

Appendix 7.1

Swale Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy 2023
Football Summary

No	Findings/Recommendations
1	Protect existing quantity of pitches unless replacement provision is able to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and suitable mitigation, or replacement provision is agreed and delivered
2	Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as 'Poor' quality, prioritise investment (likely to be externally driven) and review delivery model of maintenance. This is to ensure maintenance is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to 'standard' or 'good'.
3	Encourage use of PitchPower Assessments to assess pitch quality across all providers, especially local authority-maintained provision to maintain a current technical understanding of pitch quality and to evidence need for increased investment at priority sites
4	Support clubs and other eligible organisations to access funding through the likes of Football Foundation to improve quality of grass pitches and to sustain good quality once improved
5	Consider the potential and feasibility for asset transfer or long-term leasehold to clubs or parish councils which express interest and are considered realistically able to sustain and maintain sporting provision as required, allowing for greater opportunities to access external funding streams for facility development
6	Work to accommodate future demand as well as unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, or at sites not currently available for community use that could become so, moving forward
7	Provide security of tenure for clubs using remaining unsecured sites through community use agreements or through conditions of external investment, particularly at key education sites used by community clubs and teams
8	Ensure all teams are playing on the pitches of the correct size
9	Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer. Ensure any works provide suitability for female and disability access to facilitate increased football formats. Prioritise multi - pitch sites and key sites for female participation and development, seek to provide access to toilet facilities as a minimum requirement at all sites

10	Where a residential development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, (2 pitches or more) focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that meet the new demand created by the development and existing shortfalls where possible, with accompanying clubhouse, access and car parking provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable
11	Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, secure contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, guided by the priorities identified within the PPS Action Plan and Swale Local Football Facility Plan
12	Update with Input from partners the Swale Local Football Facility Plan based on the key findings of the PPS to focus plans for investment into Football Foundation investment into the improvement of facilities with partners