



Protecting Playing Fields

Application Prospectus

Round 4

10 December to 5pm on 18 February 2013

Protecting Playing Fields

In this section



Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) is part of Sport England’s Places People Play mass participation Olympic legacy.

We are investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over three years from 2011 to 2014.

The programme will be delivered via five funding rounds with around £2m awarded to projects in each round.

The dates for remaining rounds are:

- Round 4 opens on 10 December 2012 and closes on 18 February 2013
- Round 5 opens on 10 June 2013 and closes on 05 August 2013.

Sport England intends to fund up to 300 projects for playing field improvements that will contribute to both retaining and increasing participants in sport across England locally.

The programme will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve natural turf playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport.

Projects are likely to involve the construction of new natural turf pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Aims

We believe that the improvement and protection of playing fields will help retain participants and achieve sustainable increases in participation.

Successful projects will be those which can demonstrate future management, maintenance and sporting use at the site along with the site being protected for 25 years or longer.

This means that organisations must own (or intend to own) the freehold or have a lease for the field for that length of time.

Projects which can offer protection of playing fields “in perpetuity” are likely to be further prioritised and will be put forward to Fields in Trust for dedication as a Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field.

We are also particularly keen to improve and protect playing fields in community ownership.

As such we will also look to provide further support to those where ownership of playing fields sites are being transferred to the community from public ownership.

Why protect playing fields?

Playing fields are one of the most important resources for sport in England.

There are over 59,200 playing pitches at 29,236 sites in England and over half of these grass pitches (33,200 or 56 %) are marked out for football

They provide the valuable space required to maintain and enhance opportunities for people to participate in both formal team sports and other more informal activities.

Along with sporting benefits, good quality accessible playing fields can also contribute to the creation of healthy and active communities to secure wide-reaching benefits.

Sport England's statutory role

Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing field land since 1996.

On average we receive around 1,300 planning application consultations a year, although this figure has risen over the last couple of years.

We believe that the best way to protect and enhance playing fields is for all local authorities to have a robust and up to date Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), backed up by appropriate management and maintenance arrangements.

This is why an up-to-date Playing Pitch Strategy is a key requirement upon which applications need to be based (see FAQ 18).

Further information on Sport England's statutory consultee status and the development of Playing Pitch Strategies can be found [on our website](#).

Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields Challenge

2012 has been an exciting year with two great events scheduled; Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

The Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields, headed by its Patron Prince William, is a programme which seeks to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the UK as a permanent living legacy of these landmark occasions.

Sport England has entered into a partnership with Fields in Trust (FIT) to support the protection of playing fields as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields.

Successful applicants to the PPF programme who accept a Deed of Dedication of their playing field "in perpetuity" will have their project details passed to FIT to undertake the registration and branding of the project as a Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. Further information can be found at www.qe2fields.com/

¹ Active Places Database January 2011

Key features of Protecting Playing Fields

PPF has a number of key features and it is important that these are well understood by any organisation considering applying for funding to the programme:

- Applicants must be able to give strong written evidence of the need for the project
- Projects must be community led and demonstrate strong local partnerships
- Projects must demonstrate the contribution they will make to sports development
- Projects must offer protection of the site for sporting use for at least 25 years
- Successful applicants can choose to receive support with the design, specification and delivery of the capital works aspect of projects. Our specialist turf consultants can arrange for the procurement and contract management of capital works to be undertaken on your behalf. We hope that this will greatly reduce the administrative burden on successful projects and enable them to focus on sports development and sustaining the project. There are more details in the How to Apply section
- Playing fields for which funding is being sought will need to have been identified through either a published Playing Pitch Strategy, adopted Local Development Plan or Local Needs Assessment
- Education and Statutory applicants, such as local authorities (excluding parish and town councils) must provide partnership funding. The level depends on what type of organisation you are
- The application process is competitive and we anticipate receiving more applications than we can fund. We will measure all projects against our eligibility and application criteria. Only those that best meet the criteria will be supported
- **Your organisation and project must demonstrate all of the features outlined above.** Your application will only move forward if you are able to provide evidence of this. Please see the Programme Details section for further information on the areas you must cover in your application.

Programme details

In this section



Programme information

The programme invites applications for projects that help communities maximise the sporting benefits of playing field land.

