

## ITEM No ...5.....

**REPORT TO:** NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2016

**REPORT ON:** DUNDEE SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO:** 340-2016

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To gain the Committee's agreement to the contents of the updated Pitch Strategy and approval to take the Strategy forwards via its Action Plan.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- approves the content of Dundee's Pitch Strategy (Appendix A).
- remits the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to take forward the recommendations of the strategy and establish a steering group to oversee its implementation.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Proposals within the Pitch Strategy will either be contained within the existing revenue and capital budgets or be the subject of external funding applications.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Reference is made to Item VII of the Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 where the committee approved Dundee's Pitch Strategy 2011-2016.

4.2 Neighbourhood Services has undertaken a review of the previous Pitch Strategy (2011-2016), as well as the current provision of outdoor pitches. This has informed the re-drafting of the Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy 2016 – 2026. This Strategy has been drafted in association with Dundee Physical Activity Strategy, which is the subject of a further report to Committee (report 345-2016 Policy and Resources Committee 31 October 2016).

4.3 Extensive consultation was also undertaken with users of the pitches, as well as associated national sporting organisations, as part of the review of the existing Strategy. The updated Strategy contains the results of this consultation and has informed its contents. Further consultation on the draft Strategy has also been carried out with Sports' Governing Bodies. A summary of responses is contained in Appendix B.

4.4 The Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of Dundee's Pitches. In partnership with key agencies, it sets out to:

- Provide appropriate and accessible pitches that meet the City's sporting, educational and recreational needs;
- Support and encourage relevant partnership initiatives for the improvement, development and management of the pitch resources;
- Assess the number of operational pitch locations to ensure that quality can be maintained;
- Improve the quality of changing facilities; and
- Plan the expansion of appropriate synthetic pitches as demand grows.

4.5 The Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy 2016 will provide a basis for the future development of pitches in the city for the next 10 years via its Action Plan, the framework for which is contained in the strategy. Each sport is discussed separately, as each has its own challenges and recommendations. The strategy is based on a supply and demand model, assessing the current supply of pitches against the future demand of each sport.

4.6 Key findings of the strategy were:-

- Dundee has a generous supply of both grass and synthetic pitches, which are generally maintained to a high standard in comparison with other areas;
- In general, although changing facilities are in reasonable condition, provision is not up to modern standards;
- The model of Community Sports Hubs in Dundee is supported by the Strategy, in addition to development of strategic sites at Caird Park, DISC and Dawson Park; and
- A review of the booking system and pricing structure is proposed.

4.7 The committee is asked to approve the Pitch Strategy so that the Action Plan can be implemented. It is proposed that a Steering Group is established to oversee the implementation of the 10 year Action Plan with annual updates based on the supply and demand issues of each sport as they arise.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services, Head of Democratic and Legal Services and all other Chief Officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

6.2 Consultation has also been undertaken with local sports groups and associations, as well as with the sports' governing bodies, Dundee and Abertay University, sportscotland and Fields in Trust.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Dundee's Pitch Strategy 2011-2016

Elaine Zwirlein  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

Gary Robertson  
**Head of Environment**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

# APPENDIX A



## Dundee Sports Pitches Strategy

# Contents

|   | Page      |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>                                      | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>1. Introduction and background .....</b>                         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. Supply and demand .....</b>                                   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>3. Consultation .....</b>  | <b>13</b> |
| <b>4. Key Conclusions of the Review and Detailed Strategy .....</b> | <b>23</b> |

**APPENDIX ONE: PROJECT STEERING GROUP**

**APPENDIX TWO: MASTER LIST OF BOOKABLE DUNDEE GRASS PITCHES**

**APPENDIX THREE: EXISTING AND POTENTIAL HUBS SITES**

## Executive Summary

The sports pitches of Dundee are arguably the most important sport facilities in the City given the scale of participation in the range of pitch sports. This was recognised in 2011 when the City produced its first sports pitch strategy. Since then there have been major changes in both the demand for sports pitches and the way in which pitch sports are being provided. In particular the demand, in all sports, for improved synthetic pitch provision is growing and the number of Community Sports Hub partnerships has been increasing. Equally, Dundee is about to build a major Regional Sports Performance Centre in Caird Park that will be a huge additional asset for the pitch sports. All these factors mean that it is time for the City to refresh its Sports Pitches Strategy.

This new strategy has been produced after extensive consultation with both the pitch providers and the users and extensive analysis of existing supply and demand and the likely patterns of future use.

The key conclusions from the research show that, in terms of grass pitches, the City's teams only utilise a relatively small percentage of the maximum available which means that, combined with effective maintenance regimes, the City offers, in comparison with other authorities in Scotland, some of the most consistent quality pitches. While the changing facilities are better in general than many other parts of Scotland, they fall far short of what is required for modern sport both in terms of disability access, mixed gender use and child protection. In terms of synthetic pitch provision, Dundee is well provided for in terms of the highest standard of hockey provision but there is the need to plan a careful but steady expansion of synthetic provision for both football and rugby especially for training.

The strategy seeks to identify the primary actions to be taken by the Council and the organisations it supports directly, to improve the quality of provision for all sports over the next ten year period. It recognises that any success in improving facilities will be the product of partnership investment and commitment from multiple agencies in the City and bodies like **sportscotland**.

# 1. Introduction and Background

## 1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Dundee City Council, as part of its overall strategic approach to the development of sport, developed a Sports Pitches Strategy for the period of 2011 to 2016 with vision of ***meeting the future public demands for sport at all skill levels by ensuring the pitches in the City are appropriate to the needs of the sporting community and are best value for its citizens.***
- 1.1.2. Since the publication of that strategy, considerable progress has been made and, as will be discussed below, Dundee can be rightly proud of having some of the best provision for pitch sports anywhere in Scotland.
- 1.1.3. However, in the period of the original strategy, there have been significant changes both in provision and demand for sports pitches especially in relation to the use of synthetic surfaces. Equally, there are a number of exciting developments planned in the City, not least the new Regional Performance Centre at Caird Park, which will have a significant impact on provision for the pitch sports in the next few years and these factors mean that it is time to produce a new strategy to ensure that the quality of existing pitches can be maintained, that provision can continue to anticipate demand and so stimulate development in cost effective ways which fit with the development plans of the pitch sport governing bodies.

## 1.2. Background

- 1.2.1. Any effective assessment of sports pitch provision in Scotland is greatly assisted by work carried out by **sportscotland** to establish an effective format for strategic reviews of pitch provision. The review of the Dundee strategy has followed, insofar as it could, the **sportscotland** guidance and they have provided considerable support to the process through their membership of the Strategy Steering Group.
- 1.2.2. The strategic review and the development of the new strategy has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising representatives of the City Council, Leisure & Culture Dundee and **sportscotland** and the list of Steering Group members is given in **APPENDIX 1**. The work was commissioned in September 2015 and the objective of the review process has been to build on the previous work while at the same time consulting carefully with the sports to ensure that future aspirations can be addressed.
- 1.2.3. As part of the assessment of the existing stock of grass pitches, standards first developed by Edinburgh City Council (known as the Edinburgh Standards) have been used to categorise the quality of the Dundee pitches.

## 1.3. Dundee Pitch Strategy 2011 – 2016

- 1.3.1. The previous strategy set out to create a partnership environment with the following aims:
  - Provide appropriate and accessible pitches that meet the City's sporting, educational and recreational needs
  - Promote and encourage the development of sports and recreational play on Dundee's pitches to encourage participation and subsequently healthy lifestyles in the City.
  - Continue to enhance the quality of the existing pitches through a programme of improved management and maintenance within existing budgets.
  - Contribute to the economic viability of the City by attracting external investments to improve the existing provision so that the City can host events and promote Dundee as a regional centre of sporting excellence.

#### 1.4. The Approach Taken In this Strategic Review

- 1.4.1. In order to produce the refreshed strategy with a longer time horizon, it has been important to firstly review the use of the existing pitch sports facilities and the extent to which they are delivering the first aim of the previous strategy. This has been done by carrying out a detailed analysis of present use, proposed new pitch developments and the likely growth in demand.
- 1.4.2. In this context, it has been important to seek the views of users which has been done by making available an on-line questionnaire for all pitch users, staging open consultative meetings for all the pitch sports and finally having discussions with local representatives of the Scottish Governing Bodies of the main pitch sports. The outputs of these consultations are summarised in this report.
- 1.4.3. Consultations have also taken place with those responsible for the operational management of the pitches in Dundee available for public use in the City Council and Leisure & Culture Dundee. Additionally, representatives of the two universities have also been consulted in relation to their provision and their future needs.
- 1.4.4. As part of the Steering Group, **sportscotland** have also been consulted in terms of future provision and planning policy.
- 1.4.5. As with the previous strategy, the review has focused primarily on the pitches in Dundee which are in public ownership and available for public booking. However, in the sections of the review dealing with the individual pitch sports, reference is made to relevant private provision where that provides an important resource.
- 1.4.6. Finally, existing grass pitch quality was assessed against the Edinburgh Standards referred to above.

