

# LK2

## **SPORTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT North Kesteven District Council Holistic Region-Wide Review for Grass Pitches and Ancillary Facilities**



**North Kesteven**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## 1. Executive Summary

This is the Executive Summary for the North Kesteven Sport Need Assessment covering the core sports of Football, Rugby, Cricket and Hockey in regard to pitch provision. This strategy is in part to an overall Central Lincolnshire approach and is the first phase of development. The strategy works in partnership with key partners such as the Football Association (FA), Rugby Football Union (RFU) England Hockey and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The purpose of this proposed facility assessment is to provide North Kesteven District Council with a holistic assessment and review of the grass pitch, artificial grass pitches (AGP) and ancillary facilities across the district and to position the Council with a clear understanding for the grass pitch and AGP offering. This strategy will provide an initial framework to understand the needs of the local population and project future needs, the strategy covers the following pitches / sports.

- Football pitches (including 3G AGP's)
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby Union pitches
- Hockey pitches
- Sand Based AGP pitches
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation (3G) AGP pitches

### Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the strategy.

Sport	Team Numbers	Pitch Numbers	Future Demand Needed (2040)
<b>Football</b>	There are a total of 128 teams for football with a breakdown of 42 adult teams, 80 junior teams, 6 female sides which equates to circa 2200 players as of the 2019/2020 season.	There are 120 grass pitches based within North Kesteven which have a breakdown of 61 full sized adult pitches, 39 junior pitches and 20 mini soccer pitches, currently we do not know the quality of these pitches.	Based upon the current team numbers and future population projections there will be a need for a further 6 adult grass pitches, 9 youth pitches, 3 mini soccer pitches and 2 full sized 3G AGP's.
<b>Rugby</b>	There is a total of 24 rugby teams within the study area with a breakdown of 8 senior sides, 8 junior sides and 8 mini sides, this	There is a total of 14 pitches within North Kesteven but only two sites are used by the community teams, with a breakdown of	Based upon the current team numbers and future population projections there will be a need of a further 2 full size Rugby Union pitches and 1 junior

Sport	Team Numbers	Pitch Numbers	Future Demand Needed (2040)
	equates to roughly 340 playing members.	12 senior sized pitches and 2 juniors.	pitch needed up to 2040.
<b>Cricket</b>	There is a total of 30 cricket teams within North Kesteven with a breakdown of 13 senior sides and 17 junior sides.	There are currently 19 cricket pitches in the study area but only 2 main sites that are used by the community located at Sleaford Cricket Club and Brace bridge Heath Cricket Club.	Based upon future population projections there will be a need of a further 2 cricket pitches needed up to 2040.
<b>Hockey</b>	There is a total of 6 teams within the study area at two clubs, 4 senior sides and 2 junior sides.	There are 6 principal locations with only 3 currently being used by local clubs.	Based on future population projections there will be a need for 1 additional Sand Based AGP.

### Recommendations:

From this study we have reached the conclusion that there is **adequate sports pitch provision** currently across the local authority with the **current population** in North Kesteven. This has been based upon the team numbers and current stock of pitches within the study area. There will be need for future pitches based upon the latest population projections available and the current team numbers as highlighted in the table above. It should be noted that the Central Lincolnshire planning document will set out the implications of population growth on provision requirements.

It should be noted that further, detailed supply and demand work is required to identify the quality of the pitches. This would determine the current carrying capacity of each pitch. There should also be detailed consultations and development links with the national governing body officers (NGB) as they have their own unique and specific development plans.

To cater for the future population projects there should be slight increases across all sports and pitch types to account for this growing population, particularly in the northern area of the local authority, within the central plan area. Specific areas of focus cannot be determined at this point but should be balanced with other increases in adjoining local authorities due to cross boundary needs.

The future predicted sport pitch adjustments are up to the year 2040 with football accounting for the highest growth with a total of 18 grass pitches and 2 artificial pitches (full size). This is also dependant on other local authorities and their particular sport and planning strategies as they will affect to another. Appendix 7 illustrates the playing pitch calculator and the population inputs and outputs which equate to pitch requirements and predicted capital costs, based upon the Sport England guidance, the main inputs of the playing pitch calculator are highlighted below:

- Current and future population
  - Current population: 115,230
  - Future population: 145,615
- Age breakdown into designated bands
  - Dependant on sport and age structures within these designations
- Team numbers across the key sports and article grass pitches
  - Rugby Union
  - Football
  - Cricket
  - Hockey

## 2. Introduction

North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) are currently reviewing the existing provision of grass pitches, artificial pitches (AGP) and ancillary facilities across the District, with a view to making informed decisions about the future needs and requirements. The pitches that are being assessed are in relation to football, rugby union, hockey, and cricket. The purpose of this proposed assessment is to provide NKDC with a holistic assessment and evidence review with a clear understanding of the pitch offerings for the community.

This report will assess the existing provision, current usage from sports clubs, predicted population growth and recommendations will be made as to how provision could meet future demands for several sports within the District boundary.

Whilst the assessment is based on the facilities within the District, the report recognises the wider Lincolnshire County and district ambitions (via local plans) in relation to housing development, improvements to infrastructure, new industries, and commercial developments. In all cases, the population growth should be considered when making decisions about future supply of services. The assessment is also taking into consideration neighbouring Local Authorities' (LA's) similar sport assessment strategies (City of Lincoln and West Lindsey District Council).

North Kesteven District (NKDC) has an ambition to **provide a platform of sport facilities across the district** of grass pitch provision and to be more strategic in the delivery of this part of the sport and leisure service to the community.

North Kesteven is in the East Midlands, situated just over 100 miles north of London. It is located east of Nottingham and south of Lincoln. North Kesteven is one of seven districts in Lincolnshire and is in the centre of the County. It covers an area of 356 square miles or 92,000 hectares, of which 95% is classified as green space, which includes agricultural land and open space.

Whilst about a third of the district population live on the 'Lincoln fringe', which comprises North Hykeham town and a number of larger villages, close to the City of Lincoln, the District is characterised by small settlements and large areas of farmland. More than 64% of the population live in rural settlements, including villages or market towns, therefore North Kesteven has been classified as being 'mainly rural'. North Kesteven also has a relatively underdeveloped transport and communications infrastructure. As a result, local communities have historically been self-reliant, with parish and town councils providing services, such as playing fields or play areas.

With an identified Central Lincolnshire housing requirement in the range of 1060-1325 more dwellings per annum and approximately 50% of this housing estimated to be delivered in North Kesteven, the district will see significant housing and population growth over the next 20 years. It is estimated the population will increase to in the region of 145,615 people. The market town of Sleaford has the potential for growth of around 4500 more homes with significant private sector investment related to housing, renewable energy, retailing, employment, and heritage led regeneration, whilst North Hykeham offers significant housing, employment and economic development opportunities as a key settlement and part of the business district for Greater Lincoln. Additional housing will also be delivering across the district and the distribution of this housing growth is set out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

Due to the nature of the North Kesteven boundary we have also considered neighbouring local authorities and their leisure provision which has been outlined later in the strategy.

### 3. Project Methodology

LK2 has used a robust methodology in order to assess the sports needs and key development opportunities within the North Kesteven district. This methodology is set out below:

#### Stage 1

Review all influencing factors including local demographics, population growth and guiding policies.

#### Stage 2

Review all existing outdoor sport provision that is available to the North Kesteven community.

#### Stage 3

Identify the current need and likely future demand for each pitch sport.

#### Stage 4

Identify potential key stakeholders and end users. These include clubs, leagues, community and commercial partners and NGB's (National Governing Bodies).

#### Stage 5

Review of relevant local authority strategies and policies (LFFP, SDP, Local plan and sustainable urban extensions).

#### Stage 6

Collate all the raw data and complete the analysis of each of the major pitch sports (football, rugby, hockey and cricket). This leads into the creation of the tiered structure, which ranks the sites based upon certain criteria. The tiered structure provides information about each site in relation to the following sub-criteria:

- Which sites / location are already crucial to the delivery of sport in NKDC and should be invested and maintained (including the formation of Sport / Community hubs).
- Whilst this study is a joint commission between NKDC & WLDC, it is important to note the wider context that may influence particular sites across both local authorities and also the City of Lincoln Council. This also allows for a collective approach in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and will provide consistency across all three study areas.
- Which sites / location are strategically important and worthy of investment to upgrade and improve the offering.
- Which sites / locations are important and require ongoing maintenance.
- Which sites could provide value back to NKDC through asset transfer / rationalisation.

#### Stage 7

Complete spatial and drive time analysis mapping. This allows us to visually show the spread of sites.

**Stage 8**

Produce a detailed report that combines stages 1-7 and provides conclusions and recommends future requirements.

**4. Strategic Context**

There are several influences over the strategic decisions to be made as a consequence of this sports need's assessment. These influences are either **direct** or **indirect**. Direct influences are known about and will have an impact on the decision-making process. Indirect influences are not yet known about and may have an impact on future decisions.

Some of these influences are in the infographic below.





## Demographics

The population estimate of the District is 115,230, an increase of 1.40% on the year before, and above the England average of 0.64%. This is 74th fastest increase of all 326 English local authority areas.

North Kesteven residents live in around 100 mainly small communities. Major concentrations are in Sleaford, with a population of nearly 18,000; North Hykeham, with around 14,000 residents; and 10 larger villages, providing a range of services, with populations of over 25,005. Within the District, nearly a third of the population live in the “Lincoln Fringe”, the area immediately surrounding Lincoln City.

The median age for a North Kesteven resident is 46 years, an increase of 4.9 years since 2001. These developments need to be factored into the strategic thinking for future provision of pitches for matches and for training venues.

Sport England has a very well-developed market segmentation tool, which provides data to help to explain individuals’ motivation, attitudes, behaviour and barriers towards sports and active recreation. The market segmentation is underpinned by key socio–demographic variables and therefore every adult within England has been classified into a “Sport England segment”. By using this data, it is possible to demonstrate the dominant segments in a particular area / region. Accordingly, Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nation's attitudes to sport, their motivations, and barriers.

The three dominant segments within North Kesteven district are: ‘Roger & Joy’ – 11.6%, ‘Tim’ – 10.7%, and ‘Philip’ – 10.7%, which account for over 32% of the population, please see appendix 1 for full breakdown of the relevant categories. Roger & Joy have below average levels of sports participation. 66% of this segment have done no sport in the past four weeks, compared with 60% of all adults. Philip is a mid-life professional, sporty male with older children and more time for themselves. Philip can be considered a ‘sporty’ segment, with above average levels of sports participation. Half of this segment has done no sport in the past four weeks, compared with the average of 60% of all adults. Tim is a sporty male professional, buying a house and settling down with partner. Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis: almost two thirds take part in sport at least once a week, compared with 40% of all adults. The market segmentation fits the trend of an ageing population with the most popular sports including swimming and cycling.

The key demographics of the district are captured in the info graphic below:



## Population growth

Based on the housing requirement identified for the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan review of 1325 new homes to be built in Central Lincolnshire per year until 2040, the population of North Kesteven is set to increase to 145,615. This estimate is based on 2.33 persons per household and 49% of the Central Lincolnshire housing growth to be within North Kesteven.

Current Population	New homes per year	People Per Household	Projected Population Increase per year	Projected Population in 2040
115,230	649	2.33	1,519	145,615

It is believed and projected that the trend towards an ageing population profile will continue. Linked to the analysis of the Sport England market segmentation, this means Elsie & Arnold and Roger and Joy which are two of the dominant segments in North Kesteven now, are likely to continue to be so in the future. The provision of sports and leisure facilities both indoor and outdoor should consider this when deciding the type of activities these segments are likely to participate in.

## Activity levels

The total adult population of North Kesteven is **95,200** adults (16+). The Sport England Active Lives Survey data demonstrates the levels of activity of adults (16+) in sport and active recreation in each area. In North Kesteven from May 2017 to May 2018 the following statistics were recorded:

- Inactive (Less than 30 minutes a week)
- Fairly Active (30–149 minutes a week)
- Active (150+ minutes a week)

**13.3%** of the resident population of the North Kesteven are ‘fairly active’, this has increased slightly over the past 12 months from **12.4%**. Over the total population (16+) North Kesteven has an inactivity rate of **28.1%** which is lower than neighbouring Local Authorities such as Boston and East Lindsey. Overall North Kesteven is a relatively active population of **58.6%** who conduct at least 150 minutes of activity per week.