The programme will create, improve and protect playing fields by:

- Improving the condition of pitches
- Creating playing field land (not less than 0.2 hectares)
- Bringing disused playing fields back into use
- Offering support to community and voluntary groups and local

authorities to protect playing fields.

How much funding is available and when?

The programme will run over five funding rounds with around £2 million being awarded to projects in each round. The dates for rounds are:

- Round 1 closed on 6 July 2011 and we made conditional awards to 48 projects worth £2.1m

² Protect by means of executing a legal charge on the site for a minimum of 25 years

- Round 2 closed on 12 December 2011 and we made 61 conditional awards worth £2.6m
- Round 3 closed on 09 July 2012 and we made 54 conditional awards worth £2.4m
- Round 4 opens on 10 December 2012 and closes on 18 February 2013
- Round 5 opens on 10 June 2013 and closes on 05 August 2013.

How much funding can I apply for?

The PPF programme will provide grants from £10,000 up to a maximum of £50,000.

There are Budget Cost information sheets for pitch improvements on the website that will help you assess both the type and cost of works you need. The Budget Cost sheets also provide information on the initial grounds maintenance costs which will need to be covered in the first year following the improvement works and the ongoing annual maintenance costs required to keep the pitch in good condition.

What can I use the funding for?

Under this programme, we expect to give funding to projects for any of the following categories (or a combination of them):

- **Purchase of land for new playing fields and bringing disused playing fields back into use; or**
- **Purchase of playing field land where there is a known and established threat, such as through the expiry of a lease or a development proposal**

The purchase of land and playing fields will be under an open space valuation. Wherever possible, opportunities to use brownfield sites will be encouraged, so as long as they are based on open space valuation (see FAQ 6 for more details). The programme will not fund remediation costs for contaminated land

- **Improvements to existing pitches through levelling, drainage, reseeding and realignment**

This element of the programme is aimed at existing local authority, community and club pitches where quality is an issue as identified and prioritised in a published Playing Pitch Strategy, adopted Local Development Plan or through a Local Needs Assessment. (See FAQs 16 to 20 for more details).

- Local education authorities and schools can apply to the programme to provide new playing fields, bring into use disused playing fields or improve existing playing fields in order to

establish and/or host a community club-school link. In such circumstances, schools must enter into a lease with the club backed by a Community Use Agreement. In addition, adequate changing accommodation must be available on site for the use of community teams

- Playing pitches can be funded for a variety of sports. Details of eligible and ineligible sports can be found in the Eligibility Criteria section and at FAQ 8. This programme will support competitive sport and requests for training areas will be a low priority.

How much partnership funding do I need?

The amount of partnership funding required varies according to the type of applicant you are.

- **Voluntary and community sector (including town and parish councils)** are not required to provide partnership funding, however, we would prefer you to have some partnership funding or value in kind for the project. We recognise that some community and voluntary sector clubs and town/parish councils may not be able to secure that, and in these cases we will not rule out the application
- **Local authorities** are required as a minimum to provide matched funding on a £:£ basis
- **Education establishments** are expected to provide 30%

partnership funding towards project costs.

Projects that demonstrate the playing field is at risk of being lost will still be required to make the case for funding.

In these circumstances, they will be able to apply with a lower level of partnership funding at the discretion of Sport England.

Programme criteria

This is a competitive investment programme and applications will be assessed against two sets of criteria:

- **Eligibility criteria** – this is how we first determine whether your organisation and project is eligible to receive Lottery funding under this programme
- **Assessment criteria** – this is what we use to determine the extent to which the application will achieve the aims that Sport England is seeking. Within the assessment criteria there are some that give projects a higher priority than others.

We anticipate receiving applications for more projects than we are able to fund and so applications will be assessed and prioritised against these two sets of criteria.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility is dependent both on the type of organisation applying and the aims and some details about the proposed projects.

It is important to note that applications must comply with all the following points to progress on to the next stage of assessment. If your project fails to meet

any aspect of the eligibility criteria then it will be rejected prior to a full assessment.

To be eligible to receive funding applications must:

- Be submitted by an organisation entitled to receive public funding such as voluntary or community organisations, local authorities, sports clubs, playing field associations and education establishments such as schools
- Only involve eligible sports of football, cricket, rugby league, rugby union, softball/baseball, American football, Gaelic football, Australian rules football, hockey, hurling, lacrosse, polo and rounders (further details can be found in FAQ 8)
- Not include costs of equipment or revenue elements such as annual grounds maintenance, as these are not covered by this programme.