#### 1.5. Renewed Vision and Aims

- 1.5.1. The Steering Group was of the view that there was no need for the overall vision to be changed but simply to note that the vision was now part of the wider sports and physical activity strategy for the City currently in draft. Therefore, the vision of this renewed strategy continues to be: ***meeting the future public demands for sport at all skill levels by ensuring the pitches in the City are appropriate to the needs of the sporting community and are best value for its citizens.***
- 1.5.2. In terms of the aims, there does need to be some revision of the previous aims to recognise the progress made and the exciting partnership initiatives, particularly the number of Community Sports Hubs developing in the City. In that light, the following new aims have been agreed:
  - Provide appropriate and accessible pitches that meet the City's sporting, educational and recreational needs
  - Support and encourage relevant partnership initiatives for the improvement, development and management of the pitch resources
  - Rationalise the number of operational pitch locations to ensure that quality can be maintained in the future
  - Improve the quality of changing facilities and maintain the quality of grass pitches
  - Plan the expansion of appropriate synthetic pitches as demand grows

## 2. Supply and Demand

### 2.1. City Council Grass Pitches

2.1.1. **Appendix Two** contains a detailed list of all the use of all the public bookable grass pitches in Dundee. Synthetic pitches are listed in Table Five below. City Council pitches are split between the Children and Families Service (School based pitches) and Neighbourhood Services (Parks / Open Spaces pitches). The results of the analysis of the pitch booking and use data for Full Size and 7 a side pitches are included in **Tables One and Two** below:

**Table One: Use of Public Full Size Grass Pitches**

| 11s          | Weeks | Max          | Off         | Available   | Booked      | % of Max  | % off     | % Booked of Available |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Nov-14       | 5     | 960          | 519         | 336         | 179         | 12        | 61        | 31                    |
| Dec-14       | 5     | 960          | 561         | 399         | 127         | 13        | 58        | 32                    |
| Jan-15       | 4     | 768          | 384         | 384         | 139         | 18        | 50        | 36                    |
| Feb-15       | 4     | 768          | 51          | 717         | 274         | 36        | 7         | 38                    |
| Mar-15       | 5     | 960          | 93          | 867         | 244         | 25        | 10        | 28                    |
| Apr-15       | 4     | 768          | 42          | 726         | 319         | 42        | 5         | 44                    |
| May-15       | 4     | 768          | 45          | 723         | 281         | 37        | 6         | 39                    |
| Jun-15       | 5     | 960          | 573         | 387         | 108         | 11        | 60        | 28                    |
| Jul-15       | 4     | 768          | 576         | 192         | 123         | 16        | 75        | 64                    |
| Aug-15       | 5     | 960          | 153         | 807         | 351         | 37        | 16        | 43                    |
| Sep-15       | 4     | 768          | 84          | 684         | 200         | 26        | 11        | 29                    |
| Oct-15       | 5     | 960          | 84          | 876         | 146         | 15        | 9         | 17                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |       | <b>10368</b> | <b>3165</b> | <b>7098</b> | <b>2491</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>36</b>             |



**Table Two: Use of Public 7 a side Grass Pitches**

| 7s           | Weeks | Max | Off  | Available | Booked | % of Max | % off | % Booked of Available |    |
|--------------|-------|-----|------|-----------|--------|----------|-------|-----------------------|----|
| Nov-14       | 5     | 405 | 228  | 177       | 34     | 8        | 56    | 19                    |    |
| Dec-14       | 5     | 405 | 243  | 162       | 0      | 0        | 60    | 0                     |    |
| Jan-15       | 4     | 324 | 174  | 150       | 0      | 0        | 54    | 0                     |    |
| Feb-15       | 4     | 324 | 33   | 291       | 24     | 7        | 10    | 8                     |    |
| Mar-15       | 5     | 405 | 21   | 384       | 86     | 21       | 5     | 22                    |    |
| Apr-15       | 4     | 324 | 24   | 300       | 69     | 21       | 7     | 23                    |    |
| May-15       | 4     | 324 | 9    | 315       | 90     | 28       | 3     | 29                    |    |
| Jun-15       | 5     | 405 | 15   | 390       | 101    | 25       | 4     | 26                    |    |
| Jul-15       | 4     | 324 | 7    | 317       | 21     | 6        | 2     | 7                     |    |
| Aug-15       | 5     | 405 | 15   | 390       | 47     | 12       | 4     | 12                    |    |
| Sep-15       | 4     | 324 | 0    | 324       | 75     | 23       | 0     | 23                    |    |
| Oct-15       | 5     | 405 | 30   | 375       | 61     | 15       | 7     | 16                    |    |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |       |     | 4374 | 799       | 3575   | 608      | 14    | 18                    | 15 |

- 2.1.2 A number of important comments need to be made about these tables. The first is that in calculating the maximum potential number of pitches available, it is assumed that each pitch can sustain a maximum of 3 matches per week. While the pitch quality will vary slightly, this figure is the number of games the pitches should be able to carry in the climatic conditions in Dundee to maintain sustainable play throughout the year. This level of potential play has been confirmed by the Department's own analysis of pitch quality.
- 2.1.3 The key conclusion of the analyses in both full size and 7s pitches is that Dundee uses a relatively small proportion of the number of pitches available and even allowing for pitches taken out of booking for remedial maintenance, the supply still far exceeds demand. The only minor exception to this is the level of use of the available full size pitches in July which is comparatively high. A simple adjustment to the number of pitches in play for summer football would address this issue.
- 2.1.4 Overall, the city has a generous supply of grass football pitches that in turn gives the opportunity for some strategic options about the availability and management of the pitches, an issue that is considered below.

- 2.1.5 It is important to note that perception of clubs especially in football would not necessarily coincide with the objective assessment of the pitch booking data. This is because, firstly, there is some level of un-booked use of pitches especially for training but secondly and mainly because clubs will naturally always want to use to use the same pitch or pitches in the same area. Booked training activity is included in the assessment of pitch use.
- 2.1.6 Separate figures are available for all booked pitches and an interesting fact emerges from the comparison of the levels of use of school based and parks and open spaces pitches. **Table Three** below shows the comparison and it can be seen that the school-based pitches carry, on average, a higher level of play. When an allowance of one match equivalent for daytime use by schools which is un-booked is applied to all pitches then the extent of the use of the available capacity can be seen. This does not appear to create any major concerns about pitch quality but any approach to reviewing the allocation and use of pitches might seek to reduce the demand for school based pitches not least to protect the quality for play by schools.

**Table Three: Comparative Use of Environment and Education Full Size Pitches<sup>1</sup>**

| Dept.                                     | Max. Available | Off  | Net Available | Booked | % of Max | % Off | % Booked of Available |
|---|----------------|------|---------------|--------|----------|-------|-----------------------|
| Parks                                     | 9234           | 3165 | 6069          | 1949   | 22       | 34    | 36                    |
| School - External Bookings                | 1134           | 0    | 1134          | 542    | 45       | 0     | 45                    |
| School including allowance for school use | 1134           | 0    | 1134          | 822    | 72       | 0     | 72                    |

2.1.7 As part of the development of the Regional Performance Centre for Sport at Caird Park, it is proposed that, in addition to the construction of indoor and outdoor 3G pitches suitable for rugby and football, the area currently occupied by four pitches will be leased on a long term basis to Dundee Football Club thus taking them out of public booking. However, the new Performance Centre will provide a bookable grass pitch available for community use. Given the generous supply of grass pitches throughout the City, this should create no major difficulties especially as the Caird Park development also includes the provision of indoor and outdoor 3G pitches.

## 2.2. Pitch Quality

2.2.1. Feedback from clubs on issues like pitch quality is contained in the relevant section below. Objective assessment of the pitch quality in Dundee suggests that they are amongst the best maintained and prepared pitches in Scotland. This is because of two main factors. The first is because the level of play is well controlled and managed and, as has been indicated above, places no major demands on the individual pitches. Coupled to this is, a well-managed process of taking pitches in need of remedial work out of the booking system means that poorer standard pitches can be quickly restored.

<sup>1</sup> Data from the booking of school-based pitches does not contain information on the days when the pitches are off

2.2.2. The second main factor giving Dundee good quality pitches is the efficient and effective programme of cyclical and remedial maintenance carried out by Neighbourhood Services. The programme of rolling, spiking and verti-draining is comprehensive and consistent and means that the Council is making the best possible efforts to maintain quality grass pitches throughout its estate.

2.2.3. It is really important to continue to sustain this quality of maintenance of the grass pitches because, even when more synthetic provision is made, the grass pitches will continue to be a vital resource of the sports involved.

