



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

**South Dublin County Council Sports Pitch Strategy
Strategy Document**

Final Version

January 6th 2020



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT



4global Consulting Terms of Reference

Estimates and forecasts contained within this report are based on the data obtained at that time and the accuracy of resultant findings and recommendations is dependent on the quality of that data.

The author(s) will not be held liable for any data provided by third party organisations as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy (SPS) delivery process. While the data and recommendations have been conscientiously reviewed through the SPS governance process followed throughout project delivery, it has not been possible for the author to independently review every element of data provided by third parties.

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Section 1: Introduction and strategic context



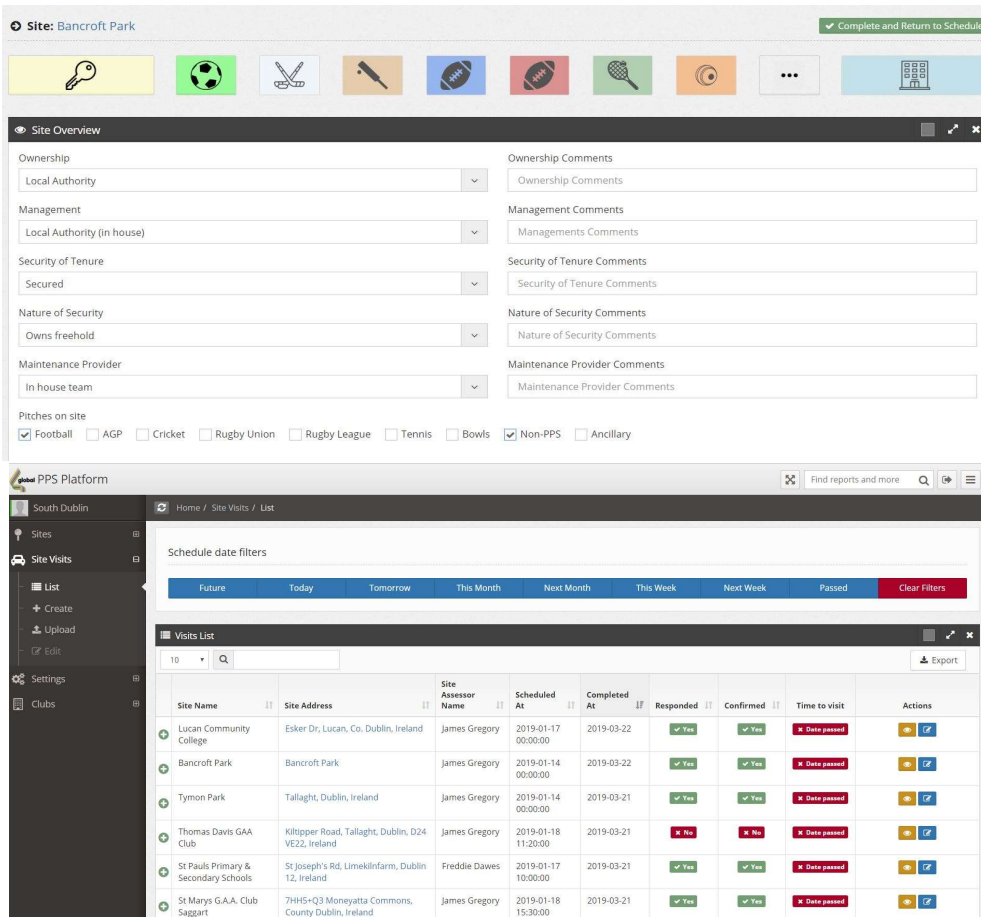
1 Introduction and scope

1.1 Project scope and objectives

- 1.1.1 South Dublin County Council has commissioned 4global Consulting to prepare a Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS), to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the district.
- 1.1.2 A SPS is a strategic assessment that provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the local authority. The strategy and the evidence base upon which it is based is delivered using local guidance and insight from national governing bodies. national guidance and facility insight from specific Governing Bodies of Sport. The assessment will focus on facilities used by the following sports:
- Soccer
 - GAA
 - Rugby Union
 - Hockey
 - Cricket
 - Athletics.
- 1.1.3 Within these sports, the strategy will seek as far as is practicable to include consideration of all forms of play, whether;
- Club and league based (formal) play and training
 - Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g. turn up and play 'products' such as outdoor gyms).
 - Informal and un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students, school friends (out of school).
- 1.1.4 The SPS will provide a holistic analysis of sports facilities across the Study Area, leading to a comprehensive set of recommendations for the future development of facilities, in line with the needs of playing pitch users, the local authority and National Governing Bodies.
- 1.1.5 The SPS data will be kept up to date via the purpose-built Sports Pitch Strategy platform by use for the local authority as the life span of the strategy progresses. Figure 1.2 below illustrates the platform which encompasses each pitch and specific site within the local authority.
- 1.1.6 The strategy period of 2019- 2035 date was chosen based on the completion of 2 full county development plan periods; allowing for long term planning of sports pitch facilities and allowing any reviews to correspond with the review of the subsequent county development plan.
- 1.1.7 The consultant team has worked with the Council to provide a strategy that is fit-for-purpose and addresses the specific issues and risks for the area. It is key that this Sports Pitch Strategy reflects the local context and enables the Council to maximise the amount of high-quality sporting provision for its residents, while understanding the need to meet planning and housing requirements. The Strategy will therefore aim to deliver against the following drivers:
- Contribution to the SDCC local plan through the provision of a clear action plan with owners and defined timescales for completion
 - SDCC Spatial County Development Plan.

- Recognition of the importance of outdoor physical activity and sport and the clear demonstration of how these should be prioritised within any development or regeneration project
- Provision of an evidenced based approach and the management of a clear sign-off and governance structure for key stakeholders and
- Evidence to support a wider review into sport and physical activity provision, including housing and population growth projected in neighbouring local authorities

Figure 1.2 - 4global's Online Playing Pitch Platform

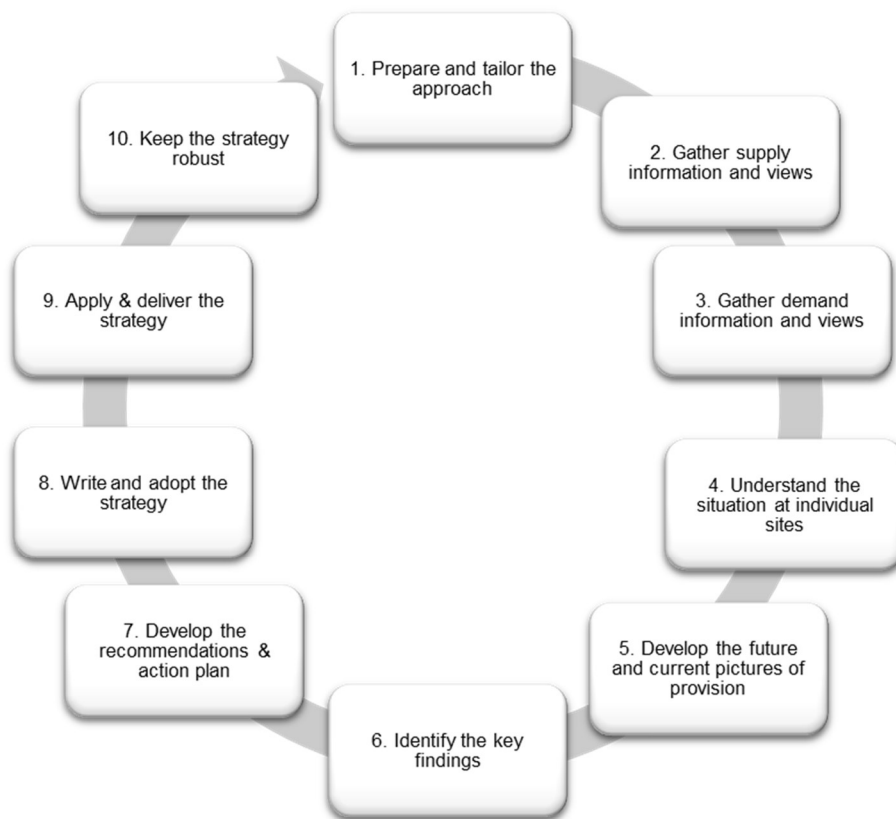


1.2 The SPS Methodology

- 1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the SPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Sports Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Sports Pitch Strategy . Figure 1.3 below summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.
- 1.2.2 Currently Sport Ireland do not have a similar approach or guidance to formulate a sports pitch strategy. Due to this we believe that Sport England’s methodology follows the most robust approach and can be applied to South Dublin to construct a detailed strategy.
- 1.2.3 This methodology allows a collaborative approach resulting in a SPS which is owned by and can be used by a number of parties. This also allows the implementation group to make best use of available knowledge, skills and other resources to be used. This approach also allows the

implementation group to reflect the differences in how each sport is played and pitch type is used currently and in the future.

Figure 1.3: Developing and Delivering a Sports Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



1.3 The Structure of the Strategy Document

1.3.1 The structure of the strategy document is as follows;

- Section 1 - Introductory
- Section 2 – Strategic context
- Section 3 – Scenario testing
- Section 4 – Recommendation and action plan
- Section 5 - Delivering the Sports Strategy

1.3.2 In addition to this strategy document, a detailed needs assessment has also been produced, which provides a full evidence base for the analysis and a clear methodology for the project. The needs assessment contains a detailed strategic review of relevant local regional and national policy.

1.4 Local Context – South Dublin

Population and Demographic Analysis

- 1.4.1 The current and future population profile within South Dublin and the locations of population growth are important to understand in planning for the future provision of sport and physical activity. These sub areas can be seen on Map 1.1 (page 11) for the 2019 population.
- 1.4.2 Table 1.1 below provides a summary of the key population and demographic trends for South Dublin. The baseline population is based upon the population data set supplied by the council. These projections were used to calculate the team generation rates for each individual sport. These figures were obtained via work with SDCC and in conjunction with Small Areas Census population figures. These figures were also sourced from the UN population division Ireland Dataset which provides official estimates through 2013.

Table 1.1: Population and demographics analysis for South Dublin.

Sub Area	2019			2035		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Area 1	31,310	32,682	63,992	36,934	38,361	75,295
Area 2	7,044	7,353	14,397	8,309	8,630	16,939
Area 3	21,400	22,338	43,738	25,244	26,220	51,464
Area 4	20,031	20,910	40,941	23,629	24,543	40,941
Area 5	19,861	20,732	40,593	23,429	24,334	47,763
Area 6	28,882	30,148	59,030	34,070	35,386	69,456
Area 7	12,634	13,188	25,822	14,903	15,479	30,382
Total	141,162	147,351	288,513	166,518	172,953	339,471

Table 1.2: Population Change between 2019 – 2035 in persons per Sub Area

Age	Change between 2019 - 2035 in Persons							
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Local Authority Total
0-4	-234	-52	-159	-152	-148	-215	-94	-1054
5-9	-822	-186	-562	-528	-522	-758	-332	-3710
10-14	-567	-127	-387	-364	-360	-523	-228	-2556
15-19	491	111	336	315	311	453	199	2216
20-24	1433	323	980	915	909	1322	578	6460
25-29	1909	429	1305	1223	1212	1762	770	8610
30-34	577	131	394	367	365	532	232	2598

Change between 2019 - 2035 in Persons								
Age	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Local Authority Total
35-39	-781	-176	-535	-500	-496	-721	-316	-3525
40-44	-1072	-242	-732	-683	-680	-987	-432	-4828
45-49	364	81	250	232	232	336	148	1643
50-54	1866	420	1276	1191	1184	1720	754	8411
55-59	2163	487	1479	1383	1372	1995	872	9751
60-64	1242	280	848	792	787	1146	502	5597
65-69	767	172	525	489	487	708	310	3458
70-74	878	197	600	561	556	811	354	3957
75-79	1246	279	851	799	790	1149	503	5617
80+	1844	415	1260	1179	1169	1700	744	8311
Total	11303	2542	7726	7231	7170	10426	4560	50958

- 1.4.3 As with most local authorities there is expected to be population increase occurring throughout the study area. Within South Dublin it is expected that the overall population to increase by 50,958 people. Within each sub area the population is also expected to increase over the lifespan of the strategy, this is to be expected due to the housing development areas that are planned for the region and the close proximity to Dublin and other surrounding population hubs.
- 1.4.4 The sub areas with the greatest growth are expected to be sub areas 1 and 6, with 11,303 persons in sub area 1 and 10,426 persons in sub area 6, which are located to in the North and North East part of the local authority. This growth is important when considering team growth needs and available pitches as they are to be more match and training demand located in these areas.