- Only request funding for elements of a capital project which have not yet started on site
- Be based on a site where the applicant holds ownership or long-term leasehold of 25 years or longer (from the date of the award)
- or is in the process of securing this (see FAQs 5 and 6 for more details)
- Include confirmed partnership funding (unless you are a voluntary and community sector applicant or town/parish council applying with no partnership funding)
- Demonstrate the project can be completed within two years from the date any award is offered
- Be the only application submitted by an applicant in that round (only one application can be submitted by an applicant each round).

Assessment criteria

Applications passing through the eligibility stage will then be measured against **our assessment criteria**.

The assessment criteria will be used to determine the extent to which the project will achieve the following four criteria.

1. Strategic and local need

Applications must show clearly that there is a deficiency in terms of quantity, quality and/or accessibility of playing pitch provision in the local area.

Good applications will provide clear evidence of:

- A robust and up to date (in the last three years) needs and evidence base in a published Playing Pitch Strategy, adopted Local Development Plan (details of which can be found on your Local Authority's website - usually under the Planning section – see FAQ 18) or Local Needs Assessment (see FAQ 17).

2. Community-led and partnerships created

Applications must demonstrate that the project has been developed in consultation with the community and that partnerships have been created.

Fully involving the community is an important part of both the initial development and long term sustainability of any community sport project.

Partnership building is about working with other people and organisations to make the project a success.

Good applications will provide clear evidence of:

- Community consultation, involvement and support for the project
- Established partnership working between the organisations involved which will last beyond the lifetime of this application
- Identified groups of people such as neighbours, potential users and the wider community who may provide volunteers, future spectators and fundraisers.

3. Impact – contribution to sports development

Good applications will provide clear evidence of:

- Sporting benefits the project will achieve
- Clear project outcomes including an explanation of how they will be delivered and achieved
- Measurable outcomes and success indicators that illustrate value for Sport England's investment.

4. Sustainability

To ensure the playing fields are well maintained, applications should show how they will be managed, maintained and marketed.

Ongoing community engagement is an important part of the sustainability of any community sport project. This has the potential to reduce costs and generate greater community ownership of the facility.

Good applications will provide clear evidence of:

- Engaging other community organisations – schools, clubs, media, neighbourhood office, etc
- A simple income and expenditure forecast for 3 years. To help you with this we have provided a template for you to use if you don't want to use your own
- How you will cover the annual ongoing maintenance costs of the new or improved pitch
- Funding from other sources already obtained or confirmed in writing
- How our funding will facilitate a genuinely sustainable local community sports playing field.

5. Priority applications

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Involve playing field sites where there is a known and established threat to the land. For example, where playing fields have been mothballed, fenced off and/or pitches ceased to be marked out for over two years; planning application submitted or land offered for sale.
- Form part of an asset transfer of the playing field from the public sector to the community and voluntary sector. More information on asset transfer can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx
- Indicate that they wish to have the playing field protected in perpetuity, and
- Are multi sport (two or more sports pitches such as a winter and summer sport) or have multiple pitches for the same sport (see FAQ 12).

Guidance for different organisations

Local authorities

Local authorities that wish to apply to this programme are required to have a robust needs and evidence base in place (e.g. Playing Pitch Strategy) which underpins the strategic need for their project.

The project should be one of the top investment priorities identified in the published Playing Pitch Strategy. In addition, there will be demonstrable community engagement and partnership working with local sports associations, leagues and clubs.

The maximum grant available is £50,000 and must be match funded on a minimum £ for £ basis.

Education establishments

Education establishments will be required to have a robust needs and evidence base in place which underpins the need for their project.

There should also be demonstrable community engagement and working partnerships.

LEAs and schools can apply to the programme to enhance existing grass pitches so that they can be opened up for use by the local community, or bring into use disused land in order to establish and/or host a community sports club - school link.

The emphasis must be on community use and educational applicants must be able to demonstrate that the sports pitches provided will be available to the community for a minimum of weekend use through a formal Community Use Agreement. In addition, adequate changing accommodation must be available on site to support community use. The maximum grant available

is £50,000 and all projects will be required to identify partnership funding of not less than 30% of the total project cost.