2.2.4. The pitches have been assessed against the Edinburgh Standards, a model for assessing pitch quality which is outlined in Table Four below:

**Table Four: The Edinburgh Pitch Standards**

| Criteria            | Grade A  | Grade B           | Grade C  | Grade D                    |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Construction</b> | Specially constructed pitches  | Modified drainage | Modified surface e.g. gravel bonding, minor works  | None                       |
| <b>Maintenance</b>  | Regular visits to undertake cutting, marking, aeration/rolling, fertilising and weeding, after game reinstatement and use of a fallow period | As 'A'            | Regular cutting, marking, end of season reinstatement and fallow period                        | As 'C'                     |
| <b>Grass</b>        | Coverage 98-99% species; Perennial Rye   | As 'A'            | Coverage 70-75%, same species as 'A' plus weed species   | 60-70% coverage plus weeds |
| <b>Investment</b>   | Vertical drainage/sand spread every 3 years  | As 'A'            | Very irregular, investment occurs when particular problems arise, unplanned, targeted problems | Rare to none               |
| <b>Topography</b>   | Level  | Level             | Level 80%  | Rest                       |
| <b>Use</b>          | 4 games per week, depending on the season  | 3 games per week  | 2 games per week maximum   | As 'C'                     |
| <b>Control</b>      | No informal/casual use   | As 'A'            | Limited casual use   | Almost none/none, minimal  |
| <b>Equipment</b>    | 3 year cycle of renewal, regular maintenance and portable equipment if possible  | As 'A'            | Regular maintenance  | As 'C'                     |

2.2.5. In similar exercises to this one carried out in other Scottish local authorities, the majority of pitches, because of the infrequency of investment and cyclical maintenance, fall into Grade C. In Dundee, because the Council has maintained its programme of investment and does not have to overuse any sites, the pitches all fall into Grade B. This is a matter of which the City should be proud and seek to sustain.

### 2.3. Changing Facilities

2.3.1. The majority of the main pitch sites operated by the City Council have changing and toilet provision available. However, despite being in reasonable condition in terms of general maintenance, most of this provision is not up to modern standards. The design and layout of both changing and showers is not appropriate for mixed gender use nor does it meet expected standards for child protection and disability legislation. In short, the quality of the changing provision does not mirror the quality of the pitch provision and this is a significant issue to be addressed in the detailed strategy below.

### 2.4. Synthetic Pitches

2.4.1. As was mentioned in the introduction, one of the main motivations behind this review of the pitches strategy has been the development of more synthetic pitches in the city and more are planned. **sportscotland** has been concerned that the relatively random development of new synthetic pitches may not make the best use of resources. Equally, there is a concern that overprovision might simply dilute the use of existing pitches and create financial problems for their operators. It is important therefore to take a robust strategic approach to any new provision to ensure that any development is in harmony with demand and phased as that demand grows.

2.4.2. As will be seen from the club consultation below, there is concern about the pricing of existing synthetic pitches and this strategy recommends a review of pricing policies to stimulate use of synthetic pitches outwith the main peak months and times.

2.4.3. The present synthetic pitch provision in Dundee is outlined in **Table Five**.

2.4.4. The strategy takes the view that in addition to those new pitches which are already in the pipeline, the priority in football should be for the provision of training pitches equivalent to the size necessary for 7 a side play.

**Table Five: Existing Synthetic Pitch Provision**

| Location                          | Type                   | Owner/Manager                 | Main Sports        | Comments                                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>EXISTING</b>                   |                        |                               |                    |  |
| Dundee International Sport Centre | 3G Floodlit            | Leisure & Culture Dundee      | Football           |  |
| Dundee International Sport Centre | Water Based Floodlit   | Leisure & Culture Dundee      | Hockey             |  |
| Dawson Park                       | Sand filled Floodlit   | Neighbourhood Services        | Multi-use          | Surface in need of replacement               |
| Craigie Sports Hub                | 3G Floodlit            | Craigie Sport Hub             | Football and Rugby | Opened February 2016                         |
| Riverside Playing Fields          | 3G Floodlit            | Dundee University             | Multi-use          |  |
| Riverside Playing Fields          | Sand dressed Floodlit  | Dundee University             | Hockey             |  |
| St Paul's Academy                 | Sand based Floodlit    | Children and Families Service | Multi-Use          | Not Floodlit                                 |
| Rowantree Primary School          | Half sized sand filled | Children and Families Service | Multi-Use          | Not Floodlit                                 |
| Whitton Park                      | Half sized 3G Floodlit | Private                       | Football           | Part of the Dundee East Community Sports Hub |
| High School of Dundee             | Sand based Floodlit    | Private                       | Multi-Use          |  |
| High School of Dundee             | Water Based Floodlit   | Private                       | Hockey             |  |
| Gussie Park                       | 3G Floodlit            | Private (Dundee United FC)    | Football           |  |

## 2.5. Use of Existing Public Synthetic Pitches

2.5.1. The available data on the current use of the publicly available synthetic pitches is summarised in **Table Five** below.

**Table Six: Use of Synthetic Pitches**

| Synthetics Hours | Nov-14 | Dec-14 | Jan-15 | Feb-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 | Jun-15 | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | TOTAL | Available | %   | PEAK % |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|-----|--------|
| DISC Hockey      | 221    | 142    | 143    | 185    | 266    | 162    | 184    | 191    | 26     | 139    | 243    | 184    | 2084  | 4860      | 43  | 54     |
| DISC 3G          | 905    | 671    | 863    | 867    | 958    | 551    | 696    | 722    | 408    | 603    | 855    | 747    | 8844  | 14580     | 61  | 67     |
| Dawson           | 257    | 142    | 165    | 201    | 242    | 124    | 198    | 227    | 24     | 131    | 191    | 125    | 2027  | 4860      | 42  | 53     |
| St Paul's        | 44     | 35     | 37     | 33     | 48     | 19     | 9      | 7      | 11     | 2      | 0      | 5      | 250   | n/a       | n/a | n/a    |
| Rowantree 1/2    | 25     | 17     | 20     | 20     | 26     | 5      | 20     | 20     | 0      | 14     | 20     | 19     | 206   | n/a       | n/a | n/a    |

## 2.6. Conclusions on Present and Planned Synthetic Pitch Provision

2.6.1. As part of a detailed review of all the main types of sports facilities in the city, **sportscotland** applied their Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to assess the demand for synthetic sports pitches in Dundee.<sup>2</sup> The FPM concluded that presently there was surplus supply in Dundee of basic synthetic pitches. However when the review considered the needs of rugby and football for future access to 3G synthetic pitches then there was a predicted deficit of 33%.

2.6.2. Care needs to be taken when considering the future demand for synthetic pitches because, in addition to the population model used by the FPM, there needs to be an understanding of the changes in willingness to play on synthetic surfaces. For example, the sport of rugby is now moving fast to playing it top-level competitive matches on 3G or hybrid pitches.

2.6.3. In terms of pitch quality, there can be no argument because synthetic pitches do provide sustainable and consistent playing surfaces. Also, while a grass pitch can sustain 3 matches per week, a synthetic pitch which is floodlit provides capacity of around 30 matches per week at peak times of evenings and weekends.

2.6.4. This strategy takes the view that there will be an increasing migration towards play on synthetic pitches across all the pitch sports in the next decade but it also concludes that care will need to be taken to ensure that supply does not get too far ahead of demand otherwise the financial viability of individual pitches will be in jeopardy.

2.6.5. At the present time, the 3G pitches in Dundee are, at peak times, effectively used to capacity. It is possible that more use could be made of them for football training in the summer if a more flexible charging regime was in place. The new pitch that has just opened at Craigie and those planned at the Regional Performance Centre at Caird Park and Baldrigon Academy will effectively meet the majority of potential future demand for general public play by football and rugby for the 10 years of this strategy. However, there could be the case for further 3G pitch development on Community Sports Hub sites where there is a policy of migration towards training and match play on these surfaces. This is matter to which we return in the detailed conclusions below.

<sup>2</sup> Dundee City Council, Facilities Planning Model, Halls Pools and Synthetic Pitches, **sportscotland**, January 2015

- 2.6.6. **Hockey** - Dundee is one of the major centres for the sport of hockey in Scotland. The existing provision of 2 international standard water-based pitches recognises this. The water based pitch at DISC for which there is usage data has surplus capacity and it can be assumed that the second pitch at the High School of Dundee will have similar levels of peak use. The International Hockey Federations (FIH), under pressure from the International Olympic Committee about the environmental impacts of water-based pitches, is presently seeking an alternative surface for high quality play that does not require water. Indeed, in economic terms, it should be noted that the water cost for a pitch of this type is of the order of £20k per annum.
- 2.6.7. It is recognised that there is a desire to build an additional water based hockey pitch in the East of Dundee. However, the case for this would have to be reviewed in the light of the information above. An additional water based pitch may have the effect of diluting the use and financial performance of the existing pitches. A consequence of this could force operators to consider changing existing pitch surfaces, which is a situation that may not be supported by **sportscotland**. Despite these comments on a possible third water-based pitch, the strategy does recognise that there could be some demand for extra hockey facilities for the development of the sport but this demand does not need to be met by the provision of a pitch of the highest international competition standards. The FIH categorise high quality dry pitches as suitable for national level play and these would be more than adequate for club play and development activities without the very high costs associated with water based provision.
- 2.6.8. The sand based pitch at Dawson Park has been an important resource for the development of hockey and also provides a useful resource for Grove Academy. As can be seen from the data in **Table Six** above, the level of use of the Dawson Park pitch well below capacity. This is essentially because the surface is in need of replacement and the changing facilities are well below modern standards. It would be possible for a relatively limited investment, to resurface the Dawson Park pitch with a high quality dry sand dressed hockey surface which would meet the developmental needs of club play and also allow multi-sport access for Grove Academy and others. It has been suggested additionally that there could be the prospect of a partnership in respect of all the Dawson Park facilities with University of Abertay/Dundee and Angus College whose Gardyne Road Campus is nearby. We return to this possibility and to the specific needs of changing facilities in the conclusions below.
- 2.6.9. **Cricket**- Finally in terms of synthetic provision, it is necessary to consider the needs of the sport of cricket. The only public cricket facility in the city is also in Dawson Park and while the grass wickets are believed to be of a reasonable standard, the majority of play has now migrated to outside Dundee. Scottish Cricket has requested that consideration be given to the provision of an artificial wicket at Dawson Park together with two artificial practice nets. If cricket is to be sustained in Dundee then this relatively low cost provision would be an effective investment strongly supported by the governing body

### 3. Consultation

#### 3.1. Clubs Questionnaire

3.1.1. All pitch sports clubs were given the opportunity directly and where appropriate through their leagues, to respond to an on-line survey promoted by the City Council. While the numbers of clubs responding to the questionnaire was disappointing in comparison to similar exercises elsewhere in Scotland, the respondents provided relevant samples of all the sports studied. In this section of the review, the key conclusions of the questionnaire results are considered.