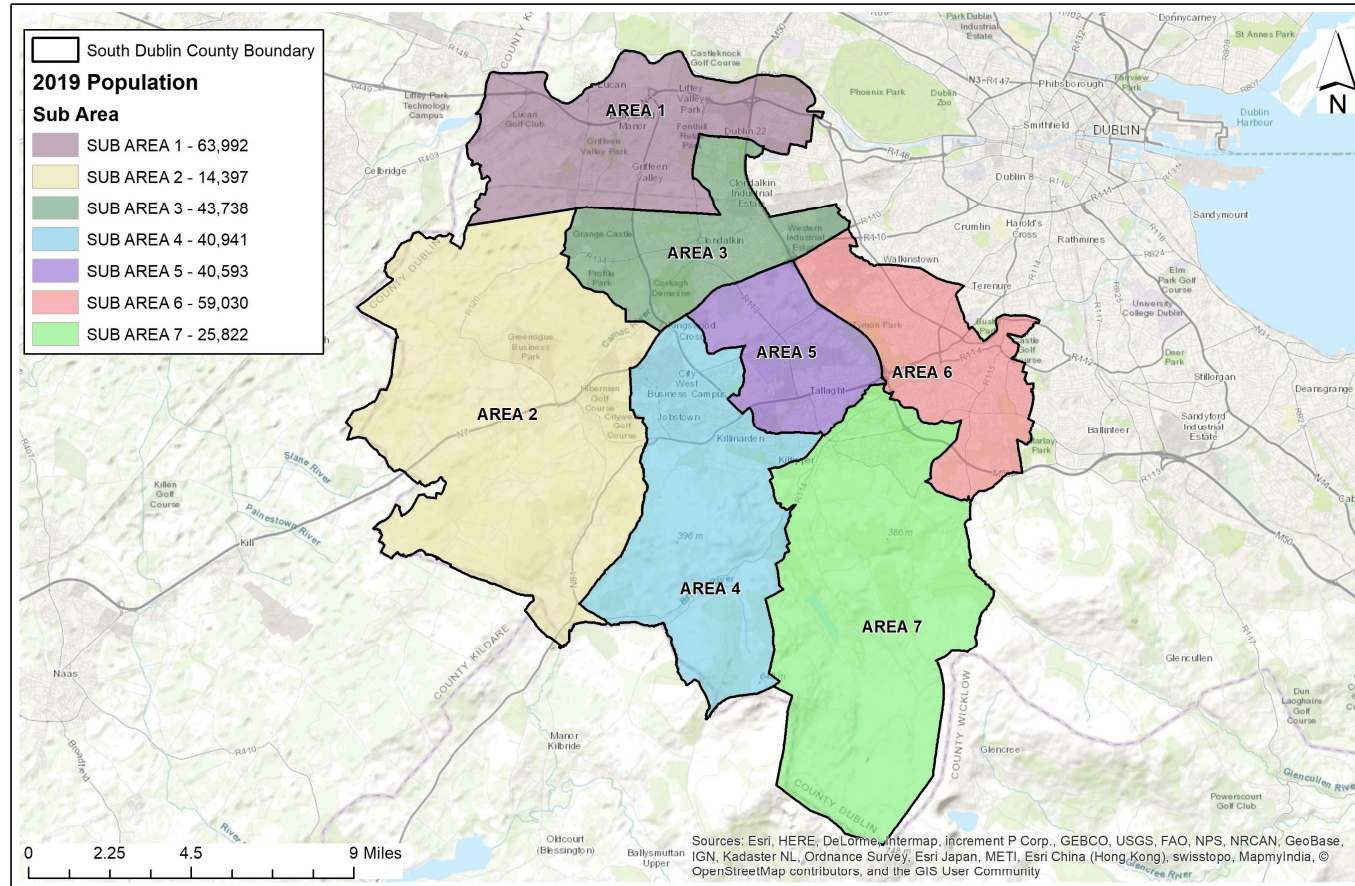
1.4.5 To provide greater detail on the specific trends and local population characteristics, Table 1.3 provides an overall summary of the South Dublin’s demographic profile.

Table 1.3: Summary of South Dublin’s demographic profile – population, deprivation, health and sporting assets

Analysis area	Commentary
Locality Description	South Dublin has an area of 222.74 square kilometres. It is bounded by Dublin City (15 km to the north east), the River Liffey (separating it from Fingal to the north), Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown (to the east), County Kildare (to the west) and its hills adjoin the mountains of County Wicklow to the south. The county town is Tallaght. Other important centres of population are Lucan and Clondalkin. Much of the county is heavily urbanised but small rural settlements exist in the southern and western parts.
Population Profile	The current population is stated as 288,513 in 2019 with this expected to grow to 339,471 in 2035. The overall trend in population is indicating an aging population with the 35+ age bracket showing the largest increase.
Spatial Distribution of Population	Overall there is a concentration of population located near and inside the larger towns within the county such as Tallaght. There are also higher concentrations of the population as you go further east towards Dublin City
Deprivation	The major areas of deprivation are located in the central portions of the county within South Dublin such as Jobstown, Citywest and Kingswood. The other areas that also suffer from deprivation are North Clondalkin and West Tallaght the more affluent areas are located to the east of the county in areas of Ballyboden and Knocklyon and Luca to the North. The areas to the west of the county such as Newcastle are just above the national average for affluency.
Health and Inactivity	There are large portions of the county which have a higher risk of being inactive linked to those areas of higher deprivation and also their accessibility to local sporting provision and facilities. These areas of higher inactivity, such as to the west and south east of the local authority, could be enhanced through greater access to affordable and available facilities.
Overall Implications for Future Sports Facility Provision	With the continued growth in population, along with the housing developments being built in the surrounding areas, it is important to have a viable and feasible sports facility provision throughout the local authority that meets the current and future demands for sport created through this growth. The latest population statistics that are projected to 2035 show across the local authority there will be a 18% increase in population. This is relatively consistent throughout the different sub areas with South Dublin experiencing an aging population. The 50 – 64 age bracket is set to increase by 50% with the 80+ age bracket increasing by 127% within the county from 6521 persons to 14832.

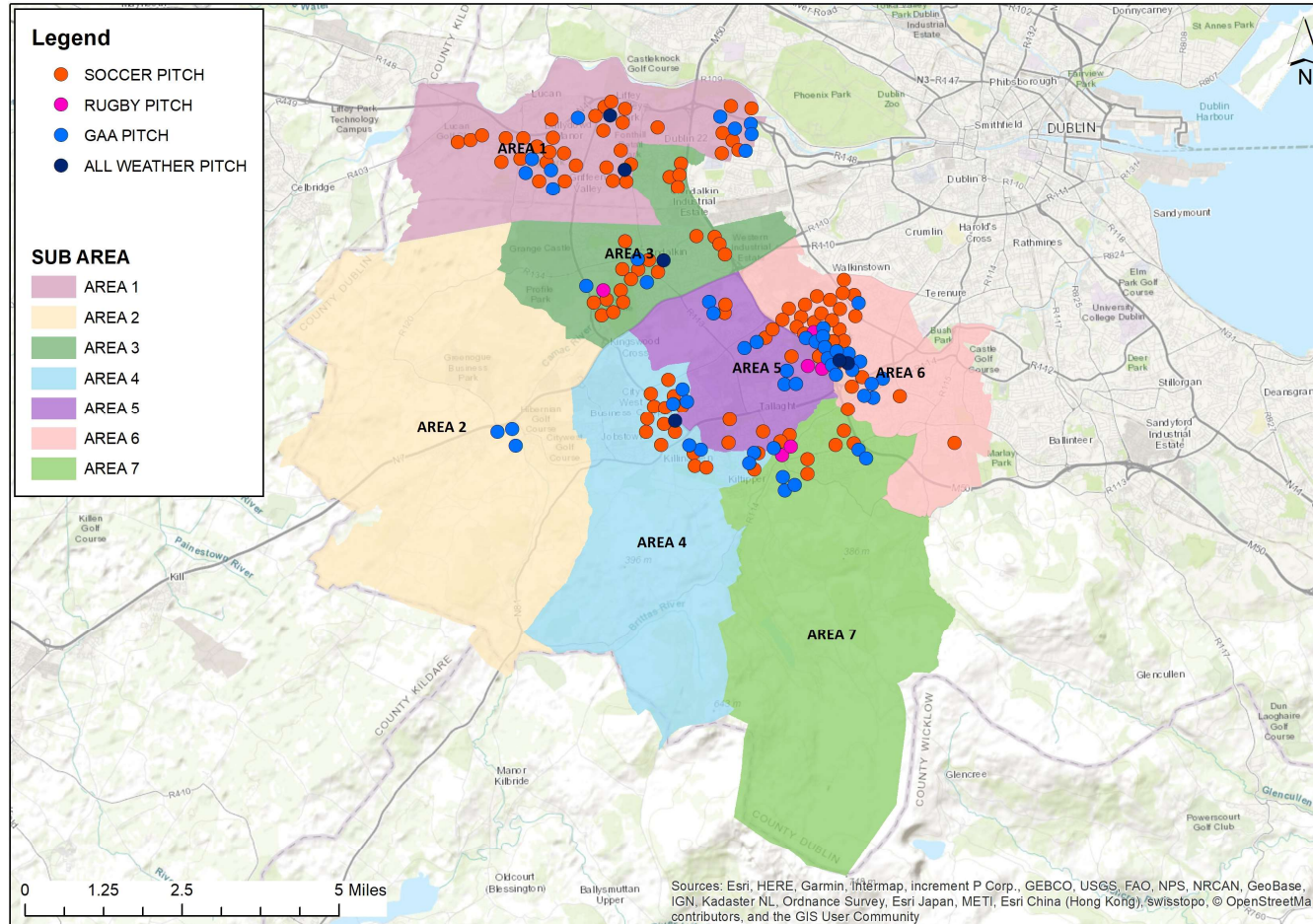
1.4.6 Map 1.1 overleaf illustrates the population by sub area in 2019 throughout the South Dublin region