In December 2018, Sport England’s Active Lives Survey data was extended to Children and Young People (School Years 1 to 11). The data demonstrates levels of activity in sport and active recreation in the North Kesteven from academic year 2018/19: -

- Less Active (Less than an average of 30 minutes a day)
- Fairly Active (An average of 30-59 minutes a day)
- Active Across the Week (An average of 60+ minutes a day but not every day)
- Active Every Day (60+ Minutes every day)

The rate of active children in North Kesteven (55.1%) is significantly higher than both the county (Lincolnshire – 50.6) and national (England – 46.8%) averages.

Area	Active (an average of 60 minutes or more a day)	Fairly Active (an average of 30-59 minutes a day)	Less active (less than an average of 30 minutes a day)
North Kesteven	55.1%	27.2%	17.7%
Lincolnshire	50.6%	26.2%	23.2%
England	46.8%	24.2%	29.0%

In summary, people (adults and children) living in North Kesteven are more active than near neighbours and more active than national guidelines. There are also significantly less people not active within NKDC compared to the rest of Lincolnshire, of 6%. These are encouraging statistics within North Kesteven and indicates there is a good baseline of Sports and physical activity within the study area.

## North Kesteven – Local Health Profile from Public Health England

This profile gives a picture of people's health in North Kesteven. It is designed to act as a 'conversation starter', to help local government and health services understand their community's needs, so that they can work together to improve people's health and reduce health inequalities.

The health of people in North Kesteven is generally better than the England average. North Kesteven is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England, however about 10.3% (1,935) children live in low-income families. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average.

Life expectancy is 6.2 years lower for men and 2.8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of North Kesteven than in the least deprived areas.

In Year 6, 18.7% (228) of children are classified as obese. The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions among those under 18 is 22\*. This represents 5 admissions per year. Levels of breastfeeding and smoking in pregnancy are worse than the England average. Levels of teenage pregnancy are better than the England average.

The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions is 586\*, better than the average for England. This represents 719 admissions per year. The rate for self-harm hospital admissions is 111\*, better than the average for England. This represents 120 admissions per year. Estimated levels of excess weight in adults (aged 18+) are worse than the England average. The rates of new sexually transmitted infections and new cases of tuberculosis are better than the England average. The rate of killed and seriously injured on roads is worse than the England average. The rates of statutory homelessness, violent crime (hospital admissions for violence), under 75 mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases, under 75 mortality rates from cancer and employment (aged 16-64) are better than the England average.

## Local Authority Health Profile 2019 for North Kesteven – Public Health England (Appendix 6)

### Key

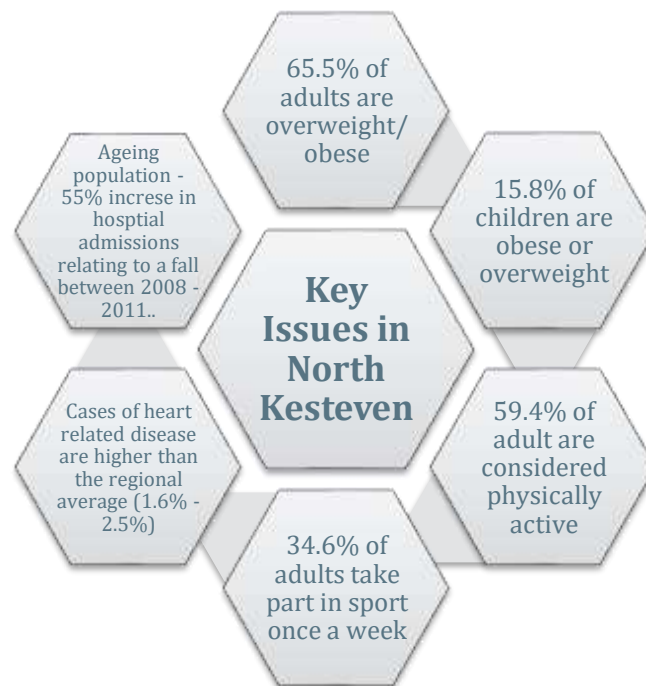
Significance compared to goal / England average:

Significantly worse	Significantly lower	Increasing / Getting worse	Increasing / Getting better
Not significantly different	Significantly higher	Decreasing / Getting worse	Decreasing / Getting better
Significantly better	Significance not tested	Increasing	Decreasing
		Increasing (not significant)	Decreasing (not significant)
		Could not be calculated	No significant change

### Life expectancy and causes of death

Indicator	Age	Period	Count	Value (Local)	Value (Region)	Value (England)	Change from previous
1 Life expectancy at birth (male)	All ages	2016 - 18	n/a	80.7	79.4	79.6	↑
2 Life expectancy at birth (female)	All ages	2016 - 18	n/a	84.1	82.9	83.2	↑
3 Under 75 mortality rate from all causes	<75 yrs	2016 - 18	1010	285.5	334.4	330.5	↓
4 Mortality rate from all cardiovascular diseases	<75 yrs	2016 - 18	223	62.3	73.5	71.7	↓
5 Mortality rate from cancer	<75 yrs	2016 - 18	425	118.8	133.4	132.3	↓
6 Suicide rate	10+ yrs	2016 - 18	22	7.46	8.73	9.84	↓

North Kesteven District Council is committed to sport and physical activity. NKDC believe that increased participation in sport and physical activity will help the council to achieve its vision and priorities for North Kesteven; a vision for 100 flourishing communities, and priorities linked to health improvement, community, and economic development. The council has maintained investment in culture and sport, despite 40% reductions in government grant to the council over the past five years. In addition, the council has invested £6.5million in modernizing its sports facilities to ensure that they are fit for purpose for the next generation. This is the current challenge to the local authority but getting the local community 'fit' and reducing the burden on the health services with retrospective action. The infographic below highlights some of the current challenges in terms of the obesity rates and health risk factors in the community.



The council and its partners have developed a clear vision for Sport and Physical Activity within North Kesteven. The vision is consistent with national policy and can encompass all aspects of physical activity including sport, health, and fitness, walking and cycling. There are several priority outcomes that will come as a result of this successful strategy.

1. **Addressing obesity and risk of diabetes and heart disease by Inspiring Everyone to be More Active, More Often.**
2. **Engaging with specific groups and localities to expand the number of people involved and to increase the frequency they participate in physical activity specifically:**
3. **Improving community cohesion through sport and physical activity**
4. **Delivering a positive customer experience.**

## NKDC – Activity and Market Segmentation Conclusions

Dominant Element	
Market Segment – ‘TIM’	In the northern part of the local authority the dominant market segmentation group is that of ‘Tim’, a younger sport male professional. Tim is an active member of the population and one that does lots of sport and leisure provision. As a result, the adequate resources should be allocated such as indoor and outdoor leisure provision.
Market Segment – ‘Roger & Joy’	Towards the southern areas of the local authority the dominant segment profile is that of Roger and Joy, early retirement couples. These couples have increase free time and enjoy outdoor and indoor provision such as specific group classes, cycling and golf.
Activity levels	The activity levels within the local authority are increasing annually and are also higher than some neighboring areas such as Boston and East Lindsey. To carry on this trend additional capacity should be focused on informal and formal sports and leisure provision.
Local Health Profile	The overall public health criteria of the local authority is better on average than similar areas within England in the key indicators. These indicators include life expectancy, mortality and suicide rates. This illustrates that the study area is a healthier place and can be combined with higher activity levels to increase participation.

## Sport England Planning Policy Guidance

To help protect and enhance the provision of playing fields within England, Sport England is a statutory consultee in the planning system. This means that local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England on planning applications, which affect playing fields. Therefore, subject to the recommendations of this project, North Kesteven District must engage and consult with Sport England to ensure that the proposals are in line with their policies.

Sport England primarily assesses applications against its planning policy objectives to **Protect, Enhance and Provide**.

These objectives seek to ensure that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport is taken by local planning authorities to meet the needs of the local community. These objectives have been incorporated into our proposed development ideas and recommendations contained within this report.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the level of provision should be initially determined within the North Kesteven boundaries and based on the assessments of need locally. However, it is also believed that the assessment of need and level of provision should consider wider requirements for strategic or specialist facilities. For instance, the catchment for several local Lincoln junior football clubs' spreads into the North Kesteven district and this needs to be considered. As a local organisation, we understand these requirements and have considered these as part of this report.

The Sport England planning policy states that 'where replacement or alternative sporting provision is proposed, details are needed to enable a comparison of the proposed loss of provision against the proposed replacement or alternative sporting provision'. This information needs to cover:

- Quantity and quality of provision.
- Accessibility to users.
- Management and operation.
- Timing of the replacement or alternative provision.
- How it will be secured.

For alternative provision, details are also needed to help understand the detriment to sport that will be caused by the loss of provision and the benefit to sport of the alternative provision. This should include reference to any relevant needs' assessment and PPS and/or sports facility strategies.

A key application for an assessment of need will be to help shape and assess proposals, which may affect existing sporting provision. Paragraph 97 of the NPPF states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings, or land to be surplus to requirements.
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or



- The development is for an alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Sport England, as a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing field land, will object to such an application unless one of five exceptions applies:

**Exception 1 – Excess of provision** – A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

**Exception 2 – Ancillary development** – The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.

**Exception 3 – Land incapable of forming part of a pitch** – The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site.

**Exception 4 – Replacement provision** – The playing field or playing fields, which would be lost because of the proposed development, would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.

**Exception 5 – Sports facilities** – The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which leads to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless in the judgement of Sport England, one of the specific circumstances applies.

One of these specific circumstances is a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs, that demonstrates to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site is surplus to requirements and has no special significance to the interests of sport.

## Sport England Policies Summary

With the knowledge and complexity of Sport England's Planning Policy protocol, it is imperative to engage positively and at an early stage. Initial, informal information must be gained through conversations with their Regional Relationship Manager and later the Planning Manager. We have

excellent working relationships with the regional managers due to our presence on the FA framework and through working on other similar projects.

Sport England acknowledges that an initial sports scoping study provides a sound base, that allows for progression of informal, and latterly formal processes, for further engagement as the development of the project necessitates.

### Links to Wider Strategies

The following information has been extracted from identified strategies and studies to help lead, inform, and support the potential future development of sports facilities. Please note information below comprises of verbatim extracts from relevant documentation.

#### Central Lincolnshire | Local Plan - Adopted April 2017

Central Lincolnshire refers to the combined area covered by the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey. These three councils have come together in a formal partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to prepare a joint Local Plan for the area.

Central Lincolnshire will be a location of positive growth. Its city, market towns and many of its villages will see new homes built, new jobs created, and improved infrastructure developed. Our settlements, big and small, will be attractive, prosperous and welcoming places to live, set within our attractive landscape of Wolds, rolling hills and fenland. Between 2012 and 2036, Central Lincolnshire will grow by 36,960 new homes, meeting the housing needs of all our communities.

The Lincoln Strategy Area is identified to accommodate around 64% of Central Lincolnshire's growth in new homes and employment land. The City, together with North Hykeham, forms a central settlement of about 110,000 people, but is also the nucleus of a wider area that encompasses a ring of "satellite" villages which look to Lincoln for many of their services, employment and retail needs.

In addition to the new homes there will be new employment, commercial and leisure developments, schools, sports pitches, and public open spaces.

This ensures the development of homes, jobs and essential facilities take place in the right areas and are well planned – building for the future while protecting green, open spaces, preserving our heritage, and providing habitats for wildlife.

The key findings from the local plan highlight:

- Delivery of many new homes with community facilities and services to support these.
- This increased population will still impact on existing provisions in the region.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) is a document that aims to inform and influence decisions about the commissioning and delivery of health and social care services in Lincolnshire, so that they are focused on the needs of the people who use them and tackle the factors that affect everyone's health and wellbeing. Initially created in 2013, the strategy was to cover the period up to 2018. A review process then began in 2016 to create the second phase of the strategy which began from 2018 onwards.

**The key themes of the JHWS strategy are:**

*Aims*

*Have a strong focus on prevention and early intervention*

*Ensure a focus on issues and needs which will require partnership and collective action across a range of organisations to deliver*

*Deliver transformational change through shifting the health and care system towards preventing rather than treating ill health and disability*

*Focus on tackling inequalities and equitable provision of services that support and promote health and wellbeing*

*Priorities*

*Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (children and young people)*

*Mental Health (Adults)*

*Carers*

*Physical Activity*

*Housing & Health*

*Obesity*

*Dementia*

*The strategy has identified task force groups for each of the priorities. A 'Physical Activity taskforce' therefore has been created to develop work in this strategic priority area.*

## Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) (October 2015 update)

It is important to note that this is a high-level facility assessment and is not a replacement for a detailed playing pitch strategy.