3.1.2. **Responses** In **Table Seven** below the level of response from the individual sports can be seen.

| Table Seven: Questionnaire Respondents | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Cricket                                | 2.7%             | 2              |
| Football                               | 82.7%            | 62             |
| Hockey                                 | 8.0%             | 6              |
| Rugby                                  | 4.0%             | 3              |
| Shinty                                 | 1.3%             | 1              |
| American Football                      | 0.0%             | 0              |
| Gaelic Sports                          | 1.3%             | 1              |
| Other                                  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| <i>answered question</i>               |                  | <b>75</b>      |

3.1.3. As would have been expected, the majority of respondents were from football reflecting the dominance of the sport in Dundee.

3.1.4. **Home Matches** The number of home matches per week is an important way of determining demand and the results of this question are contained in **Graph One** below:

#### **Graph One: Number of Home Matches per Week**

3.1.5. These results suggest that the teams in the clubs responding are playing in excess of 300 home matches per week and the male teams are playing between 2 and 3 matches during each week of the season. It is hard to reconcile these figures with the level of booked play on the city's pitches described in Section 2 above and it can only be assumed that respondents either have included all matches and not just home matches and/or they have included training matches.

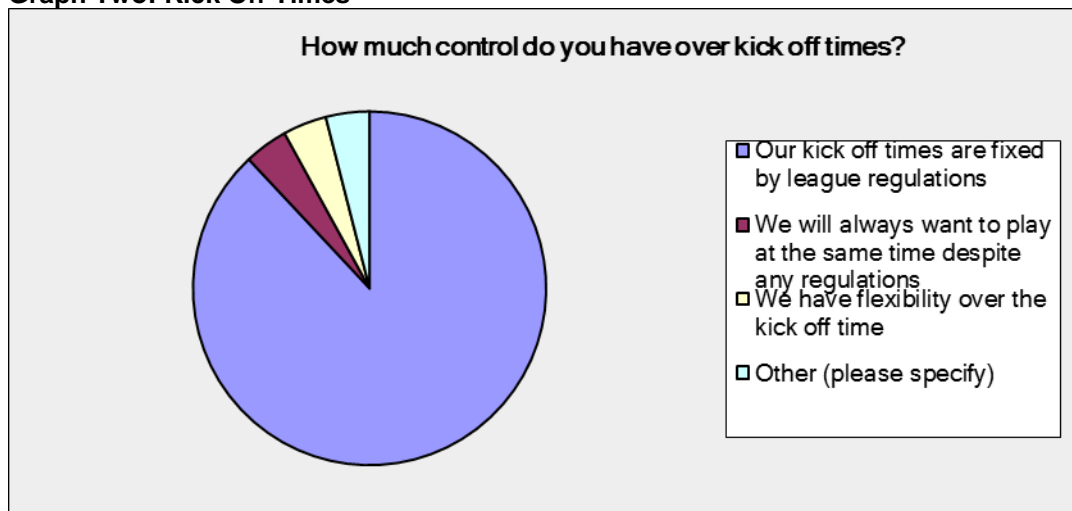
3.1.6. **Training** It is important to understand the demand for pitches generated by training and clubs were asked to indicate where they trained. **Table Eight** shows the responses:

| Table Eight: Where do you train?  | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| We hire the same venues used for competition  | 18.4%            | 14             |
| We train at the venues used for competition but do not have a formal hire arrangement | 17.1%            | 13             |
| In indoor sports halls  | 13.2%            | 10             |
| On synthetic pitches  | 30.3%            | 23             |
| We don't have much organised training   | 3.9%             | 3              |
| We use other outdoor locations from those used for matches (please specify)           | 17.1%            | 13             |
| Other (please specify)  |                  | 23             |
| <i>answered question</i>  |                  | <b>76</b>      |

3.1.7. In terms of the other venues used for training, these ranged from various other indoor facilities in schools to other areas of open space not dedicated as pitches. It is interesting to note the relatively high level of training on synthetic pitches and that confirms the general contention that there is a migration to that type of surface for training.

3.1.8. **Kick Off Times** When it comes to making the best use of pitches at peak times and especially to maximise the use of synthetic pitches, the ability to vary kick off times is important. **Graph Two** below shows the responses from clubs to the question about Kick Off time flexibility.

**Graph Two: Kick Off Times**

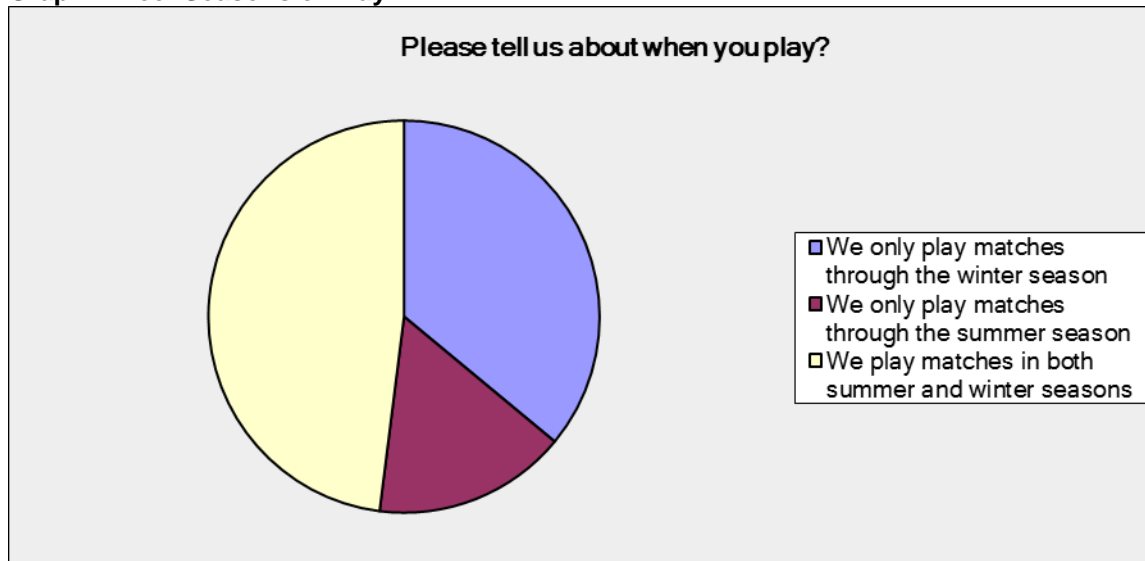




3.1.9. These data show that mainly it is the leagues which are in control and consequently, any major move to synthetic pitches with variable kick of times will require leagues to create the necessary flexibility.

3.1.10. **Seasonality of Play** Comments were made in Section 2 above about the need for more summer pitches and it is important to understand the likely levels of demand for both the winter and summer seasons. **Graph Three** below shows how the clubs responded to the question about the seasons when they played.

**Graph Three: Seasons of Play**



3.1.11. As can be seen from this analysis, the majority of clubs responding play in both the winter and summer seasons and this demand would confirm the findings above that at peak times in the summer, the available pitches are in danger of being over-played especially if the summer was unduly wet.

3.1.12. **Pitch Supply** The objective analysis of the supply of both synthetic and grass pitches suggests that there is a considerable surplus available in Dundee and so there should be no issues in relation to supply. As can be seen from **Table Nine** below, that is not exactly how clubs see the picture. A significant number of respondents consider that there are insufficient quality grass pitches available. This is almost certainly because the specific pitches they want to use are not always available because of rotation and maintenance reasons and not because they were unable to find an available pitch.

