

Draft Pitches Investment Strategy	12th June 2018
To: The Leisure and Development Committee FOR DECISION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing
Cost: (If applicable)	£15,000 + VAT (previously committed)

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the revised Section 4: Strategic Recommendations, of the Draft Pitches Investment Strategy and to seek approval to progress as previously recommended:

- **Approval for the Draft Investment Strategy and Strategic Recommendations.**
- **Proceed to a 12 week, S75 compliant, public consultation in advance of decisions relating to:**
 - **Any need for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA); and**
 - **The formal adoption of the Strategy.**

Background

In May 2018 Members considered the Draft Pitches Investment Strategy. On its passage through Committee and Council, Members made two observations and asked officers to undertake a review of the strategic recommendations.

Members may wish to note that the strategy itself runs to over 300 pages plus appendices and contains significant detail on:

- The facility needs across the 8 sports involved.
- The training and match demand created by the number of clubs and teams.
- The consultations with 109 different sporting clubs and community organisations.
- Three separate public consultation events.
- Physical surveys of all Council facilities.
- Self-surveys of all club owned facilities against a structures questionnaire.
- The available models for assessing pitch demand from Sport England, Sport Scotland and Fields in Trust.

Councillor Comments

After Committee and Council scrutiny of the initial draft, officers were asked to review the initial Strategic Recommendations, Section 4, with a particular focus on:

- The initial inclusion of some, but not all, named club's needs; and

- The need to ensure that the Strategic Recommendations reflect the respective needs of the range of sporting codes

Officer's Review

As a result of the Member's comments, officers have reviewed Section 4: Strategic Recommendations, of the draft Pitches Investment Strategy.

It should be noted that Section 4 is only one small section of the full strategy document and that it should not be viewed in isolation. The following considerations, recommendations and refinements have been reflected in a new draft of Section 4 which is attached at **Annex A**. The full strategy document, including the revised Section 4 and appendices is available in the Member's library for review.

Individual Clubs' Needs

There are two possible amendments to Section 4 in this regard, either:

1. All clubs' views should be fully reflected in Section 4; or
2. No clubs should be mentioned by name

In considering these two options officers have noted that:

- Almost 100% of relevant clubs in the Borough responded to the survey and expressed views; 109 in total.
- Many other organisations responded or attended consultation events including GBs of sport, schools, youth organisations and members of the public.
- Pages 16-27 of the full report provide a report on the three consultation events.
- Appendix 1 to the full report provides a 54 page report on the three consultation events and contains the full comments of all participants.
- The sports specific sections of the report contain the full detail of each clubs response to the online surveys.
- The Strategic Recommendations, Section 4 of the report is intended to reflect high level actions and not the detailed reasons (contained elsewhere in the report).

Based on the above, officers would suggest following option 1 above i.e. take out all reference to specific clubs in this section. This approach is reflected in the amended Section 4 which is attached at **Annex A**.

Reflecting The Proportionate Needs of all 9 Facility Types in the Strategic Recommendations

In response to Member's comments, the officers have reflected on the distribution of the strategic recommendations across the various sporting codes and would comment as follows:

1. It should be noted that most/all GAA, rugby and cricket clubs/teams aspire to play competitive matches on the grounds of their home club and not a municipal facility.
2. As the highest participation sport in the Borough, the GAA's main pressure is for training pitches.
3. Council has very limited opportunities (other than the capital grants programme which is normally at 50% max) to invest in facilities belonging to third parties.
4. The Strategy proposes two ways of addressing the shortage in training pitches:
 - a. The development of central training hubs is the preferred option where the concentration of population and clubs would make such facilities sustainable.

- b. In more sparsely populated areas, reliance on capital grants for individual clubs (with conditions for community access) offers a more cost effective and sustainable solution.
5. Much of the soccer provision in the Borough is concentrated on Council owned facilities and so any investment to address need is likely to be centred on the Council's own estate.
6. The proposed additional training pitches in Coleraine (Item 7.) are sized as full and half sized GAA pitches with multi-sport markings.