The Central Lincolnshire PPS consists of a:

- Needs and Evidence assessment.
- Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Study.
- Informal Outdoor Sports Needs and Evidence Report.

These studies were commissioned as part of the evidence base to support the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy and are considered by the Central Lincolnshire Authorities as evidence to support the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

In addition, an Open Space Provision Standard Review was prepared, which used the Playing Pitch Needs and Evidence study to identify the level of playing pitch provision and future need for playing pitches, considering future population growth, to reflect the Local Plan period up to 2036.

The text below highlights the main findings from the Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Strategy in 2015 for North Kesteven.

### Overall - Key Considerations: -

- While most sites are not at capacity, almost all sites are used by at least one team. This is typical of a rural area where local teams use local facilities and more matches could be accommodated at each site were teams to travel.
- There are only 2 adult pitches at capacity at peak time, but similarly there are only two that are not used (both used at other times). The following sites receive lower levels of use – Bassingham, Cranwell Sports and Social Club, Potterhanworth Playing Fields
- Eslaforde Park (Sleaford) and Fen Lane (Hykeham) receive high levels of use during the week. It is these sites where pressures are also most evident, with little availability at peak time
- There are 80 pitches across North Kesteven in secured community use. Pitch provision per 1000 population is equivalent to 0.74 pitches per 1000 population, which is significantly lower than in West Lindsey
- Supplementing the stock of grass pitches, there is one 3G FTP at Carre's Grammar School. The AGP at North Kesteven School, although not 3g, is also an important facility for football. (This has subsequently changed with the introduction of a new 3G surface at North Kesteven School, One NK).

**Natural Grass Playing Pitch – Key Considerations: -**

- The average site size in North Kesteven is 1.9 pitches. Reflecting this, there are relatively few sites that contain multiple pitches and are easily able to accommodate large clubs
- Pitch quality is consistent across Central Lincolnshire and consultation indicates that quality concerns are the main issue for clubs in all areas. Perceptions of quality are slightly lower in North Kesteven and West Lindsey than in City of Lincoln
- Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that considering just pitches with secured community access, provision on a peak day is enough to meet demand, with 27.3 adult pitches, 3.7 junior pitches and 5.2 adult pitches surplus to requirements
- Population projections indicate that the population is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is therefore reducing, and this will become even more apparent over the strategy period
- 30% of cricket teams in Central Lincolnshire are based in North Kesteven. With 37% of the population living here, there is some potential for increases in the number of teams. Reflecting this, both Branston CC and Nocton CC have specific aspirations to increase participation (junior and ladies' teams).
- Sleaford RUFC and North Hykeham RUFC have both seen significant increases in participation between 2011 and 2013.
- Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that when considering all pitches (regardless of use) there is more than enough capacity to meet demand, with 14.5 pitches not used at peak time
- There are hockey pitches available to the community at RAF Cranwell and North Kesteven Sports Centre. There is also a 3g pitch at Carres Grammar School. In addition (and excluded from modelling above) there are pitches at RAF Digby and RAF Waddington. Neither of these facilities is available to the local community.

**AGP's – Key Considerations (from the PPS in 2015): -**

- In North Kesteven there is an equal balance where total supply for public use and access is for 3 pitches and totals demand is for 3 pitches.
- Relative share is 116 – above national benchmarks. Areas around the city of Lincoln boundary have the lowest relative share, while provision in Sleaford is highest.
- The estimated used capacity of pitches is high, although there is scope to increase use at RAF Cranwell
- Unmet demand is evenly split with 41% due to lack of capacity and 59% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch: and

## Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Needs and Evidence - October 2015

The Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch and Needs Evidence assessment was finalised and updated in October 2015. This update was to consider future population growth and to reflect the Local Plan period up to 2036. Even though this document does require a further update soon there is still relevant information based in it for built facilities and playing pitches within the study area.

The gaps in provision between the playing pitch needs assessment and this strategy report would be robust and up to date quality and strategic thought towards built facility and playing pitch provision. Between the latest update and this report there would be substantial use of the grass and artificial pitches within the study area which will reduce the quality of the surface and overall carrying capacity of the site. Each site will have an individual usage pattern associated from the various clubs and teams which use the sites to train and play on. In order to combine the different strategies up to date site visits and consultations should be conducted in order to produce the most relevant quality scores. This will include discussing with clubs how many teams they currently have and how often they train and play at a particular site. These site assessments will be conducted using the latest Sport England and FA guidelines following revised playing pitch considerations.

Following some site assessments, we can then conclude and analyse the carrying capacity on each site by working out the supply and demand within the study area. This will vary for each sport (rugby, football, cricket and hockey) as they each have their designations of usage patterns and carrying capacity.

The other gap in provision between the two would be to calculate strategic sites and hub sites to develop which offer multiple sport offering, for population growth areas within the study area that have arisen from the local plan. This will increase sporting and leisure provision within the local authority for new housing or residential developments.

Table 1: Headline Gaps in Assessments

Gap in Assessment	Recommendation	Priority
Quality Scores for grass and artificial pitches	With increased usage and a significant amount of time since the latest PPS update the grass pitches are expected to have received increase demand which could potentially lead to a poorer quality surface. Site assessments and quality scores should be attributed to all grass pitches and AGP's within the study area using the latest SE and NGB guidelines. This will allow the development of a robust and detailed action plan to be formulated.	High

Gap in Assessment	Recommendation	Priority
Consultations with National Governing Bodies and Key Clubs	Since 2015 there has been significant developments with the NGB's development teams and outcomes. As a result of this updated consultations should take place with the FA, RFU, ECB and England Hockey to align the assessment with the needs and development plans of the relevant governing bodies. This is especially relevant for the increased provision needed for the female and youth game which has been highlighted by Sport England. Consultations should also be directed towards to the major clubs within the study are to outline their development aspirations and predicted latent demand.	Medium
Calculate latest Carrying Capacity figures with the most recent team data and quality scores	Following on from updated site assessments a relevant carrying capacity of each site can be calculated following on from analysis of the supply and demand information.	High
Scenario Testing for major Tier 1 / Multi Use Sport Hub Sites and population growth	For the sports and leisure growth to occur in unison with the local plan and other housing developments certain scenarios should be undertaken to calculate the predicted future supply/demand of grass and artificial pitches. This will be highlighted predicated growth spots within the local authority and also what is needed in sub areas in terms of pitches and ancillary facilities. This can also be used to leverage S106 or CIL contributions for particular projects with an evidence base.	High
Up to date and relevant Site by Site Action Plan	In the final section of the assessment report should be a detailed and robust site by site action plan highlighting the site, issue/opportunities, key actions, partners, costs, timescales and priorities. This will allow the local authority to have a clear list of recommended sites that they can invest into (ownership and management depending)	High

## North Kesteven District – Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) – May 2019

The FA, in partnership with the Premier League and the DCMS, have made a commitment to make a major investment into local football facilities over the next 10 years. In order to direct this investment, Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) have been commissioned to produce a LFFP for each local authority in England.

LFFP's are a key priority in the National Football Facility Strategy, which aims to increase football participation by delivering:

- 1000 new 3G (AGP'S) Artificial Grass Pitches
- 1000 new pavilions (supporting key multi-pitch grass sites)
- 20,000 improved natural turf pitches
- New or improved access to better indoor and outdoor spaces for social and recreational football

North Kesteven District have worked alongside the following key partners to develop the LFFP:

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ KKP                             | ➤ Lincoln City Foundation |
| ➤ Sport England                   | ➤ Active Lincolnshire     |
| ➤ North Kesteven District Council | ➤ GLL                     |
| ➤ Football Foundation             | ➤ Local Consultations     |

The NKDC LFFP outlines the following key points and priority projects within the District: -

### Clubs and Teams

- In NKDC, six clubs have more than ten registered teams, based upon the 2018/19 affiliation data. These include Greenbank JFC with 33 teams, Sleaford Town JFC with 18 teams and HBW United FC with 13 teams.

### Leagues Operating in NKDC

- Lincoln Co-Op Mid Lincs Youth League - male and female provision – 398 teams total with 112 teams from North Kesteven– home and away/central venues (including across multiple sites)
- Lincoln & District Sunday League – 54 teams total with 18 teams from North Kesteven - home and away
- Grantham Youth Football League - 41 teams in total with 8 teams from North Kesteven - home and away/central venues (including across multiple sites)

### 3G FTP's

- FA data states that there are currently two full size 3G FTPs in NK with a current shortfall of two full sized 3G FTPs with a predicted shortfall of 3 in the future
- The LFFP have highlighted a few priority projects for the area with One NK being a potential site for a second full size 3G FTP with increased changing room provision.
- Sir William Robertson Academy is also highlighted as a potential site with 3 – 4 partner clubs.
- North Hykeham FC is also another potential site for a full size 3G FTP as well as improvements to the current changing room and pavilion



**Improved Grass Pitches**

- The LFFP have also identified several sites for grass pitch improvements including Eslaforde Park, Billingham Village Hall Playing Field and Parkfield Road Playing Field.

**Changing Room Pavilions / Clubhouses**

- Of the 15 key grass pitch sites in North Kesteven with three or more full-size pitch equivalents (or with fewer than three pitches but of strategic importance), 12 have suitable changing rooms, two sites require improvements to changing facilities and one requires a new pavilion.

**Small Sided Facilities (MUGA's)**

- Two potential opportunities for MUGAs are identified. In each case the rationale is based on the site being in an area of significant population with limited access to green space, and with locally significant levels of deprivation/a high proportion of people from lower social economic group

## 5. Facility Assessment - Football

The FA has a multitude of funding schemes across the UK with the intent to increase participation in football. In 2016, the FA launched a significant new strategy for the national game, which identified four key areas. The investment of £260m was to focus on **facilities, coaching, participation and developing the football workforce**. North Kesteven has seen the benefit of funding through a few local schemes, including most recently funding for 3G FTP's at NK One which is used extensively by the local community and teams from surrounding districts.

Alongside the national game strategy is the pitch improvement plan (PIP), which has the target of improving over 2000 grass pitches nationally. As part of this review, the FA are taking the opportunity to conduct a strategic overview of grass pitch provision. It is reported that there is an oversupply of pitches to the current and future demand. Therefore, this project to review strategy provision of pitches in the North Kesteven has many synergies with the national FA strategy.

Football remains one of the main sports that is played across the District, with high levels of adult participation, just over 80% of teams with North Kesteven are static, meaning that there is no increase or decrease in teams over the past 5 years. According to the Central Lincolnshire playing pitch strategy (2015) there will be a change in team rates up to 2022. North Kesteven will experience a slight growth in adult male and junior males' teams, the largest increase will be in the mini soccer teams with 13. This growth does not consider the growth of the female game which is a priority point by the FA and local associations. There are no concerns with regards the overall adequacy of facilities in terms of quantity in North Kesteven with pitches of all types available on peak day. These findings reflect views emerging from consultations overall, with only 14% of clubs indicating that they struggle to access pitches for matches (predominantly junior clubs).

Football is the only one of the six sports in the PPS to register in the most popular sports activities. Within North Kesteven Football is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most popular sport or recreational activity behind swimming and cycling with roughly 7% of the population participating in football, this is below the regional and national average.

As a District, North Kesteven has several long-standing amateur clubs and a very rich history of successful local league structures. There are several adult weekend leagues, a very large junior league that spans the whole of Central Lincolnshire, an u21 midweek league, a women's league and disability teams, who play across the East Midland's region.

The clubs that are based in the District predominantly use facilities that are within the North Kesteven but also supply exported demand into the south of Lincoln and West Lindsey boundaries. However, it is also important to note that there are communities being served by facilities that are located outside of the District boundary.

The graphic on page 21 shows the overview of the existing football structure in North Kesteven, through desktop research, detailed consultation and local knowledge.