**Table Nine: Pitch Supply**

| Pitch Supply  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | Response Count |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Presently there are sufficient quality grass pitches for our sport in Dundee                          | 22                | 14       | 11                         | 20    | 2              | 69             |
| Apart from our sport, there are presently sufficient quality grass pitches for other sports in Dundee | 10                | 15       | 29                         | 14    | 1              | 69             |
| Presently there are sufficient synthetic pitches in Dundee  | 28                | 29       | 8                          | 4     | 0              | 69             |
| The Dundee synthetic pitches have the correct modern surfaces for our sport                           | 14                | 20       | 15                         | 17    | 3              | 69             |

3.1.13. In terms of the detailed comments made about pitch supply, the main ones of significance were about the need for more synthetic surfaces and the improvement of the types of surface at locations with sand based pitches

3.1.14. **Pitch Quality** It is quite understandable that clubs will always want to see the quality of their playing surfaces improved. As has been commented above, the public Dundee pitches enjoy maintenance regimes the equal of the very best available in Scotland and comments about pitch quality need to be seen against this background especially give the pressure on local authority budgets.

**Table Ten: Pitch Quality**

| Pitch Quality  | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree | Response Count |
|--|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| The grass pitches we use are well maintained   | 10                | 21       | 16                         | 20    | 2              | 69             |
| The synthetic pitches we use are well maintained   | 3                 | 9        | 27                         | 26    | 4              | 69             |
| The grass pitches we use regularly become unplayable in the winter                       | 6                 | 4        | 15                         | 20    | 24             | 69             |
| The pitches we use are well marked   | 5                 | 20       | 10                         | 28    | 6              | 69             |
| We have all the equipment we need at our locations (e.g. Goal posts, corner flags, nets) | 6                 | 15       | 9                          | 29    | 10             | 69             |

3.1.15. The responses above are relatively positive in comparison with similar exercises carried out elsewhere in Scotland reflecting the quality of the work done in Dundee.

3.1.16. In terms of the individual comments made by respondents, there was particular concern about the following issues:

- The cleanliness and maintenance of the synthetic pitches at DISC
- Dog dirt on the pitches
- The availability of portable goals especially for 7 a side pitches

3.1.17. **Changing Facilities** Clubs were asked to rank the locations they used in order and then to comment on the changing facilities at the sites used. As can be seen from **Table Eleven**, in terms of their primary location, there appears to be a relatively high level of satisfaction with the changing facilities available when they are used. Nonetheless, a significant number of clubs have indicated that the facilities are either not available or are of poor quality and this is an issue of considerable strategic importance which will be discussed further below.

**Table Eleven: Changing Facilities**

| Table Eleven: Changing Facilities | Good changing and showering available on site | Poor quality facilities on site in need of modernisation | Changing available but we do not use because of cost | We use a nearby sports facility for changing | No changing available | Response Count |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Location 1                        | 32  | 16   | 10   | 0  | 11                    | 69             |
| Location 2                        | 5   | 8  | 6  | 5  | 6                     | 30             |
| Location 3                        | 4   | 5  | 3  | 0  | 2                     | 14             |
| Location 4                        | 2   | 4  | 1  | 0  | 1                     | 8              |
| Location 5                        | 3   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1                     | 5              |
| Location 6                        | 2   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1                     | 3              |
| Location 7                        | 1   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0                     | 1              |

3.1.18. The main individual concerns voiced by clubs in response to this question were about the lack of toilets and changing at some locations.

3.1.19. **Booking Systems** The efficiency and ease of use of the bookings systems are factors of importance to hard pressed match secretaries especially at peak times of the year. The responses below indicate no major issues with the present arrangements.

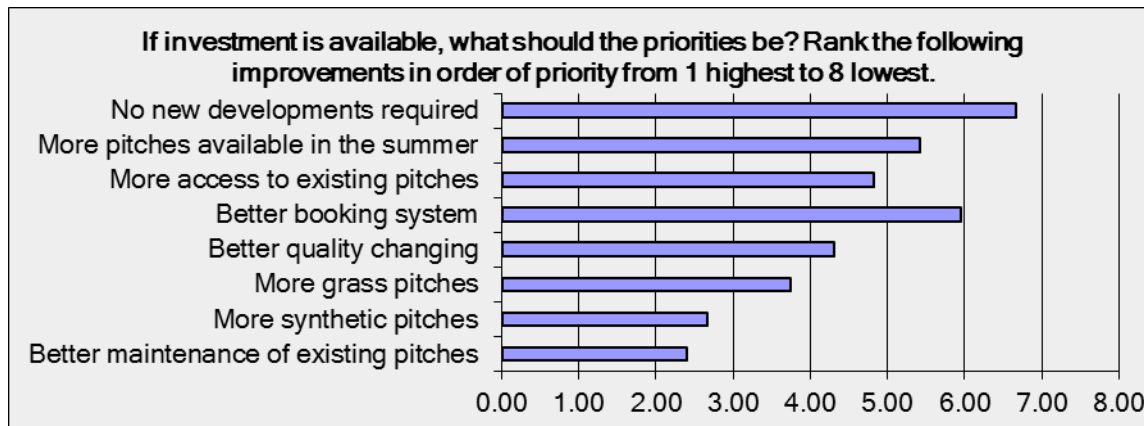
**TableTwelve: Booking Systems**

| Booking Systems   | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Response Count |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| The present booking system works well                                       | 7              | 24    | 30                         | 5        | 3                 | 69             |
| It is easy to find pitches when we need them                                | 3              | 17    | 33                         | 12       | 4                 | 69             |
| We need more of the existing pitches in the city on the main booking system | 7              | 19    | 41                         | 2        | 0                 | 69             |

3.1.20. One concern was expressed in the detailed comments about the number of booking systems in operation and this may well be reflected in the responses to the question on the ease of finding pitches. This is an issue to which we return below.

3.1.21. **Investment Priorities** Clubs were asked to rank possible investments in pitch facilities in priority order and **Table Thirteen** shows the summary of the responses to this question.

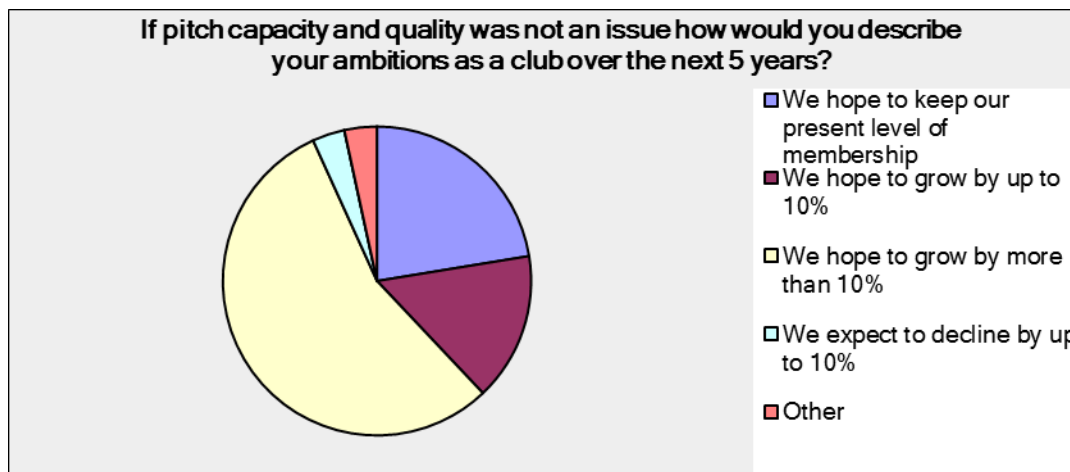
**Table Thirteen: Investment Priorities**



3.1.22. As can be seen, the main priorities are for more or improved pitches (grass and synthetic) and better changing facilities.

3.1.23. **Development Potential** In the development of any strategy for pitch sports, it is essential to try to understand the potential for growth and therefore to be able to plan provision to anticipate that growth. While clubs generally may be tempted to be overoptimistic in terms of growth potential, it important to gain a sense of those that are looking to grow. **Graph Four** shows the responses to the question about development capacity.

**Graph Four: Development Potential**



- 3.1.24. As can be seen, nearly 75% of responding clubs hope to grow and over 50% expect to grow by more than 10% if suitable facilities are available. This is a very positive response and one that should give those involved in sports development in Dundee considerable cause for optimism.
- 3.1.25. The consequence of this potential for growth is that sufficient pitch provision needs to be planned for the future. In many parts of Scotland this would mean the need to plan new provision but in Dundee, because of the extent of present provision no new grass pitches are required. As has been discussed above though, careful and steady increases in synthetic pitch provision will be justified throughout the period of the new strategy.

### **3.2. Club Consultation Meetings**

- 3.2.1. Two open consultative meetings were held to enable clubs and leagues to express their views. The first meeting was for clubs in sports other than football and the second a football specific meeting. Despite widespread publicity, neither meeting was well attended.
- 3.2.2. Issues to emerge from these discussions in relation to the sport of rugby centred on the fact that, unlike elsewhere, none of the rugby clubs in the city owned their own facilities and there was concern about the quality of the pitches on some of the private sites used.
- 3.2.3. A discussion took place about the aspirations of Dundee High School FP to play at the highest level of club rugby in Scotland and the facility needs for that objective were noted.
- 3.2.4. In terms of the football meeting the main issues discussed were about the on-going need for quality maintenance of pitches. Issues of dogs and vehicles on pitches and other forms of anti-social activity were of particular concern as was the importance of an effective booking system.

