

# Policy on Provision of Facilities for Outdoor Pitch Sports 2017



## Policy on Provision of Facilities for Outdoor Pitch Sports

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## Executive summary

*“We are committed to helping Scotland become more physically active as it has been shown to improve both physical and mental health. In order to do so, we are creating world class facilities and encourage the use of all facilities available.*

Scottish Health Secretary Shona Robinson 2017.

This policy aims to ensure the effective and efficient management of Council facilities for outdoor pitch sports for present and future needs. Access to facilities encourages people to live active, healthy and fulfilled lives. Physical activity reduces obesity and associated conditions, and participation in team activity provides social interaction and builds self-esteem. It incorporates the principle of community empowerment through encouraging club or community management of appropriate facilities.

All sports using outdoor pitches provided by the Council are considered, football being the most popular, with most of the Council’s grass pitches in parks are used for this purpose. For all sports, there are adequate pitches to meet current demand, although quality is variable and new or improved changing facilities are required in many locations. The importance of access to floodlit synthetic turf pitches (STPs), particularly for training, sports development and for matches when available and/or when grass is unplayable is recognised.

Football teams are required to register and pay for using match pitches which contributes partly to the maintenance costs incurred by the Council. Not all teams register and therefore play without paying which is unfair to paying teams and also risks the loss of match standard pitches. Engagement with clubs, both directly and through the Scottish Football Association (SFA), is ongoing to identified and encourage all teams to register for pitch use.

Where teams have not registered and paid for use, the Council will stop maintaining park pitches to match standard. These pitches will also not be marked however where there is no nearby seven a side pitch a single goal posts will be provided so that these areas can be used free of charge for training. Sevens sized training areas are also unmarked but any fixed goalposts will be retained to encourage youth development. In the 2017/18 season, 34 of the 38 full sized match pitches and 10 of the 11 sevens sized match pitches are retained with 4 full sized and 1 sevens sized match pitches being reclassified as training areas. An additional 20 full sized and 38 sevens pitch areas are currently classified as training areas. If teams register in future, pitches can be reinstated to match standard.

The Council, Live Active Leisure (LAL) and the SFA will continue to work in partnership with community clubs and sporting bodies to implement the policy. This will ensure a consistent and equitable approach to facility provision and the efficient use of available resources.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Policy will ensure the most effective and efficient management of Council facilities for outdoor sports for current and future needs. Community management is encouraged where appropriate; however, within public parks, the wider public interest must be assured.
- 1.2 This policy builds on the Leisure Needs Analysis (LNA) 2012 which provided an analysis of the supply of, and demand for, facilities for selected sports. The LNA assessed the quantity and quality of facilities for short and long term needs for competitive teams within football, rugby, golf, tennis, cricket, hockey, athletics and bowls. Both grass and synthetic surfaces, multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and synthetic turf pitches (STPs) were included. To assess football, the LNA divided Perth and Kinross into community cluster areas based on a main town or settlement which could be easily reached by road from within the cluster. The LNA concluded that there was an adequate quantity of facilities but that quality was patchy and required improvement.
- 1.3 The policy has been developed by the Council and (Live Active Leisure) LAL. Football team numbers have altered substantially since the LNA was completed and the number of teams paying for use of Council park pitches fluctuates every year. To improve knowledge of club development needs and their use of pitches, the Council is working with LAL and the Scottish Football Association (SFA).
- 1.4 Within public parks, the Council currently provides 60 grass pitch areas for football, rugby and cricket community teams. 49 of these are for competitive football which is the most popular sport. The average annual cost of maintaining a match standard football pitch is £2,589.22 which is largely borne by the Council. Payment for competitive matches is required to contribute to this cost. The cost of maintain a training area by comparison is £378.00 and is met entirely by the Council.

## 2. Context

### 2.1 Legislation & Guidance

2.1.1 The provision of recreation services falls within the permissive power under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 to take actions to improve the wellbeing of people in the area. Councils must secure best value in all endeavours and use community planning to guide their strategic direction.

2.1.2 Most public parks and playing fields are legacy assets entrusted to local authorities to manage and maintain for current and future generations. Most grass pitches are within parks which are important spaces for a wide range of public uses including events and informal recreation. This is key to a community's identity and, where well managed, are sources of civic pride.

2.1.3 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 aims to empower communities to take a lead role in owning or managing local community facilities. These principles are developed in the Council's Community and Corporate Plans. When applied to outdoor sports provision, these principles require that user groups, mainly community clubs, are involved in both assessing current and future needs for facilities and, where appropriate, managing existing facilities for public benefit as a whole.

This Policy helps to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 which builds on five outcome focussed strategic objectives to provide clear direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

1. Giving every child the best start in life.
2. Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens.
3. Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy.
4. Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives.
5. Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

Providing for outdoor sports will help people of all ages take part in sport in safe, fit for purpose facilities and offer opportunities for community based groups to be involved in running community sports facilities. As a result, the policy will contribute to delivering objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5.

2.1.2 The Scottish Government's 'Reaching Higher' 2007 sets out the long term objectives for sport until 2020 and plans for its delivery and evaluation. sportscotland is the national agency that develops and supports sport skills and facilities at all levels. Fields in Trust (FIT), formally the National Playing Fields Association's 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard, Scotland 2017', provides recommended benchmark quantity and quality guidelines for formal outdoor space. This includes pitches which can be referenced, along with likely demand from teams, when seeking new pitch provision for major housing developments.

- 2.1.3 The health benefits of taking part in sport are addressed within [‘A More Active Scotland – Building a Legacy from the Commonwealth Games’ 2014](#) which is a ten year physical activity implementation plan. It aims to increase the health of the nation through physical activity by increasing the numbers of people involved in sport and physical activity. Its vision is ‘The people of Scotland will enjoy more active and healthier lives’. It has five delivery themes with clear outcomes to ensure progress including a Sport & Active Recreation theme, incorporating the outcome that ‘there will be an increase in grass-roots participation in sport by all’.
- 2.1.4 Provision of opportunities for participation in sport starts within school based education and extends to the wider community. The Equalities Act 2010 demands that provision is accessible to everyone. The Council’s Strategic Priorities for Culture and Sport 2016-2021 picks up these themes. This aims to put opportunities for all at the heart of provision of the highest quality facilities for sport, and increase participation, especially through attracting new people.
- 2.1.5 Planning policy at national level and within the Local Development Plan, protects existing provision and ensures contributions for improved or new facilities can be secured from major housing developments where a demand is demonstrated.

## 2.2 Ownership and Management of Sports Facilities

- 2.2.1 The Council owns most school and park based sports facilities in Perth & Kinross and leases private parks in some settlements for the same purpose. It may also lease facilities to community clubs.
- 2.2.2 Live Active Leisure (LAL) is the main provider of ‘pay to play’ sport and leisure services in Perth & Kinross where they manage centres such as Bell’s Sports Centre, the George Duncan Athletics Arena (GDAA) and community campuses which provide most of the MUGAs and STPs.
- 2.2.3 Private pitches and courts, which are often owned and managed by sports clubs, are important community resources. Sports which use mainly private facilities include:
- Bowls (facilities in four Council parks are leased to private clubs for management and maintenance)
  - Tennis (some use of school courts, Council courts in two parks are leased to private clubs in Helen McGregor Park, Longforgan, and Scone Recreation Park, The MUGA within Larghan Park, Coupar Angus is community owned and used for tennis).
  - Golf (North Inch Golf Course is the only Council facility).
  - Cricket (there are cricket areas on sites managed by the Council at North Inch Park Victoria Park in Aberfeldy, Larghan Victory Park in Coupar Angus, Meigle Victory Park, Braidhaugh Park in Crieff and at Loch Leven and Strathearn Community Campuses).