# LK2

A summary of football within North Kesteven (as at the end of 2019 season)



61 x Adult pitches  
(11v11)



1 x Profession  
Club association  
with Lincoln City



42 Adult teams  
(incl 2 female  
sides)

39 x Junior pitches  
(11v11 and 9v9)



1 x Saturday  
League



80 Junior teams



20 x Mini Pitches  
(7v7 and 5v5)



2 x Sunday  
Leagues



6 x Women's  
teams (jnr and  
snr)

2 x Full Sized  
AGP'S (3G)



1 x Adult Female  
league



2 Disability /  
walking football  
teams



7 x Sand Based  
AGP's (training)



2 x Junior Football  
leagues



Largest Club:  
Greenbank JFC (32  
teams)

12 x Pavilions



Two Wildcat girls'  
football centers



Circa 2200  
players



The supply of grass pitches across North Kesteven comprises of a mixed economy in terms of ownership and management. There is also a range of pitch type and quality. As there is a multitude of different datasets available for the collation of this information, we have created a master list for all grass pitches as well as AGPs within the Study area. We have utilised a combination of the datasets, including the football foundation's 'Pitch Finder' website and Sport England 'Active Places Power'. The full master list is contained in Appendix 1.

## Quantity of the pitches with the boundary of North Kesteven.

There are **120** grass pitches based within the North Kesteven, the make-up of which is as follows: -

- **61** x full sized Adult Pitch (11v11)
- **39** x Junior Pitches (11v11 and 9v9)
- **20** x Mini Soccer Pitches (7v7 and 5v5)

Outside of the current study area of North Kesteven there are also grass football pitches that are used by the local community through exported demand. The main districts that are used by residents of North Kesteven are sites located in the City of Lincoln and the South of West Lindsey. Due to the proximity of these neighbouring local authorities it is to be expected that these facilities will be used by the local North Kesteven population. Below are the figures for the total pitches within these two neighbouring local authorities.

- **46** x full sized Adult Pitches with West Lindsey (11v11).
- **42** x full sized Adult Pitches within the City of Lincoln (11v11).
- **38** x Junior Pitches (11v11 and 9v9) in West Lindsey
- **20** x Junior Pitches (11v11 and 9v9) in the City of Lincoln
- **16** x Mini Soccer pitches (7v7 and 5v5) in West Lindsey
- **15** x Mini Soccer pitches (7v7 and 5v5) in the City of Lincoln

There are several key challenges for the provision of grass pitches, AGP's and ancillary facilities within North Kesteven that has been highlighted in this report.

- The current pitch provision stock should be rationalised in order to target development and investment to designated areas. This will allow for continued growth and target specific segments of the community.
- The maintenance costs of pitches are increasing with little return on investment on some sites due to current use.
- The increase rate of poorer weather and aging stock has resulted in several pitches being in poor condition.
- Due to the nature of North Kesteven there are certain pockets of facilities with some areas having less provision.

At this stage, we have not completed any detailed quality assessments for pitch provision and therefore this study is based on visual inspection and local knowledge of the facilities. *A more detailed site survey of the pitches should be conducted before any finalised investment be set towards an existing facility.*

### **Football Stakeholders**

Within North Kesteven there are a range of stakeholders that are responsible for the development and community led aspects of football within the study area. By using a combination of desktop research and NGB led consultations we have identified the main teams and leagues that are operating within the study area. In total there are **124** teams within North Kesteven which equates to roughly 2200 players ranging from mini to adult football. This information was collated by using the latest FA whole games system data, Local Facility Football Plan and our in-house local knowledge. There breakdown of teams can be seen below:

- **42** x Adult teams
- **80** x Junior and Mini Teams
- **6** x Female Sides (senior and junior)
- **2** x Disability / Walking Football Teams

According to the latest data from the FA and local consultations there are three main leagues operating within North Kesteven that are used extensively by the local teams, these include:

- **Lincoln Co-Op Mid Lincs Youth League** - male and female provision – 398 teams total with 112 teams from North Kesteven– home and away/central venues (including across multiple sites)
- **Lincoln & District Sunday League** – 54 teams total with 18 teams from North Kesteven - home and away
- **Grantham Youth Football League** - 41 teams in total with 8 teams from North Kesteven - home and away/central venues (including across multiple sites)

One major area of growth and development for the FA and regional is to increase female participation through several initiatives such as Wildcat centres. Currently North Kesteven has 2 Wildcat centres, one at One NK and the other at Carres Grammar School, which provide the opportunity to grow this area of the game with the development of certain sites. The major issue with the growth of the female game is the dedicated changing room and ancillary provision that is lacking at certain sites. Following these centres, the most talented players can then move into the regional talent clubs (ETCs) in the area, for this specific area these will either be Lincoln City Ladies, Doncaster Belles or Nottingham Forest.

Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (football only)



## 6. Facility Assessment - Cricket

Whilst we have established the number of cricket clubs, grounds and fine turf wickets within the District, we have not completed a detailed assessment of the quality of these. Ongoing maintenance by skilled grounds staff is an integral part of providing playing pitches and grounds are rated based on this. The level and quality of maintenance also denotes which standard of cricket can be played by clubs. (i.e. how high within the regional and national league structure they can be promoted) This is coupled to the attainment of clubmark status.

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) have been working with county cricket boards to develop a RAG rating system for existing wicket provision. The next stage of this process would be to understand the status of the sites in North Kesteven in relation to the IOG rating and individual site assessment scores through site visits and detailed consultations.

Cricket across the county of Lincolnshire has a very comprehensive offer with a multitude of leagues and competitions. There are 195 registered cricket clubs with 38 different competition offers. These range from Saturday county wide leagues, Sunday local leagues, midweek indoor leagues, cup competitions, table cricket, disability cricket and junior leagues. The provision of cricket facilities across the county is mixed ranging from high quality, multi venues to single pitch sites.

Cricket within North Kesteven is a popular sport with several key clubs that look to develop cricket ranging from the All-Star development program to senior adult sides. In total there are 10 clubs within the study area with Bracebridge Heath CC and Sleaford CC being the largest clubs. In total there are 13 Adult Teams and 14 Junior Teams with three All Star programs. The All-Star program is designated for 5-8-year olds where they are introduced to the sport and develop their skills. These clubs play in two major local leagues, the Lincoln & District League and the South Lincs and Boarder League. Through club consultations and desktop research we have concluded there are roughly 200 adult players and 180 junior players.

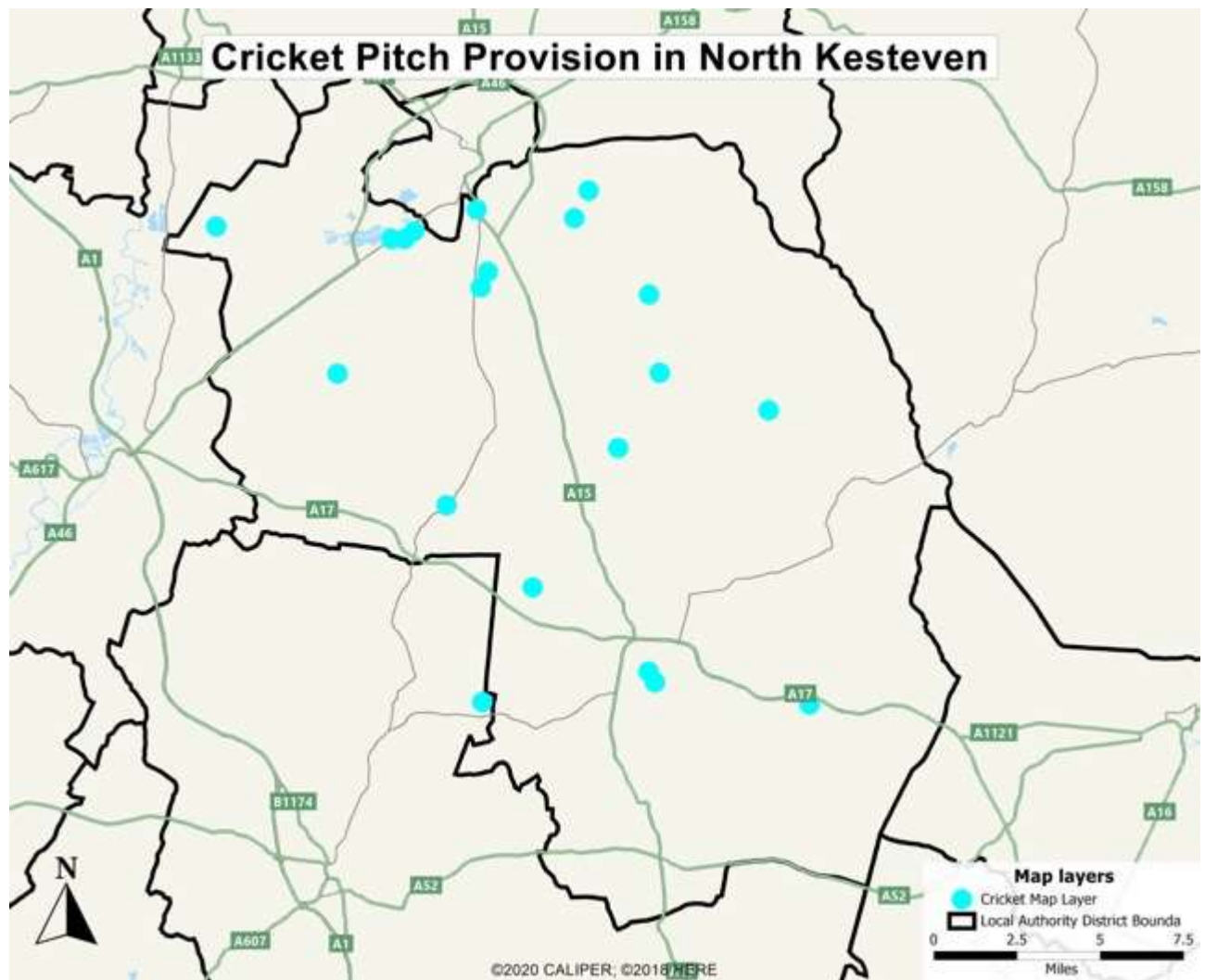
### Cricket Stakeholders

There are two main clubs with the study area boundary who are stakeholders in this process.

- Sleaford Cricket Club
  - Sleaford CC have 5 main adult senior teams 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and two Sunday teams
  - They also have a thriving junior section with 5 teams ranging from U10 – U17
  - They are also one of the few clubs in the local area to support the ECB initiative with female sides and additional games such as a softball side.
  - The cricket club currently has one active square with 16 strips located on site creating a multi-use pitch for junior and senior cricket.
  - There is an ancillary facility on site and changing room, but this needs improvement.
- Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club
  - Bracebridge CC currently have 4 senior sides and a thriving junior section of 7 junior sides
  - Currently have one active square on site with 16 strips as well as a small ancillary facility.



Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (Cricket only)





## 7. Facility Assessment - Rugby

Within North Kesteven there are two main stakeholders and clubs in the region with multiple teams, these are Sleaford RFC and North Hykeham RFC. In total there are 7 adult male teams in the study area, 1 female side, 8 junior sides and 8 mini sides. This information was concluded through desktop research, NGB and club consultations. There are a number of additional sites located in North Kesteven but due to the current demand these are not needed for formal match play or training demand. There are also some private MOD sites that are currently not open to public use. Both clubs in the study area play in the accredited Midland 4 East league that is part of the RFU national structure.