Map 1.1: Current population by sub-area

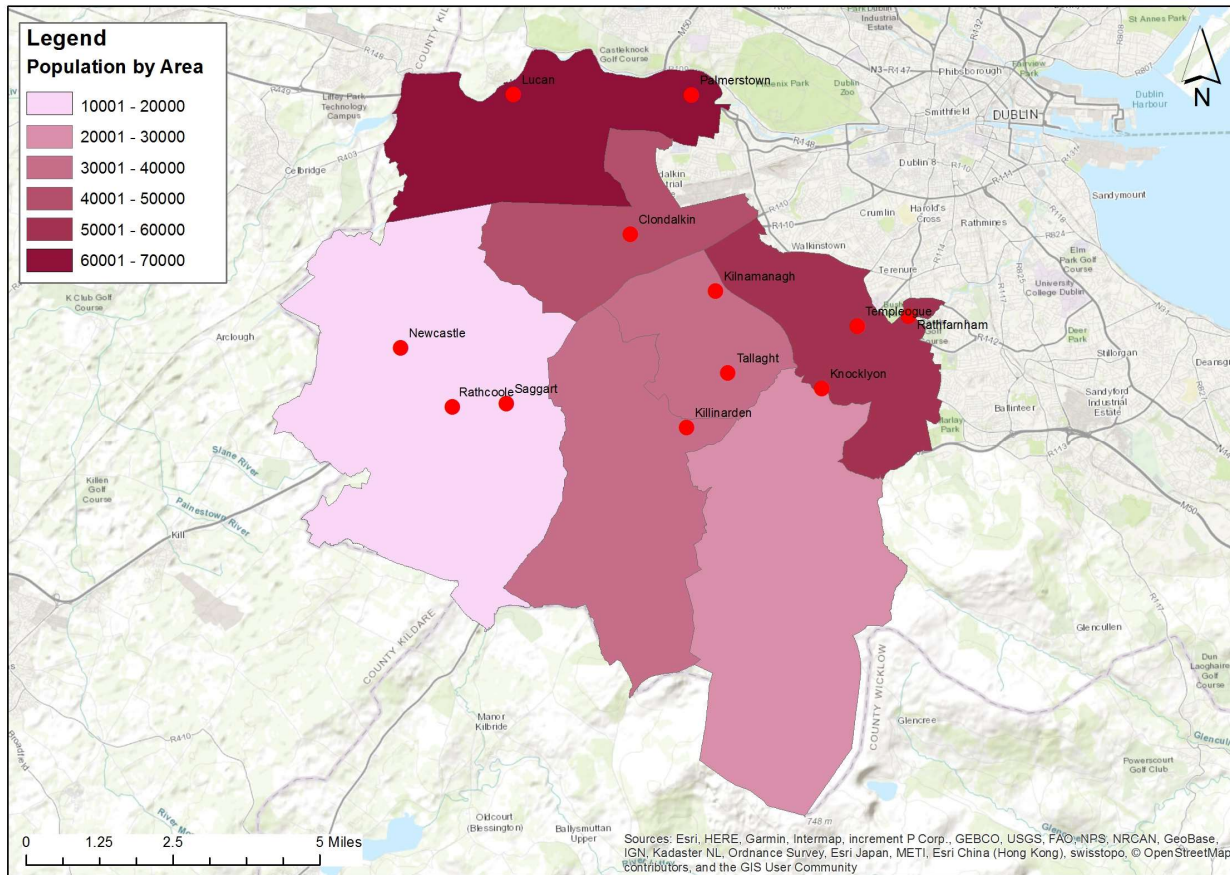


2019 Population by Sub Area within South Dublin





Map 1.2: Council Owned and Operated Sites within South Dublin



Map 1.3: Current Population within South Dublin per sub area

1.5 Physical Activity and Participation

The Value of Participation

- 1.5.1 The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to individual and community quality of life should not be under-estimated. This is true for both younger and older people; participation in sport and physical activity delivers:
- Opportunities for physical activity, and therefore more ‘active living’
 - Health benefits - cardio-vascular, stronger bones, increased mobility
 - Health improvement
 - Mental health benefits
 - Social benefits – socialization, communication, interaction, regular contact, stimulation
- 1.5.2 In addition, participation in sport and physical activity can facilitate the learning of new skills, development of individual and team ability/performance, and provide a ‘disciplined’ environment in which participants can ‘grow’ and develop.
- 1.5.3 The benefits of regular and active participation in sport and physical activity will be important to promote in relation to future sport, leisure and physical activity in South Dublin. There is an existing audience in the study area, which already recognise the advantages of participation, and a latent community who are ready to take part. The sport, physical activity and leisure offer in the county can support the delivery of the desired outcomes across a number of County Council’s priorities and objectives.

2 Executive Summary

2.1 Headline Points:

- 2.1.1 320 pitch assessments were conducted by 4global's research team which include council, education, private and club sites.
- 2.1.2 In total there were 163 local authority pitches assessed, 57 educational pitches, 46 club pitches and 40 private/commercial pitches. A full breakdown on pitch typology can be found in the appendix and also online on the playing pitch platform (<http://demo.playingpitchstrategy.com/auth/login>). This platform can be updated on an annual basis to reflect changes in pitch use, score and configuration.

2.2 Recommendations:

- 2.2.1 Over the lifespan of the strategy (2019 – 2035) a number of improvements and policy changes can help to ease the burden of increasing capacity on various sites.
- 2.2.2 These improvements and recommendations can be focused on a site by site basis and also sub areas as a whole.
- 2.2.3 Improve Maintenance of Pitches:
1. Additional drainage and maintenance programs should be targeted at the higher use sites such as Bohernabreena/Allenton, Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley Park and Rathcoole Park, due to the high amount of community use.
 2. Existing high level of communication between the council and clubs to be maintained
 3. Latent training need not being met; increased usage places demand on grass pitches; consider move to All Weather Pitches for training needs as current demands not being met throughout the local authority.
- 2.2.4 Existing Maintenance of Pitches:
4. The Council should review maintenance arrangements as and where required to ensure optimal provision of pitches to meet demand:
 - Recent / on-going capital investment to facilitate increased match play on existing pitches
 - Firhouse pitches (3 pitches completed)
 - Tymon pitches (2 completed and 1 underway)
 - Jobstown Park and Butler McGee Park (2 pitches)
 - Dodder Valley Old Bawn (existing pitch enhancements)
- 2.2.5 Review of current allocation policy
5. Review of current allocation model to increase pitch use efficiencies:
 - a. Targeted shared usage of currently under-used or oversubscribed pitches or locations
 - b. Maintain flexibility in allocation
 - c. Maintain flexibility in pitch designation due to changing demographics

- d. Review current cost structure versus economic cost.

2.3 Provision of new grass and AGP pitches

2.3.1 Imminent and planned recreational developments:

- Dodder Valley Mt Carmel (1 athletics track, 1 soccer pitch)
- Adamstown SDZ parks (1 multi-sport sized AGP, 1 GAA sized pitch, 1 cricket pitch)
- Clonburris SDZ parks (1 multi-sport sized AGP, 1 soccer sized AGP, 5 soccer pitches TBC; currently planned)
- Kiltipper Park Phase 2 (1 GAA sized pitch as part of draft plans)

2.3.2 Planned recreational provision as part of local area plan (LAP) development at:

- Fortunestown LAP area (1-2 GAA sized pitches)
- Firhouse Ballycullen LAP area (1 GAA sized pitch)
- Newcastle LAP area (1 GAA sized pitch)
- Rathcoole area (3-4 pitches in conjunction with GAA)

2.3.3 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs). AGP's can provide a vital asset to the local community in terms of training facility to local clubs and teams. The benefits of AGP pitches are outlined below:

- Providing all weather, year-round facilities
- Providing pitch capacity to meet increased population growth in higher density/urban locations
- Meeting demand for increased match play
- Meeting demand for training provision which is not currently being met.
- Removing training pressure from grass pitches with resultant higher standard of grass pitch

2.3.4 AGP's have the ability to support far more matches and training sessions compared to regular grass pitches and can be strategically located in new development areas or high population areas

2.3.5 AGP's should be viewed as a community asset as they can support many segments of the population and offer a multi-sport approach through different sports. Each AGP has a travel time of 20 minutes where the optimum number of the population will travel to use the site. When new developments are being built AGP's should be associated with these areas as typically this is where the younger population will increase.

2.4 Ancillary Facilities, Pavilions and Storage Containers

2.4.1 Primary pavilion programme (subject to funding). A programme to construct shared changing facilities is currently underway; providing a number of changing rooms, referee

changing rooms and some storage areas to replace temporary storage and changing facilities.

This programme is being provided in larger parks that have a large number of pitches and a number of clubs sharing pitches.

- Dodder Valley Old Bawn (at construction stage)
- Griffeen Valley Park (North) (at planning stage)
- Corkagh Park (West)
- Tymon Park (West of M50)
- Dodder Valley Mt Carmel
- Griffeen Valley Park (Arthur Griffith Park)
- Collinstown Park

2.4.2 The Pavilion programme above is targeted to parks with large numbers of pitches and a variety of clubs. Provision elsewhere shall to be considered on a priority basis as follows:

- Delivery and resources prioritised to primary programme.
- Provision of facilities based on size of open space and number of pitches accommodated.
- Nos of teams
- Nos of players
- Nos of clubs / community groups to be accommodated
- Evidence of need

2.4.3 Funding and provision considerations:

- Provision to be adapted to funding availability
- SDCC provided and funded via sports capital grants
- Governing body and / or Club contributions may be considered on a case by case basis. Any such facilities will remain available to the general public and to SDCC

2.4.4 Storage Areas:

In larger parks with new pavilions:

- Some storage to be provided in new changing rooms or will be provided in a railed off area adjacent to a pavilion

In open spaces without pavilions / changing rooms:

- Railed off areas for storage of heavy-duty pitch infrastructure e.g. goalposts etc. will be considered.
- These areas should ideally be in well-overlooked areas with plenty of passive surveillance.

2.4.5 Hierarchy of provision: High usage areas with several clubs and pitches. Funding: May be sourced by sports capital grants etc. Sport's Governing body or club contributions could be facilitated

- Storage provision within public lands shall remain linked to the adjacent sports pitch use to allow for future proofing of provision. Any such facilities will remain available to the general public and to SDCC.

3 Key supply and demand findings

- 3.1.1 This section summarises the key findings identified within the Needs Assessment, which should be used as the evidence base for this strategy. A comprehensive supply and demand analysis have been undertaken for all sports across the study area, with the project working group engaged at all stages of the process.
- 3.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed within the main report. The format of these tables follows the five key questions that are asked as part of the SPS Guidance Document for Stages A – C of the process, please see below the outlines of each stage
- Stage A: Provide clarity over why the strategy is being developed and what it seeks to achieve and to provide clarity in the development of the SPS and how it is to be managed.
 - Stage B: An accurate audit of the supply of pitches and ancillary facilities. An accurate audit of the current demand for pitches. Information on which to base an understanding of the future demand for playing pitches. Detailed views and opinions on the adequacy of provision from users and pitch providers. A single document within which all the supply and demand information gathered is presented ready to be assessed in Stage C.
 - Stage C: An understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community. An indication of whether the current supply in the study area is adequate to meet both current and future demand. The views and opinions of all relevant parties on the adequacy of provision. The key issues with the supply of and demand for provision in the study area.

3.2 Soccer Key Findings

Table 3.1 – Key SPS findings for Soccer in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	In total there are 205 pitches (including AGP pitches) across 72 sites within the study area. As a result of club and team consultations there have been 430 teams identified ranging from mini soccer (U5) up to senior soccer. In total there should be 5 new adult soccer pitches located within the study area if the projected population and team generation rates keep on track, junior soccer can also be played on these pitches.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	Analysis of the soccer sites reveals that 62 of the 74 sites are classified as secured (84%) leaving 12 sites being identified as unsecured (16%). The long-term security of soccer provision is classified as good as a result. A number of sites within South Dublin such as Tymon Park or Corkagh Park are large sites and have multiple pitches within them. Typically, a large site can have a number of different pitches and uses within them, this is why there are fewer sites than pitches within any local authority.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient	The vast majority of pitches within the study area are rated as standard (82%) as a result of maintenance and pitch regimes, with very few pitches (4%) being rated as poor and 12% of pitches being rated as good, which are usually located on private sites which have more

Key Question	Analysis
quality and appropriately maintained?	specialist maintenance programs. All the pitches are cut and maintained once a week and a new maintenance program is beginning to be implemented with on going investment being provided to the local authority.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	When projecting the future population growth and growth of the sport there seems to be an increase in Adult and Youth teams over the lifespan of the strategy with an additional 25 teams. There will be a decrease in teams for mini soccer by 20 teams over the same timeline. As a result, a few of the pitches that have been allocated for mini soccer provision should be overmarked or reconfigured for larger age groups (junior or adult football) or different sports to best make use of the available space.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	With the current high amount of secured local authority pitches the current pitch provision is sufficient to meet the future demand, however some pitches will have to be reconfigured for other pitch types and sizes (please see later examples in the action plan below). There is also an expected increase in informal demand within certain sites which should be addressed but these pitches do not need the same maintenance regimes as pitches use for match play.

3.2.1 It is also important to take into account informal and training demand within the area for soccer as this plays a key role in overall pitch use. Due to the game being less structured and regulated when compared to other sports such as GAA. The informal soccer game is prevalent within the area which increases the uses on various pitches across the local authority. It is difficult to identify exactly where this usage is due to no data being made readily available.

3.2.2 In total there are 205 pitches (including AGP pitches) across 72 sites within the study area. As a result of club and team consultations there have been 430 teams identified ranging from mini soccer (U5) up to senior soccer. There are 149 grass pitches with the remaining being small sided AGP's which are privately owned.

3.2.3 Table 3.2 summarises how the grass soccer pitches in the Study Area were assessed, in line with the non-technical assessment criteria.

Quality score	Adult soccer	Youth soccer		Mini soccer	
	11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Good (80-100%)	16	1	1	0	0
Standard (50-79.9%)	90	15	8	10	2
Poor (0-50%)	4	0	2	0	0

Table 3.2 – Supply of grass pitches in the Study Area

3.2.4 Table 3.3 below shows the spread of ownership, illustrating the spread of management and ownership types across the Study Area

Type	Ownership	Management
Local Authority	123	121
Private	34	3
Club	23	34

Type	Ownership	Management
Education	24	27
Charity, Trust	1	0
Commercial Management	0	20

Table 3.3 – Pitch ownership and management in South Dublin (including AGP sites)

3.3 Cricket key findings

3.3.1 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for South Dublin.

Table 3.4 – Key SPS findings for cricket in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Cricket within South Dublin is slowly growing with currently 3 sites offering cricket pitches with 2 clubs within the County. Between these two clubs there are 17 teams total with Adamstown Cricket Club having the most teams with 13 spread across senior and junior cricket.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	There are currently two main sites within the local authority that are used for cricket within the area and these are Corkagh Park and Tymon Park. Both of these sites are nearing their capacity due to the growth of cricket within the area and the demand from other sports also being located on these sites which have restricted the growth in Cricket on the sites.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The pitches at both locations are of standard quality with both outfielders are showing signs of damage and drainage issues due to the size of the area and also high demand from adjacent sports. The maintenance of the wickets could be improved to enable the sites to accommodate more match play as the surface do not have permanent covers on them currently, which is difficult to provide in a public space due to vandalism issues, covered sheets might work as an alternative.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	Both teams indicate that they will have issues to develop due to capacity issues and the restricted space on the sites. The team generation rate analysis and future population growth identifies there is expected to be an increase in teams for both clubs in the senior sections. 2 Additional NTP (non turf pitches - artificial) should be invested into both sites to increase the capacity and allow further match play to occur, in terms of cricket pitches for match provision. This will also increase the surface quality of the pitches. In addition, the specific drainage solutions should be looked at on the outfield to increase the water flow of the grounds.