## Community Greenspace

- MUGAs and STPs outwith school provision may be in parks or on Council land but are managed and maintained by community clubs and can be booked for a variety of sports. Examples include the MUGA in Errol Park, Scone Ball Park and the third generation (3G) STP in Seven Acres Park in Perth.

2.2.4 Athletics is provided for at the George Duncan Athletics Arena which is a synthetic floodlit track located at Perth Grammar School. There are also tracks marked out at Perth Academy, Strathearn Community Campus and on the North Inch park.

2.2.5 Hockey matches are played on sand dressed STPs at the North Inch Community Campus in Perth and the STP at King George V (KGV) Park in Kinross which is leased to the club.

2.2.6 Rugby uses Council park and school pitches as well as some private facilities. Blairgowrie RUFC play at a private ground in Blairgowrie. Within Council parks, seasonal lets apply with CG being responsible for pitch maintenance and goalposts while clubs undertake line marking. A problem with dog waste on park rugby pitches was identified within the LNA despite the provision of waste bins and adequate signage. Club use of Council facilities include:

- Perthshire Rugby Union Football Club (RUFC) is based at the North Inch where there are three pitches. The club installed floodlighting and spectator barriers with Council permission. As the lit pitch is used intensively for training and matches, it requires annual summer renovation. They have a clubhouse within Bells Sports Centre, but aspire to own their own ground with clubhouse. They also train on grass pitches at Perth Academy and on third generation (3G) STPs at Perth High School and Seven Acres Park, Perth.
- Crieff RUFC use two rugby pitches at Braidhaugh Park in Crieff. One pitch is floodlit and used for training. The Council recently improved drainage as it is prone to flooding. The club's pavilion is too small and they have planning permission and part funding to improve facilities. The club also train at the 3G STP at Strathearn Community Campus.
- Atholl Highlanders RUFC use one pitch at Pitlochry Recreation Ground. The pavilion is leased and, as it is shared with the football club, is considered to be too small.
- Kinross RUFC use two pitches at King George V (KGV) Park (leased from ECS), one pitch is floodlit. The pavilion is owned by the KGV management committee and is also used by the hockey club. They also train on the grass pitches and 3G STP at Loch Leven Community Campus.

### 2.2.7 Ownership and Management of Council Football Facilities

Most grass pitch areas available for football are within Council parks and additional grass pitches are available at both Strathearn and Loch Leven Community Campuses.

In addition there are 9 pitches on 6 privately owned parks which the Council have been managing and maintaining on behalf of the public. These are:

- Kettins Park,
- St Madoes Park
- Guildtown Park,
- Kinrossie Park,
- Bridgeton Park, Almondbank
- Methven Park

The Council leases four pitches to Junior League Teams for their exclusive use so these are fenced off and are not accessible to any other team or the public. These are at Davie Park Blairgowrie, the RDM School in Scone and at Bute Drive and Tulloch Park in Perth.

The Council owns changing pavilions in 4 parks and also have 8 ground leases with clubs for private facilities in parks to safeguard public land. The standard of changing at pitches varies. The Junior League requires changing facilities with showers for two teams including separate areas for males and female teams. Although other leagues do not require this, clubs who aspire to play in this league need to develop this standard of changing.

## 2.3 Council responsibilities for sports facilities

### 2.3.1 The Environment Service

Community Greenspace (CG) specifies and schedules the maintenance and initial marking of grass pitches and training areas within Council parks for football, rugby and cricket. The Council's Grounds Maintenance Operations teams, managed separately from CG, undertake the majority of the maintenance. Most of the pitches are provided for football due to high levels of participation. CG also allocates and manages pitch bookings based on the number of teams registered to play and outdoor event bookings e.g. for Highland Games and Gala days. These may occur on some pitch areas, but as they are usually during the summer, outwith the football and rugby seasons, few booking conflicts occur. Booking information for events and football is provided on the website and further information is available within the Environment Committee Report 'Charging Criteria for Events and Football Bookings' March 2014 (Report Reference 14/119). CG also manages the North Inch Golf Course and further information on its management and development plans is available within the Environment Committee Report 'North Inch Golf Course – Business Plan' March 2016 (Report Reference 16/141).

### 2.3.2 Options for booking and management of park facilities

Competitive football teams are expected to register and pay a modest fee for use of park pitches for matches so pitches can be properly allocated, prepared and maintained (see section 2.3.3 below for the cost of maintenance). Most teams register and hire pitches through occasional or seasonal lets managed by CG. A few clubs have a long term lease or management agreement (MA) with the Council for the management and/or maintenance of changing facilities and/or pitches.

Unfortunately some teams do not register mainly to avoid paying and this is difficult to 'police' as general pitch access in parks is unrestricted. It is short-sighted of teams to do this as it may result in inadequate maintenance or restoration in relation to the level of use. This can lead to damage of playing surfaces to the detriment of all teams (paying and non-paying) and may ultimately result in the pitch being downgraded to a training area where no teams are registered. Paying teams could also rightly feel frustrated that non-paying teams have access to facilities and through un-registered use, may damage the pitch surface for teams that have registered.

Most football pitches are an integral part of a public park and are also there for general public amenity and community use. Public right of access is established under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 on the basis of responsible use so it is important that clubs and teams do not try to exclude others from using the pitches responsibly. As most teams are content with this and with registering to use the pitches, there are very few MAs or leases for grass pitches within parks. For some privately owned parks which have historically been maintained by the Council there are no legal arrangements allowing the Council to sublet to football teams so to date these teams have not been asked to register, however this is addressed within this policy.

Consultation with other councils has shown that most of them are keen for large clubs to take on management of their home pitches and pavilions where a good business case exists. However in many cases councils still undertook the pitch maintenance. In Dundee clubs book matches with the league who then book and pay for council pitches. Unfortunately this system is not established in Perth and Kinross due to a number of different leagues operating within Perth and Kinross.

### 2.3.3 Council maintenance of pitches

The estimated average annual cost of maintaining a match football pitch is £2,589.22 which this aims to allow 2 matches per week during the season (August to May). Maintenance to match standard includes marking out, erection of goals, rolling, spiking and slitting, weed killing, fertilising and fortnightly mowing. Full sized unmarked, training areas with no goalposts; receive no maintenance other than mowing at an average annual cost of £378.00. They can be easily converted to match pitches for the following season if teams register and pay by the end of May of that year.

Goals are provided on sevens sized training areas to support youth development at an additional cost of £60.00 per pitch per annum.

Pitch and goalpost renovation is carried out in the summer (June and July) on a prioritised basis within available resources. In 2017 goalposts on four sevens pitches which were not required for events, were left up to facilitate youth summer football at the clubs' request. Whilst three pitches seemed to cope with the extra use one pitch (at Scone Recreation Park) has since required costly re-turfing to enable it to be available for the season. If major pitch improvements are required e.g. to drainage and or relaying of the playing surface, and they are justified by demand, they may be undertaken if resources are available and usually need partnership working with the clubs to achieve. The Council (CG) consider that two full sized pitch renovations will be required for the 2018/19 season (Myre Park & Scone Recreation Park) the cost is estimated at £13,000 per pitch.