Community and voluntary sector groups

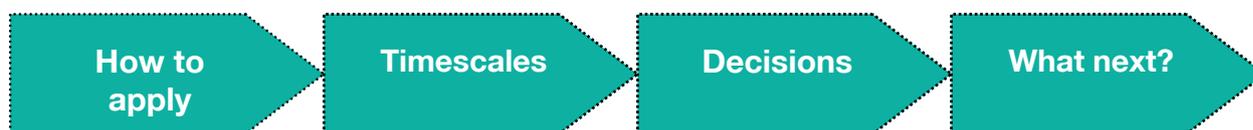
Community and voluntary sector groups (including town and parish councils under this programme) will be required to demonstrate that there is a local need which supports the project.

If the site is the only playing field based in a parish or village with no other playing field nearby, then the need for the project should be demonstrated through appropriate community consultation and engagement.

The maximum grant available is £50,000 and we would prefer to have some partnership funding or value in kind for the project. However, we recognise that some community and voluntary sector organisations may not be able to secure that, and in these cases we will not rule out the application.

Making an application

In this section



Before you apply

Before applying it is important that you read the programme prospectus and FAQs available on the Sport England website.

Please also consider the information below which explains what you need to complete an application, the additional documents we need to see, and the guidance and support available.

It is important when completing your application that the answers and documents you provide show how your project helps to deliver against the programme's aims and criteria.

Application form

The Protecting Playing Fields application form can be found at [My Applications](#) and must be submitted online.

If you have not applied to Sport England for funding before you will need to register your organisation.

You will be prompted to do this as you start your application.

The application is made up of eight sections:

1. About your organisation
2. Your project description
3. Measuring visits to your project

4. Your playing fields project
5. Your project beneficiaries
7. Your playing fields project budget
9. Project contact details and checklist
10. Application review

(Please note that pages 6 and 8 of the application form are deliberately locked down because we have reduced the amount of information we require from applicants under this programme.)

Completing the application - guidance and support

General guidance

Throughout the application guidance is provided on the right hand side of each page. This guidance will explain in more detail how to complete each section and what information is required.

Question specific guidance

Many of the questions in the application have a  next to them.

By simply clicking the  further guidance is provided to explain why the question is being asked and how to answer the question.

Help and support

If the online support does not provide a suitable explanation to enable you to answer the question a Funding Helpline is available.

The helpline number is **08458 508 508** and you will be put through to a Sport England officer who will be able to answer any questions you have. The opening hours are Monday 8am to 9pm, Tuesday to Thursday 8am to 6pm, Friday 8am to 5pm.

Alternatively you can email for assistance using funding@sportengland.org

Essential questions

Throughout the application there are a number of questions which must be completed to allow us to assess whether your organisation and project are eligible for Lottery funding.

These questions are marked with a red asterisk ^{*}.

Your project budget

A key feature of this programme is the enhanced support that will be made available to successful applicants.

Through our specialist turf consultants, we will offer applicants the opportunity for all phases of the project (from initial site investigation through to construction and completion of the works) to be managed on their behalf.

We have already tested the market to obtain estimates of the cost of various pitch works and would like you to use these costs in your application.³

If you have developed your own costs for your pitch project then please use those in your application. For example, if you have undertaken a site survey or feasibility study in the last 3 years then please upload this with your application. If however, you have no cost information then please use the Budget Cost information sheets available on the website.

³ These are standard costs without site specific unknowns or abnormalities which may be applicable to your site

If your application is successful you will receive a visit from a Sport England turf consultant who will carry out a technical assessment to confirm the cost of your project.

Documents we need to see

There are some documents that must be submitted along with your application. These documents fall into two categories:

- Governance and ownership documents
- Project specific documents

Governance and ownership documents

These provide information about your organisation which we need to see to determine whether it is able to receive Lottery funding.

We also need to consider the financial health of your organisation and how it is run and managed.

The documents we need to see with your application are:

- A photocopy of the governing document. For example, this may be a constitution, memorandum and articles of association, trust deed or other formal document (not required for statutory bodies)
- A photocopy of most recent audited or accountant verified accounts (not required for statutory bodies)
- Photocopies of last three bank statements (not required for statutory bodies)
- Evidence of security of tenure
- Child protection policy

You should already have these documents and we simply require you to

submit them with your application as proof of being a bona fide organisation which is eligible to receive Lottery funding.