3.3.2 Cricket within South Dublin is slowly growing with currently 3 sites offering cricket pitches with 2 clubs within the local authority. Between these two clubs there are 17 teams total with Adamstown Cricket Club having the most teams with 13 spread across senior and junior cricket. With the future population growth and team generation rates there has been a growth of 10 teams between these two clubs ranging from junior to adult cricket, with a particular growth in the female game with 4 new sides from 0.

3.3.3 Table 3.5 illustrates that ownership and management of cricket pitches in South Dublin were split between education and local authority sites. There are no privately, club or commercially owned sites in the Study Area

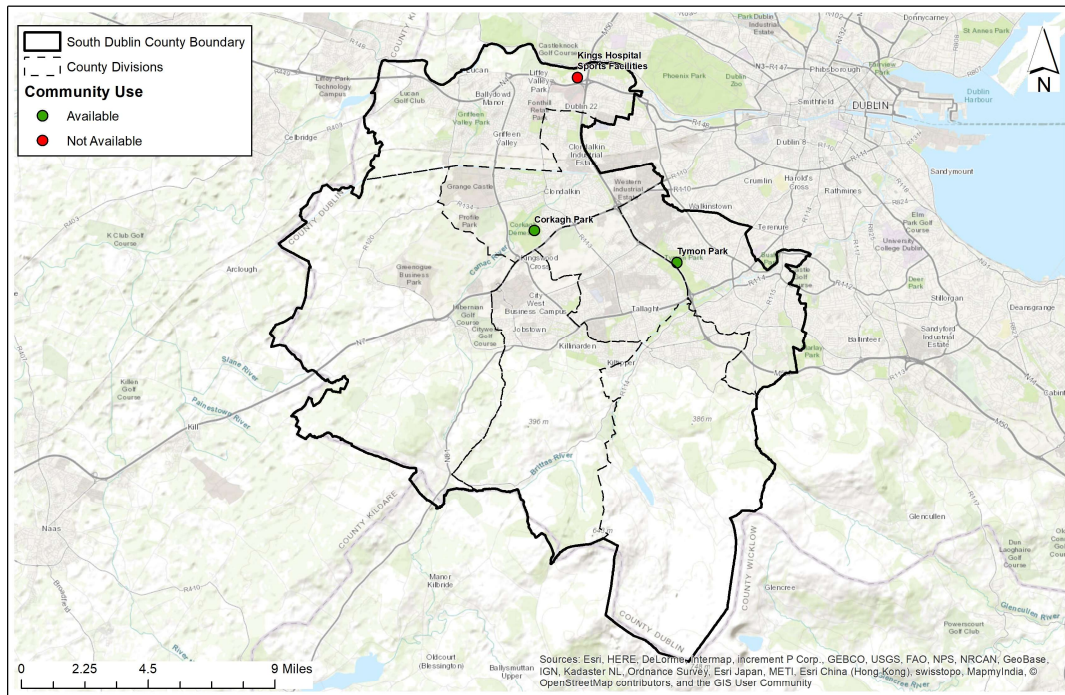
Type	Ownership	Management
Education	2	2
Local Authority	3	3

Table 3.5 – Cricket pitch ownership and management in South Dublin

3.3.4 Through the demand consultations, 2 clubs have been identified as playing in South Dublin. This totals 17 teams, with the teams split relatively evenly between senior and junior sides.

Club	Homeground	No. of competitive teams			Total
		Senior Men	Senior Women	Junior	
Adamstown Cricket Club	Corkagh Park	7	0	6	13
Clondalkin Cricket Club	Tymon Park	3	0	1	4

Map 3.2: Cricket Provision with South Dublin



Cricket Sites within South Dublin

3.4 Rugby Union key findings

3.4.1 This section summarises the findings from the rugby analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for South Dublin.

Table 3.6 – Key SPS findings for rugby in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Within South Dublin there are 4 clubs in the local authority with 53 teams total ranging from junior to adult rugby, with the largest team being Saint Marys RFC. This has increased in recent years due to the success of the Irish national team as well as Leinster. There is currently high demand at sites located within the area, especially at St Mary's College RFC due to the large amount of mini and junior rugby being played. There is adequate supply on local authority sites with only two teams using these pitches.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to	Similar to the Soccer provision there is an adequate secured community use currently at local authority and club sites. Certain club sites such as Saint Mary's RFC are struggling to meet the current demand on site due to the mini rugby section. The only site that does not have secured community use provision is the Kings Hospital Sports

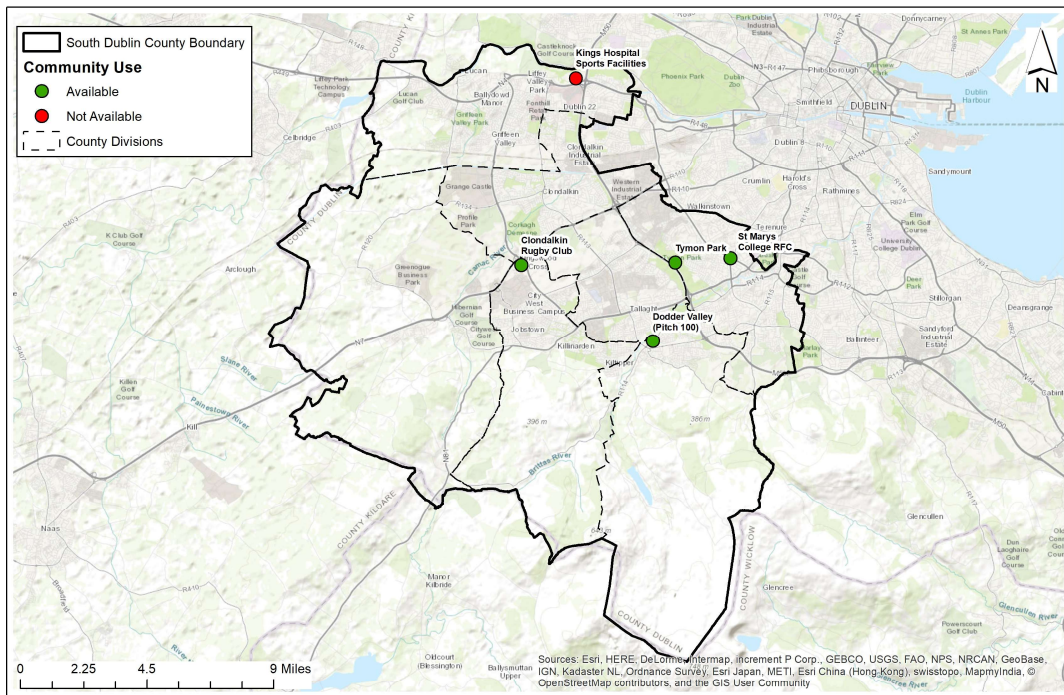
Key Question	Analysis
meet current demand	facilities.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Within the local authority there is only one pitch that is rated as poor with the majority of other sites being standard with 4 pitches being rated as good. As a result of this the majority of sites are well maintained and have sufficient quality for league level match play. The standard sites can be improved in terms of drainage and pipe and slit maintenance. The one poor pitch is located at Dodder Valley which is used by Tallaght RFC, which is currently only used for training, if extensive usage is being undertaken a training AGP pitch for rugby should be invested in. This pitch needs increase maintenance regime and drainage to increase the carrying capacity on site.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	As a result of the growing population and team generation rates there is expected to be an increase in senior men and youth boys' teams with growth of 3 additional teams. The growth rates also indicate that there will be a decrease in mini teams similar to soccer. It is important to note also that due to the lack of data and team numbers there is no quantitative data available for the increase in the women and female sides. Much like other governing bodies the IRFU is actively trying to increase Women's rugby.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	If clubs within the study area to use additional council operated pitches due to their home sites being at capacity there will not be enough accessible provision on council sites to meet future demand, this is due to the amount of pitches available and also the quality. Local clubs within the area are expected to grow in terms of team numbers which will put an extra strain on local sites that are currently not configured for rugby union in terms of pitch markings and surface quality. These 2 additional pitches (one junior and one senior) should be located at Tymon Park and a location close to the current clubs who have the greatest demand.

- 3.4.2 Within South Dublin there are 4 clubs in the local authority with 53 teams total ranging from junior to adult rugby. This has increased in recent years due to the success of the Irish national team as well as Leinster.
- 3.4.3 Map 3.3 overleaf shows the geographic location of the rugby pitches across the study area and illustrates that the all rugby supply in South Dublin is located within the South sub area.
- 3.4.4 Table 3.7 below illustrates the rugby sites in South Dublin that have rugby pitches associated within them and the club use. Only Kings Hospital School in the north of the study area does not have community use due to the large amount of use by the school and local representative teams.

Figure 3.7 – Ownership of Rugby Sites in South Dublin

	Ownership	Management
Club	5	5
Education	4	4
Local Authority	5	5

Map3.3 illustrates the Rugby Union sites within South Dublin



Rugby Sites in South Dublin by Community Use Availability

3.5 Hockey key findings

3.5.1 This section summarises the findings from the hockey analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for South Dublin.

Table 3.8 – Key SPS findings for hockey in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Hockey is a popular sport within South Dublin with 84 teams within the local authority from 5 clubs, with Three Rock Rovers HC being the largest with 33 teams. These 5 clubs use 5 of the 8 Hockey sites within South Dublin as their home grounds.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	South Dublin has 8 sites that have full-sized sand or water based artificial grass pitches (9 in total) that are suitable for competitive hockey. 3G artificial surfaces are excluded from hockey pitch supply as these are not acceptable for hockey match play. The average quality of the pitches is 75.80% which equates to a standard rating. There are no poor-quality pitches in the Study Area and 33.33% are rated as good quality. Additionally, of the 9 pitches 6 are securely available to the community.

Key Question	Analysis
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The majority of sites that the hockey clubs use as their home site have a good or standard playing surface that is widely used. Some surfaces at sites need resurfacing soon as they are coming to the end of the lifespan such as Loreto High School.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	With the future population changes and TGR rates there are expected to be a further 8 clubs to be added during the local plan of 2035. These 8 teams will consist of 6 female sides and 2 male sides. There is also latent demand at Three Rock Rovers HC as they are one of the largest sides within the area.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	Within the increase in demand during the life span of the strategy there will be a slight deficit in the future on available pitches during weekend match play slots, especially Sundays. Due to this, popular time slots for matches on weekends and preferred midweek training times at various sites will be at capacity.