#### 2.3.4 School based sports facilities

Education and Children's Services (ECS) manage school based facilities other than at community campuses. These are principally for school use and are rarely available to community clubs due to capacity limits of the playing surface and shortage of staff required to book and oversee use out of school hours. Primary school facilities are generally too small for adult use and any community access is at the discretion of the head teacher. At secondary schools where community access to MUGAs, STPs or grass pitches is possible, bookings can be made for during term time only. Community Campuses caters for school and community use and LAL manage the sports facilities. Council/LAL staff must oversee all facility use so club use is limited to opening times and some clubs state their development is limited due to inadequate booking capacity. School and campus facilities generally include good changing and car parking so hire charges are comparatively higher than seasonal hire charges for park pitches which usually do not have these facilities.

#### 2.3.5 Sports Development

The Sports Development Team) and Active Schools Coordinators (transferred from ECS to LAL on 1 April 2016) work with schools, Governing Bodies and local clubs to help increase participation in sport. Active Schools have a focus on developing volunteer led extracurricular and competitive team sport. The Sports Development Team work with community clubs ,local sports associations and governing bodies to support the development of volunteers and improve sporting infrastructure. LAL also delivers sportscotland's Community Sports Hub Initiative which addresses these aims at a local level. Individual clubs are encouraged to join PACES (Perth and Kinross Accredited Club Excellence Scheme) which is a quality assurance system to help clubs operate efficiency and effectively.

### 2.3.6 Sports Provision and New Housing Development

Development Management works with other sections to secure appropriate new facilities, or contributions for facilities, from major housing developments. The Fields in Trust quantity standards for grass provision and sportscotland Facility Planning Model for STPs can be used as a reference for securing new facilities. New MUGAs, STPs or pavilions (other than at schools) will be secured according to need and on the basis that communities will manage and maintain them. In some locations new pitches with changing facilities may replace existing substandard facilities. Information from football clubs indicates that they want to develop new or improved pavilions within at least nine park pitches. To date, separate outdoor grass and STP facilities for school and community use have been provided (except at community campuses). The Council is now seeking ways to ensure that school and community teams can share facilities, especially STPs (see policies within section 5).

### 3. Policies and Recommendations for Council Outdoor Sports Provision

#### 3.1 Policies for all sports except football

The Council and LAL reviewed the LNA recommendations and assessed the extent to which Council facilities meet the needs of each sport. This identified the policies below which aim to improve provision where required.

**Outdoor Bowls:** The Council do not provide public bowling greens but will continue to lease its facilities to community bowling clubs.

**Athletics:** The Council (ECS) in partnership with LAL will continue to manage, maintain and maximise use of the George Duncan Athletics Arena, encouraging participation through schools and community use. The Council (CG) will continue to maintain the grassed athletics area on the North Inch, Perth.

**Golf:** The future management and maintenance of the municipal North Inch Golf Course is considered separately to this policy (see section 2.3.1). All other provision in Perth and Kinross is privately managed.

**Cricket:** The Council (ECS) in partnership with LAL will maximise access to school based facilities for winter training. LAL's Cricket Development Officer manages bookings for the North Inch Park facility. All other cricket provision on Council sites, excluding those at community campuses, will be managed directly by the clubs themselves through management agreements.

**Hockey:** The Council (ECS) in partnership with LAL will continue to encourage use of existing community campus facilities and will assist clubs to develop their own facilities. The STP at King George V Park in Kinross has been recently upgraded and sublet through KGV to the Kinross Hockey Club to manage and maintain. Partnership working will continue with Perth Hockey Club to seek funding for a club house with changing facilities at Perth Academy and with Blairgowrie Hockey Club to create, or gain access to, a floodlit STP in Blairgowrie.

**Tennis:** Demand is met by campus and school based courts and privately run community based clubs. Facilities within five Council parks will continue to be leased to community clubs. The Council (ECS) will maximise access to school facilities where required.

**MUGAs and STPs:** The Council (TES & ECS) in partnership with LAL will :

- Support the provision of new community MUGAs, particularly in small settlements, and new STPs where there is an unmet demand. This will be on the basis that communities can demonstrate a sound business case, raise the funding and undertake future management and maintenance. New provision is expected to comply with national standards to ensure they are fit for purpose.

- Adopt new facilities only where they have been required by the Council, but in all cases will work with communities and other relevant partners to ensure efficient management and maintenance of MUGAs
- Ensure that existing school based MUGAs and STPs on Council land will be adequately managed and maintained.

**Rugby:** The Council will seek management agreements with clubs to enable clubs to manage pitches and facilities. The Council will continue to maintain pitches and will work with LAL to assess future demand. Current indications would suggest inclusion of a full sized grass pitch or a floodlit 4G STP suitable for rugby in relation to major developments within the Perth area. The Council (ECS) in partnership with LAL will maximise access to appropriate school facilities for training purposes if required. The Council (TES) will assist Perth RUFC to appropriately manage the grass pitches on the North Inch and continue to encourage and enforce responsible dog ownership. In addition, TES will work in partnership with LAL and will support club funding applications for improved facilities where appropriate including:

- Kinross RUFC – possible improvements to pitch quality at King George V Park and a management agreement.
- Crieff & Strathearn RUFC – possible upgrade to changing facilities, floodlighting and parking and access arrangements at Braidhaugh Park.
- Atholl Highlanders RUFC - possible upgrade to improve changing facilities, floodlighting and parking arrangements at Pitlochry Recreation Ground.
- Blairgowrie RAMS RFC - assess the need for access to an additional pitch.

### 3.2 Developing Policies for Football Facilities

Council football pitches are available throughout Perth and Kinross and most teams use their local facilities, minimising the need for travel. This reflects the community based ‘cluster’ approach to provision advocated in the LNA which has therefore been adopted for the following areas:

1. Aberfeldy
2. Auchterarder
3. Blairgowrie
4. Carse of Gowrie
5. Crieff
6. Kinross
7. Perth City
8. Perth Landward
9. Pitlochry

A map showing the community clusters used is given in appendix 1.

Pitch provision within the clusters is based on each grassed pitch being in good condition and capable of sustaining a maximum of 2 games per week over the winter months. Up to four teams could therefore be allocated to a single pitch on the basis each team plays a home and away game on alternate weeks. It is, however, recognised that the ground conditions of some pitches will only sustain 1 or 2 teams. CG experience shows that some training in addition to matches can be sustained on well drained pitches. sportsotland advise that grass pitches can theoretically be used for a maximum of 8 hrs/week (depending on condition) including both matches and training. Allowing 3 hours for two matches, there would potentially be scope for up to 5 hours of training or informal use per week but only on very well drained, robust pitches.

The Council assess the number of park pitches required for competitive matches primarily from the number of teams who register and pay for use. League matches are on Saturdays and Sundays. The current level of match pitch provision is therefore based on two league games being played per week on a Saturday and Sunday. The Council is aware of an ongoing issue of under registration of teams and non-payment of fees. At the same time, some clubs claim an inadequate match standard pitch resource. As registration of teams has a direct relationship with the quantity and quality of provision, under-registration of teams will have significant consequences on what the Council provides where.