Project specific documents

These documents help you to provide us with a picture of how your project will deliver the outcomes shown in your application and whether the project is sustainable.

The documents regarding your project which we need to see are:

- Sports development plan
- Income and expenditure forecast for a minimum of three years

We have provided templates for the sports development plan and income and expenditure forecast for you to use if you wish. These are available [on our website](#).

If you already have this information in another format then please add them to your application.

You can upload these documents on the final Application Review page of your online application.

If there are any documents that cannot be uploaded onto the online application form, please ensure these are sent to the following address and clearly marked with your Unique Reference Number (URN).

Sport England
SportPark
3 Oakwood Drive
Loughborough
LE11 3QF

These documents should arrive within five working days from the date your application is submitted.

Timescales

Round 4 runs from 10 December 2012 and applications can be submitted to

Sport England up until 5pm on the 18 February 2013.

The assessment of applications will not commence until after the closing date and any applications will not be accepted after this date.

Applicants will be notified of a funding decision approximately 10 weeks after the closing date.

We have allowed a relatively short time to assess bids and if we receive a much larger number of applications than we anticipate, we may need to extend the assessment periods to ensure all applicants are treated fairly. If this happens, we will notify all applicants as soon as possible.

If your application receives support from Sport England, you will receive a site visit where a technical agronomist survey will be carried out, and possibly an operational assessment of your project.

The technical and operational assessments will be considered and may affect the final funding decision.

If your project is viable the turf agronomist will produce detailed designs, specifications and drawings, administer the tender process to procure the services of specialist sports turf contractors, and manage the construction phase and the following initial maintenance period.

The construction or improvement of natural turf sports pitches involves earthworks ranging from installation of drainage, through to major earthmoving operations. To be effective it is critical that all work is carried out when soil is relatively dry condition, otherwise there is a significant risk of damaging soil structure and leaving the pitch in a state which will have long term detrimental effects. The window of opportunity for

carrying out pitch works to a playing field is therefore generally limited to a period from late spring through to early autumn.

It is therefore likely that the construction phase for the majority of Round 4 projects will commence at the end of the winter games season in the spring of 2014. The exception to this may be for some summer games projects (e.g. cricket) which may get underway at the end of the season in September 2013 prior to the onset of winter.

Decisions

Sport England's Project Committee will consider all applications and make final funding decisions.

Possible outcomes

Applications will be assessed and initially classified as one of the following:

- Unsuccessful
- Defer
- Award - conditional offer

Unsuccessful

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive formal notification of this decision together with an explanation of why your project did not receive support.

Unfortunately, due to the competitiveness of the programme, a significant number of applications will not be successful.

It is critical that you consider the programme criteria before applying. Defer

If your application is deferred you will receive a letter and telephone call from your Development Manager who will explain why the reasons for this decision and what other information is required before your application can be

reconsidered. You will not be expected to complete a new application to be reconsidered in a future round.

Award – conditional offer

Successful applicants will be offered a conditional award which is subject to technical assessments and confirmation of costs. Support will be given from a Sport England Development Manager to help with any developmental aspects of the project. What next?

If your organisation does receive a conditional award, you will be fully briefed on the next steps by your Development Manager. This will include an explanation of all funding paperwork and reporting requirements. A key element will also be the roles and responsibilities of parties in terms of working with the Sport England appointed agents and contractors.

This phase will be very different to capital programmes that Sport England has previously run. In most cases, the technical and construction elements of

the project will be managed by our consultants including the site investigations, specification, tendering, procurement and construction phases.

Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised of the opportunity to make a formal appeal within 21 days of receiving the decision.

Measurement and evaluation

To ensure the investment made is delivering the agreed outputs and outcomes we will monitor all projects.

We are required to demonstrate that the Lottery grant has been used for the purposes for which it was awarded and we will measure the amount of sporting activity being achieved.

We therefore expect successful applicants to monitor the use of the facilities and provide us with data on activity levels at six monthly intervals through our online reporting tool.

Further information

For further information and queries please contact Sport England Funding Helpline on **08458 508 508**.

Useful websites

- www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx
- www.sportengland.org/protectingplayingfields
- www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_guidance_notes.aspx?sortBy=alpha&pageNum=2
- www.qe2fields.com/

Glossary

Active Places

An on line database of sports facilities
<http://www.activeplaces.co.uk/>

Brownfield site

Previously-developed land that is, or was, occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure.' The definition includes defence buildings, but excludes:

- Land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings
- Land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures
- Land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments, which, although it may feature paths, pavilions and other buildings, have not been previously developed
- Land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time (to the extent that it can reasonably be considered as part of the natural surroundings).