As a result of these reconsiderations, officers have moved the costs of the Coleraine training areas from soccer to GAA. This reflects the fact that they are accurately sized for full sized and half sized GAA pitches (even though the proposal is for multi-sport markings with an open bookings policy).

As a result of the above amendments the potential cost comparisons between the two codes are now as follows:

Association Football		
Item 1:	Increase the quality, capacity and flexibility of the facilities at Scroggy Road and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	£1.5m
Item 2:	Remedial work to the playing surface and/or changing accommodation.	£0.5m
Item 3:	Extend the existing changing accommodation at Riada Playing Fields.	£0.8m
Item 4:	Improve grass pitches in line with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .	£0.4m
Association Football Total:		£3.2m
GAA		
Item 6:	Develop additional grass pitch facilities in the Dungiven area. Note: this need could potentially be addressed by a live capital grants application.	£0.8m
Item 7:	Develop additional floodlit 3G training provision in Coleraine. Multi-sport but to GAA dimension requirements.	£1.55m
Other potential GAA benefits: Item 22: capital grants; and Item 8: disposal of surplus pitches for club use)		
GAA Total:		£2.35
Rugby		
Item 9:	Replacement changing accommodation in Armoy	£0.54m
Rugby Total:		£0.54m
Hockey		
Item 10:	New/extended changing pavilion in Riada Playing Fields	See Item 3
Item 11:	New hockey surface in Ballycastle	Shared School Campus OBC
Tennis		
Item 12:	Improved tennis provision in the Coleraine area	£0.975m
Item 13:	Upgrade to Recreation Grounds tennis provision	Rec. Gds. project
Item 14:	Upgrade to the tennis pavilion in Ballycastle	£0.1m
Tennis Total:		£1.075m
Cricket		
Item 15:	Capital equipment	Capital grants programme
Item 16:	Ongoing provision for cricket nets in new Coleraine Leisure	Included in

	Centre	CLC OBC
Athletics		
Item 17:	Enhanced walking/jogging trails	£0.5m
Lawn Bowls		
Item 18:	Conversion of a selection of Council Bowling greens to synthetic and one grass upgrade.	£0.41m
MUGAs and Training Areas		
Item 19:	Develop MUGAs in Cushendall, Limavady, Dungiven, Castlerock, Dervock, Cloughmills & Portrush	£1.2m
Item 20:	Develop additional floodlit 3G training provision in Coleraine. Multi-sport but to GAA dimension requirements.	See Item 7
Item 21:	Re-development of the Council's shale pitches where this is possible.	£0.5m
Capital Support for Clubs		
Item 22:	Ongoing provision of capital grants programme and softening of club plus requirements.	Reference existing budgets.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- Give indicative approval for the Draft Pitches Condition Survey & Investment Strategy with the inclusion of the amended Section 4 as attached at **Annex A**.
- Approve officers to initiate a S75 compliant, 12 week public consultation on the Draft Investment Strategy (excluding cost estimates).

ANNEX A

4. Strategic Recommendations (revised June 2018)

These strategic recommendations reflect the issues emerging from the audit process. They cover the eight sports – association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey, tennis, cricket, athletics, lawn bowls – as well as multi use games areas. The focus is on potential developments at Council-owned pitches, however it is recognised that the community and education sectors also provide and operate pitches; the Council’s ‘pitches’ account for 56% of pitches in all ownerships (excluding the education sector where pitches are generally less available for community use).