### Discussions with the SFA

To improve Council understanding of the teams using Council pitches and their development needs, meetings with LAL and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) have been taking place. SFA have produced a Club Development Strategy through consultation with their main development football clubs (FCs). This provides information on the numbers of teams using Council and private facilities and where facility improvements are required to allow for further club development. The SFA recognises the importance of team registration in determining the level of Council pitch provision and maintenance and that this can only be achieved through ongoing partnership working between the Council, SFA, clubs and associations. They accept that Council maintenance is best focused on the priority match pitches and that rarely used pitches should be maintained to a reduced training standard. They consider access to 3G STPs crucial for both training and matches and especially for youth development for four, five and seven a side games who also benefit from summer football on grass sevens pitches. The growth of female football is also recognised. However, there are currently no additional requirements arising from this. The SFA's priority requirements and the Council and LAL response is summarised below.

- SFA priority - agree to clubs taking over the management and maintenance of their home pitches subject to an SFA approved sound business case.

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Council (CG) response – agree to consider on a case by case basis due to requirements to assure wider public access.

- SFA priority - facilitate and/or support the creation of new or improved match standard pavilions to provide for changing, social and storage for development clubs if approved by SFA. Clubs would like to develop new or improved pavilions at pitches within nine parks.

Council (CG)/LAL response – will require to be led by clubs and SFA who must provide majority of funding, feasibility and implementation. Siting and design will be subject to Council agreement and a ground lease to safeguard the wider public interest. It is unlikely however, that the Council will support conversion of existing public open spaces to fenced private Junior League facilities.

- SFA priority - increase club access to 3GSTPs and/or if required support the creation of additional 3GSTPs for football due to club development needs not being met by existing access to STPs.

Council (ECS)/LAL response – sportscotland information shows there is adequate STP supply for demand. However access to school based facilities is acknowledged to be limited due to operational needs and increased partnership working will be required to improve future accessibility.

- SFA priority - provide sevens grass pitches for summer football for youth development and youth and womens' games held from March to November in response to club requests.

Council (CG) response – agreed subject to park pitches not being required for summer events or needing renovation.

- SFA priority - review and standardise pricing across Council and LAL facilities at a rate which is affordable while allowing for sustainable maintenance.

Council/LAL response – Council pricing is subject to a separate annual review (TES charges). Pricing for park and campus grass pitches are different due to different standards of provision.

- SFA priority – the Council should establish a partnership group with LAL, SFA and appropriate bodies and clubs to implement the policy.

Council/LAL response – agreed that there should be a partnership group to implement this policy for all sports considered and that this should be recommended within this policy.

### 3.3 Policies for Football Facilities

The Council's football policies and the community cluster based recommendations (see 3.4 below) have been agreed through CG led discussions with ECS, LAL and the SFA. The general policies are set out first followed by specific recommendations for each cluster which are detailed within appendix 1.

#### 3.3.1 Pitch Provision & Team Registration

The Council will:

- Require individual teams playing competitive matches on park pitches to register and pay for use to a maximum of 4 teams per pitch. Teams will be encouraged to pay on a seasonal basis. Teams using privately owned pitches which are currently maintained by the Council, will be required to register and pay for use, or maintain the pitches at their own expense in future in which case Council pitch maintenance will stop.
- Provide routine maintenance for match pitches to agreed standards (see section 2.2.3) for use by a maximum of 4 teams per pitch, subject to pitch capacity.
- Retain pitches used by registered teams within separate settlements within community clusters to facilitate local use and identity and minimise the need for motorised travel.
- Maintain training areas to a standard suitable for informal games. (Grass is cut fortnightly, pitches are not marked out). Retain a single goal post on full sized pitches in communities where there are no sevens pitch to facilitate training. Retain existing goal posts on sevens pitches to facilitate youth development (youth development is considered to be teams of 4 or more participants of under 18 years old). Requests for additional sevens goal posts will be considered in relation to existing facilities and available resources.
- Provide sevens size grass match pitches for boys, girls and womens' summer games where clubs register and subject to suitable pitch being available. Pitches which require summer renovation will not be available so additional match standard pitches may have to be provided.
- Reclassify pitches within parks to training areas where there is no registered team on the assumption that they are not used for matches. In circumstances where teams are known to be using pitches and their payments are due, reclassification to training area may be postponed if CG is satisfied that registration and payment will be made imminently.

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- Work with LAL to review booking procedures to increase access to school based STP facilities within available resources for community teams.
- Encourage the SFA, LAL and leagues to develop a coordinated club registration, booking and payment system for allocating pitches. This should ensure optimum access to shared facilities whilst retaining general public access.
- Encourage clubs to book and use available pitches within their community cluster area where demand exceeds capacity on their home pitch.

### 3.3.2 Pitch Quality

The Council will:

- Support teams to undertake maintenance tasks such as surface patching.
- Work in partnership with clubs/communities to fund major improvements to grass pitches which require drainage or resurfacing. The Council will contribute towards this subject to available resources
- Work in partnership with clubs and associations who have a justified and sustainable project plan to improve or create changing facilities for more than 1 team or other community use and/or improve the quality of pitches at Council sites.
- Work in partnership with clubs to agree leases or management agreements to allow them to manage and/or maintain changing facilities and/or pitches where this is advantageous to both the club and the Council. In all cases where pitches are within public open spaces wider public amenity, access and use will be assured.
- Standardise leases and management agreements to ensure transparency, consistency and that terms and conditions safeguard public interests while optimising benefits to the clubs. Annual fees will reflect maintenance responsibility and, where this is the Council's responsibility, will be subject to annual review and be similar to seasonal let fees.
- Secure provision of or contributions to new facilities where justified for new housing developments, which may replace existing substandard facilities, or improvement of existing facilities. These should be

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designed to be shared by school and community clubs and minimise disturbance to residents.

### 3.4 Community Cluster Recommendations

The table below summarises the current supply and demand for grassed match pitches for all clusters and proposed supply based on 2017/18 team registrations. Training areas are not included as they are maintained as amenity grass areas and don't require additional pitch preparation. It also does not show the Campus or school STPs or grassed pitches as no change is proposed for these.

Cluster	Current Supply	Demand 17/18	Proposed Supply	Comment
Aberfeldy				
Full sized	0	0	0	Teams use private & campus pitches.
7 a side	0	0	0	
Auchterarder				
Full sized	1	1	1	Supply matches demand.
7 a side	0	0	0	
Blairgowrie				
Full sized	6	2	6	Extra pitches are needed as teams use local pitches in separate communities.
7 a side	2	1	2	
Carse of Gowrie				
Full sized	3	1	2	1 full pitch & 1 sevens pitch to be reclassified as training areas. Remaining extra pitches are needed as teams use local pitches in separate communities.
7 a side	3	0	2	
Crieff				
Full sized	3	1	2	1 full pitch to be reclassified as training area. Further extra pitch is due teams to established at different Crieff Parks.
7 a side	0	0	0	
Kinross				
Full sized	2	2	2	Supply matches demand.
7 a side	1	1	1	
Perth City				
Full sized	9	4	9	Extra pitches are to cater for reallocated teams when home pitches are unsuitable. Some youth teams use full pitches.
7 a side	3	3	3	

## Community Greenspace

Perth Landward				
Full sized	12	3	10	2 full pitches to be reclassified as training pitches. Further extra pitches are needed as teams use local pitches in separate communities. Some youth teams use full pitches.
7 a side	2	2	2	
Pitlochry				
Full sized	2	1	2	Extra pitches are needed as teams use local pitches in separate communities.
7 a side	0	0	0	

The above table shows the value of assessing supply and demand at the community level. Where significant extra pitch provision is retained (proposed supply minus demand) this is due to teams being established on local and preferred pitches. Extra capacity is provided in Perth in case of home pitches being unplayable so that scheduled matches do not need to be cancelled. There is theoretical under provision of sevens size pitches in Blairgowrie and in Perth City and Landward, however some youth matches can be played on or across full sized pitches so this is not considered a significant issue. There is an adequate number of park match pitches for paying teams in all community cluster areas for 2017/18. To reduce oversupply it is recommended that 4 full sized and 1 sevens sized pitches which are not required for use by any paying team are reclassified to training areas. This will increase Council efficiency through ensuring maintenance operations are focussed on match pitches.