### **3.3. Governing Body Discussions**

- 3.3.1. Meetings were held with appropriate representatives of the main pitch sports governing bodies to seek their views on the priorities for Dundee.

#### **Football**

- 3.3.2. Meetings took place with the Scottish Football Association's Regional Manager and also with the Regional Committee of the governing body.
- 3.3.3. Central to the SFA's plans for development was the concept of ***Strong Clubs in the Heart of Communities*** and the SFA had given considerable thought to how this might apply within Dundee. Essentially their objective was to bring groups of clubs together to form strong Community Sports Clubs / Hubs where facilities could be developed, expanded and maintained. In the view of the SFA, there was the need for at least 7 of these Community Clubs in Dundee and indeed, some of the locations were already in various stages of development. It is important to note that the football Community Clubs can be part of the City's Community Sports Hubs involving other sports but that is not essential to the basic SFA concept.
- 3.3.4. The basic idea of the football Community Clubs / Hubs was that they should be sites which provided good quality grass pitches, access to synthetic provision at least suitable for training and good quality, modern changing and social facilities. Also, the clubs were seen as being partnership initiatives involving football clubs and other relevant partners. Where appropriate, they would also be the possibility for other sports to be involved in the partnerships especially if they aspired to be or were part of a recognised Community Sports Hub. The SFA have suggested that the following seven locations should be the priorities for development of Community Clubs/Hubs:
- **Dundee East**
  - **Craigie**
  - **Dundee North West**
  - **Dundee North East**
  - **Dundee West End**
  - **Dundee West**
  - **Dundee Central**

The model of the seven locations above and their associated facilities will be developed through a Strategy Implementation Group, set up by Dundee City Council and involving representatives from appropriate organisations.

3.3.5. It was noted that the 7 community locations would not be sufficient alone to meet the whole demand for football in Dundee and that the existing facilities at DISC and Dawson Park together with the planned new pitches at Caird Park would be an essential core for the future needs of the sport.

### **Rugby**

3.3.6. A number of the City's rugby clubs responded to the questionnaire and both Dundee High School FP and Morgan Academy FP took the opportunity to meet with the consultants. Discussions also took place with various officials of the Scottish Rugby Union.

3.3.7. The SRU does not presently have a national facilities strategy nor does it have specific policies in respect of the use of synthetic pitches but there is the expectation that there will be continued migration to synthetic surfaces during the term of this strategy. It has already been agreed that the SRU Academy will be based at Caird Park.

3.3.8. The Dundee Regional Performance Centre will be based at the Caird Park Regional Performance Centre and both Morgan and Dundee High School FPs have expressed an interest in playing on the synthetic pitch at the RPC.

3.3.9. Rugby has a concern about the lack of floodlit areas for training and the proposed developments of the extra synthetic provision identified in this strategy should address this provided the pitches are built to World Rugby standards. Floodlighting grass areas for rugby practice generally leads to over use and makes it very difficult to maintain the grass quality and so we do not propose any floodlit grass practice areas in this strategy.

3.3.10. One other concern from rugby was the perceived lack of alternative grass pitches when normal pitches are unplayable. Concern was also expressed about drainage and other maintenance issues at various sites. We understand that this is a particular problem for DHSFP. Given the surplus of grass pitches available in Dundee, this is a relatively easy problem to solve as the Council should be able to allocate a reserve pitch to support the rugby clubs.

3.3.11. The strategy proposes that Harris Academy will start using the Riverside facilities operated by the University of Dundee and move from their present Elliot Road site. Harris Academy FP Rugby Club is also based at Elliot Road and while there is no particular need for the club to move, if the school decide to move then discussions should take place to consider the potential of the development of rugby at that site or alternative opportunities.

3.3.12. Finally, the unique club environment of the sport of rugby was discussed. While there is enthusiasm for the use of the new facilities at Caird Park, it was stressed that the clubs using that facility would still want to maintain their own club environments for social, developmental and financial reasons.

### **Hockey**

3.3.13. Discussions took place with Scottish Hockey's Development Manager for Tayside and Fife.

3.3.14. Concern was expressed about the quality of service and maintenance at DISC and it was noted that clubs were using the Dundee High School pitch in preference despite the higher costs.

3.3.15. The possibility of a third water based pitch in Dundee was discussed namely for the use of Grove Menzieshill Hockey Club (GMHC) at Forthill as part of the Dundee East Community Sports Hub. It had been indicated that GMHC planned to retain their bookings at DISC even if they had a new pitch.

3.3.16. Further discussions took place about the need for other synthetic pitches on which hockey could be played as feeders to stimulate demand for the premier water-based facilities. In this respect, the resurfacing of the pitch at Dawson Park with a modern dry hockey specific surface was seen as a priority.

### **Cricket**

- 3.3.17. Discussions took place with the Regional Development Manger for Scottish Cricket.
- 3.3.18. It was noted that the majority of cricket was played either at private grounds like those owned by Dundee High School or outwith the Dundee City Council area.
- 3.3.19. There was the potential for growth of the sport in Dundee but this would require some upgrading of the facilities at Dawson Park to encourage clubs that had left the city to return. The facilities suggested for Dawson Park included an artificial wicket together with at least two artificial nets.
- 3.3.20. It was hoped that the changing facilities at Dawson Park could also be improved.
- 3.3.21. Scottish Cricket indicated that they hoped for the inclusion of indoor practice facilities within the Regional Performance Centre.

### **Other Sports**

- 3.3.22. No response was received from the Camanachd Association to a request for an input into the strategy but both shinty and Gaelic sports clubs had responded to the club questionnaire. Their needs appear to be adequately met at Dawson Park.

### **Other Consultations**

- 3.3.23. Further discussions have taken place with representatives of both universities, the City Council's Neighbourhood Services and Children and Families Services and Leisure & Culture Dundee.



## 4. Key Conclusions of the Review and Detailed Strategy

### 4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. This section of the report seeks to draw together the inputs from the audit of the pitches and the various levels of consultation to identify the key issues that the strategy for the next 10 years needs to address and to propose specific strategic actions related to the aims and vision.

### 4.2. Vision

4.2.1. The vision of the strategy is:

***To meet the future public demands for sport at all skill levels by ensuring the pitches in the City are appropriate to the needs of the sporting community and are best value for its citizens***

### 4.3. Aims

4.3.1. The revised aims for the strategy are to:

- **Provide appropriate and accessible pitches that meet the City's sporting, educational and recreational needs**
- **Support and encourage relevant partnership initiatives for the improvement, development and management of the pitch resources**
- **Rationalise the number of operational pitch locations to ensure that quality can be maintained in the light of budget realities**
- **Improve the quality of changing facilities**
- **Plan the expansion of appropriate synthetic pitches as demand grows**

### 4.4. Strategic Actions

4.4.1. For ease of reference the strategic actions are grouped under the following headings:

- General Pitch Issues
- Proposals for Specific Sites
- Management and Other Issues

### 4.5. General Pitch Issues

4.5.1. The main issue for Dundee to consider is a very positive one and that is the level of provision of both grass and synthetic pitches is extremely generous in comparison with the resources available in other Council areas and supply of grass pitches in particular considerably exceeds demand.

4.5.2. The quality of the present pitches is something which must not be taken for granted and this strategy sees the continuation of existing maintenance regimes as essential to its core objectives. This strategy takes the view that only by maintaining quality hubs with multiple pitches and reducing the number of isolated single pitch locations in management, can the future quality be assured.

4.5.3. The disposal of surplus pitches is a difficult issue that raises major political and planning considerations and needs to be considered very carefully and would only be possible when it was done to deliver betterment of provision. One option for the Council to consider is the possibility of reducing the number of grass pitches maintained and available for regular play. If that exercise is done carefully then some pitches can simply be returned to general open space management maintaining the public open space but reducing the maintenance costs. For this to be successful, it needs to be carried out in tandem with the other plans to upgrade other facilities.

4.5.4. One issue for consideration by the Council could be the closure of single pitch sites for formal play to focus resources on the larger multi-pitch locations.

4.5.5. Issues like the improvement of changing facilities are considered under the actions relating to specific sites detailed below from the consultation a number of relatively minor and easily addressed issues have been identified. These include the increase of pitches available for summer play and the provision, especially on the 7 a side pitches of portable goals.

4.5.6. **Table Fourteen** below summarises the general actions proposed:

| Table Fourteen: Strategic Actions - General |   |           |                   |                |      |
|---|---|-----------|-------------------|----------------|------|
| Reference                                   | Action Proposed   | By end of | Estimated Funding | Lead           |      |
| G1  | Review, in discussion with governing bodies, the possible closure of pitches which are surplus to playing requirements and the centralisation of play on sites to be improved. Seek a secondment to facilitate this exercise. | 2017      | -                 | Dundee Council | City |
| G2  | Increase the number of pitches available for summer football play   | 2017      | -                 | Dundee Council | City |
| G3  | Provide additional portable goals at appropriate sites  | On-going  | £20k per annum    | Dundee Council | City |
| G4  | Identify potential reserve pitches of use by rugby in inclement weather ideally at Dawson Park  | 2016      | -                 | Dundee Council | City |
| G5  | In order to sustain the quality of the grass pitch stock, publish an annual audit and management plan   | On-going  | -                 | Dundee Council | City |

#### 4.6. Specific Sites

4.6.1. The needs of the individual sports have been identified above and the approach proposed is to further develop the hub concept that is already making significant progress in the City. In addition to the continued development of the Community Sports Clubs and Community Sports Hubs especially but not exclusively to meet the objectives of the SFA, it is proposed also to continue to support and develop the major strategic sites of Caird Park, DISC and Dawson Park.