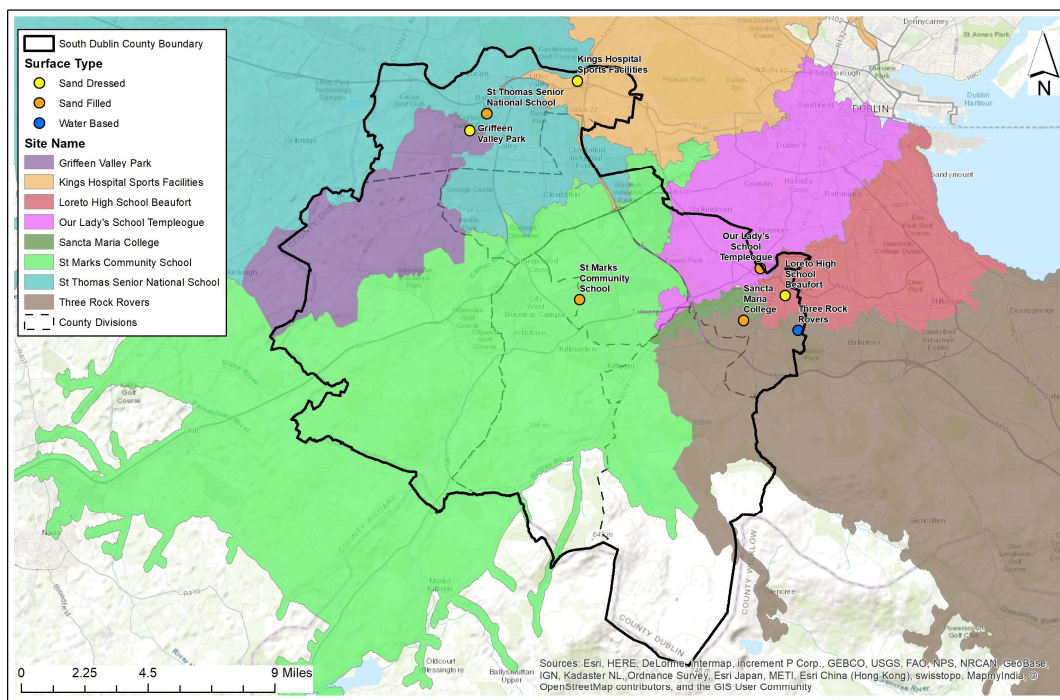
- 3.5.2 Hockey is a popular sport within South Dublin with 84 teams within the local authority from 5 clubs, with Three Rock Rovers HC being the largest with 33 teams. These 5 clubs use 5 of the 8 Hockey sites within South Dublin as their home grounds. With the future population changes and TGR rates there are expected to be a further 8 clubs to be added during the local plan of 2035. These 8 teams will be 6 female sides and 2 male sides.
- 3.5.3 There are 5 hockey clubs in South Dublin. Table 3.9 illustrates the breakdown the playing membership in the clubs by age and gender

Table 3.9 – Team profile for hockey clubs in South Dublin

Club Name	Adult Teams			Juniors	Total
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Mixed		
Glenanne HC	5	4	0	7	16
Loreto HC	0	8	0	6	14
Our Lady's HC	0	4	0	6	10
Three Rock Rovers HC	6	4	1	23	33
Weston HC	2	4	0	5	11

3.5.4 Map 3.4 below provides a spatial analysis of full-size sand based AGPs in the study area in order to assess whether the current provision of 'strategic' hockey facilities meet the needs of the local residents. These maps also include full size AGPs from neighbouring local authorities, as there is a significant potential export of demand if the facilities in neighbouring local authorities are an attractive offer for residents. The coloured areas show the unique catchment area of each of the AGPs, which indicates the closest AGP, within 20-minute drive time, for local residents.

Map 3.4: Full size AGPs by Surface Type within South Dublin which are used for Hockey



Full size AGPs by Surface type and with 20-minute drive time analysis in South Dublin

3.6 GAA key findings

3.6.1 This section summarises the findings from the GAA analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for South Dublin.

Table 3.10 – Key SPS findings for GAA in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	With consultations from the GAA within Dublin and also clubs we have found a total of 473 teams within the local authority, ranging from juvenile to adult teams, this is expected to grow in the future. A number of the clubs have their own home sites that are privately owned with good quality pitches and ancillary facilities. Due to the number of clubs within the study area a large amount of local authority pitches are used for matches and training. As a result of this it is important for clubs and the local authority to have a good relationship in order to maintain pitch quality and availability.

Key Question	Analysis
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	There are 41 sites in South Dublin that have GAA provision, with 28 of these sites available for community GAA usage. The ownership of the 41 GAA sites across the study area are equally split between the local authority and education sites. The majority of the education sites do not have teams playing regularly at these locations. The majority of clubs have a home site location that is owned by the club but also use local authority sites extensively to serve the large number of teams.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	Overall the quality and maintenance regime of the sites are adequate for the required provision with many of the club sites having their own ground staff for more specific maintenance programs at these sites. The majority of the local authority sites are standard in the pitch rating scale. This is adequate for the current provision on site due to the time and additional cost of improving the carrying capacity on site.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	Team generation rates have been provided at a Study area level, as the projected growth is not meaningful when split down further into a sub-area analysis. Based on future population projections a total of 11 senior teams and 5 junior teams will be created but there will be a reduction of 30 mini GAA teams by 2035. It is important to note that the unique community nature and tradition of GAA mean that typically players have to play for their local club within their area. As a result, if local development were to occur, they will play for the nearest GAA club meaning significant future growth could occur rapidly. One key element going forward within the sports strategy is the communication and joint maintenance regimes between local authority and clubs to improve the carrying capacity. The current supply of pitches does not meet the expected demand due to the configuration of many pitches. Not only will these additional teams need sites for match play demand, but they also need training provision throughout the year.

- 3.6.2 GAA is the most popular sport within South Dublin in terms of playing members and also total teams within the local authority.
- 3.6.3 With consultations from the GAA within Dublin and also clubs we have found a total of 473 teams within the local authority, ranging from juvenile to adult teams, this is expected to grow in the future.
- 3.6.4 A number of the clubs have their own home sites that are privately owned with good quality pitches and ancillary facilities. Due to the number of clubs within the study area a large amount of local authority pitches is used for matches and training. As a result of this it is important for clubs and the local authority to have a good relationship in order to maintain pitch quality and availability.
- 3.6.5 Map 1.2 shows that GAA pitches are spread across the study area and illustrates that GAA supply is spread over South Dublin.
- 3.6.6 There are currently a number of educational sites that are underutilizing their GAA pitches for matches and training. These pitches could be subject to use agreements between Council / Schools and / or Clubs / Schools. This is an area that could be explored further; Table 3.11 overleaf shows the location of standard/ good pitches that may be considered under this heading.

Table 3.11: Potential Educational Sites to use for match or training provision in GAA

Site Name	Ownership	Management	Sport	Size	Quality
Coláiste Phádraig	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Junior	Standard

Site Name	Ownership	Management	Sport	Size	Quality
Coláiste Phádraig	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
Deansrath Community College	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
Holy Family Community School Rathcoole Community Centre	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
Killinarden Community School	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
Knocklyon Community School	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
Lucan Community College	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Junior	Standard
Moyle Park College Clondalkin	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Good
Scoil Mhuire, Whitechurch School	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Junior	Standard
Scoil Treasa Firhouse	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Junir	Standard
St Macdaras School Templeogue	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard
St Marys Boy National School Lucan	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Junior	Standard
St Roses National School Tymon North	Education	School, College or University	GAA	Adult	Standard

3.6.7 It is important to identify and highlight the current carrying capacity of the GAA pitches at present to target which sites need additional maintenance, pitches or management procedures to increase this carrying capacity. Table 3.12 highlights these pitches and the relevant carrying capacity which takes into account match demands from clubs on the sites. This information has been collected via consultations with the Dublin GAA governing body, club consultations and also databases from the council with pitch management.

Table 3.12 – site-by-site capacity analysis for all sites used by GAA clubs or educational sites (existing capacity)

Site Name	Total Number of Pitches	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Green Trees Open Space	1	2	4	-2
Aylesbury Park	2	4	4	0
Ballyboden St Enda's	1	3	9	-6
Ballycullen	1	4	4	0

Site Name	Total Number of Pitches	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
Ballymount Park	2	4	3	1
Bancroft Park	1	2	0.5	1.5
Bohernabreena/Allenton	3	3	8	-5
Butler McGee Park	5	11	8	3
Cherryfield Park	4	8	8	0
Clondalkin Community Centre	2	4	6	-2
Colaiste Eanna School	1	2	0.5	1.5
Coláiste Phádraig	2	4	0.5	3.5
Corkagh Park	4	8	12	-4
Deansrath Community College	1	2	0.5	1.5
Firhouse Community College	1	2	0.5	1.5
Frank Kelly Park	2	6	3	3
Glenaulin Park	5	10	9	1
Griffeen Valley Park	5	9	15	-6
Holy Family Community School Rathcoole Community Centre	1	2	0.5	1.5
Killinarden Community School	1	2	0.5	1.5
Killinarden Park	1	2	0.5	1.5
Kilnamanagh Open Space	2	3	0.5	2.5
Knocklyon Park	2	4	4	0
Knocklyon Community School	1	2	2	0
Lucan Community College	1	2	0.5	1.5
Moyle Park College Clondalkin	1	3	0.5	2.5
Rathcoole Park	5	6	15	-9
Round Towers GAA Club	1	3	3	0
Scoil Mhuire, Whitechurch School	1	2	0.5	1.5
Scoil Treasa Firhouse	1	2	0.5	1.5
Solas Christ National School	1	1	0.5	0.5
St Aidans Secondary School Brookview	1	1	0.5	0.5
St Anne's GAA	2	5	10	-5
St Macdaraís School Templeogue	1	2	0.5	1.5

Site Name	Total Number of Pitches	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalents
St Marys Boy National School Lucan	2	4	1	3
St Marys G.A.A. Club Saggart	1	3	13	-10
St Pauls Primary & Secondary Schools	1	2	0.5	1.5
St Roses National School Tymon North	1	2	0.5	1.5
Thomas Davis GAA Club	4	11	15	-4
Tymon Park	11	24	24	0
Victory Centre Firhouse (NAMA) Church of Scientology & Community Centre of Dublin	1	3	0	3

3.7 Athletics key findings

3.7.1 This section summarises the findings from the athletics analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for South Dublin.

Table 3.13 – Key SPS findings for Athletics in South Dublin

Key Question	Analysis
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	Athletics is a popular sport within the study area with various clubs in the local authority. There are 6 major clubs within the study area with a total of 1500 members split between them. This ranges from Bros Pearse Athletic Club with 400 members to Rathcoole Athletic Club with 42 members.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	The majority of tracks located in the study area are currently at capacity with a number of the clubs using 4 sites. It is common for different clubs to share one site due to the number of available sites within the local authority. A number of the clubs are currently at capacity for members due to the available track space and also coaching numbers.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	The current supply is adequate in terms of quality and maintenance regime but in order for clubs to develop and allow more members to join there is a need for additional tracks.
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	The majority of clubs within the study area are at capacity due to the number of members that can join the clubs. This is due to the available track space within South Dublin and also the amount of coaches. In order for these clubs to grow additional tracks are needed, with at least one more 6 lane synthetic track located in the central portion of the study area to allow other clubs to use the site.

3.7.2 Table 3.14 below illustrates the supply of current and future athletic facilities within South Dublin. The majority of these are used by local clubs within the study area.

Table 3.14: Athletics Sites within South Dublin

Site Name	Facility Type	Lanes	Ownership	Management	Community Use	Security of Use
Bancroft Park	Synthetic track	8	Local Authority	Club (Tallaght AC)	Yes	Secured
Dodder Valley (In development))	Grass	8	Local Authority	Local Authority	Yes	Unsecured
Griffeen Valley Park	Synthetic Track (In development)	8	Local Authority	Club (Lucan Harriers AC)	Yes	Secured
Cherryfield Park	Grass	3	Local Authority	Local Authority	Yes	Secured

4 Scenario testing and options appraisal

- 4.1.1 The supply and demand analysis undertaken in each of the previous sections provides a clear view of the capacity for sports facilities across South Dublin, based on the existing supply of facilities and the demand for these facilities from residents, both now and in the future.
- 4.1.2 This data provides an accurate evidence base, on which future planning and investment decisions can be made, using the guidelines outlines in the 'Delivering the Strategy' chapter of the strategy.
- 4.1.3 To complement the analysis that has been undertaken in each of the sport-specific sections, this chapter contains detailed further analysis on a small number of key scenarios, which have been identified by the project implementation group throughout the development of the sports pitch strategy.
- 4.1.4 For each of the scenarios identified below, a short summary is provided to explain why the scenario needs to be tested. Following this, a needs assessment for each of the relevant facility types is undertaken and explained.
- 4.1.5 These scenarios are examples and options for different situations within the local authority with the aim to illustrate a different variety of projects. Before any scenarios are carried out there should be discussions between the various members of the implementation group.