Council Facility Developments

The following table deals with facility developments at Council-owned sites that will be Council-led. Each item is given a priority rating based on the extent of its impact on adequacy of provision and related issues such as the cost of maintenance and the potential to benefit health and well-being in the community. The priority ratings are linked to a broad indicative timeline:-

Priority 1 – Years 1 to 3

Priority 2 – Years 2 to 4

Priority 3 – Years 3 to 5

Indicative/capital costs have been developed where appropriate. The total capital cost is £9.925 million, as follows:-

		£
Priority 1	Years 1 to 3	3,640,000
Priority 2	Years 2 to 4	5,385,000
Priority 3	Years 3 to 5	900,000
	Total	<u>£9,925,000</u>

Facility Developments – Council Sites

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs						
<u>ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL</u>											
1.	Ensure existing Council facilities for association football in the Limavady area are used to their full potential; consider the potential to increase the quality, capacity and flexibility of the facilities at Scroggy Road and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	One example of a Council site not used to its full potential is at Roe Mill Playing Fields. Here the pavilion has 6 changing rooms however one room is given over to a local pigeon club whilst two other rooms, due to their small size, are needed for a single team. Effectively this means only 4 teams (2 pitches) can be accommodated simultaneously. There are 4 pitches at Roe Mill Playing Fields requiring 8 changing rooms. A new pavilion and further improvements to the existing grass pitches are required.	There is some potential to develop a 3G training area and improve the quality and scale of provision at the Roe Mill site. Partnership potential should be explored. Location on the site should be on the raised area adjacent to the tennis courts so avoiding the flood plain at Roe Mill.	This will make better use of the Council's pitches at Roe Mill Playing Fields by unlocking the full capacity of the 4 pitches.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>New 8 room pavilion</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1.25m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1.5m</td> </tr> </table>	New 8 room pavilion	£1.25m	Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m	£250k	Total	£1.5m
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2.	Consider existing pitches across the Borough that have playability issues for remedial work to the playing surface and/or changing accommodation.	The Council has 57 grass pitches (full size and youth size) of which 11 are judged to be of <i>standard</i> quality and 4 of <i>poor</i> quality, the remainder being <i>good</i> quality, in accordance with Sport England's Non Technical Assessment system. The need is to bring all Council pitches up to <i>good</i> quality, so enhancing the playing experience and minimising the risk of match cancellations. In some cases it is poor changing accommodation that risks pitches not being used to their full potential.	None	The objective is to ensure all grass pitches remain playable throughout the season, reducing cancellations and the need to rearrange fixtures. A target of improving 2 pitches each year for 5 years at an average cost of £50k per pitch is set.	10 pitches @ £50k £500k	
3.	Extend the existing changing accommodation at Riada Playing Fields.	Riada Playing Fields offers 7 grass pitches, a 3G pitch and an AstroTurf pitch. The present changing pavilion has 6 team changing rooms which falls short of the need for changing on a busy Saturday. An assessment of the ideal number of changing rooms, to suit existing and future demand, should be carried out.	None.	This will assist in positioning Riada Playing Fields as a major sporting hub within the Borough.	Increase the existing accommodation (by 4 team rooms) to include consideration of referee's facilities, DDS requirements, 'dry' room (team talks, coaching, etc) and public toilets. This should be carefully designed and located to also consider the needs of hockey at the site (see Item 10).	£800k

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4.	Consider the potential to improve grass pitches in line with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .	A sand fibre natural grass pitch reportedly has a weekly capacity of between 10 and 20 hours of use, depending on maintenance regimes and weather conditions; Ulster University has recently completed such a pitch at its Coleraine campus. The need for increased capacity grass pitches should be considered after new 3G pitches have had a 'settling in' period.	There is potential for association football, gaelic games and rugby clubs to access 'hybrid' grass pitches for mid-week training and they could be marketed as 'multi sport'.	Increasing the capacity of grass pitches will result in greater use of Council resources, not least changing accommodation which is generally not used from one weekend to the next.	Convert 2 existing grass pitches to hybrid/sand fibre plus floodlighting £400k
5.	Implement an appropriate Pitch Usage Policy and maintenance programme.	Parks and Estates department in Council to introduce a programme of routine, programmed and major maintenance activities across the pitch estate and introduce a Pitch Usage Policy.	This policy should be devised in liaison with user groups and clubs to engender understanding and acceptance of the need for and content of the policy.	The Council's pitches will be preserved and protected, enhancing their quality and playability.	None.

