

## Local Plan / PPS Position statement

*Since Leicester City Council adopted the Playing Pitch Strategy in 2017, it has been regularly reviewed and brought up to date. During these reviews we have sought views from county/regional representatives of the FA, RFU, LTA, ECB, EH and EB on the strategy and action plan, and updated accordingly. Recent figures have been provided by NGBs (see appendix 1) and these have been compared with PPS figures and summarised against progress in action plans below. Relevant actions against the PPS Strategy and Action Plan (see link) have been listed in brackets ([playing-pitch-strategy-strategy-and-action-plans.pdf \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/playing-pitch-strategy-strategy-and-action-plans.pdf)).*

- *Bowls*

*In summary we have seen significant loss in bowls participation rates, which has unfortunately resulted in a loss of 4 clubs (Royal British Legion BC, Victoria Park BC, Rushey Mead BC and Leicester Visually Impaired BC). The PPS referenced a steady decline in participation rates within Bowls and it highlighted a need to consider consolidation of sites should participation rates not rise. This has occurred on two sites namely Monks Rest Gardens and Western Park – with Croquet and Petanque taking place respectively (Action BG2 within PPS action plan). Unfortunately, we have also seen the closure of a further site at Rushey Fields due to low numbers and cost prohibitive repairs on the pavilion (c£100k). Further consolidation of sites may be considered based should numbers not improve after this season.*

- *Cricket*

Overall, there has been a growth of 4 teams that weren't recorded within the PPS, with women teams now being delivered from two clubs and two new senior men's cricket teams being delivered. But we have seen a loss particularly through junior teams at Crown Hills and Last Man Standing. Migrated use continues to affect the city, LCCC have reported on 11 clubs that have participants based in the City but who play their cricket in neighbouring authorities. Development of St Oswalds Road cricket ground (C2 of strategy and action plan) and establishing a community cricket offer in New Parks will help address this situation, particularly in the West of the City, along with potential proposals to re-establish cricket and football at Mowmacre Sports Ground and the Employee Sports Ground through leasehold proposals (C1 and C3). The losses indicate some spare capacity to develop more junior activity particularly at school sites like Crown Hills and Soar Valley, LMS loss may be temporary as initial enquiries are being made to re-establish, but this loss has also partly been mitigated with entry level teams no being programmed on some NTPs (C5 of strategy and action plan).

- *Football*

*Since the 2017 PPS we have seen a growth in football particularly in the senior men's and women's game, junior progression has fallen significantly in youth boys' football but is growing within girls' football. Large amount of this use is seen within partner clubs who account for 46% of usage across 8 clubs (totalling 159). PPS picks ups on the strategic significance of FIS and the need to optimise programming of pitch stock and development of management solutions on 3g pitch stock (F1 and F3), actions have been made in these areas through the creation of site development plans and completion of licence agreement with FIS partner clubs, however objectives will remain ongoing.*

*The needs for recreational football are also highlighted within the PPS (F3), delivery of the Active Through Football project, Active Women will deliver against this objective along with potentially the refurbishment of several ball courts across the City through Football Foundation's PlayZone programme (subject to approval).*

*Pitch condition on parks, remains an important area to address within the City, Parks staff will continue to review their work programme to address this where possible but additional funding is likely required to provide the necessary maintenance to see an improvement here (F4). Key private club sites where pitch conditions*

*are below standards are being addressed (F6), through clubs accessing Football Foundation funding either through Covid recovery funds or grass pitch maintenance funding (LAs ineligible). Improvement in these areas will help improve the carrying capacity of pitches and prevent cancellations and strain on remaining pitch stock.*

*Additional full size 3g pitches also remain an important need for the City (F5), to help provide alternative reliable pitch space to relieve grass pitch stock, which can help towards addressing a number of needs for football in the City. An expression of interest was completed earlier this year and identified preferred locations for 3g pitches in the NE and SW of the City (Leicester Nirvana FC @ Hamilton Park and Tudor Grange Samworth Academy respectively). Development of these projects will be delivered externally through the respective organisations.*

*Level of community use on school pitches remains low in the City (F7), several planning MoUs have been received in relation to school sites but these haven't translated into wider pitch space being made available.*

- *Hockey*

*There has been a growth in hockey since the PPS was drafted, with men's women's and junior numbers increased but we have also seen a drop in the number of registered mixed teams. Most of the growth is focused through Leicester Westleigh and Leicester City Hockey Club, caused particularly through the completion of a sand-based pitch at English Martyrs catholic school club's and relocation of LCHC to the City at St Margaret's Pastures (H1). Following completion of a leasehold (H2), LCHC continue with their plans for water-based pitch, which is anticipated to start construction in 2022, with pavilion refurbishment and extension also being planned for a later phase (H3). While Panther's use has been retained since the relocation of the LCHC to SMP via support from Leicester City Council (H2), Bosworth Ladies had stopped playing at SMP before LCHC relocation, but more significantly has been the reduced number of clubs playing from Soar Valley with 3 clubs not playing from the site. This reduction creates an imbalance in provision with hockey now taking place in the west of the city and further use of Soar Valley College should be encouraged where demand exists.*