The pitch provision summary and recommendation for each site in each cluster is shown in detail within appendix 1. Recommendations aim to:

- Reduce short term match pitch oversupply through reclassification of pitches with no registered team to training areas. This is on the basis that this may be temporary and can be reversed if additional teams register for use.
- Identify facilities and joint working which may be required in future to meet long term club development aspirations.

Information from the SFA on club development needs and aspirations has also been taken into account. Where clubs state a requirement for additional park match pitches, this has been addressed within the site specific recommendations (appendix 1) however match pitches are only provided for paying teams.

#### Recommendation for All Sports

It is recommended that the Council (TES/ECS) establish a partnership group to implement this policy. This has the support of LAL and SFA and would meet on a regular basis.

## Conclusion

This policy ensures that the Council facilities for outdoor sports are adequate for current demand. It identifies that partnership working with LAL and clubs and associations will be required to increase the quality of facilities and encourage increased participation and sports development. It is therefore recommended that the Council establish a partnership group to implement this policy.

It improves the management efficiency of park football pitches through matching pitch supply to demand from registered teams on a seasonal basis. Although the policy aims to provide for organised team sports it also acknowledges the importance for health and wellbeing of providing for youth development and informal games, through the provision of training areas, and of wider public access to parks.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 Site Specific Pitch Provision Summary and Recommendations for Council Pitches in Nine Community Cluster Areas.

Appendix 1 Site Specific Pitch Provision Summary and Recommendations for Council Pitches in Nine Community Cluster Areas.

The community cluster information summarises the supply of pitches and numbers of registered teams to show how many pitches are needed within each community area. It provides site specific recommendations and also shows information, obtained through the SFA, on the main football clubs and their development aspirations. Some clubs state that they require additional pitches which the Council will be able to provide when they register and pay for use. The recommendations aim to:

- Reduce short term match pitch oversupply through reclassification of pitches with no registered team to training areas. This is on the basis that this may be temporary and can be reversed if additional teams register for use.
- Identify facilities and joint working which may be required in future to meet long term club development aspirations.

Map of nine community cluster areas

**Aberfeldy Cluster**

**Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized	0					No change
Grass 7s Match pitch Training pitch	0  1					No change
BCC STP	1					No change
BCC grass full sized	1					No change

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

Teams use private facilities and the Breadalbane Community Campus (BCC) when available. There are no Council grass match pitches within parks provided for community use. As there is a demand for additional pitches the Council should consider options to secure additional facilities associated with future developments to provide for further club development.

**Private pitches:** Home Street, Aberfeldy, Kenmore and Grandtully Parks are all in private ownership with no Council involvement.

**Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

[Breadalbane Community FC](#) is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests there are 10 x11s and 7x7s teams plus 6-8yrs team training. This club incorporates both Breadalbane FC adult team, which plays in the Perthshire Amateur League based in Aberfeldy, and Breadalbane Strathtay Youth FC who play at Aberfeldy, Grandtully and Kenmore. The Aberfeldy club grounds is at Home Street where they have a full sized grass pitch, a 7s grass pitch and clubhouse facilities, there is no space to expand and there is a threat of flooding. Improved fencing and floodlighting is required and in the longer term there is a need to resurface the 7s pitch. They also use a full sized grass pitch and clubhouse at Kenmore Recreation Park and a full sized grass pitch with limited changing and no storage at Grandtully Recreation Ground. The club need access to a 3G STP, they want to work with LAL and ECS to upgrade the campus 2G STP to a 3G STP to be

suitable for football, as more efficient option than installing a new STP at Home St, and are prepared to contribute financially. They also require onsite storage and improved access to campus facilities.

**Site Specific Recommendations**

- Breadalbane Community Campus - Retain club access to the 2G STP (sand dressed) & 1 full sized grass pitch. Improvement of faulty floodlighting and drainage of grass pitch, on site storage and improved access to facilities required. Investigate partnership working to upgrade STP to 3 or 4G. (ECS/LAL).

In addition a sevens grass training area will be retained

at: ○ Moness, Aberfeldy.

## Auchterarder Cluster

### Pitch Provision Summary

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch	1	1	(0.5) 1	1	0	No change
Grass 7s Match pitch	0	0	0	0	0	No change
Training pitch	1					
School STP	1	9				No change

### Recommended Future Pitch Provision

The table indicates that supply meets demand so the recommendation is to retain the full sized grass match pitch and access to the STP. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** Braco Recreation Park and Rollo Park in Dunning are in private ownership with no Council involvement, but provide additional pitches.

**Future additional facilities:** Major housing development within Auchterarder will secure 1 full sized grass pitch (no known expected date), 2 grass 7s pitches (expected 2022) and 1 3G STP pitch (expected April 2019) plus changing (expected January 2024).

### Club Development Needs & Recommendations

The [Auchterarder Community Sports Association](#) (ACSA) is part of the Community Sports Hubs (CSH) initiative supported by LAL. [Auchterarder Primrose AFC](#) (1 team) and Auchterarder Juniors FC (6-14 yrs with 9 teams) are part of the ACSA and are accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The junior club is based at the community school facilities. They are seeking a partnership agreement with LAL for improved weekend access to the STP and indoor facilities and for onsite storage.

The Auchterarder Primrose AFC uses the park pitch which has been renovated for August 17 with part funding from ACSA. They want ACSA to renovate and manage the changing facility for wider community use.

**Site Specific Recommendations**

- Auchterarder Community School – retain/improve club access to 3G STP & other facilities (9 teams use facilities). Secure permission to place club storage containers at campus (LAL).
- Primrose Park, Auchterarder – retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team). Changing owned by club in poor condition possible future redevelopment.

In addition a sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- Kincardine Road Play Area, Auchterarder.

**Blairgowrie Cluster****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch Training pitch	6 2	8-7	4	2	+4	No change
Grass 7s Match pitch Training pitch	2 10	4	2	1	+1	No change

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

Whilst the table indicates an oversupply of 4 full grass match pitches and 1 sevens grass match pitch, the recommendation is to retain 6 full match pitches and 2 sevens match pitches, some of which are used by teams in separate communities. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** Foxhall Park in Coupar Angus, Burrelton Park and Victoria Park in Meigle all provide grass pitches and are in private ownership with no Council involvement.

**Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Sports Club (BRCS) is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests there are 6 x 11 and 7 x7s and 1 Junior team. This number of teams does not match the number registered with the Council. Whilst the Club consider there is a shortage of pitches which is limiting club development, the Council can only provide additional pitches if they register all teams. BRCS want more permanent changing provision at Piggy Lane and community ownership of Davie Park where they lease the pavilion which is due to be upgraded in 2018, however they require a match standard pavilion incorporating female and male changing to meet their needs. Due to no local training facilities (STP) FCs travel to Dundee or Perth. The Council plan to develop an STP, location and standard are yet to be decided. BRCS are considering creating an STP in Davie Park junior pitch (fenced for exclusive use of Junior team) if the Council STP is not suitable and available for football. BRCS may be interested in community ownership of pitches and facilities.

Alyth AFC play at Diamond Jubilee Park in Alyth and use the Council pavilion (no agreement).

Coupar Angus AFC play at Larghan Park and use the nearby school changing facilities.

### **Site Specific Recommendations**

- Davie Park, Blairgowrie – Retain 2 full sized grass match pitches and 1 full sized pitch and 1 sevens sized pitch currently maintained as training areas (4 teams registered). (There is also a fenced Junior League full sized grass pitch). Council changing leased to BRCSC. Continue consultation on future 3GSTP and possibility of community ownership of pitches and a redeveloped match standard pavilion (ECS/CG/LAL/BRCSC).
- Piggy Lane, Blairgowrie - Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch and 2 grass 7s match pitches (5 youth registered teams, 1 team plays on full pitch). Goalposts were retained on a sevens pitch over the summer season to facilitate youth summer football. Consider any BRCSC request for upgrade changing/storage (CG)
- Larghan Park, Coupar Angus – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team, changing in school).
- Diamond Jubilee Park, Alyth – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch, 1 full sized grass pitch currently maintained as a training area (1 registered team, Council changing used by Alyth AFC with an agreement to be reached).
- Kettins Park – retain 1 full sized grass match pitch subject to teams registering - privately owned public pitch maintained by the Council (lease/MA to be put in place). Private changing. Contact users to discuss registration /payment or taking over maintenance (CG).

In addition sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- Park Neuk Blairgowrie.
- Rattray Common.
- Ardblair Terrace Play Area, Blairgowrie.
- Coupar Angus Common
- Hay Street Coupar Angus.
- Ardler school.
- Caputh Play Area.
- Spitalfield Common.
- Murthly Hall.

**Carse of Gowrie****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of Pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized	3					
Match pitch	2	1	(0.5) 1	1	+2	2 pitches to be retained, 1 to be reclassified as a training area
Training pitch						
Grass 7s						
Match pitch	3	0	0	0	+3	2 pitches to be retained, 1 to be reclassified as a training area
Training pitch	2					

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

Although the table indicates an oversupply of 2 full and 3 sevens grass match pitches the recommendation is to retain 2 full match pitches and 2 sevens match pitches. Pitfour FC are not yet registered but use the St Madoes pitches and may need use of additional pitches to allow further development. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** None

**Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Pitfour FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests there are 4 x 11 and 4 x 7s teams and 6 x 8yr old teams who are being trained. They are based at St Madoes where they own changing and storage containers and have a 10 year lease with the private owner. Although the park is privately owned the Council cut the grass fortnightly and maintain the pitch, the club also cut the grass and do additional pitch maintenance. They require further pitches to allow growth and want access to St Madoes Primary school 7s pitch if it can be upgraded and want to purchase 7s portable goalposts and could register for Errol Park where there is capacity and a future additional full pitch (development gain). Although there is no on-site changing the nearby Errol Community Hall has showers and can be used. The club would want to develop their own modular toilet/storage facility. Errol Park is a popular for events including boot camps and has a community run MUGA. The club use Perth High School STP for winter training.

Invergowrie AFC play in Invergowrie Memorial Park where they have a lease for the pitch and the privately owned changing facility.

**Site Specific Recommendations**

- Invergowrie Memorial Park – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team/lease, private changing)
- Errol Park – reclassify 1 full sized grass pitch and 2 sevens grass pitches as training areas (no registered teams). Pitfour FC were offered use of the pitches for the 17/18 season and declined, however pitch capacity exists should they wish to register in future. Goalposts were retained over the summer season on the sevens pitch to facilitate youth summer football.
- St Madoes Park - Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch and 1 sevens grass match pitch subject to teams registering – privately owned pitch maintained by the Council and club. Agree maintenance regime and Council fees required for St Madoes Park (CG).
- St Madoes Primary School – Retain sevens grass pitch. Pitfour FC use this and want it improved and to install storage for their portable goalposts (Pitfour FC/ESC).
- Helen McGregor Park, Longforgan –1 full sized grass pitch maintained as a training area (unplayable, due to overhanging branches in private gardens & rabbit warrens, changing in poor condition).
- Inchtute Park – 1 full sized grass pitch maintained as a training area (has goalposts but poor drainage) used by school, by Pitfour FC (under 16 yrs) and for informal games.
- Abernyte Park – 2 grass sevens pitches maintained as training areas (no changing and unused).

**Crieff Cluster****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Park grass full Sized Match pitch Training pitch	3 1	2	1	1	+2	2 pitches to be retained, 1 to be reclassified as a training area
Grass 7s Match pitch Training pitch	0 6	0	0	0	0	No change
SCC STP	1	9				No change
SCC grass full sized	1					No change

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

Whilst the table indicates an oversupply of 2 full grass match pitches, the recommendation is to retain 2 full sized match pitches where there are long established teams in addition to the campus grass pitch and reclassify a surplus pitch as a training area. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** Comrie Recreation Ground is in private ownership with no Council involvement, but does provide a valued community resource providing a full grass pitch and the only sevens pitch available. Morrison's Academy has a sand based full sized STP pitch available to hire.

**Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Crieff Juniors FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests there are 2 adult teams and a veterans team and that 70 children participate in training (boys & girls). They are based at Strathearn Community Campus where they want storage facilities and the use of an additional grass pitch (currently used for rugby by school). They are also in discussion with the Council (ECS) regarding community ownership of land for the development of a clubhouse possibly at the new primary school.

Vale of Earn AFC and Crieff Highland Gathering want to redevelop the pavilion at Market Park.

Strathearn AFC play at Braidhaugh park in Crieff.

### **Site Specific Recommendations**

- Braidhaugh, Crieff – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch, reclassify 1 full sized grass pitch as a training area. (1 registered team - Strathearn AFC), Changing owned by cricket & rugby clubs with a ground lease – possible joint club development of pavilion.
- Market Park, Crieff – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team). Owned by Crieff Highland Gathering Ltd and leased to the Council and sublet. Work in partnership with FC and Crieff Highland Gathering if they take a lead role to develop/upgrade changing facilities. (CG).
- Coronation Park, Muthill – 1 full sized pitch currently maintained as a training area (no registered team, no changing).
- Strathearn Community Campus - Retain club access to the 3G STP & 1 full sized grass pitch. Secure permission to place club storage containers at campus (LAL). Remark campus rugby pitch for football (LAL).
- Negotiate suitable land for a Crieff Junior FC clubhouse (ECS). FCs to work together to identify whether a single club house/changing facility at Market Park can be used by all Crieff based clubs (SFA).

In addition sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- St Fillans Park.
- Glebe Park Comrie.
- Murrayfield Loan Crieff.
- Mungall Park Crieff.
- Sauchie Park Crieff.
- Gilmerton Play Area.