By combining the demand from the adult and junior sections we have concluded that:

- 160 Senior Adult players
- 120 Junior Players
- 80 Mini Players

### Rugby Stakeholders:

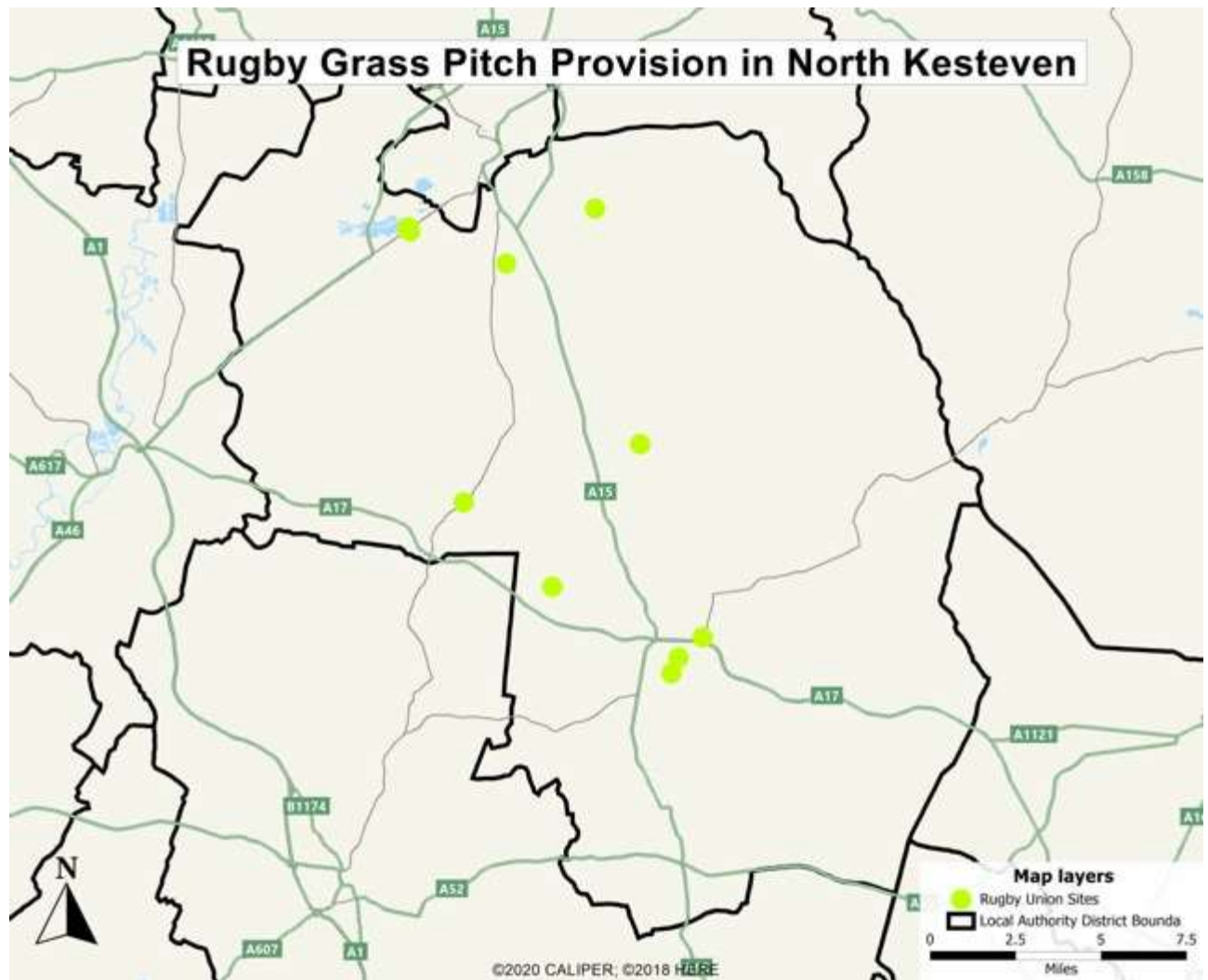
#### **Sleaford RFC:**

- 4 Adult senior team, 7 Junior side and 8 mini rugby sides
- Home matches and training demand are played at the David Williams Pavilion on 4 senior pitches and 1 mini rugby pitch.
- Mini rugby demand is shared upon the senior pitches on Sundays which creates overplay in peak periods.
- Limited training demand available on site due to floodlighting in the winter months
- Area for expansion due to current space and size of club.

#### **North Hykeham RFC:**

- 2 Adult senior sides and one junior side (Newly formed senior side started at the beginning of the 19/20 season).
- Home matches and training demand are located at the Hykeham PFA Sports and Social Club in the north of the district.
- Multi use site with football, bowls and cricket also present which affects the quality of the pitches during the winter months.

Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (Rugby only)



## 8. Facility Assessment - Hockey

The supply of playing surfaces (sand filled all-weather) across the North Kesteven for hockey is based at 6 principle locations, with only 3 being currently used by local club, with varying standards and levels of community access.

There are two main hockey clubs based in the district, Leadenham HC and Sleaford HC. In total these teams equate to 4 adult teams and 2 junior teams with both of their match and training demand being located at the RAF College Cranwell, a MOD site.

The club plays across several different leagues, as there is no nominated Lincoln or Lincolnshire based league anymore. The senior men's team play in the north premier division and the ladies play in the north division league.

There are 3 main venues that provide opportunities for Hockey in North Kesteven as the sport is played on artificial pitches. Out of these three sites the only formal match demand is located at RAF College Cranwell. Using a MOD site as the main site for clubs has proved to be problematic in other parts of the country due to a lack of long term community use agreements on site. It is important for the local teams to secure their terms of use on site for several years to secure their provision.

- RAF College Cranwell
- One NK
- St Georges Academy

Lincolnshire do have county representative sides at Men's, Ladies, Veterans, Under 12's, 13's, 15's, 17's and 21's (all age groups have male and female sides).

### Hockey Stakeholders

There are two hockey clubs catering for the needs of the sport within the District boundary. With a total of six teams spread across two clubs, in total there are 4 senior sides and 2 junior sides

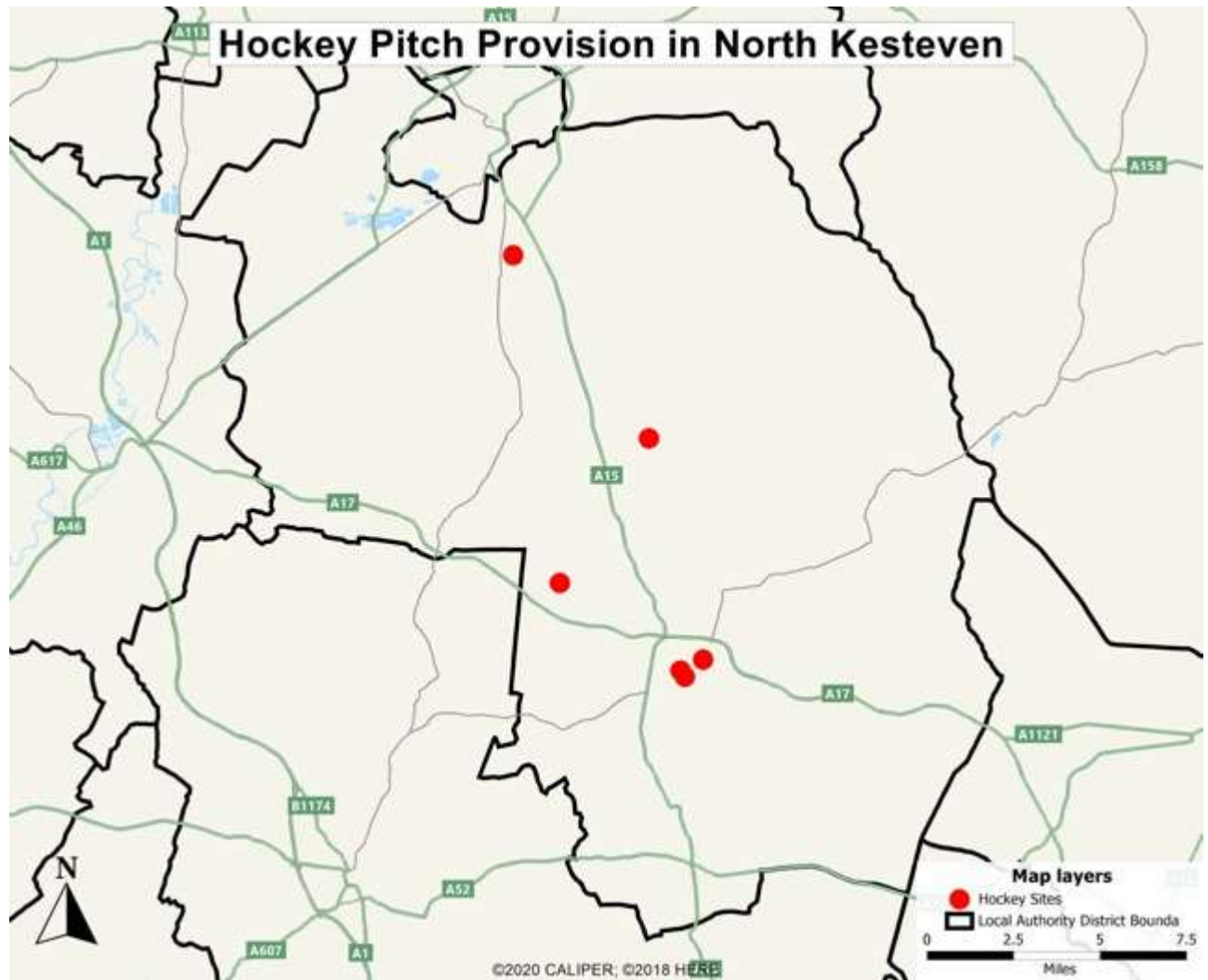
Leadenham Hockey Club:

- Three total sides with two senior males and one senior female side, which equates to roughly 60 full time playing members.
- Senior training for both men and women happens on a Monday evening at the RAF College Cranwell.

Sleaford Hockey Club:

- Three totals teams with one senior male side and two junior sides, which equates to roughly 50 full time playing members.

## Locations of existing hockey pitch provision



## 9. Facility Assessment - 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP)

The development of 3G pitches in the past few years has transformed the way in which many leagues function, junior football leagues. Lincolnshire has benefitted from the increase in usage from 3G FTP's and the Co-op Mid-Lincs league, has been able to grow in terms of clubs and teams. This is principally due to the changing format of the game, including mini-festivals, and through being able to play more games per week on the 3G FTP.

There are currently two full size 3G FTP's within the North Kesteven District boundary (source - active places power). In addition, there are three further full sized 3G FTP 's that service North Kesteven District residents due to their proximity to the local authority boundary. In addition to this there are also two smalls sided AGPs located at Better Gym Sleaford.

As highlighted in the LFFP for North Kesteven there is a current shortfall of two full size 3G FTPs within the study area. This is calculated using the latest demographic data, team demand and applying the FA's team ratio (1:38 model) meaning that for every 38 teams there should be at least one full size 3G FTP.

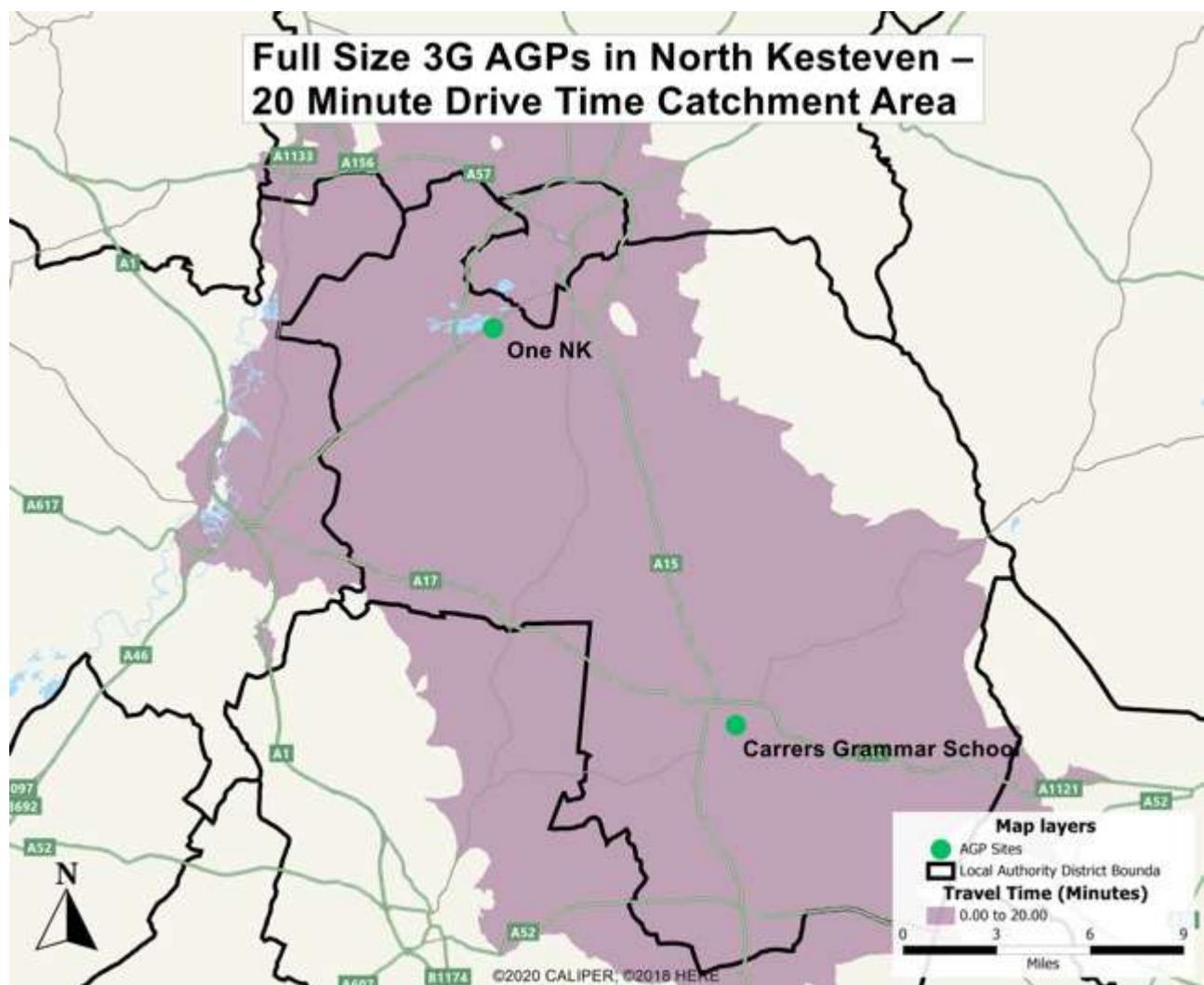
With the FA's recommendations certain priority projects have been highlighted to increase the supply of 3G's in the local area., these include:

One NK:

- Largest user in the local authority is located on site (Greenbank Junior FC) with this team expected to grow.
- Potential site for a second 3G FTP due to current one on site being at capacity.
- Walking football also occurs on site that can increase with the increased supply (140 participants a month)
- One NK has also applied to be a Wildcat centre for the female game and expand its disability football offering.