4.2 Scenario 1: Future AGP provision in targeted areas of the community and management structure

- 4.2.1 With a growth of 50,958 new people within the local authority this will mean an added demand for match and training provision as new teams will form in existing clubs throughout the study region. This growth is not just associated with one type of sport but is varied within all the sports studied such as Soccer, GAA, Rugby Union and Cricket, Athletics and Hockey
- 4.2.2 As new teams are generated in each of these sports there will be an added demand on training pitches and also match pitches, this extra demand could cause sites to reach their capacity. One way to reduce this capacity at certain sites would be to create additional capacity by building new AGP pitches. These additional AGP pitches will be able to satisfy training and match day demand throughout the study area for various teams.
- 4.2.3 The additional benefit of AGP pitches, such as 3G artificial grass, is that teams will be able to train and play matches on these surfaces even in poor weather conditions when traditional grass pitches might be unsuitable or unusable. AGP pitches are also good for the local community due to the mixed use that is available on site. 3G artificial grass surfaces can be used for various sports such as Soccer, GAA and Rugby Union for training demand.
- 4.2.4 When selecting the sites that are appropriate for 3G AGP development, sites should have the following characteristics;

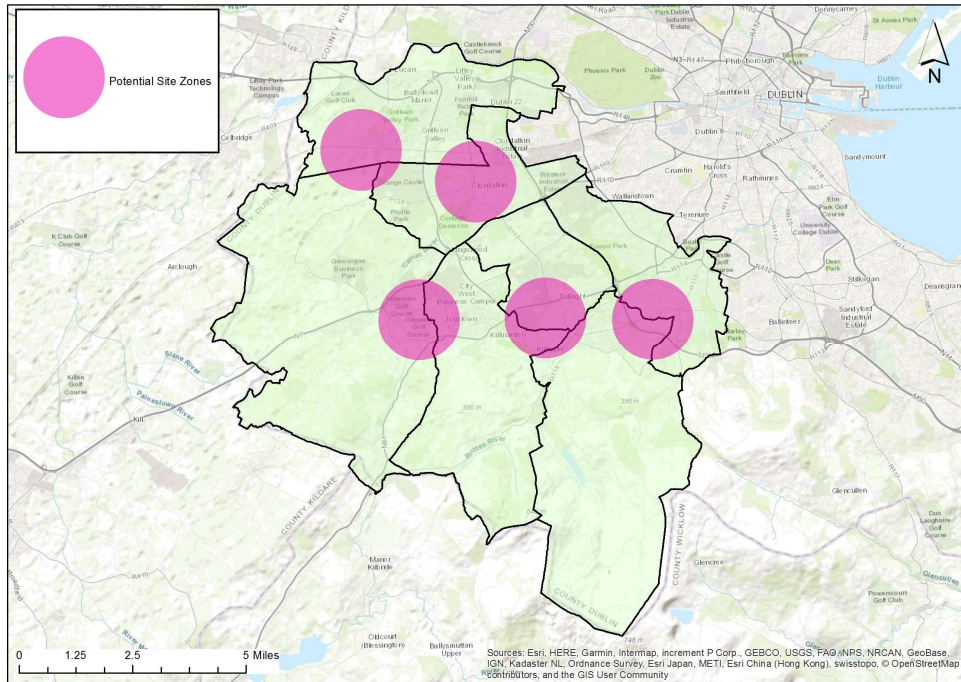
- Be available for significant use by local community clubs
- Have good access and ancillary facilities to service the pitch(es)
- Be financially sustainable
- Be able to be maximised for training and match play provision during peak time
- Be well positioned to deliver wider sport development programmes, including coach education and a recreational offer, using spare off-peak capacity to deliver this
- Be able to explore shared projects with the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).
- AGP sites must also be located in areas that are not protected by any environmental laws or regulations or sensitive green spaces due to the light pollution and other footprint issues such as drainage and car parking.

4.2.5 New AGP provision needs to be aligned to areas of need; in terms of both match and training demand. In addition areas need to be carefully assessed to ensure the location is suitable for high traffic, peak use, use of flood lighting etc. 3-5 locations are recommended across the county; to cover Sub areas 6 and 7, Areas 2 and 4, Area 5 and Areas 1 and 3.

4.2.6 It is important to consider AGP locations in new development areas where open space provision is not large and provision of AGPs can cater for intensive active recreational use; provision of AGPs in these new development lands can also cater for existing need in existing residential areas

4.2.7 Map 4.1 below shows proposed potential sites within the local authority. These sites cover the vast majority of the local authority and also expand to other local authority areas who might to look to use these pitches, detailed feasibility studies should be created to further explore these sites.

Map 4.1: Sites for potential new AGP's



4.3 Scenario 2: Increased Pitch Maintenance

- 4.3.1 Across all the sports that are played within the study area the pitch maintenance is vital in terms of the carrying capacity of sites and how many matches are able to be played at a particular location.
- 4.3.2 Many of the pitches are owned and operated by the local authority with a common maintenance regime is performed across the various sites. For most teams the maintenance procedures that are performed on site are adequate to maintain current match play. Issues arise when clubs are not satisfied with the current maintenance that occurs on certain pitches.
- 4.3.3 It is important for the local authority to provide a consistent maintenance level across all pitches. Maintenance regimes should be reviewed were warranted or required.

4.4 Scenario 3: Pitch configuration at larger sites for optimal use

- 4.4.1 Due to the size of certain sites within South Dublin there is a need to review some of the largest sites for reconfiguration of pitches based upon current use and predicted future use. This will allow the maximum capacity being used at each site and allow further clubs to develop at sites in terms of more teams and where they play.
- 4.4.2 South Dublin council own and manage a number of larger sites such as Tymon Park, Corkagh Park and Butler McGee Park. These large sites have traditionally been used for many years by various clubs from GAA, Soccer, Rugby Union and Cricket.
- 4.4.3 Many of the clubs at the sites have indicated through club consultations that they need extra space for pitches due to team growth, but it is important to also to note where there is a predicted decrease in order to configure new pitches.
- 4.4.4 Future population trends (supplied by the council), latent demand and club consultations have allowed us to develop TGRs (team generation rates) for the lifespan of the strategy for each sport. These TGR's predict show many new teams will be created as a result of population growth within the local authority or each sub area.
- 4.4.5 When reconfiguring large sites, it is important to consider how the landscape of each individual sport is expected to change at a local level. GAA as a sport has a unique development structure in terms of players and team growth. New players have to join the club which is in their local community (the parish rule), Larger housing developments could make a club grow at an increased rate. This is different to both soccer and rugby union as players have a choice who they play for which can result in more consistent growth throughout the local authority.

4.5 Scenario 4: Identify Sports that are increasing in popularity in conjunction with demographic changes and unique sport attributes

- 4.5.1 Certain sports increase in popularity based upon certain demographic trends and increases within a particular area. The main example for this would be cricket within the South Asian community. Cricket is a growing and developing sport within Ireland as a whole.
- 4.5.2 Similar to England there is a large amount of informal cricket being played by South Asian communities which is not formally reflected in the national governing body figures. It is therefore important to try and reflect this informal latent demand for future growth as it could play a part in certain sites being at capacity. Within South Dublin and more specifically the Saggart/Tallaght region this BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) demographic has increased by 73 South Asian nationals to 227 in 2016, with this upward trend expecting to continue for the next census. See Map 4.2 below to reflect this change.
- 4.5.3 One of the targets for the Irish Cricket board is to convert this informal use into formal team demand in order to develop and grow teams. Table 4.1 below indicates both this informal latent demand and regular team generation rates to calculate the overall potential new teams that will be generated by 2035 for the entire local authority.
- 4.5.4 To account for this demand an additional 2 non turf pitches will be needed in a combination of locating a new site or adding one of the pitches on the edge of a current pitch.

Map 4.2 – South Asian population increase within South Dublin

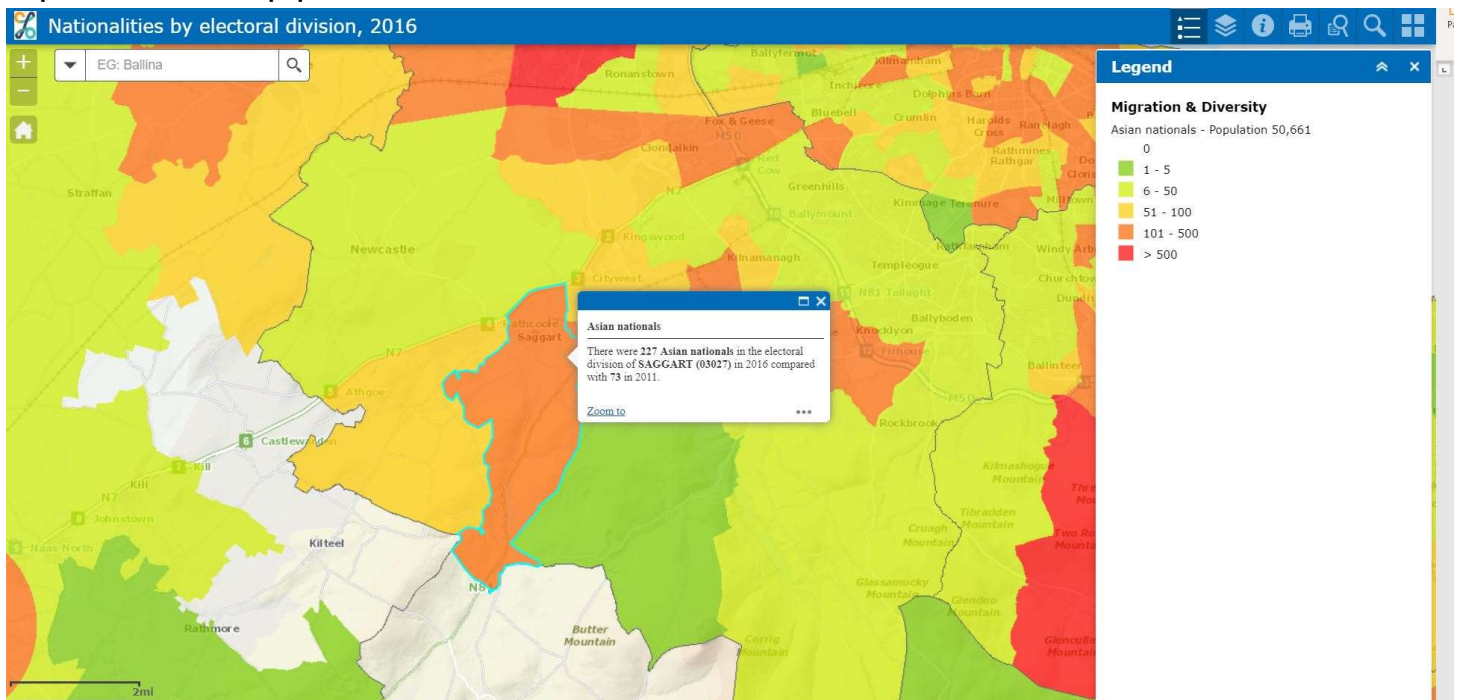


Table 4.1 – Potential new cricket teams within South Dublin 2019 – 2035

South Dublin							Additional Teams identified in Latent Demand Analysis – Informal use	Total Potential New Teams in 2035 - TGR's and Latent Demand
Sport and Age Groups	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current population in age group within the area	Future population in age group	Current TGR	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers		
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	10	73,637	85,541	7,364	11,903	2	2	4
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	0	76,871	87,174	0	10,302	0	2	2
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	7	25,715	24,220	3,674	-1,495	0	3	3
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	1	24,666	23,151	24,666	-1,514	0	1	1

- 4.5.5 To account for this projected increase in teams a greater carrying capacity at certain sites should be developed to allow for the growth of cricket and particular clubs. In particular Tymon Park and Corkagh Park where there is currently cricket on site. These sites can be improved in terms of quality and new non turf wickets to increasing the carrying capacity. It is possible to satisfy this demand by either increasing the number of pitches with 2 additional Non-Turf pitches or improving the current quality on sites from standard to good.

Section 5: Strategic recommendations and action plan



5 Strategic recommendations and action plan

- 5.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across South Dublin, it is advised that the Implementation Group, set up as part of the Sports Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver and implement the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 5.1.2 This section of the report provides a set of strategic recommendations to guide future governance and investment into pitch sport provision across the study area.
- 5.1.3 Further detail to be added as to how these general recommendations should be used by SDCC and relevant stakeholders

5.2 Strategic recommendations

- 5.2.1 This section brings together the complete evidence base and analysis that has been developed as part of the SPS and provides a clear strategy for the future delivery of sports provision in South Dublin.
- 5.2.2 At a strategic level, the following key recommendations have been identified for each of the sport typologies, as well as for general sports provision.

Custom recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** The location of new AGP pitches should facilitate maximum usage within the community to meet match day and training demand within the local authority. Provision should be primarily aimed at GAA and Soccer as they are the two main sports that need AGP winter training provision; however there is also a need to meet training need for Rugby teams
- **Recommendation 2:** Existing maintenance regimes shall be reviewed to ascertain if varying maintenance regimes would be of benefit to pitch provision.
 - Existing intensive routine maintenance programmes to be continued
 - Target higher use sites, shared sites and sites with high amount of community use.
 - Continue high level of communication between the council and clubs.
- **Recommendation 3:** Enhance the drainage and maintenance of pitches that are currently operating over-capacity, to increase the pitch capacity to accommodate demand of current user clubs, especially on council-maintained pitches. Utilise the action plan to identify specific sites for development.
- **Recommendation 4:** Develop relationships where relevant with Dept of Education and local schools to explore possibilities of sharing / developing facilities.

Soccer

- **Recommendation S1:** A small number of sites are close to a poor-quality rating. Liaison with clubs may be required to ensure over-use is not an issue. More

intensive maintenance regimes may be required to increase the overall carrying capacity of these sites.