**Kinross Cluster****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch	2	5	(2.5) 3	2	0	No change
Training pitch	3					
Grass 7s Match pitch	1	1	(0.5) 1	1	0	No change
Training pitch	5					
LLCC STP	1					No change
LLCC grass	2					No change

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

The table indicates that supply matches demand and the recommendation is to retain the current 2 full sized match pitches and 1 sevens match pitch, which are provided at the same site which has poor drainage, in addition to the campus pitches. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Kinross Colts have 3 x11 and 1x7s teams registered at Myre Park. They also use the community campus and Donaldson Park. They have requested that a pitch is marked within Donaldson Park which has better ground conditions than Myre Park and where they propose to install changing facilities (planning reference 16/01752/fll). However on the basis that there is an oversupply of pitches, this will remain a training area at this stage. Further discussions to agree their use of pitches either at Myre Park and/ or Donaldson Park, or their permanent relocation to the Campus will be pursued. In the event that they opt to use the Campus and/or Donaldson Park reclassification of pitches within Myre Park will be likely. At the campus two grass pitches are allocated for community use, a further three grass pitches may be available subject to school use.

The King George V (KGV) community group own or manage various facilities including the changing pavilion at Myre Park.

Fossway FC has 1x11 team playing at Myre Park. They may play at Crook of Devon in future if changing facilities can be improved.

Kinross AFC has 1 x11 team playing at Myre Park

### **Site Specific Recommendations**

- Loch Leven Community Campus – Retain club access to 3GSTP & 2 full sized grass pitches. Liaise with clubs to agree future use of pitches, additional sevens size pitch and remarking of a rugby pitch for adult football agreed (LAL).
- Myre Park, Kinross – Retain 2 full sized grass match pitches and 1 seven's match pitch (6 registered teams (5 adult & 1 youth), poor pitch drainage, changing). Liaise with clubs to agree future registration for use of pitches (CG).
- Donaldson Memorial Park, Milnathort – 1 full sized grass pitch currently maintained as a training area (no registered team, no changing). Liaise with clubs to agree future registration for use of pitches (CG).
- Crook of Devon football pitch –1 full sized grass pitch currently maintained as a training area with sevens goalposts (no team registered, no on site changing, nearby village hall can be used but has no showers).
- Wallace Park, Glenfarg –1 full sized grass pitch currently maintained as a training area (no team registered, no changing).
- The King George V (KGV) – Ground lease to be agreed.

In addition sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- Davis Park Kinross.
- Scotlandwell's Playing Field.
- Powmill Park.
- Crook of Devon, Waulkmill Park.
- Forgandenny play area.

**Perth City****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of Pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch Training pitch	9 10	13	(6.5)7	4	+5	No change
Grass 7s Match pitch Training	3 8	5	(2.5) 3	3	0	No change
STP School &	3			3	0	No change
<i>STP managed &amp; maintained by LCSC</i>	1	<i>LCSC</i>		1	0	<i>No change</i>

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

The oversupply indicated in the table above of 5 full sized grass match pitches is largely due to the capacity held on the Perth Inches to provide for match pitches in line with temporary need and the 2 pitches at the Grammar School which must be retained. Teams from Perth City and Landward can be relocated to the Inches if their home pitches have insufficient capacity or become unplayable due to adverse weather or overplaying. The South Inch pitches are subject to flooding. The Lesser South Inch is now kept for bookable events. The recommendation is therefore to retain 9 full grass match pitches and retain 3 sevens grass match pitches. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Future additional facilities:** There are several major developments planned on the western edge/Bertha Park Area which will include new STP and grass pitches for school and community use. Although the Perth community cluster is overprovided with grass pitches the quality of some pitches is poor and there is a lack of adequate changing facilities. Insufficient access to STPs is also an issue. The North Inch Campus STP has restricted access. The Council will seek to improve overall quality of provision and reclassify substandard provision to encourage sports development.

### **Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Letham Community Sports Club (LCSC) is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The club manage bookings for the Seven Acres 3GSTP which they maintain and where 29 teams play matches and 80 children (3-8 yrs) participate in training. They have confirmed that they only use the grass pitches, which the Council maintain, for training and for occasional games when the STP is overbooked due to a poor playing surface, although overuse is evident. The club use portable goalposts on the sevens pitch and have changing/storage containers on site which are insufficient for their needs. They want the grass pitches remarked to run across the slope, improved drainage and fencing and to develop a pavilion. They want to consider community ownership of the pitches (when improved) and additional space for a new pavilion. The MA with the LCSC requires the Council to maintain the grass pitches so these cannot be reclassified. The teams and pitches are not counted in the supply/demand analysis. LCSC require access to additional facilities to develop further, and expect an additional 8 teams to form over the next 5 years. They want to use the pitch area at Western Edge where they would like modular storage for portable goalposts, to investigate use of grass areas at Letham Sports Centre and Letham Primary School.

Jeanfield FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests they have 12 boys under 18yrs and 5 girls under 16 yrs, 1 adult, plus a Junior team. They are based at Bute Drive where the junior pitch and pavilion is fenced, owned by the Council and leased to the club (the pitch is for exclusive use of the junior team so is not counted in the supply demand analysis, the pavilion is used by the club). The club report pitch flooding and drainage issues and play at other pitches particularly at the Grammar School, when available. They require additional facilities for matches and training to allow for further development and want to build a new pavilion and a 3G STP. They want an additional pitch marked out at Bute Drive. They currently train at the Perth High School but require additional access to a 3G STP. NB A new 3G STP facility is planned at Bertha park which they should be able to access.

Community Sports Hubs are based in North Perth & Perth High School.

### **Site Specific Recommendations**

- North Inch – Retain 2 full grass match pitches plus 3 full grass pitches and 3 grass 7s currently maintained as training areas (2 adult registered teams and used as relocation site and for occasional lets, changing at Bells Sports Centre).
- South Inch – Retain 1 full grass match pitch plus 4 full grass pitches and 1 7's pitches currently maintained as training areas (1 registered team Council changing with attendant).
- Bute Drive – Retain 2 full grass match pitches and 2 grass 7s match pitches (14 registered teams (9 x 11 & 5x7s) changing). (There is also a fenced Junior League full sized 3G STP pitch). Consider options for marking an additional pitch (CG).
- Tulloch Road, Fairfield – 1 full grass pitch currently maintained as training area (no registered team, changing). (There is a fenced Junior League full sized grass pitch).
- Mathieson Drive – 1 full grass pitch currently maintained as training area (no registered team, no changing).
- Western Edge – 1 full grass pitch currently maintained as training area, rabbit damage (no registered team, no changing).
- Jeanfield Park – Retain 1 full grass pitch (expected to be used by LCSC teams and for youth coaching, changing owned by Tay Thistle AFC in poor condition, ground lease to be agreed). Consider LCSC storage and changing requirements (LCSC/CG).
- Seven Acres - Retain 1 full grass match pitch, 1 grass 7s match pitches (and 3GSTP managed and maintained by LCSC). Changing (manged by LCSC). Consider community ownership of improved facilities (LCSC/CG).
- Perth Grammar School – Retain 2 full sized pitches (used by Jeanfield Swifts) Formalise agreement for use of Grammar School pitches (ECS/club).
- Perth High School – Retain a 3G STP.
- Perth Academy – Retain a 2G STP (suitable for training only)
- North Inch Community Campus – Retain a 2G STP (restricted access)

In addition sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- Craigie Road Park.
- Friarton Park.
- St Magdalene's Hill.
- Viewlands Reservoir, Muirend.