Sir William Robertson Academy:

- Key site for partnership with community clubs to meet the shortfall of the local area.
- Community use agreements to be drawn up if any development is made here to secure community use long term.
- Expanded resource offering with extracurricular activities.



## 10. Strategic Overview – a proposed future direction

The provision of sporting venues across the District is currently disparate and has been developed over the years on the basis of demand rather than strategic thinking. NKDC have always been involved in this provision, either through owning and managing buildings, or through letting service contracts with operators. There should be strategic thinking towards locating sites with a mixture of local knowledge and responding to current and future demand. This demand should be considered with population growth and imported demand from neighbouring local authorities, as well as latent demand from internal club growth based on NGB priorities (such as female football).

In the future, a coordinated approach to provision could dramatically improve the participation rates for sport, physical activity and health and wellbeing and maximise efficiencies particularly in maintenance, programming and financial sustainability. NKDC should be at the forefront of this by taking a different approach to provision of services and or maintaining assets. When considering new and strategic sites the council budget and funding opportunities should be incorporated into the rationale as this will maintain support. Depending on the location and opportunity of the development this could include a number of separate obligations and securing planning provision. In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic situation it is important to encourage other partners on the services they offer and also the community use agreements that are in place. The council has limitations on direct control on a number of sites so communication should be kept open for positive relationships between stakeholders.

This study has identified across the various sports the differing levels of facilities currently available in the district boundary. The study also highlights the levels of inactivity, the level of uptake into sporting activity and the problems caused by being sport led rather than being strategic about facility provision. In order to change this approach, it is recommended that the focus is switched.

We recommend that a tiered approach is taken across North Kesteven sports provision. The tiered approach would inform how to best provide multi-sport venues with high levels of throughput and how small single sites are positioned within this structure.

The tiered approach is best visualised in the table over the page. The detailed approach for each sport follows the table. However, in short, we believe that the sporting venues in the future should be classified as follows:





**Tier one** – *Large multi-sport venues with indoor and outdoor sports.*



**Tier two** – *Single sport venues but with multiple pitches and or facilities.*



**Tier three** – *Small sites with two separate sport / activity offerings. i.e. Cricket wicket with football pitch alongside.*



**Tier four** – *Small single sites with only one sport / activity offering.*

It is recommended that a phased approach is taken to the development of each tier. As part of a master planning exercise, and once the list of facilities is finalised within each tier, a detailed timeline for investment can be established. This timeline will show immediate investment required and maintenance responsibilities in years one to three (2020-2023) and then a medium-term plan over next three years (2023-2026). The short-term plan will inform which facilities are to be closed as part of the rationalisation.

It is recommended that a **yearly ‘snapshot’ review of facilities** and pitches is undertaken for North Kesteven District, to ascertain the movements of clubs and teams.

A **full detailed, strategic review** should be carried out **every 3 years**. The 3-year review points would be carried out in line with the timeline above.

It is important that the North Kesteven District review is considered as part of a wider Lincolnshire review, especially as has been noted in this document, that provision overlaps the NKDC boundaries, most noticeably West Lindsey and North Kesteven.

The table (over the page) highlights the proposed strategy for NKDC to adopt within each tier of facilities.



## Strategic Plan for sports provision for North Kesteven

Tier	Facility Mix	North Kesteven examples	Proposed strategy
<b>Tier One</b>	Multisport venue, indoor and outdoor facilities and multiple pitches. 3G FTP with floodlights.	One NK	Own, manage (sub-contract), Invest, maintain and develop these facilities. Look to develop one new Tier one facility.
<b>Tier Two</b>	Single site venue with two sports but with multiple pitches and / or facilities and a AGP.	Better Gym Sleaford, Carre's Grammar School, Eslaforde Park, RAF College Cranwell, RAF Digby, St Georges Academy.	Support via community use agreements to clubs/facilities.  Invest and maintain if owned by NKDC. Are there opportunities to invest into other sports on site? New AGP's? Changing Provision?
<b>Tier Three</b>	Small site with two separate sport / activity offerings (e.g. Football in winter and cricket in the summer).	Branston Recreation Ground, Fosse Way Academy, Grantham Road Playing Field, Manor Farm Academy, Memorial Ground, North Hykeham RUFC, Witham Fields.	Support via community use agreement and maintain via NKDC resources if owned by the local authority. Improve offerings on site to increase the rating to the second level.
<b>Tier Four</b>	Small single with only one sport / activity offering.	Ancaster Playing Fields, Blankney Cricket Club, Coleby Playing Fields, Digby Playing Fields, Monson Park, Spring Lane Playing Field.	Support via community use agreement and maintain if owned by NKDC. Consider closure if not financially viable or asset transfer to new type of open space. If owned by the local authority.

## Football

Following the analysis of the playing pitches, clubs/teams and the associated provision of ancillary facilities, such as training pitches and changing pavilions, we have developed a series of options for NKDC to consider.

The options are based upon the principle that the NKDC will regain control over the strategic placing of clubs and teams towards venues rather than the current position, which is that the clubs/team dictate where they play and train. This means formulating community use assets and agreements between the council and other stakeholders to allow for the best sites for the local clubs which can free up other poorer sites for alternative use.

In order to achieve this, there is a need to categorise the current portfolio of facilities. We believe that the use of a tiered system will allow the NKDC to establish an appropriate strategy for each level of provision that they either own and maintain or are involved with through community agreements. To this end, we have developed four distinct tiers of provision as follows: -

Tier 1 – Football Development Hub sites (potential for each hub to have a specialism. E.g., Education, Training, Matchplay) – *One NK*

Tier 2 – Multi pitch locations including AGP and Pavilion or linked to other sports provision.

Tier 3 - Multi pitch locations without AGP or pavilions

Tier 4 - Single Pitch location



### Tier 1

Football Development Hubs which should be developed in line with strategic priorities of partners clubs and Football Foundation LFFP sites (One NK and Sir William Robertson Academy)

### Tier 2

Multi pitch locations including AGP and Pavilion or linked to other sports provision - Should be invested in with the ultimate aim to create more Tier 1 sites for the community use.

### Tier 3

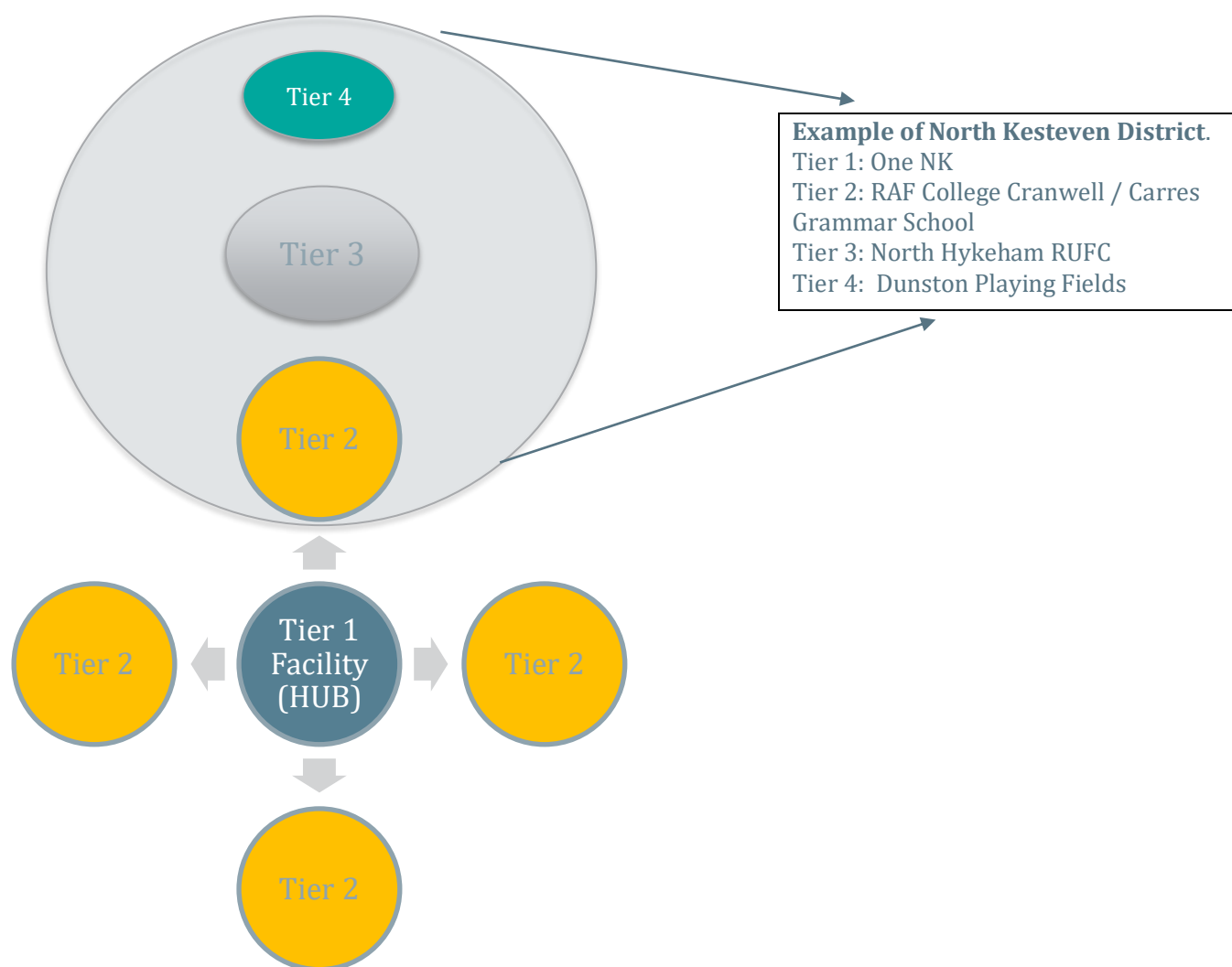
Multi pitch locations without AGP or pavilions. Important to the local area for accessible grass pitch provision throughout the year.

### Tier 4

Single Pitch location some with shared usage. Other uses to be looked at for these sites in terms of converting them into other open space provision.

The rationale for creating a tiered approach to facility provision is to allow the District Council to consider investment and their support to Tier one or 1 as below facilities, consider support to Tier 2 facilities, consider how best to manage, maintain other facilities and to establish which facilities they may no longer require in the future.

The image below shows a typical example of how the tiered system could be developed. One NK would be a Tier 1 facility serving the north of the district as well as additional local authorities (Cite of Lincoln). This would be the principal training and match play venue for partner clubs (Greenbank Juniors FC) and teams, in this part of the District. Surrounding this Tier 1 site will additionally sites from various tiers that each play a role in the development of the sporting provision and community use within the local authority. The aspiration



## Segmentation of Tier One Facilities

In order to develop the facilities in accordance with the growth of the game, we propose that the Tier one facilities are developed with specialisms. This could lead to a situation where each programme of use for a Tier one venue and associated ancillary facilities is responsible for producing new players for a particular segment of the game. This links to a shared FA and Lincolnshire FA vision to grow the game with particular emphasis on target groups. This is especially relevant in today's game with the growth of the female game. This is a key target for the national and local FA's with the creation of Women's Super League teams and Wildcat development centres. With this increase in female provision the designated changing room and ancillary facilities are important to develop.