4.6.2. **Table Fifteen** below outlines the actions proposed for specific sites and includes developments that are already planned for completeness. Where proposals are made for the existing community sports hubs, these would have to be taken forward in discussion with hubs concerned. Clearly, the hubs may themselves have further plans for their sites but this strategy seeks to identify those that are of greatest priority in terms of the City's vision and strategic aims for pitches in Dundee.

4.6.3. A map of the existing and potential hub sites in Dundee is given in **Appendix Three**.

4.6.4. Where funding requirements are identified, it is important to note that these are the indicative total investments required and that the expectation is that the funding will be provided by a multi-agency partnership approach. It is important to note that inclusion in this strategy does not automatically guarantee grants from any of the potential funding agencies and any grants would be subject to appropriate applications and the availability of funds at the time of the application.

| <b>Table Fifteen: Strategic Actions – Specific Sites</b> |   |                  |                                   |  |
|--|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Reference</b>   | <b>Action Proposed</b>  | <b>By end of</b> | <b>Estimated Funding Required</b> | <b>Lead</b>                                    |
| <b>S1 – Caird Park</b>                                   | As part of the Regional Performance Centre, provide one outdoor floodlit 3G pitch, one covered pitch suitable for football and rugby and one bookable grass pitch available for community use | 2019             | £17m                              | Leisure & Culture Dundee                       |
| <b>S2 – Dawson Park</b>                                  | Seek to establish a partnership approach to the development of Dawson Park facilities with Abertay University/Dundee and Angus College  | 2017             | -                                 | Dundee City Council                            |
| <b>S3 – Dawson Park</b>                                  | Resurface the Dawson Park Synthetic Pitch with a dry surface suitable for national level hockey play and multi-sports use   | 2021             | £400k                             | Dundee City Council                            |
| <b>S4 – Dawson Park</b>                                  | Provide an artificial wicket and two artificial nets for cricket  | 2018             | £70k                              | Dundee City Council                            |
| <b>S5 – Dawson Park</b>                                  | Refurbish the changing facilities to make them appropriate for mixed gender use and able to meet the needs of DDA legislation and Child protection guidelines                                 | 2020             | £300k                             | Dundee City Council                            |
| <b>S6 - DISC</b>   | Refurbish the watering system for the Hockey pitch  | 2017             | £50k                              | Dundee City Council/ Leisure & Culture Dundee  |
| <b>S7 - DISC</b>   | Review the maintenance regimes to maximise the amenity of the site  | 2016             | -                                 | Leisure & Culture Dundee /Dundee City Council  |
| <b>S8 – Dundee East Community Sports Hub</b>             | Develop a 3G full sized pitch and associated facilities at Whitton Park   | 2018             | External funding                  | Community Sports Hub                           |
| <b>S9 – Dundee East Community Sports Hub</b>             | In the light of the above actions encourage further discussions about the best way of providing enhanced changing and social facilities integrated with existing provision                    | 2017             | -                                 | Leisure & Culture Dundee / Dundee City Council |
| <b>S10 – Dundee North West Community Sports Hub</b>      | Provide a 3G floodlit 7 a side training pitch at Charlotte Street   | 2019             | £300K                             | Dundee City Council                            |
| <b>S11 - Dundee North West Community Hub</b>             | Encourage a partnership between the NW Hub and the new Baldragon Academy in respect of the use of the new 3G pitch at the school  | 2018             | -                                 | Leisure & Culture Dundee                       |
| <b>S12 – Dundee North East Community Sports Hub</b>      | Investigate further the need for synthetic training facilities at Fairfield Park  | 2020             | -                                 | Community Sports Hub                           |

|   |   |      |                                 |                        |
|---|---|------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>S13 – Dundee North East Community Hub</b>      | Following the planned asset transfer of the pavilion at Fairfield Park, support the upgrade the existing changing and other facilities                                      | 2020 | External funding                | Community Sports Hub   |
| <b>S14 – Dundee West End Community Sports Hub</b> | Seek to create a new partnership involving the existing clubs, Dundee University and Harris Academy leading potentially to a new Community Sports Hub                       | 2017 | -                               | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S15 – Dundee West End Community Sports Hub</b> | Following the creation of the partnership, investigate the need for additional or refurbished changing on the integrated site   | 2018 | -                               | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S16 – Dundee West Community Sports Hub</b>     | Seek to develop a new Community Hub/Club based around the existing pitches at Lochee Park initially for football but with the potential to grow into a Community Sports Hub | 2018 | -                               | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S17 – Dundee West Community Sports Hub</b>     | Once the partnership is established, support the development of appropriate changing facilities and a minimum of a 3G floodlit 7 a side pitch                               | 2023 | £1m to include external funding | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S18 – Dundee Central Community Sports Hub</b>  | Investigate the development of a football Community Club based on the facilities at Fairmuir Park with the potential to grow into a Community Sports Hub                    | 2017 | -                               | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S19 – Dundee Central Community Sports Hub</b>  | Once the partnership above is established, support the development of appropriate changing facilities and a minimum of a 3G floodlit 7 a side pitch                         | 2023 | £1m to include external funding | Dundee City Council    |
| <b>S20 Elliot Road</b>                            | Discuss with Harris Academy FP Rugby Club the best future use of the Elliot Road site if the school relocates its main use to Riverside.                                    | 2017 | -                               | Neighbourhood Services |
| <b>S21 St Paul’s</b>                              | Consider adding floodlights to this site to maximize use especially for hockey  | 2019 | tbc                             | Dundee City Council    |

#### 4.7. Management and Implementation

4.7.1. As can be seen from the consultation responses above, no major issues have emerged in relation to the management of the pitch resources in the City not least because the quality of the liaison between the Council and the clubs is frequent and effective. Aspects of this renewed strategy will require flexibility and change if the City is to get the very best out of its support for and investment in pitch sports. It might be useful to consider therefore as part of the implementation process for this strategy, the creation of a standing advisory group drawn from the main sports.

4.7.2. Presently, the booking systems seem to work effectively but there are four main routes clubs have to follow to find appropriate pitches:

- The Neighbourhood Services Booking System
- The Children and Families Services Booking System
- Leisure and Culture Dundee in respect of the booking of the synthetic pitches they manage
- Other private providers

4.7.3. It is understood that steps are in hand to integrate the booking of Neighbourhood Services and Children and Families Services pitches using the Council Booking System and this is to be welcomed.

4.7.4. Clubs will always be concerned about the level of charges for pitches. One particular concern to emerge from the consultation exercise was the pricing of synthetic pitches. In particular, it was suggested that the pricing of off-peak use might be reviewed to increase the use for training. While it is recognised that care would need to be taken to maintain the financial performance of pitches, a more flexible pricing structure might increase use and income at off-peak times.

4.7.5. The effective integrated management of the Council owned synthetic pitches is essential if they are to be used to their optimum potential and perform well financially. We take the view therefore that, as is happening with Council owned school sports halls, all school synthetic pitches should be managed by Leisure & Culture Dundee.

4.7.6. **Table Sixteen** summarises the main strategic actions relating to the management of the pitches and the implementation of the strategy.

| <b>Table Sixteen : Strategic Actions – Management and Implementation</b> |  |                  |                          |                          |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Reference</b>   | <b>Action Proposed</b>   | <b>By end of</b> | <b>Estimated Funding</b> | <b>Lead</b>              |
| <b>M1</b>  | Seek to integrate the Children’s Services and Neighbourhood Services booking systems                                   | 2017             | -                        | Dundee City Council      |
| <b>M2</b>  | Establish an on-going pitches strategy implementation and advisory group to support the implementation of the strategy | 2017             | -                        | Dundee City Council      |
| <b>M3</b>  | Review the charges for synthetic pitches to stimulate demand at off-peak times   | 2017             | -                        | Leisure & Culture Dundee |
| <b>M4</b>  | Bring all Council owned school synthetic pitches under the management of Leisure and Culture Dundee                    | 2018             | -                        | Leisure & Culture Dundee |

## **APPENDIX ONE: Project Steering Group**

Gary Robertson - Chair - Head of Environment - DCC  
James Fenna - Active Schools Manager - DCC  
Ross McGuire - Policy and Strategy Manager - Leisure & Culture  
Gordon Reid - Team Leader - Development Plans and Regeneration - DCC  
Claire Peters - **sportscotland**  
Alison Anderson - Greenspace Team Leader – DCC  
Ally Lawson – Operations Manager – DCC