**Perth Landward****Pitch Provision Summary**

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch Training pitch	12 1	11	6	3	+9	Reclassify 2 full pitches and retain 10
Grass 7s Match pitch Training pitch	2 4	7	(3.5) 4	2	0	No change

**Recommended Future Pitch Provision**

Whilst the table indicates an oversupply of 9 full grass match pitches however the recommendation is to retain 10 full sized match pitches and reclassify 2 full sized match pitches to training areas where there are no registered teams. It is further recommended that 2 sevens match pitches are retained. The full sized match pitches to be retained are in separate communities and it is known that some youth games are played on full sized pitches. In addition 5 of these pitches are in privately owned parks for which maintenance may be withdrawn subject to teams registering. 1 is a school playing field so cannot be reclassified. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** Brownlands Football Area, Luncarty is in private ownership with no Council involvement. Langlands Park, Luncarty is in private ownership and is managed and maintained by the club (the Council cut the grass).

**Future additional facilities:** Land for a further full sized pitch was provided through development at Poacher's Green in Luncarty. It is currently surplus to requirements but can be marked out if required. Housing developments are planned at Luncarty and Stanley where communities want to improve pitch and changing facilities. The Stanley Development Trust want to develop a MUGA and are discussing with the Council improving the school pitch for community use which is currently unplayable due to poor drainage. Major housing development at Oudenarde near Bridge of Earn will secure land for 5 pitches plus changing and development planned at Scone North is likely to contribute to improved facilities.

### **Club Development Needs & Recommendations**

Bridge of Earn FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests they have 3 x11s, 3x7s and 6-8yrs training. They are part of the Community Sport Hub based in Bridge of Earn and use both Victoria and Kintillo Parks. Victory Park is privately owned, leased to the Council and sublet and the pitch has been improved. The privately owned changing is in poor condition. Kintillo Park has a ground lease for club changing storage containers but there are no toilet/showers so they want to develop a pavilion with storage for portable goalposts. They use private pitches at Kilgraston School, and travel to Perth High School STP and Perth Academy (indoor) for winter training where they need improved access. They use Institute and bowling club facilities for meetings and functions.

Luncarty FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests they have 2x11, 4x7s, plus a junior team. The JFC use Brownlands Park which is privately owned and maintained. All other teams use Langlands Park for matches and training which is privately owned and until March 16 was maintained by the Council with no club registration. Since then it maintained by the Club. The pavilion has adequate facilities but as they use portable goalposts, they need an additional storage container. They need additional pitches to allow for development and are considering marking out additional pitches at Langlands (currently cricket) and access to Bankfoot pitch and pavilion which is in poor condition, owned by the club with a ground lease.

Scone Thistle FC is accredited with the SFA Quality Mark. The SFA information suggests they have 6x7s, a soccer schools with 60 participants (both girls and boys), an over 35yrs team and training for 9yr olds. They are based at Glebe (former school) which needs better parking and storage containers. They also use Scone Park (pitch requires upgrading) and David Douglas school pitch (which has no changing).

### **Site Specific Recommendations**

- Kintillo Park, Bridge of Earn –Retain 1 full grass match pitch and 1 grass 7s match pitches. (1 registered adult team & 5 youth teams, storage units, changing to be improved by the club).
- Victory Park, Bridge of Earn – Retain 1 full grass match pitch (2 registered teams, changing)
- Powrie Park, Abernethy - Reclassify 1 full grass match pitch (no registered team, changing owned by Scouts, ground lease)
- Kirkhall Park, Almondbank –1 full grass pitch currently maintained as a training area (no registered team, no changing)
- Coronation Park Bankfoot – Reclassify 1 full sized grass pitch as a training area (No registered teams, changing).

## Community Greenspace

- Scone Recreation Park – Retain 1 full grass match pitch and 1 grass 7s match pitch (4 registered teams 2 adult/2 7's), no changing). Goalposts were retained on the sevens pitch over the summer season to facilitate youth football, however the full sized pitch required reurfing for 2017/18 season.
- Glebe School, Scone – Retain 1 full grass match pitch (this school land is being considered for disposal however it is used by 3 registered teams (11s) & 2 youth teams all playing on full pitch so should be retained, relocated or developed with additional pitches in future). Scone Thistle FC is currently liaising with CG regarding the placement of modular changing units.
- Ruthvenfield/ Huntingtower Park school playing field – Retain (ECS) 1 full grass pitch (used by 8 x7s counted as 4 teams for use of full sized pitch) Faircity youth teams for training. Changing owned by club, no ground lease).
- Guildtown Park – Retain 2 full sized grass match pitches subject to teams (unknown number counted as 1) registering and paying for use – privately owned pitch maintained by the Council (1 pitch by ECS, 1 pitch by CG).
- Kinrossie Park - Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch subject to teams (unknown number counted as 1) registering and paying for use - privately owned public pitch maintained by the Council.
- Methven Park - Retain 2 full sized grass match pitches subject to teams (unknown numbers counted as 1) registering and paying for use - privately owned public pitch maintained by the Council.
- Bridgeton Park, Almondbank – 1 full sized pitch to be provided on completion of flood defence work (not counted in 2017/18) – privately owned park to be maintained by the Council subject to team registering and paying for use.

In addition sevens grass training areas will be retained at:

- Goshen Park Scone.
- Balbeggie Playpark.
- Wolfhill Common.
- Williamson Park Abernethy.

## Pitlochry Cluster

### Pitch Provision Summary

Type of pitch	Current supply	Registered team number	Home matches per weekend	Pitch demand	Pitch over / under supply	Recommended future pitch provision
Grass Full Sized Match pitch Training pitch	2 1	2	1	1	+1	No change
Grass 7s Match pitch Training pitch	0 1	0	0	0	0	No change

### Recommended Future Pitch Provision

Whilst the table indicates an oversupply of 1 full grass match pitch the recommendation is to retain 2 full sized grass match pitches which are used by teams in separate communities to encourage local use and minimise the need for motorised travel. The site specific recommendations are explained in more detail below.

**Private pitches:** Ballinluig Recreation Ground provides 1 full sized grass pitch with clubhouse used by [Ballinluig AFC](#) (adults).

### Club Development Needs & Recommendations

Dunkeld and Birnam AFC play in Dunkeld. The pitch has poor drainage so is suitable for use by only one team. The park is privately owned but is leased to the Council and sublet to the club. The changing pavilion is owned by the tennis club

Vale of Atholl FC play in Pitlochry where they share use of the pavilion with the rugby club. St Johnston Community soccer school coaching scheme is also registered for use of the pitch. The park is privately owned but leased to the Council and sublet.

### Site Specific Recommendations

- Dunkeld Recreation Park – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team, private changing).

## Community Greenspace

- Pitlochry Recreation Park – Retain 1 full sized grass match pitch (1 registered team & registered use by coaching scheme (St Johnstone Community Scheme), Council changing). Goalposts were retained over the summer season on the sevens pitch to facilitate youth summer football.
- Blair Atholl Memorial Park – 1 full sized grass pitch currently maintained as a training area (no team registered team, changing at adjacent Town Hall).

In addition a sevens grass training area will be retained at:

- Kinloch Rannoch Recreation Park.