using the strategies and the updates as part of the evidence base. We will be developing management plans for all sport sites

and completing ongoing maintenance and asset management approaches to all venues. This includes an opportunity to reflect upon changes in sporting use and impacts of weather conditions or wider influencing factors to consider how we evolve. This knowledge will feed into the tender and rewrite of the PPS and SFS in 2025 which will look to expand the sporting reach of these strategies to better represent the wider community and how they choose to get active.

Next Steps

- 9.4 The Council have received advice from Sport England to update the PPS/SFS because the landscape in Test Valley has evolved significantly within the 5 years since adoption. The Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy guidance (2013) will be used to develop the PPS and the Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (2014) will be used to develop the SFS.
- 9.5 The new PPS/SFS will reassemble the 2020 steering group. This includes members from National Governing Bodies (NGBs) including Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, and partners from Places Leisure who are our main leisure provider.
- 9.6 The steering group will also re-engage with Parish Councils, schools and sports club who have facilities available for sporting use.
- 9.7 The Council aims to begin the official process from spring 2025 with adoption of the document in early 2026.

Appendix 1: Update on the PPS Action Plan

Key:

Green: Action completed in either 2022 or 2023

Amber: Action progressed in either 2022 or 2023

Red: Action not progressed in either 2022 or 2023

- **Abbreviations:** AGP (artificial grass pitch), ECB (England Cricket Board), EH (England Hockey), FA (Football Association), FC (football club), FF (Football Foundation), HCB (Hampshire Cricket Board), LFFP (Local Football Facilities Plan), NGB (National Governing Body), NTP (non turf pitch), RFU (Rugby Football Union), TVBC (Test Valley Borough Council), OT&RCC (Old Tauntonians & Romsey Cricket Club), FSIF (Football Stadia Improvement Fund), GFSP (Ganger Farm Sports Park), CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), CAF (Community Asset Fund), LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) and AGP (Artificial Grass Pitch)

Short Term Actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
North Sub Area					
Andover (Site to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football (Possibly rugby) ○ Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase supply of 3G AGP in Andover in the medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA / FF ○ Site owners ○ Key clubs ○ RFU 	<p>TVBC to work with Football Foundation and Hampshire FA to progress this item in 2025.</p> <p>With input from the FA/EH/RFU/TVBC it has been decided that this action should take priority in the coming year to assess artificial pitch provision.</p>
Andover Cricket Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace club pavilion (2 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andover CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECB ○ TVBC 	<p>Work continues to keep the current site safe and fit for purpose.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
					TVBC are working to secure S106 funding to contribute to the replacement or improvement of the pavilion with the club's partnership funding.
London Road Playing Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC / Andover CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB 	<p>TVBC completed the recommended HCB actions.</p> <p>TVBC are looking to draw upon S106 funding to invest in an artificial wicket to replace the grass turf wicket.</p>
Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) Promote use of sites Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB 	TVBC has implemented the actions recommended in the HCB report.
Picket Piece Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise handover of pavilion and pitch Support community use of the site- tennis, netball, football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club users FA - support as required 	<p>The site has now been handed over to TVBC (September 2024)</p> <p>In the meantime, improvements have been made to Tennis and Netball provision with free back to netball sessions being run in 2024.</p>
Upper Clatford Sports Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to pavilion. FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council FA 		<p>The FA has highlighted this site as a LFFP priority.</p> <p>The FA will approach the Parish to progress this action.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
					TVBC will also approach to highlight possible internal grant funding streams to support the capital investment.
Bulbery Sports Fields, Abbots Ann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council 	<p>The FA to approach regarding the new digital process called pitch power for site assessments.</p> <p>Assessment to be completed as part of the FA's new LFFP.</p> <p>A planning application for a new pavilion has been submitted.</p>
South Sub Area					
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HCB Pitch Adviser to assess options to improve outfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OT&RCC ○ ECB ○ Romsey Youth 	<p>As Romsey Rugby Club transition to Ganger Farm the need for rugby pitches to be retained onsite will be assessed.</p> <p>The site's training pitch will be opened up to the community clubs for use.</p> <p>Formal site reconfiguration will be picked up once supply and demand are formally reassessed when a new national baseline has emerged.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
Bypass (Romsey) Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade changing, showers (utilities etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romsey Town FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA/FF (FSIF grant) Site owner TVBC 	<p>Club to be made aware of FSIF by the FA.</p> <p>This site is considered as part of the Romsey Future workstream.</p>
Kings Chase/ Ganger Farm Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey Rugby Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop management plans Enhance club engagement core programme and facility hire charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility Operator NGBs - support as required 	<p>The team are developing plans to maximise and enhance the recreational potential and capacity of the site. This includes planning for growth to cope with any additional demand of new neighbouring communities.</p>
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby Hockey Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade pavilion changing areas Commission a feasibility study for a 2nd hockey AGP and conversion of a rugby pitch to a rugby AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastleigh BC TVBC EH 	<p>Trojans has received significant £350,000 funding from TVBC for the pavilion upgrade through CIL and CAF grants in 2020/21. Trojans gained planning permission for this in 2024.</p> <p>The RFU continue to support the club to increase rugby capacity onsite through drainage / maintenance improvements.</p>
Borough wide					
-	Football, Rugby & Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise and promote sports turf maintenance training update sessions annually for grounds staff working on playing pitches in the borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC Sparsholt College 	<p>Grounds maintenance staff are encouraged to attend CPD events where possible to improve knowledge and skill sets now that face to face events are returning post Covid-19 restrictions.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
					ECB recommend Grounds Management Association as a partner for CPD for cricket pitch maintenance.
-	Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace fixed goalposts with moveable systems at all sites used for affiliated football. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA ○ Parish Councils 	<p>TVBC has replaced goals at Picket Twenty and additional goals at GFSP.</p> <p>Picket Piece now uses moveable goal systems.</p>