Gaelic Games

6.	Develop additional grass pitch facilities in the Dungiven area.	Two local clubs have each expressed the need for increased access to pitches whilst two other clubs have no 'home' pitch. The new 3G pitch (approximately 90m x 60m) at Dungiven Sports Centre has helped with the need for mid-	A site has not been identified. Consideration should be given to a range of options including, for example, a partnership with a local club or other provider.	A pitch in Dungiven could be shared by local clubs, a mix of training and matches. The development of local clubs will be supported.	New grass sand mattress pitch - 140m x 90m with floodlighting Pitch £100k Lights £200k Changing & ancillary accommodation (4 rooms) £500k Total £800k
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Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs								
		week training, however is not suitable for matches.											
7.	Develop additional floodlit 3G training provision in Coleraine.	<p>The demand for mid-week training accommodation (for both GAA and soccer) in the Coleraine area exceeds supply. Additional 3G training pitch/s in the Coleraine area could potentially address both mid-week training requirements of GAA and soccer and act as a second site for small sided soccer games.</p> <p>With the existing facilities and additional land availability, an obvious option for consideration is the extension of the pitch provision at Rugby Avenue.</p>	Such facilities have the potential to services multi-sport training needs and potentially host competitive fixtures for the lower leagues.	Additional floodlit 3G training facilities will better facilitate the demand for mid-week training.	<table> <tr> <td>Floodlit 3G 140m x 90m</td> <td>£1m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m</td> <td>£250k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ancillary accommodation</td> <td>£300k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£1.55m</td> </tr> </table> <p>All with multi-sport markings.</p>	Floodlit 3G 140m x 90m	£1m	Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m	£250k	Ancillary accommodation	£300k	Total	£1.55m
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8.	Identify Council sites surplus to requirements and consider their future use.	The audit evidences a number of Council-owned grass pitches that are no longer in use, most likely due to changing demographics over time. Examples include pitches at Drumsurn, King's Lane, Armoy and Mosside. Gaelic games clubs are particularly	Depending on the location and scope of a pitch being offered and a club's plans for its re-development (eg, 3G and floodlit) the potential for multi-sport use could be good.	This will potentially make better use of parts of the Council estate that are presently surplus to requirements. Depending on the responses from clubs it will help to alleviate	Capital grants programme								