We have identified the following segments in the graphic below, within our tiered approach to categorising the facilities.

Tier One	Tier One	Tier One	Tier One	Tier One
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi sport hub sites</li> <li>• Key Focus <b>Coach Education and Training</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi sport hub sites</li> <li>• Key Focus <b>Match and Training demand via floodlight provision on 3G FTP's.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi sport hub sites</li> <li>• Key Focus <b>Women and girls development centres and dedicated ancillary facilities.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi sport hub sites</li> <li>• Key Focus <b>Disability football and Walking football centres for community use</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi sport hub sites</li> <li>• Key Focus <b>Older age football to keep the local population active.</b></li> </ul>

The rationalisation of football facilities and strategic alignment for refurbishment and new builds in the North Kesteven presents a further opportunity for sports participation through initiatives and programmes such as. The facilities would all offer a balance of opportunity for clubs, recreational football and commercial. Due to an ageing population within the local authority it is important to develop walking football programs and other veteran leagues to offer a range of opportunities.

- Recreational / Pay & Play football
- Walking football / Veterans / Over 35 football
- Commercial 5v5 football leagues

## Establishing the location of Tier One Facilities

We believe that the Tier one facilities should be strategically located across the district to provide a 'geographic split', for the footballing community and to provide wider sporting opportunities.

One method to establish the need for strategically located Tier one facilities is to look at population density. The greater the population density of the area, the greater need for sporting facilities based on typical penetration rates for the sport. The population density map should also be overlaid with the existing facilities in the local area. This would allow for an assessment to be made about existing infrastructure and the need to link to Tier 2, 3 and 4 provisions.

The map below shows the population density of the different wards in North Kesteven. On the basis of this, there is a clear need to have facilities located in the North, South and Central Areas. Any Tier 1 sites should be located near population hubs such as South of Lincoln city and within the Sleaford area. There will also be some imported demand from neighbouring local authorities to the west from Newark.

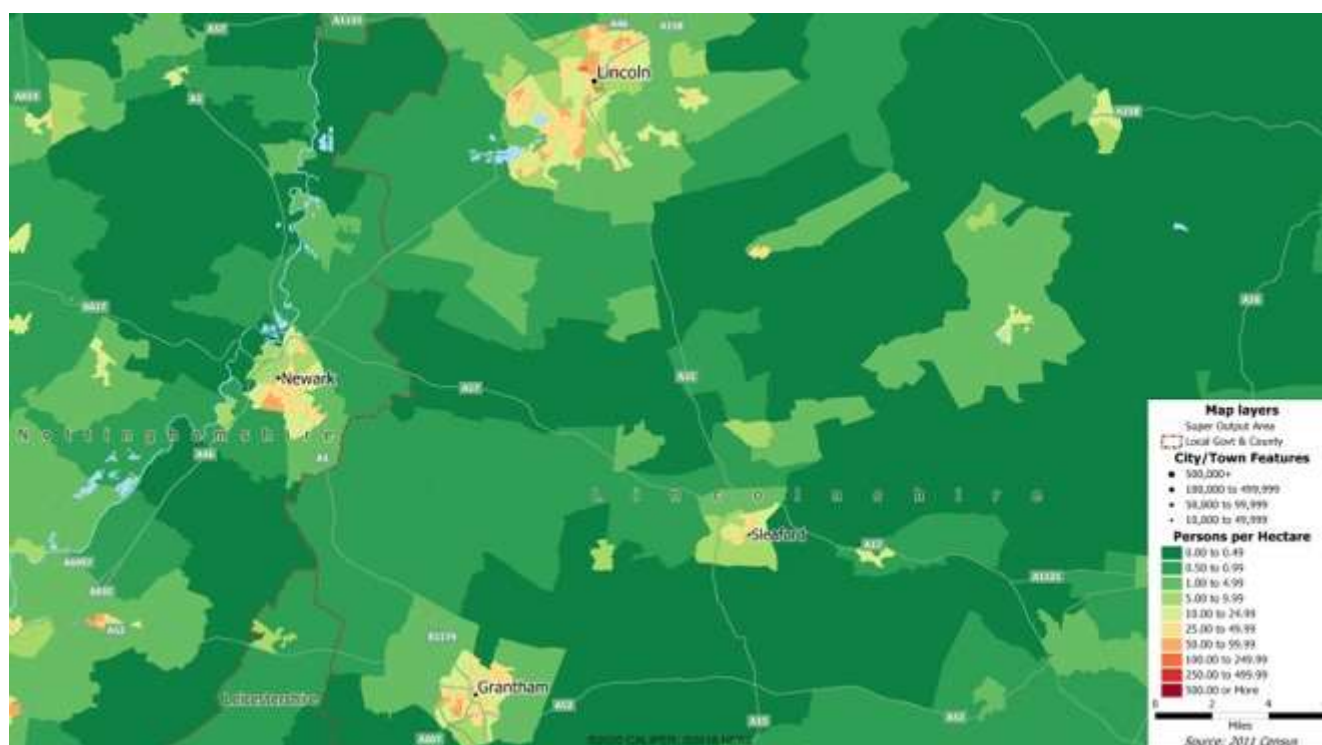


Figure 1: Population Density within NKDC

We believe that there is only one Tier one facility (One NK) that is already in existence. These facilities require a combination of support and continued investment. The map on page 39 shows the proposed options in terms of additional location for Tier 1 facilities and their relevant 20-minute drive time catchment areas. Whilst the map on page 40 relates to the all the sites within North Kesteven and their assigned preliminary tiered rating.

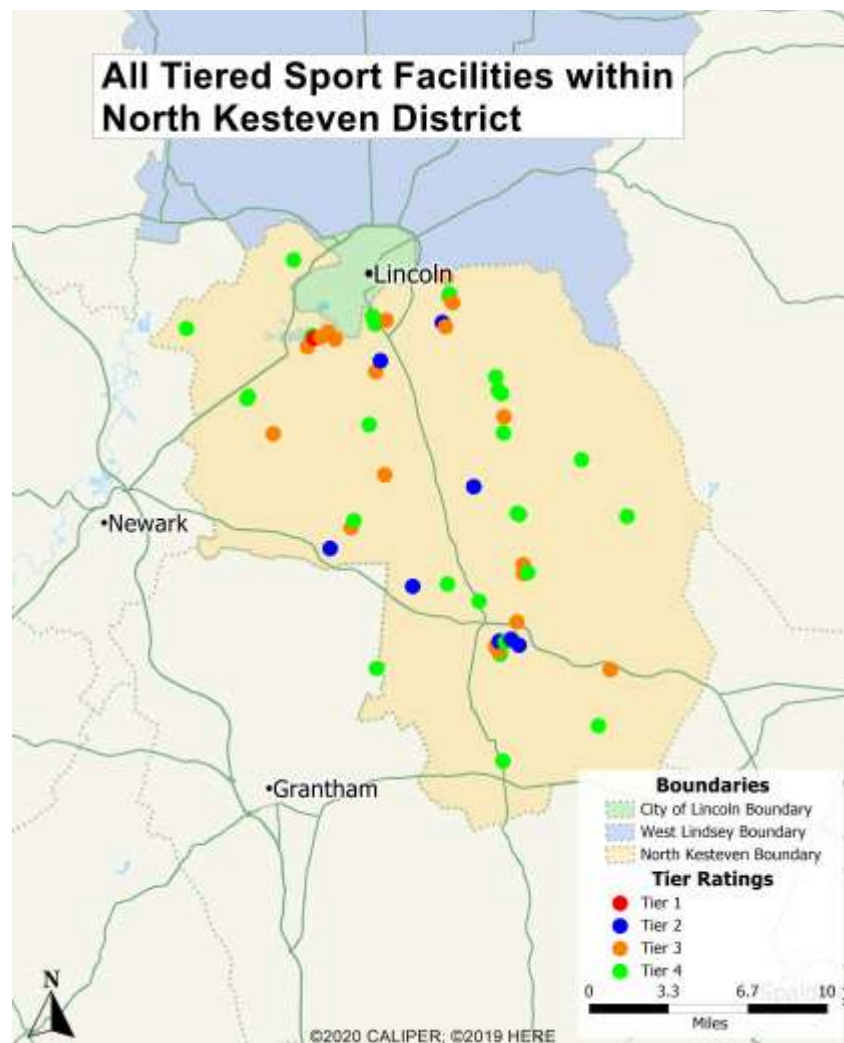
## Existing Facilities

Location	Tier One	Tier Two
<b>North</b>	One NK – Additional Full size 3G FTP should be added	RAF College Cranwell Eslaforde Park
<b>South/Central</b>	<i>*No Current Tier 1 Sites*</i> Development of Eslaforde Park or Sleaford RFC to Tier 1 site to offer multi-sport offering <i>*Sleaford Town offers multiple venues with development potential.</i>	David Williams Pavilion Branston Community Sports Academy
<b>Neighbouring Sites</b>	Ruston Sports	Lincoln University and Ravendale



Figure 2: Tier 1 Sites in North Kesteven and Competing Provision:

Figure 3: All Sites in North Kesteven with Tier Rating





**Additional Sport Provision:**

Even though football is the most popular sport and activity within the local authority the additional sports of cricket, rugby and hockey are important for the health and fitness of the local population. By combining these sports into certain multi-sport sites can increase the offering to the local community. There are fewer playing numbers across junior and senior teams in the additional sports, but they are important for the development and growth of the tiered site approach.

**Cricket**

Most cricket teams and sites within the local authority are single senior teams on the traditional village green style playing sites with older training and ancillary provision. Moving forward in the development of certain sites it is important to identify which sites need further development when there is a multi-sport approach available on site. If there are multiple sports offered on site this can increase the sporting provision available to the local authority. In review of this strategy a detailed consultation approach should be undertaken with the major clubs of Sleaford and Bracebridge to align their development opportunities.

**Rugby**

There is opportunity available to the two major rugby clubs in the area, Sleaford and North Hykeham, that should align their strategic opportunities to allow development to occur. Further consultation should be undertaken with Sleaford due to the size of the club and availability of land. In conjunction with the club, local authority and RFU a AGP pitch on site should be developed in order to increase match and training supply within the local authority, especially with the growth in population that is to be expected. Sleaford, where the club is located, is one of the major population hubs in the study area and is expected to increase in population which will create more rugby teams within Sleaford RFC as a result. North Hykeham is also located in a populated area, close to the City of Lincoln. This club is already located on a multi-sport site, specific focus should be on the development of ancillary facilities on site to possibly grow the female game from within the club.

**Hockey**

Hockey development is localised to one site, RAF College Cranwell, which should be secured for community use going forward with a long-term agreement between the clubs and the MOD site. A quality hockey playing sand dressed/filled AGP is important to protect for community use due to the lack of availability. Further discussions between the MOD, clubs, local authority and England Hockey should take place to secure this site for future use.



## Future Needs for Grass and AGP Pitches

An important aspect of the project is to estimate the need and future picture of pitches needed across the local authority by combining the current team numbers and population statistics. In order to analyse this supply and demand factor a number of elements should be considered such as the points below, a number of these elements will be enhanced further in other strategies.

- How will population change in the study area affect the demand for provision?
- How will participation aim, current trends and predicted changes in how pitch sports are played, and pitches used affect the demand for provision?
- Are there any particular sports clubs or sites where demand is likely to increase in the future?

North Kesteven has a current population of 115,230 this is due to rise to an estimated value of 145,615 by 2040, this number has been generated through discussions with the local authority and also using the persons per household measure. After discussions with the local authority the housing requirement has been identified as 649 per annum up to the year 2040, this equates to 1,519 people per annum based on a people per household ratio of 2.34.

Information gathered earlier in the strategy in terms of number of teams can be used to calculate Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for both genders and each age group within a sport, this in turn can be used to calculate the pitches required to accommodate future provision. TGR's, which provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team, can help estimating the change in demand for pitch sports (Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket). A TGR can be calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. The NGBs have set out the relevant age groups for their sports along with the pitches they use.