Consultant: Brian Porteous, Porteous Leisure

### **Acknowledgements:**

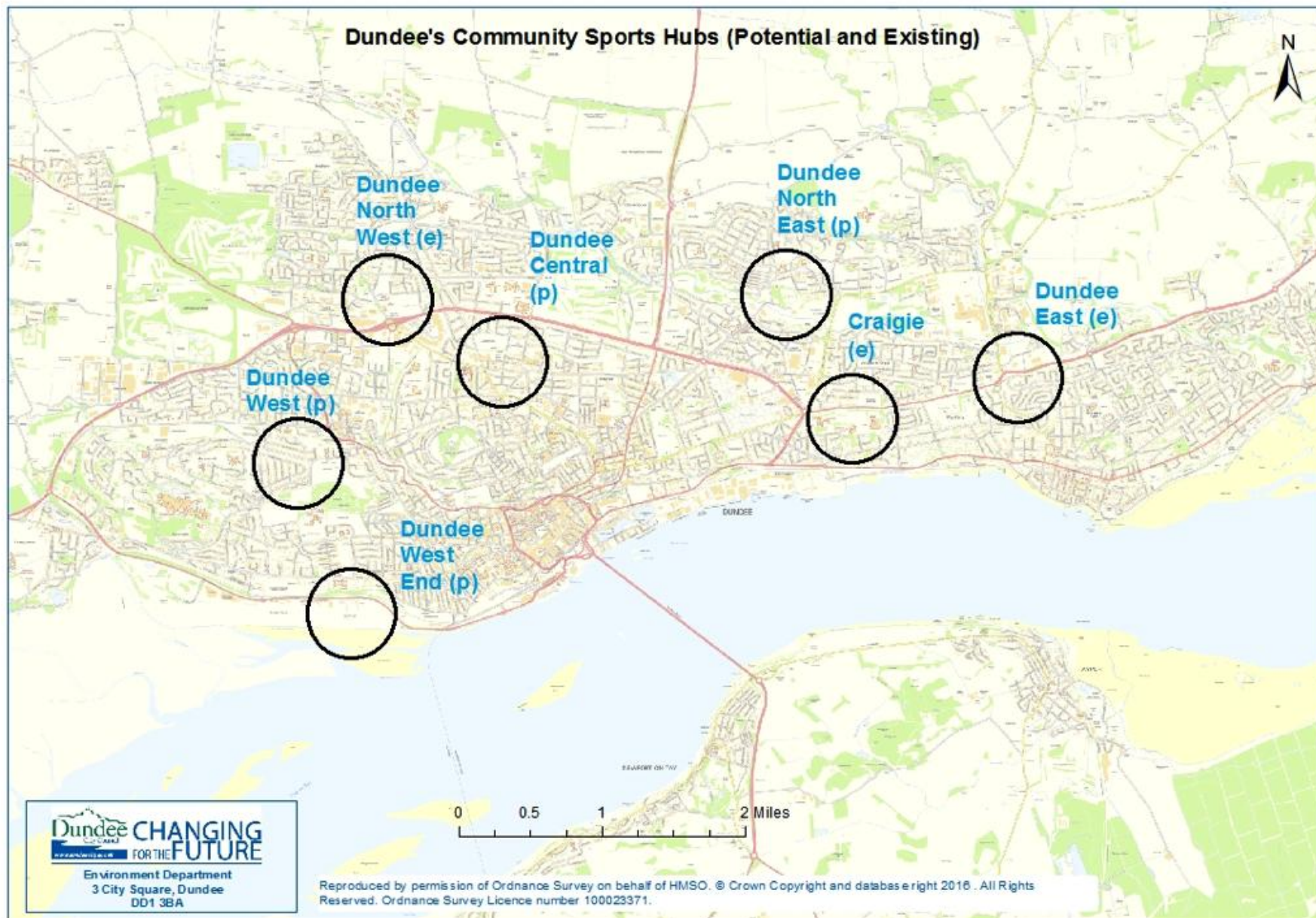
Thanks are due to Brian Porteous for his assistance in drawing up this strategy. His knowledge, expertise, guidance and enthusiasm have ensured that the process of strategy formation has run smoothly. The financial support from **sportscotland** for drafting the strategy is also acknowledged.

**APPENDIX TWO: MASTER LIST OF BOOKABLE DUNDEE GRASS PITCHES**

| <b>DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL PITCHES :GRASS PITCHES</b> |                 |                  |                 |                              |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>LOCATION</b>                                   | <b>7-a-side</b> | <b>11-a-side</b> | <b>Other</b>    | <b>Managed By</b>            |
| Ardler  | 1               | 2                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Caird Park  | 1               | 4                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Camperdown  |                 | 2                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Claypotts   | 2               | 4                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Dawson  | 2               | 3                | 1 Shinty/Gaelic | Neighbourhood Services       |
| DISC  | 2               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Downfield   | 3               | 3                | 1 Rugby         | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Drumgeith   |                 | 7                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Esplanade   |                 | 1                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Fairmuir  |                 | 5                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Finlathen   | 1               | 3                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Fintry  | 1               | 1                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Gillies   | 1               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Lochee  | 2               | 5                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Mill O'Mains                                      | 1               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Monymusk  | 1               | 3                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Myrekirk  | 1               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Orchar  | 2               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Riverside   | 3               | 6                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| South Road  | 1               | 3                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| St Leonard's                                      | 1               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| St Saviour's                                      | 2               | 3                |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Whitfield   | 1               |                  |                 | Neighbourhood Services       |
| Baldragon   |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| Craigie   |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| Harris – Elliot Street                            |                 |                  | 1 Rugby         | Children and Family Services |
| Harris – Eton Street                              |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| Menzieshill                                       |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| St John's   |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| St Paul's   |                 | 1                |                 | Children and Family Services |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                     | <b>29</b>       | <b>61</b>        | <b>3</b>        |                              |



APPENDIX THREE: EXISTING AND POTENTIAL HUBS SITES





# APPENDIX B

## Summary of comments received from Sports' Governing Bodies and Strategy Steering Group on draft Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy

| Paragraph Number | Contributor / Organisation    | Comment Received / Recommended Change  | Dundee City Council Response  | Action / Proposed modification to Strategy  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| General          | Scottish Football Association | Congratulate DCC on this piece of work, DCC commended for this pragmatic step.                   | Noted   | None  |
| General          | Scottish Football Association | Consideration should be given to 3G conversion at underperforming 2G sites.                      | The draft strategy enables this to be considered, but knock on effects on other sports will be taken into account. Considered implementation of the strategy will identify suitable sites.  | None  |
| General          | Scottish Football Association | Community Asset Transfer / Community Empowerment Act should be referenced in the document.       | Agree   | General statement on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act to be included in Section 1 – Introduction and Background.  |
| 2.4.1            | Scottish Football Association | Argue that synthetic pitch development has been in response to demand and usually around hubs.   | Agree, but development not led by a citywide strategy. Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy will lead a strategic response.   | Add 'Although the development of new synthetic pitches has generally been associated with sports hubs, <b>sportscotland</b> has been concerned with the apparent random development of new synthetic pitches at a city wide scale.... |
| 3.0              | Scottish Football Association | Concerned about how extensive the consultation was.  | All pitch sports clubs were given the opportunity directly and where appropriate through their leagues, to respond to an online survey. This was reissued several times to encourage response. Two open consultative meetings were held to enable clubs and leagues to express their views. Meetings were also held with appropriate representatives of the main pitch sports governing bodies. | None  |
| 3.3.4            | Scottish Football Association | The seven locations of the Community Sports Clubs / Hubs should be explicit regarding locations. | A Strategy Implementation group will be set up by the City Council involving representatives from appropriate organisations, which will take forward the action plan. This will form part of that action.   | None  |

|               |  |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|--|---|--|
| 4.3           | Scottish Football Association          | Core principle of partnership approach to natural grass and synthetic provision is in line with the key headline of SFA Facilities Strategy.   | Noted   | None   |
| 4.5.3         | Scottish Football Association          | Wholeheartedly support the common sense in rationalising the use and maintenance of grass pitches in favour of open space.   | Noted   | None   |
| 1.5.2 / 4.5.3 | <b>sportscotland</b>                   | Include recognition that there will be compensation for sport if pitch sites are lost.   | Strategy recognises in 4.5.3 that if pitches are lost there will be upgrades to other facilities. Aims at 1.5.2 regarded as sufficient. | None   |
| 4.6.4         | <b>sportscotland</b>                   | Welcome that inclusion in strategy does not guarantee funding. Applicants should be aware that there may be difficult decisions to make around funding applications.   | Noted   | None   |
| 4.5.3         | Dundee City Council – City Development | Support approach in 4.5.3 to return appropriate pitches to open space. Aligns with policy approach in Local Development Plan   | Noted   | None   |
| S7 Page 25    | Scottish Hockey                        | Review the water based 3G surface at DISC  | Noted   | Addition of 'and the playability of the surface' to S7 |
| 2.6.7         | Scottish Hockey                        | Scottish Hockey working with clubs to assess what surface / infrastructure is needed to meet demand for hockey over next 5 -10 years. Anticipate increase in usage of DISC, dependant on playability of surface. | Noted. Strategy wording sufficient.   | None   |
| General       | Leisure and Culture Dundee             | Welcome the strategy which reflects the consultation carried out and enables pitch sports to expand.   | Noted   | None   |