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		<p>challenged by a shortfall in training facilities. An exercise to match clubs with surplus pitches in their local area may assist in addressing this shortfall. Clubs availing of this opportunity may be able to raise/source funds to carry out upgrading work as necessary.</p>	<p>Partnership potential in terms of clubs and the Council working together on upgrading/re-development projects is good.</p>	<p>the shortfall in training facilities thereby assisting in clubs' development including levels of participation. In considering sites currently surplus to requirements the main options are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Long term lease to local clubs who would be required to raise their own funds. (ii) Re-develop, at Council's cost, for use by local clubs. (iii) Retain for informal recreation use and possible future development. 							
RUGBY											
9.	<p>If rugby is to survive in Armoy there is a need to replace the changing accommodation and complete drainage work on the pitches. Council to</p>	<p>Presently the changing accommodation is in very poor condition and not fit for purpose. The site, known as Lime Park, is owned by the Council and leased.</p>	<p>Some potential for other sports clubs to use the site for training but only if the pitches are upgraded.</p>	<p>Rugby development in the area is severely constrained by the present changing accommodation.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Drainage works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Changing accommodation (4 rooms)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£540k</td> </tr> </table> <p>(The cost of providing changing accommodation is dependent on the</p>	Drainage works	£40k	Changing accommodation (4 rooms)	£500k	Total	£540k
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	explore construction options for changing accommodation, including modular options.				type of construction; a bricks and mortar building will typically cost more than a modular construction.)
<u>HOCKEY</u>					
10.	Consider the development of a changing pavilion in Riada Playing Fields adjacent to the AstroTurf pitch, especially suited to the requirements of female hockey players.	The present changing pavilion for Riada Playing Fields is some distance from the AstroTurf pitch. The audit reveals that accommodation in this pavilion is inadequate, not least for females.	The pavilion could be used by more than one sport. No partnership potential.	Female participation in sport is often constrained by inadequate changing accommodation. A second pavilion may encourage greater participation.	Refer to proposed accommodation and anticipated costs at Item 4. Consultation with the local hockey club and other clubs is advisable to determine a best fit solution.
11.	Replace the ageing surface on the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle.	This AstroTurf pitch is regarded as poor quality by the local men's hockey club, however, should the proposed AstroTurf pitch be developed at the shared campus project in Ballycastle the pitch at Quay Road could be viewed as surplus to requirements.	AstroTurf is a multi-sport surface.	A fit for purpose surface in Ballycastle will assist the local men's hockey club in developing under-age participation.	New AstroTurf surface (only required if the proposed AstroTurf surface at the shared campus does not proceed.) £150k
<u>TENNIS</u>					
12.	Consider the development of improved tennis	Presently two clubs in Coleraine share a single site – 4	No multi sport potential. There may be some	Providing artificial grass tennis courts in	Five new floodlit artificial surface tennis courts to £975k

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	<p>provision in the Coleraine area in respect of scale of provision and playing surfaces.</p>	<p>courts with a bitmac surface unsuited to inter-club competition. This is unsustainable in terms of tennis development.</p> <p>Consultation identified local aspirations for an indoor tennis facility but it is considered likely that the lack of a fit for purpose outdoor facility is a greater limiting factor to the development of tennis in the area.</p>	<p>partnership potential with one or other of the clubs presently based at Anderson Park.</p>	<p>Coleraine will enhance the playing experience for club training and matches. It should encourage more participation in tennis and it will complement existing facilities and sports at the host venue.</p>	<p>accommodate club and community (pay 'n play) use. Due to the flood risk at Anderson Park a different location will be necessary. Capital project to include a pavilion building (changing, club rooms, toilet provision, DDA requirements) and parking.</p>

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
13.	Consider the value of a continuing tennis presence in Portrush in view of the proposed re-development of Portrush Recreation Grounds.	<p>The pavilion is no longer fit for purpose. There is a surplus of tennis courts at Portrush Recreation Grounds and an over-supply of courts across the Borough. The Council's vision is to re-design the site.</p> <p>Consultation with the local tennis clubs has indicated that the exposed nature of the site makes it unattractive for tennis. Even if upgraded facilities were provided, the Recreation Grounds is unlikely to ever become home to a tennis club.</p>	Tennis is unlikely to be a key consideration in the re-development of the Recreation Grounds.	Improved tennis facilities at the Recreation Grounds would only facilitate recreational tennis during the summer months.	The proposed project to re-develop the Recreation Grounds should give careful consideration to the costs and benefits of on-going tennis provision.
14.	Carry out upgrade to the tennis pavilion in Ballycastle, including toilet provision and maintenance issues.	Pavilion accommodation offers only one female toilet whilst showers and changing areas are dated with poor lighting. Ventilation would appear to be inadequate. The roof reportedly leaks.	There may be some partnership potential with the neighbouring bowling club (private) whose pavilion building is in poor condition.	An upgraded pavilion in Ballycastle will better serve female tennis players and on an equal basis with male players. A dual-sport pavilion (tennis and bowls) will increase the awareness of and interest in both sports.	General upgrade works £100k