Longer Term Actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
North Sub Area					
Andover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review a needs case for a second hockey AGP to serve demand in Andover and the site and funding options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EH ○ Andover Hockey Club 	<p>TVBC to work with Andover Hockey Club to understand need and growth plans.</p> <p>Further works to ensure a playable surface is retained in Andover for hockey. This work will include assessment of continue growth based on the new insight data generated through the PPS work.</p>
Andover Sports Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resurfacing of 3G to rubber crumb pitch is anticipated to happen in 2025 ○ Renewal or improvement work needed for external facilities- investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andover Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC ○ FA - advisory support only 	<p>Support from the FA due to sizes of external facilities (tennis/netball)</p> <p>Funding has been secured to resurface the 3G pitch during 2025/26.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
		required for costing and need analysis.			
South Sub Area					
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex Bypass (Romsey) Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission a feasibility study / masterplan to review all provision on the two sites (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities) and establish a preferred option, costs and funding strategy for enhancing this key sports hub, to include replacement of the existing inadequate pavilion facilities of Old Tauntonian & Romsey Cricket Club and Romsey Football Club. ○ Improvements required at Romsey Sport Centre to bring the clubhouse into community use and improve water management system ○ In the long term, programme and mark the current rugby training area for youth football training, following the opening of Ganger Farm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC ○ OT&R CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA / FF ○ ECB ○ OT&R CC ○ Romsey Town FC ○ Bypass Ground landowner ○ Romsey Future ○ Romsey Extra Parish Council 	<p>This action is linked to Romsey Future workstream where a masterplan for Romsey emerges.</p> <p>The long-term future of the site will also be considered through the Romsey Future workstream and will form part of an overall sports masterplan for the site.</p> <p>A contractor has been appointed to design a new heating and water system for the building. Subsequent work will then follow this.</p> <p>Further considerations are to be made as to the future management of the clubhouse section of Romsey Sports Centre.</p> <p>Complete - The training pitch at the back of the Rapids is still used/hired by the Rugby Club but is no longer classed as a Rugby Training Pitch is just called a training pitch and can be hired by football clubs as well.</p> <p>The Rugby Club use this site as an additional site to Ganger.</p>

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
					The requirement for OT&RCC's pavilion to be replaced should be added to this action as a long-term priority with the club being the lead party. The improvement to the facilities will need to be guided by the site masterplan.
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rugby ○ Hockey ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject to findings of feasibility study, provide a second hockey AGP and change of surface of a rugby pitch to 3G AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastleigh BC ○ TVBC ○ NGBs 	England Hockey to contact Trojans.
Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pavilion provision (4 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursling & Rownhams PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA / FF ○ TVBC ○ Newton Heath ○ Nursling Vets 	Improvements to this facility is being managed by the Nursling and Rownhams PC and is funded by developer contributions.

Appendix 2: Update on the SFS Action Plan

Key:

Green: Action completed in either 2022 or 2023

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Short Term Actions

Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
St Edwards School and Farleigh School	○ Assess the opportunity for community access/ availability at St Edwards School and Farleigh School (subject to Community Use Agreements being implemented).	○ School governing bodies	○ TVBC	No action to date. Possibility to explore Sport England's Opening School facilities fund.
Romsey School	○ Upgrade tennis / netball courts and lights.	○ Romsey School	○ LTA ○ Romsey & Abbey LTC ○ TVBC	TVBC to contact Romsey School.
BMX Track sites	○ Assess opportunities for the clubs to enhance their sites, including the improvement of power supply, lighting, CCTV and water supply at the BMX track.	○ British Cycling ○ Andover BMX ○ Knightwood BMX	○ TVBC	Floodlights were complete in 2023. TVBC's car park upgrade at Charlton is planned for 2025 which will improve the site.

Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
				Further proposals at Knightwood BMX track should be considered where a link to this action plan can be demonstrated- this is likely to be changes to start hills/gates and removal of generators from site.

Longer Term Actions

Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission a feasibility study to establish a design brief, capital cost estimates and a funding strategy as part of a wider master plan to review all sports facility provision (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities and playing pitch provision) on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Places Leisure ○ FA / FF ○ ECB ○ OT&RCC ○ Romsey Town FC ○ Bypass Ground landowner ○ Romsey Future ○ Romsey Extra Parish Council 	This work will be done as part of the Romsey Future workstream or as part of the development of a sports masterplan for Test Valley.
Romsey School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacement sports hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Romsey School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	No update.
Mountbatten School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacement sports hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mountbatten School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	No update.

Project Site	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Comments / Update
Winton School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade tennis/netball courts and lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winton School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LTA ○ TVBC 	No update.
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade existing 2 tennis courts or replace in better location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LTA 	LTA worked with Parish Council to deliver upgrades in 2024.
Andover Sports Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the Andover Sports Academy future prior to the lease ending in 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 		Work due to commence in 2025.
Bowls Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of all bowls facilities in the Borough (both north and south) to ensure they best meet the needs of the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC ○ Andover Bowls ○ Andover Vision ○ Romsey Bowls ○ Romsey Future ○ Banister Park Bowling Club 		<p>Andover Bowls Club Councillor Grant for disability access to green.</p> <p>Developer contributions being sought in principle for bowls provision. Club has been encouraged to develop a Sport Development Plan</p>
East Anton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with housing developers to ensure appropriate facilities and physical activity provision is developed to meet the needs of the community based on a review of the delivery of the priorities within this strategy at the time of any site development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing Developers 	<p>TVBC are engaged with developers and looking to progress the delivery and adoption of the Southern Local Centre Sports Centre.</p> <p>(Planning for future management of site needed)</p>