- **Recommendation S2:** Reconfigure mini pitches to Youth 11v11 and 9v9 as required in the sub areas that are currently showing a future secured deficit of youth pitches, such as pitches located in Collinstown Park.
- **Recommendation S3:** Increase the number of community available 3G AGP's within the county (full size), especially for winter training hours and demand. At least 3 full size AGPs are required within the study area located in area of high population growth close to City West and North of the study area in particular.

Cricket

- **Recommendation C1:** Improve the maintenance regimes on the pitches, especially the outfield areas to increase the carrying capacity and allow more matches on pitches.
- **Recommendation C2:** Increase the amount of Non turf pitches within the study area to account for the predicted growth in junior cricket. These additional Non-Turf should be located at the current sites where pitches are present (Tymon Park and Corkagh Park) and also an additional wicket located at another site.
- **Recommendation C3:** Additional focus should be developing formal teams and encouraging new participation into the formal game.

Rugby Union

- **Recommendation RU1:** Encourage local clubs to seek out community use agreements from schools in order to cope with new teams generated.
- **Recommendation RU2:** Improve pitch maintenance regimes at council sites where required to increase carrying capacity; (this work is currently underway).
- **Recommendation RU3:** Look into developing an all-weather lit 3G AGP pitch for winter training provision, in tandem with provision for GAA and Soccer.

Hockey

- **Recommendation H1:** Encourage more sides to use council owned sites for training and match provision in order to elevate some use on club sites that are at capacity. If council owned sites do not have the required match slots then look into education facilities.

GAA

- **Recommendation GAA1:** Where appropriate look into reconfiguring surplus adult size pitches to juvenile sizes to allow for greater match play, such as certain pitches at Tymon park.
- **Recommendation GAA2:** Develop ancillary facilities at council owned sites, especially if there will be an increase in female participation. This should be part of a shared ancillary structure at large sites with multiple sports as Rugby and Soccer are also increasing female participation.

Athletics

- **Recommendation A1:** Further development of sites as clubs are currently at capacity and there is limited choice within the local authority.

5.3 Action plan

- 5.3.1 Through a detailed supply and demand analysis of the sports included in the scope of the strategy, as well as stakeholder consultations across the study area, an action plan has been created, which will guide the Council in their delivery of sports provision and facility decisions over the next 15 years. The action plan is broken down by site with clear owners, timescales and expected resources. This is shown Table 5.1.
- 5.3.2 The table identifies potential sources of external funding. It should be noted that funding for the actions below could come from one, or a combination, of funding sources shown below. This is not an exhaustive list and could be extended to other sources, depending on availability.
- Local Authority Capital Funding
 - Community Grant Schemes
 - Central Government Funding: e.g. Sports Capital Grants etc
- 5.3.3 The Action Plan does not identify all those clubs that may be partners or provide resources in relation to its delivery. It is assumed that where clubs have a long-standing interest in a specific site that they will be a partner in delivering the actions and contribute financially or in-kind where appropriate.
- 5.3.4 The Action Plan does not identify South Dublin Council as a key resource either in terms of officer time or finance, except for those sites owned and/or managed by the Council. However, the Council has an interest in all those projects delivered within the local authority area and may contribute towards them either financially or in-kind, as appropriate and subject to available resources. It should be noted that not all sites have actions allocated to them, as it is unrealistic to expect funding partners to contribute to improvements at all facilities across a local authority.

Action plan terminology

- Issue/ opportunity: The issue or opportunity that can be addressed
 - Key Actions: Numbering indicates order of preference
 - Partners: Top listed partner is identified as lead partner
 - Resources: Key resource implications (time and money)
 - Timescale: Short: 0–2 yrs. Medium: 2-5 yrs. Long 5-10 yrs.
 - Priority: Low, Medium and High, depending on overall impact for sports participation
- 5.3.5 All costs are estimated, based on 4global desktop research and consultation with industry experts. These are not based on firm pricing or quotes from reputable contractors, unless stated otherwise

- 5.3.6 All maintenance costs represent the full cost for maintaining the pitches. They do not, therefore, reflect any maintenance that is currently being undertaken at the site and the cost incurred for these services. In reality, the cost for additional maintenance would be reflected by an increase of the current maintenance cost, rather than the full price stated as part of this action plan
- 5.3.7 There is not unlimited funding to invest in sports facilities, for any of the identified partners. As a result, actions have been prioritised on sites that are currently either not fit-for-purpose, showing a deficit of provision, or those that represent a viable investment opportunity that will significantly increase the quality, quantity or accessibility of sports provision in South Dublin.
- 5.3.8 To provide the Council with a clear identification of 'strategic' investment priorities across the study area, high profile strategic investment projects have been identified overleaf in bold. These projects are likely to be limited in number due to their size but will deliver a significant level of benefit for grass-roots sport and physical activity. These projects are likely to cost approximately €250,000 or more and will include a number of different stakeholders and funding partners.
- 5.3.9 The initial action plan addresses the top priorities (Table 5.1) within South Dublin. These pitch enhancements and priority sites are based upon areas that have been identified through a deficit in current supply to meet the current and future demands as outlined in the Stage C needs assessment analysis. These growth areas have been calculated by combining the overall population growth of each sub area with the relevant housing developments as well as any latent demand that has been identified through club consultations.

Table 5.1: Priority list within South Dublin in Local Authority Owned Sites and Recommendations

ID	Site	Sub area	Current site users	Issue / opportunity	Key action(s)	Resources/ estimated cost	Benefit to local area	Sports associated	Priority and Timescale
1	Tymon Park	5	Heavily used by a variety of local clubs	<p>Very large site with numerous pitches. Some drainage issues which results in a reduced carrying capacity on site for the soccer and GAA clubs</p> <p>Due to the scale of the site and the number of pitches there is limited high level maintenance that can be performed due to time and financial costs.</p>	Continue drainage and maintenance procedures on site which will allow an increase in matches and training provision.	€75,000 – Dependant on scale of works	<p>Will allow more teams on site with the increase in training and carrying capacity</p> <p>Create better community links with the clubs and also focus specialist treatment on certain pitches</p>	Soccer and GAA	High - Medium
2	Tymon Park	5	Clondalkin Cricket Club	One older NTP pitch on site that is used extensively by the club and needs to be resurfaced as well as some outfield drainage.	Resurface the current NTP to increase the carrying capacity on site and allow the team to develop.	€50,000	Encourage more people to play cricket in the local area as well as target the BAME communities and allow greater access	Cricket	Low - Medium
4	Dodder Valley	4	Tallaght RFC	Currently the pitch that the club plays on is poor due to drainage and also the overuse by the club.	<p>Install a new drainage infrastructure for the pitch to increase the carrying capacity</p> <p>Drainage work and shock waving work is needed to increase carrying capacity.</p>	€50,000 – Cost dependant on scope of work	Increase the surface quality of the pitch	Rugby Union	Low - Medium

ID	Site	Sub area	Current site users	Issue / opportunity	Key action(s)	Resources/ estimated cost	Benefit to local area	Sports associated	Priority and Timescale
5	Bohemabreena /Allenton	3	St Anne's GAA	3 total GAA pitches on site that are used extensively by St Anne's GAA. These pitches are on a slope which effects the surface quality and also drainage Lack of high-level maintenance regimes on pitches due to financial costs.	Level the pitches and increase the drainage on site to allow for greater match play.	€50,000 – Costs dependant on scope of work Limited financial costs – Staff time to construct community use agreement	Improve pitch quality for important local GAA club which will allow further development Establish active links with the local GAA club and also allow the club to develop	GAA	High - Low
6	Corkagh Park	3	Various Soccer clubs as well as Adamstown Cricket Club and Round Towers GAA club	Focus on cricket provision as the current NTP is coming to the end of its lifespan due to surface issues and also specialist equipment needed to treat the outfield	Resurfacing of the current NTP surface for match and training provision as well as specialist cricket machinery (which can also be used in Tymon Park)	€50,000 – Cost dependent on scope of work	Improve local cricket availability to the local community as the cricket club is increasing in members	Cricket	Medium – Medium
7	Corkagh Park	3	Various Soccer clubs as well as Adamstown Cricket Club and Round Towers GAA club	Drainage and maintenance issues on GAA and Soccer pitches	Improve drainage and maintenance procedures to increase carrying capacity	€75,000 – Cost dependent on scope of work	Improve carrying capacity on site for further teams	GAA and Soccer	Medium – Medium
8	Butler McGee Park	4	St Marks GAA and Marks Celtic SC	Some drainage issues on pitches within the park for soccer and GAA as well as anti-social behaviour problems	New drainage underway which will elevate some waterlogging issues. Drainage and maintenance works were undertaken at time of report.	€75,000 – Cost dependent on scope of work	Improve the carrying capacity on site as well as allowing the clubs to develop certain junior sections	GAA and Soccer	High- Low
9	Butler McGee Park	4	St Marks GAA and Marks Celtic SC	There is evidence on site of teams using the pitches for cross play which has decreased the carrying capacity on site as well as a unused soccer pitch on site.	Reconfigure certain GAA and Soccer pitches for best use of space and to plan for future development. Convert the Adult pitch to a Youth	Cost dependant on materials and time from employees	Allow the clubs to develop in the future for great team numbers	GAA and Soccer	High – Low

ID	Site	Sub area	Current site users	Issue / opportunity	Key action(s)	Resources/ estimated cost	Benefit to local area	Sports associated	Priority and Timescale
					11V11 soccer or junior GAA pitch				
10	Cherryfield Park	7	Ballyboden St Enda's GAA	There is current overplay on the pitches due to extensive use by the local GAA side for training and match provision.	Improve maintenance and drainage regimes	Cost is minimal – Staff resource from local authority	Improve community links with the Ballyboden St Enda's GAA	GAA	High - Low
11	Dodder Valley	4	-	Lack of local athletics provision in the county has resulted in reduced growth of clubs	Support and construct new 8 lane grass athletic track for use by local sports clubs – Support development of Mount Carmel site which included an additional sports pitch and BMX track.	TBC	Improves athletics facilities within the local area and also supports development of clubs without their own home track	Athletics	Medium - High
12	Cherryfield Park	7	Bros Pearse Athletic Club and Ballyboden St Enda's GAA club.	The pitches and track are located next to each other which has caused issues regarding practices of both sports	Reconfigure current pitches on site or construct a training timetable plan to allow both clubs to train separately when there is high usage	Resource of planning officer time	Increase safety in the local area for training	Athletics and GAA	High – Low

Section 6: Delivering the Sports Pitch Strategy



6 Delivering the Sports Pitch Strategy

- 6.1.1 To facilitate the development of sport and physical activity across South Dublin, it is advised that the Implementation Group, set up as part of the Sports Pitch Strategy project, continues to work together to deliver the recommendations defined as part of this strategy.
- 6.1.2 The success of a SPS will be determined by how it is used. It is recommended that the delivery of the strategy is led by the Council, with close support by the Implementation Group that has been developed as part of this project.

6.2 Keeping the SPS relevant and up-to-date

- 6.2.1 To ensure that the Sports Pitch Strategy stays relevant and continues to support stakeholders in the delivery of sport and physical activity facility investment and development, an annual review should be undertaken. This review, which if undertaken regularly will have a reduced scope than the full SPS, will allow the implementation group to review progress against the SPS recommendations and action plan. The review will also identify any emerging issues and apply any lessons learnt through recent development or investment projects.
- 6.2.2 Through the development of the SPS, data has been stored and analysed on the 4 global Sports Pitch Strategy Platform, which has up to date supply and demand data for pitch sports across the borough. This data is available to South Dublin and it is recommended that this is used as the starting point for future strategy refresh projects.

Figure 6.1: South Dublin Council Playing Pitch Platform

The screenshot shows the 'South Dublin Council Playing Pitch Platform' interface. It features a sidebar with navigation options like 'Sites', 'Site Visits', 'List', 'Create', 'Upload', 'Edit', 'Settings', and 'Clubs'. The main content area displays 'Schedule date filters' (Future, Today, Tomorrow, This Month, Next Month, This Week, Next Week, Passed, Clear Filters) and a 'Visits List' table. The table includes columns for Site Name, Site Address, Site Assessor Name, Scheduled At, Completed At, Responded, Confirmed, Time to visit, and Actions.