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CRICKET					
15.	Consider supporting cricket clubs with specialist equipment to assist the delivery of training sessions and in maintenance of grass surfaces. This could be achieved through the capital grants programme.	The outdoor game in the Borough is played exclusively on club or school facilities – the Council may facilitate indoor training on an occasional basis. Clubs are constrained by not being able to purchase major items of equipment.	No multi-sport potential. Some partnership potential may be possible in the procurement of and sharing of equipment between cricket clubs.	Cricket has the least percentage of female participation of all the sports audited. Council support could be linked to sports development participation targets for minority groups.	Capital grants programme
16.	Consider the design of future indoor facility developments regards their suitability for indoor cricket practice.	As a sport cricket is constrained by being viewed as taking place in the summer months. None of the 5 clubs in the Borough have indoor facilities; 4 of the clubs are clustered in the Limavady area. Coleraine Leisure Centre has a projectile net on a single badminton court which has not been used for cricket practice in recent years due to the risk of balls damaging the ceiling. Roe Valley Leisure Centre's Minor Hall (3 badminton courts) projectile net was removed some years ago, however local clubs have used the hall during the summer for children's cricket sessions using adapted	Depending on their specification netting systems can be used for a number of sports including cricket and archery.	Potential to have a positive impact on participation generally and on female participation in particular through increased club use and sports development activities.	Projectile nets are estimated at £50k, to be included within the new CLC budget. Future provision in the new CLC also to consider indoor requirements for other sports.

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
		equipment.			
ATHLETICS					
17.	Develop perimeter walking/jogging paths (with lights) at a range of club and Council facilities. Also consider Quay Road Playing Fields and a section of the proposed Ballymoney-Ballycastle Greenway, Riada Playing	There is a need for safe jogging paths in urban areas. Other Council sites, urban and rural may also be considered. Walking/jogging paths are a simple way to encourage more people to get active and lead healthier lifestyles.	Multi sport/activity. Partnership potential may be possible through the Council's capital grants programme .	Whilst there are over 500 participants in the 5 athletics clubs in the Borough there are undoubtedly many hundreds more 'recreational joggers' who choose not to join a club. It is likely there	There are also opportunities for applications to the capital grants programme for related projects in club settings. £500k

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	Fields and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	It's noted that Ulster University has an aspiration to develop a 400m track at its Coleraine campus.		are many people who aspire to being more active but are constrained by lack of safe jogging paths. The impact is quite simply more people becoming active and being able to sustain activity throughout the year, not just during the months of light evenings.	

LAWN BOWLS

18.	Consider a new approach to supporting lawn bowls including the provision of synthetic greens.	High maintenance costs (at least £10k per year per green) and low club membership numbers at the Council's greens point to the need to review how the Council continues to support participation whilst achieving best value from its assets. Synthetic greens greatly reduce the maintenance costs and may be seen as encouraging greater participation through increased playability.	With synthetic greens there is good potential for partnership arrangements between the Council and clubs operating on Council greens, including lease arrangements. A range of options for Council greens includes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hand over maintenance responsibility along with a small 	The intended impact is to increase membership within lawn bowls clubs across the Borough, so making them more sustainable in the long term. One of the natural grass greens at Portrush Recreation Grounds is assessed as being in 'poor' condition.	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Convert (say) 3 natural grass greens to synthetic @ £120k</td> <td style="text-align: right; width: 40%;">£360k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Upgrade 1 grass green</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£50k</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£410k</td> </tr> </table>	Convert (say) 3 natural grass greens to synthetic @ £120k	£360k	Upgrade 1 grass green	£50k	Total	£410k
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			<p>equipment grant to the resident club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conversion from grass to synthetic green(s). ▪ Transfer the asset to the resident club (with non-disposal conditions) along with a small equipment grant; the club manages and maintains the facility. <p>A separate business case should consider the cost effectiveness of these and other options.</p>		

MUGA's / TRAINING AREAS (in this document the term 'MUGA' means a multi-sport training and small-sided games area, minimum dimension 37m x 18.5m in accordance with Sport England's recommendations for training facilities)