Community use agreement

An agreement between parties, typically a governing body of a school, local education partnership or trust and a

sports club, league, national governing body of sport and a local authority.

It sets out the basis upon which the school makes available its sports facilities for use by the local community, sports clubs and leagues.

Legal charge

As a public sector body, Sport England is obligated to take steps to protect its investments using Lottery monies.

It must ensure that the capital project continues to provide public benefit along the lines of the original purpose of the grant.

This means that there must be a mechanism in place which gives Sport England the ability to retrieve the grant if, for example, the applicant organisation goes into liquidation, otherwise chooses to dispose of its property or uses the asset(s) for purposes other than the intended and agreed purposes.

This mechanism is contained within both the special conditions and Standard Terms and Conditions of Award.

For all capital grants under the Protecting Playing Fields programme, Sport England will:

- take a fixed charge or restriction on title for a minimum of 25 years
- require that the terms of any lease are suitable

Security of tenure

It is important to ensure that an applicant has the right to occupy and use the land and/or building Sport England is funding.

This is referred to as 'security of tenure' which means that the applicant must

have either a freehold or leasehold interest.

NB: An occupancy licence and a tenancy at will are never acceptable forms of security of tenure.

Freehold

A freehold interest is preferable for Sport England's purposes.

A freehold interest can either be registered or unregistered. Both are acceptable but Sport England will usually request that an unregistered freehold interest is registered at the Land Registry.

If the land is registered at the Land Registry, the applicant must provide current official copies of entries which will include details of the land including any rights, ownership and details of charges, mortgages and restrictive covenants.

A freehold interest offers the best security but in many cases the applicant may have only a leasehold interest.

Leasehold

Sport England will often provide grants to applicants who will use the funds to build, improve or refurbish a building on land which is owned by a third party.

In this case Sport England will generally not be able to take security over the land or buildings, but will seek to secure the grant funds by creating a security interest over the grant applicant's lease of the land and buildings.

The lease must be in the name of the applicant or its trustees/nominees who hold the property for the benefit of the organisation concerned. All leaseholds must show an unbroken term for a minimum specified duration which will depend on the amount of the award – this means the lease cannot contain a break clause.

Consideration should also be given to any forfeiture clause that reverts the property back to the landlord on unreasonable terms.

NB: No payment can be made until a copy of the executed lease is received but submitting a draft lease with an application is acceptable to check the details and process the application.

Further details on Security of Tenure and Registration can be found in the FAQs on our website.

Local needs assessment

An assessment of playing pitch provision which is based on the methodology outlined in Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies', or an alternative methodology acceptable to Sport England.

An assessment should look at the supply and demand for playing pitches in a local area covering the quantity, quality and accessibility of provision.

The assessment should be based on an audit which covers all pitch provision in the local area and then differentiate between those sites which are accessible to the community and those which are not. The assessment could include a survey of all relevant pitch sport clubs, the leagues that they play in along with pitch providers and any relevant sports governing body contacts. The assessment should look at the capacity of sites/pitches and factor in all relevant uses (e.g. competitive games, training and educational use).

Local Development Plan

The Local Development Framework, containing the Core Strategy and other relevant documents can usually be found

on Local Authority websites under Planning.

Playing Pitch Strategy

Building on any local needs assessment of playing fields, a strategy which adheres to the guidance in Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field' document and clearly identifies priorities for investment within the local area. The strategy and the needs assessment on which it is based should have been reviewed and/or updated in the past 3 years.

Statutory role

Sport England's statutory role on playing fields as defined by Town and Country Planning Development Management Order 2010 (previously SI 1817 (1996) as amended by SI 2009/453)

In our capacity as a Statutory Consultee, Sport England must be consulted on development which:

- Is likely to prejudice the use, or lead to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field, or
- Is land which has been:
- Used as a playing field at any time in the 5 years before the making of the relevant application which remains undeveloped, or
- Allocated for use as the applying field in a development plan or in proposals for such a plan or its alteration or replacement, or
- Involves the replacement of the grass surface of a playing pitch on a playing field with an artificial, man-made or composite surface.