Site Name	Site Address	Site Assessor Name	Scheduled At	Completed At	Responded	Confirmed	Time to visit	Actions
Lucan Community College	Esker Dr, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Ireland	James Gregory	2019-01-17 00:00:00	2019-03-22	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]
Bancroft Park	Bancroft Park	James Gregory	2019-01-14 00:00:00	2019-03-22	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]
Tymon Park	Tallaght, Dublin, Ireland	James Gregory	2019-01-14 00:00:00	2019-03-21	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]
Thomas Davis GAA Club	Kiltipper Road, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 VE22, Ireland	James Gregory	2019-01-18 11:20:00	2019-03-21	✗ No	✗ No	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]
St Pauls Primary & Secondary Schools	St Joseph's Rd, Limekilnfarm, Dublin 12, Ireland	Freddie Dawes	2019-01-17 10:00:00	2019-03-21	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]
St Marys G.A.A. Club Saggart	7HH5+Q3 Moneyatta Commons, County Dublin, Ireland	James Gregory	2019-01-18 15:30:00	2019-03-21	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✗ Date passed	[Add] [Edit]

- 6.2.3 In the short term, it is advised that the Council sets up an implementation group (which should be a continuation of working group set up as part of the sports strategy), to co-ordinate preparation of a short-term action plan, as well as undertaking further sub-regional needs assessment for major cross-boundary development projects. This allows short term goals to be achieved such as community use agreements to be created which require very little financial resources. Also, if there is any large sport hubs projects it is important to communicate these to neighbouring local authorities as these sites might create imported demand to the hub site, or there could be plans for similar hub sites close to the local authority boundary.
- 6.2.4 The SPS has identified, on a site by site and sub-area level, the needs for pitch and ancillary provision across South Dublin. Where the current level of supply does not meet the current or future needs of residents for specific sports, pitch typologies and ancillaries have been identified as requiring further capacity to meet demand.
- 6.2.5 In order to provide this additional capacity, guidance has been provided as to whether the implementation and partner organisations should look to;
- Enhance existing pitches to increase their capacity and ensure adequate maintenance to maintain the higher use, and/or
 - Secure greater community access to sites and undertake necessary works to allow for such use to occur, and/or
 - Provide new playing pitches on new sites (natural or artificial grass pitches).
- 6.2.6 Where the third option has been recommended, further guidance is available from the latest technical guidance and National Governing Bodies to advise on the best course of action for local authorities and delivery organizations.

6.3 Securing additional or improved pitch provision through development

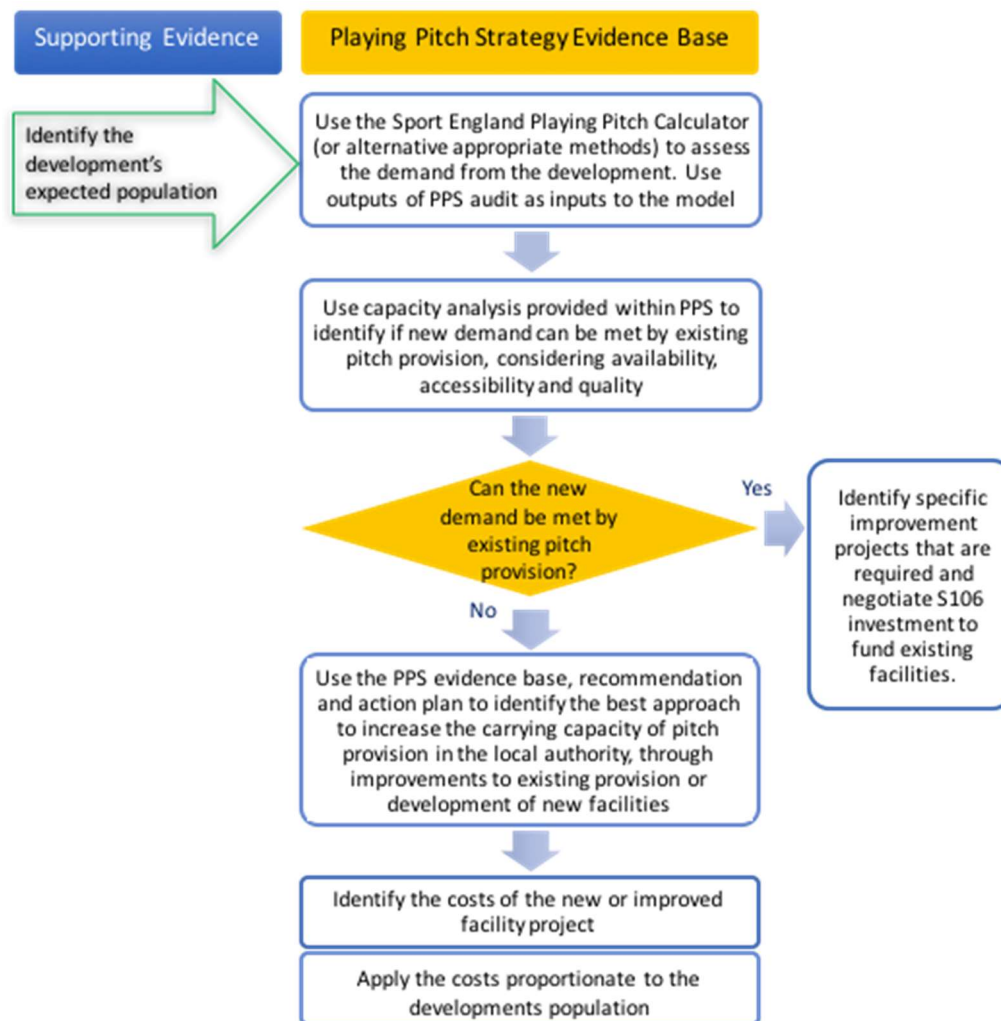
- 6.3.1 In addition to the specific site by site recommendations identified throughout needs assessment, it is also key that the strategy provides a clear approach to securing playing pitch provision in the case of new development, or utilising planning gain and development contributions to improve the quantity or accessibility of existing provision. Securing playing pitch provision and ancillary facilities in the case of relevant new development and facilitate the use of development contributions to provide new pitches and / or improve the quantity or accessibility of existing provision
- 6.3.2 Allocate development contributions collected for Parks and Open Spaces to Specific Projects as set out in the Development Contribution Scheme. Carry out a general Social infrastructure Audit for the county and specify a general standard of area for pitches per 1000 population. Carry out a sports and recreation demand Analysis under future local area plans / masterplans etc. and seek delivery by a) directly via developers (suited to greenfield sites) or b) through the Development Contribution Scheme (DCS) or 'in lieu' payment (if facilitated by DCS scheme).
- 6.3.3 It is important to note that for any contribution secured through developer contributions, a clear and tailored approach is required, to demonstrate how the contribution will be used to benefit residents. Specifically, the Sports Pitch Strategy's evidence base and action plan should be

used to justify the need arising from the specific development and how these are to be met. Some examples of development contributions can be seen below.

- Ringfence proportion of development contributions collected for Parks and Open Spaces from Development Contributions Scheme for a general Capital Fund (useful for maintenance)
- Carry out a general Social Infrastructure Audit for County and specify a general standard of area for pitches per 1,000 population
- Carry out sports and recreation demand analysis under future local area plans/action plans akin to Draft Tallaght LAP and seek delivery by a. directly through developers (suited to greenfield lands) or through Section 49 Special Development Contribution Schemes (suited to brownfield lands)

6.3.4 The graphic overleaf and associated commentary identifies the stages that should be followed, when utilising the Sports Pitch Strategy to secure additional or improved pitch provision through development.

Figure 6.2: Securing additional or improved pitch provision through development



This diagram is based on UK policies, but a similar process can be followed utilising Development Contributions Schemes etc. in Ireland*

6.3.5 Although the population of a single development may not in itself generate the demand for a full pitch, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and be met. The appropriate calculation will be in accordance with the County Development Plan, LAP etc. and set out in the Development Contribution Scheme.

6.4 Maintenance of New Facilities

6.4.1 In addition to the new or improved pitch provision that it is identified in line with the process demonstrated above, the cost for maintenance of new facilities should also be sought for both on-site and off-site provision. For example, where 3G facilities are installed, the carpet will require replacement (approximately every 10 years depending on level of usage and maintenance) and costs towards a sinking fund should also be sought. Consider ringfencing proportion of development contributions collected for Parks and Open Spaces from Development Contributions Scheme for a general Capital Fund or other arrangement with clubs.

- 6.4.2 Where a pitch or pitches are required on-site, this may include requiring delivery through a planning policy and a masterplan approach for the whole area. This can ensure that enough suitable land is planned from the outset and provided with the development. This is particularly important where there is a need for a large land-take associated with pitches.
- 6.4.3 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the pitch provision is required on-site, that this provision is coordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for pitches serving all the development or all its phases can be required. Where there is a need for larger strategic site serving a large catchment; this may require developers to provide the land on site or for the local authority to identify the land through the Local Area Plan process.
- 6.4.4 The timing and delivery of the pitches and related changing and parking facilities should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring provision is in place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities.
- 6.4.5 Where there are separate developments in close proximity that taken together generate a need for a whole pitch, contributions need to be made towards new provision or improving, existing pitches. For new pitches, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that pitch and related changing and parking facilities are to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it. This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic site serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.

6.5 Securing appropriate land provision from new development

- 6.5.1 Suitable land needs to be provided by developments, in line with the guidelines below;
- Where the demand is for less than 50% of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources)
 - Where the lands cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master planning constraints or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may at their sole discretion decide to allow for a payment in lieu; if allowed for within the relevant Development Contribution Scheme.

7 Summary of Information contained in the report

7.1.1 Table 7.1 is a summary of the relevant information of each sport and should be used for a quick reference. Each sport should be looked at in detail in this document and previous needs assessments and datasheets for a complete picture.

Table 7.1 – summary information

Sport	No. of pitches	No. of Clubs	No. of teams	2019 position	2035 comments	2035 position
Soccer	See page 20 205 pitches including AGPs. 149 grass pitches assessed in Table 2.1. Many of the small sided AGP pitches are not suitable for training demand and are either owned by private companies or educational sites.	There are roughly 50 clubs within the study area with 4 global managing to survey the largest ones.	430	Current pitch provision sufficient to meet demand. Some configuration will be required.	Increase in adult and youth teams, additional 25 teams. Decrease in mini soccer by 20 teams. Reconfigure mini soccer pitches.	5 new needed over the lifetime of the strategy which equates to one every 5 years. They should be located in the sub areas with the largest population increase close to large housing developments in order to make the accessible for the community
GAA	There are roughly 85 GAA pitches located within the study area with 50 of these being senior and 25 being juvenile size. 56 of these 85 are owned and maintained by the council	17 clubs have been identified as playing in South Dublin, with 13 of these clubs being consulted for the strategy.	473	Currently there is an adequate supply of pitches within the study area to cope with the current demand based upon the quality and quantity of the pitches. There is though a lack of training pitches available during the	Team generation done for county level: 11 new senior teams, 5 junior teams, reduction of 30 mini teams. Supply will not meet demand, for match play. Training will also need to be accommodated.	There will need to be 10 more senior/junior pitches located in the study area. This demand can be satisfied by improving the quality of surface on the current facilities, thus improving the carrying capacity. These pitches should be

Sport	No. of pitches	No. of Clubs	No. of teams	2019 position	2035 comments	2035 position
				winter hours for floodlit training		added to the areas of high housing developments close to current clubs due to the community rule in GAA sports.
Rugby	14 (from table 2.4.1 page 25) with 5 of these being in council ownership	4	53 teams across the county	Adequate Secured community use at local authority and club sites. St Marys struggling at mini section. 1 pitch rated as poor.	Training facility required and invested in. Maintenance to be increased. Expected 3 extra teams; decrease in mini teams. Women difficult to predict but is growing.	AGP required. 2 additional grass pitches; 1 senior, 1 junior at Tymon / eastern part of county.
Cricket	5 pitches	2	17	Adequate Secured community use at local authority.	There will be potentially 10 new teams in the study area due to the growth of the female games. This equates to two new non turf wickets.	2 non turf (artificial wickets required) Or improve quality of pitches from standard to good.
Athletics	3 with 1 further under development.		N/A	Currently at capacity (in terms of track space and coaching numbers). Current supply adequate in terms of quality and maintenance.	New supply needed to account for growth	1 more 6 lane synthetic track required in a central location.
Hockey	9 pitches	5	84		Further 8 teams to be added; 6 female 2 male	Slight deficit in the future on available pitches esp.

Sport	No. of pitches	No. of Clubs	No. of teams	2019 position	2035 comments	2035 position
						for weekend match play and mid-week training.
AGP's	The majority of the current pitches located in the study area are owned by educational or private entities		--	There is currently a deficit in training demand within the study area	Growth is growing in varying amounts across all sports. Training demand not being met, and match day demand will become difficult to meet. New AGPs can meet this demand.	3-5 required located in areas of high community use and population increase

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