### Team Generation Rate Example

An area may have 10 youth boys' football teams of a particular age category and a current population of 900 boys within the relevant age group. This would equate to a TGR of one team per 90 boys in the age group (i.e., suggesting that it currently takes 90 boys within the age group to generate one team). A PPS may be looking ten years into the future at which point the population of this age group is projected to total 1,440. The TGR would therefore suggest that the projected increase of 540 junior boys within this age group may generate an additional six teams/pitches.

### Future Need – Pitches

With these population projects, team generation rates and current members we are able to calculate what is potentially needed in terms of sports provision within the local authority in regard to new grass and AGP pitches. It is important to note these figures should be caveated with the fact no quality surveys or site visits were undertaken at this stage of the strategy. Similar to other local authorities it might prove to be more cost effective to the local authority that instead of building new pitch provision improvements should be made to the current stock as this will improve the quality and overall carrying capacity. The capital costs highlighted below are based upon the latest available estimates from Sport England in their planning and design documents. It is estimated up to 2040

North Kesteven will need a total of 22 new grass pitches across the core sports of football, rugby, cricket and hockey (full breakdown is highlighted below) there is also a need of 1 full sized 3G AGP and 1 sand based AGP pitches to cope with the increased training and match play demand.

Total	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand - up to 2040.	Capital Cost (£)
Adult Football	5.59	£575,794
Youth Football	8.70	£717,026
Mini Soccer	2.64	£67,900
Rugby Union	2.40	£346,019
Cricket	1.50	£454,980
<b>Natural Grass Pitches Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>£2,161,719</b>
<b>Sand Based</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£135,257</b>
<b>3G</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£913,136</b>
<b>Artificial Grass Pitches Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>£1,048,393</b>
<b>Grass and AGP Pitch Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>£3,210,112</b>

Source of costs: Capital Cost - Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 Lifecycle Costs - Based on a % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (April 2012) <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

## 11. Summary of Options

The table below highlights a summary of the Tier 1 facilities and with future possible development opportunities. We have also highlighted the requirements for NKDC to either invest, maintain or support these locations. Currently there is only one Tier One or Tier 1 for consistency if former need consistent capitalisation site in this local authority. Part of this is due to the location of additional tier one sites located within the City of Lincoln and also neighbouring local authorities.

Location	Council owned Yes or No	Facilities on Site	Invest	Maintain	Support	Main Community User
One NK	Yes- On a lease arrangement with Lincolnshire County Council)	Football, Rugby, Hockey, 3G FTP, Changing Rooms	✓	✓	✓	Greenbank JFC

The table below highlights a summary of the **Tier 2 and 3** facilities and suggestions of either maintenance or investment on site. We have also highlighted the requirements for NKDC to either invest and support or maintain through community use initiatives at these locations. A number of other sites can be added to the list following consultation with the local authority and highlighted development plans. When the council are encouraged to maintain or invest in a particular site it is important to look at the community use on site and if there is any use agreements in place. The investment section does not directly relate to investment from council funding sources but can be used from wider grant mixes from NGB's or S106. For the sites that are not owned or operated by the local authority

It is important to note that the council can only invest and perform physical maintenance on sites that are owned by North Kesteven. The other sites that are not under NKDC ownership such as any RAF sites cannot be invested or linked with any S106 obligations, but there can be funds funnelled towards access and contributing to a charitable status to enhance community offerings. Instead, these sites should be maintained in terms of community use by working with the sites, clubs and other stakeholders to secure long term community use, this will allow the clubs and sites to be future proofed for sporting provision.

Location	Council owned Yes or No	Current or Possible Tier Movement	Support	Maintain	Invest
Branston Community Academy of Sports	No – Education	2	✓		
RAF College Cranwell	No – MOD	2	✓		
N RAF Digby	No – MOD	2	✓		
RAF Waddington	No – MOD	2	✓		

Location	Council owned Yes or No	Current or Possible Tier Movement	Support	Maintain	Invest
Carres Grammar School	No – Education	2 - 1	✓		
Eslaforde Park	No – Sports Club	2 - 1			✓
Grantham Road Playing Field	Yes	3 - 2		✓	✓
Manor Farm Academy	No - Education	3 - 2	✓		
Memorial Ground	No Trust	3 - 2			✓
Sleaford RFC	No – Sports Club	3 - 2			✓
Washingborough Playing Fields	Yes (Parish Council)	3	✓	✓	
Witham Fields	Yes (Parish Council)	3 - 2		✓	✓

## 12. Conclusions & Recommendations

### Recommendations

North Kesteven District Council has the ambition to provide a **holistic review of all their grass and sporting provision** within the study area with a clear understanding of the current offering. As outlined in this report through a combination of desktop analysis, local knowledge, literature review, strategy analysis and critical thinking. We have compiled a robust and relevant strategy to deliver specific aims for sites which will enhance the sport and leisure offerings within the local authority.

The provision of sporting venues (playing pitches) across the district is currently spatial split and has been developed over the years based on demand rather than strategic thinking. It is hoped that in the future, a coordinated approach to provision could dramatically **improve the participation rates** for sport, physical activity and health and wellbeing activity and maximise efficiencies, particularly in maintenance, programming, and financial sustainability. This approach will allow for the formation of sporting hubs within the study area which could provide NKDC with a different approach for sport and leisure provision.

Through evaluating the **quantity, community accessibility and availability** of the existing playing pitches within **NKDC**, we have been able to identify current and future need. Alongside this, we have also provided advice and insight into the existing local and national policies that influence future provision and which policies need to be adhered to **within any future rationalisation**. This is especially important when considering the impact of the Western Growth Corridor and future infrastructure changes to the north of the local authority where development in neighbouring local authorities will

prove to be important. This sustainable urban extension is also important as cross boundary issues as it will affect other local authorities within the vicinity such as the City of Lincoln.

With population hubs located in the north of the study are towards Lincoln and the Central area of Sleaford it is important for these area to have a central hub of sporting provision which will provide a range of offerings to the local community.

**One NK** satisfies are to the north of the local authority by providing a **multiple sport offering** to the local community including a **full size 3G AGP**, which is heavily used by junior football and leased to the school. It is important to carry on investing in these strategic important locations as they can be further developed to encourage increased physical activity. This site has also been highlighted as a strategic important location in the LFFP with further enhancement of an additional AGP. This site can also be developed in terms of the indoor sporting provision by combining both offerings to further enhance the offerings to all community members.

Further **south** to the local authority there is a **lack of tier one sites** with currently none in this part of the district. The current sporting provision is fragmented around several sites. For any tier one site they should be located in a population centre in order to have the largest possible catchment of users. **Sleaford** is a good location for another tier one site due to their **population base** and current **sporting activity**. Currently several sports each play at their designated home grounds within the town. In order to provide optimal sport and leisure facilities within the study area a sporting hub should be investigated bringing together these offerings. This **new sporting hub** should have a long-term community lease associated with it to future proof the site for team and club developments. In other parts of the country new educational facilities serve as centralised sporting hubs as they have a mixture of daytime and evening usage which provides greater financial stability. The local authority should explore this option as it can free up other parcels of land around the town for alternative use. A **detailed master planning / feasibility exercise** should be conducted in this location to find the optimal location and explore the **funding opportunities** through Sport England and other NGBs.

Another key component to improve the **long-term sporting provision** within the local authority is securing sites for long term community use through agreements between clubs and the sites. This is especially important in **educational and MOD sites** where typically these leases only run on a yearly basis. Through consultation and communication with the clubs and site owners long term community use agreements should be drafted to ensure development of the clubs can take place and grant funding can be secured for any improvements. This is especially important for hockey as the main club in the local authority use RAF College Cranwell on an unsecured basis which restricts any growth from within the club to occur.

Through our master list of sites, the local authority and other stakeholders should target specific sites which need investment in order to retain the sport and leisure provision on site and also allow the site

to develop into a high tiered site. This should also be done through consultation with the major clubs within the area as they might also have their own aspirations which can be in line with the local authority. This can provide individual feasibility reports for major sites allow for development to occur strategically throughout the district.

## Recommendations:

This tiered approach will enable NKDC to retain control of sports and leisure facilities and strategically provide venues for sports teams and clubs based on a prescribed priority list. Over the long term, this will bring about cost efficiency (savings) for NKDC and a more organised approach to the provision of playing pitches in the district and also allow for strategic sites to be selected for investment and increased community opportunity. Below is an outline of this tiering system.



**Tier one** – *Large multi-sport venues with indoor and outdoor sports.*



**Tier two** – *Single sport venues but with multiple pitches and or facilities.*



**Tier three** – *Small sites with two separate sport / activity offerings. i.e. cricket wicket with football pitch alongside.*



**Tier four** – *Small single sites with only one sport / activity offering.*

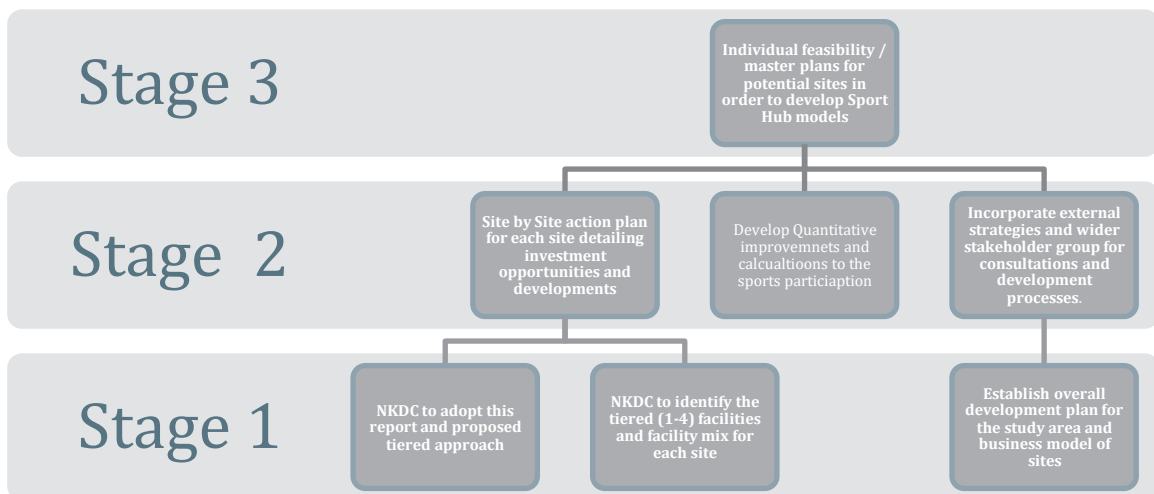
### Final Conclusions:

From this study we have reached the conclusion that there is **adequate sports pitch provision** currently across the local authority with the **current population** in North Kesteven. This has been based upon the team numbers and current stock of pitches within the study area. There will be a need of 91 additional pitches based upon future population projections up to 2040. It should be noted that the Central Lincolnshire planning document will set out the implications of population growth on provision requirements.

It should be noted that further, detailed supply and demand work is required to identify the quality of the pitches. This would determine the current carrying capacity of each pitch. There should also be detailed consultations and development links with the NGB officers as they have their own unique and specific development plans.

### Next Steps:

Below is a brief outline of the potential next phases of the project in order to develop the sports and leisure provision within the local authority. It is important to construct a more extensive site by site action plan in order to invest in the correct facility and incorporate the correct facility mix.



### Stage One:

- NKDC to adopt the tiered approach, the master list of sports facilities and the contents of the evidence in this report.
- Qualitative research and analysis performed on the master list and base consultations performed.

## Stage Two:

- NKDC to approve from the master list, those sites that are to be 'supported' in order to meet physical activity vision and objectives.
- Individual site by site action plans for facilities that are to be subject to any future development works, should be created.
- Individual site by site action plans to be created for facilities that are subject to changes in management or community access.
- Quantitative assessments should be performed in line with the latest development plans for national governing bodies and cross boundary issues to be included.
- Link any future changes to regional and national strategy / policy

## Stage Three:

- Feasibility studies for sites where development is needed to fulfil the future provision.  
Link any developments required to section 106, CIL, developer contribution investment.

## 13. Appendix items

Contained in separate documents.

**Appendix 1** – Sport England Segmentation

**Appendix 2** – Active Lives

**Appendix 3** – Master List of Sites - NKDC

**Appendix 4** – Sport England Appendix

**Appendix 5** – Adopted Local Plan

**Appendix 6** – Local Health Profile

**Appendix 7** – Playing Pitch Calculator Provision