19.	<p>Consider the development of MUGA's at Cushendall, Limavady, Dungiven, Castlerock, Dervock, Cloughmills and Portrush.</p> <p>The development of smaller MUGA's has some</p>	<p>The audit shows gaps in the provision of MUGA's in these areas. Community consultation (reported in the audit) supports the need for these facilities, however as each one is considered the Council will need to carry out further</p>	<p>Multi-sport and multi-activity, potentially embracing play, recreation and sport dependent on agreed purpose. There may be partnership potential in some projects. Local</p>	<p>Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) are a valuable asset for unstructured and semi-structured play by individuals and small groups that can encourage an interest</p>	<p>Assume 8 floodlit MUGA's, average size approximately 40m x 20m</p> <p>£1.2m</p>
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Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
	<p>crossover with the work of the Council's Play Strategy.</p>	<p>consultation to determine their purpose and the type/design best suited to the agreed purpose, not least the surface.</p>	<p>need will help determine the primary purpose of a project and the design solution for the need.</p>	<p>in sport. Training areas are critical to support sports clubs' delivery of training sessions. The provision of additional MUGA's and training areas (minimum size 37m x 18.5m) will reduce the shortfall in these facilities revealed in the audit. Community feedback supports the need for more of these facilities.</p>	
20.	<p>Develop multi-sport synthetic training areas at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields with a high specification synthetic surface suited to a range of sports; approximate size 140m x 90m and 70m x 45m. Ancillary accommodation (parking, pavilion) to be enhanced.</p>	<p>Local clubs have a particular need to access full-size training facilities in the winter pre-season period; club-based grass pitches are over-used in this period, partly due to clubs having more teams than they can accommodate on club facilities. The development of a third multi-sport synthetic training area at Rugby Avenue will complement the existing AstroTurf pitch and 3G pitch. It will help to further reduce the under-supply of one hour mid-</p>	<p>The training area can be marked for a range of codes, giving it excellent multi sport potential.</p> <p>Some partnership potential depending on local clubs' appetite/ability.</p>	<p>Rugby Avenue Playing Fields offering as a sports hub enhanced.</p>	<p>Refer to Item 7</p>

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		week training slots for association football. Gaelic games particular need in the Coleraine area is for more training facilities.			
21.	Consider re-development of the Council's shale pitches where this is possible.	With the advent of synthetic turf technology, shale pitches are effectively redundant.	Multi-sport and partnership potential dependent on the nature of re-development.	This will assist in realising value from the Council's assets.	Budget allowance £500k

CAPITAL SUPPORT FOR SPORTS CLUBS

22.	Support clubs in their aspirations for improved club-based facilities. This could be delivered through the Council's capital and minor grants programmes.	In consultation many clubs noted the need for facility developments and equipment improvements at club sites. Given the rural nature of parts of the Borough, many clubs serve communities where Council-supported opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity can be limited. A strategically focused grants programme can encourage partnership working and enhance VFM for the Council.	Multi-sport outcomes may be possible dependent on the nature of improvements, however the focus here is to achieve better facilities for club-based activity to encourage participation and growth.	The audit reveals there are over 14,000 playing members in 109 clubs across the eight sports. Improved club-based facilities will result in increased participation, not least amongst young people in general and females in particular.	Council grant programmes.
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Other Providers

Whilst the Council is a major provider of sports pitches and facilities, sports clubs and others also provide and operate facilities. The Council-led facility development projects will not address all of the issues and need arising from the audit; there remains a residual need which other providers can assist in addressing. The most significant constraint faced by other providers is funding. Whilst many providers have or are able to raise a percentage of a project's cost through fundraising it is often not enough to enable a capital project to proceed. Recognising the contribution that sports clubs make to their communities it is recommended that the Capital Investment Programme's criteria be revised to recognise sports facilities providers as delivering community benefit within their current and future membership.