- *Rugby League*

*At the time of drafting the PPS, Leicester Storm was nomadic folded not long after publishing, the RFL have since confirmed that re-establishing Rugby League in the City is not a strategic priority (RL1-RL3).*

- *Rugby Union*

*Overall loss of 4 teams since the PPS was drafted, DMU are now delivering a women's team however Belgrave have lost their juniors section but are hoping to re-establish the section next season. Old Aylestonians have unfortunately folded and Aylestone Athletics' numbers have remained steady. (R1 &R5). DMU have established a world rugby compliant 3g pitch at Beaumont Park, use helps serve the rugby teams at the university but is also used for training by AARFC (R2 &R4). Nelson Mandela also remains available and is regularly accessed by Aylestone Athletic when Beaumont Park is unavailable (R6). With the reduction in teams at Belgrave RFC, capacity is less of a current concern and focus in more on clubhouse improvements, nevertheless Rugby Groundsmen programme has been made available to club to improve on pitch condition (R3). While not available to AARFC the pitch quality at Victoria Park remains sufficient to meet the needs of the club (R7). RFU will continue to support Belgrave with any growth plans that they may have. Tigers foundation however are establishing a walking rugby programme which will likely be a growth area for the foundation with support from the Council and public health teams (R8).*

- *Tennis*

*Only membership numbers have been made available for this statement and unfortunately Midland TC membership numbers are outstanding. Based on figures available when comparing the PPS, it would appear we've seen a 5% increase in the number of tennis members in the city, but this is largely focused within two tennis clubs Leicestershire LTC and Carisbrooke TC, with 3 clubs showing losses most notably Westfields TC at -48% loss in members. Which creates a larger focus in use within the SE of the City. To improve the wider geographical representation of the City the Council has applied to the LTA for to install gated systems similar to those at Victoria Park, with improvements made to playing surfaces to ensure deliverability of tennis. The Victoria Park scheme is proving to be successful as a launch, annual figures from 2021 were 169 (T1, T2 & T3) and a similar membership model across the city is hoped to be an effective way to increase participation across the City. Improvement in access to school facilities is an ongoing objective, particularly through the LTA Youth programme and the LTA promote and engage schools in this process to further open up their facilities such as New College (T4). Other club development plans and facility improvements will be reliant on external funding sources and supported through LTA loan funding where required.*

These figures and actions will be factored into a future review of the PPS but broadly speaking the objectives remain largely relevant still and no significant change to the current objectives. Nevertheless, we do acknowledge that a refresh of the strategy by an external consultant would be beneficial. Timing of this review is key however to not undermine the Council's emerging Local Plan and a review of the PPS would likely take up to a period of 9 months and subsequently not align with the final drafting of the Local Plan.

Furthermore, there are a few sites that detrimentally impact on these objectives and through mitigations create opportunities to drive forward the achievement of these objectives. However, it is acknowledged that the loss of the open space allocation likely restricts available areas for informal sport and physical activity, creating greater strain on the remaining infrastructure. Mitigations and delivery of objectives in the PPS such as improvements to ball courts and tennis courts will help reduce the impact of this loss.

## Appendix 1 – 2017 PPS data

### Bowls membership

Sport	Club	Site used	# greens	PPS Men	2022 Men	Change +/-	PPS Women	2022 Women	Change +/-	PPS Total	2022 Total	Change +/-	% change
Bowls	Belgrave Bowling Club and Belgrave Ladies Bowling Club	Belgrave Bowling Club and Belgrave Ladies Bowling Club	2	0	38	38	0	9	9	78	47	-31	-40%
Bowls	Co-op Sports and Social	Co-op Sports and Social Club	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	83	-	-	-
Bowls	Evington Park BC	Evington Park	2	0	37	37	0	12	12	51	49	-2	-4%
Bowls	Goodwood BC	Goodwood BC	1	0	48	48	0	16	16	120	64	-56	-47%
Bowls	Humberstone Park Mixed BC	Humberstone Park	1	0	6	6	0	6	6	33	12	-21	-64%
Bowls	Old Humberstone Park Mixed BC	Monks Rest	1	22	14	-8	0	3	3	22	17	-5	-23%
Bowls	Royal British Legion BC	Monks Rest	1	20	0	-20	0	0	0	20	0	-20	-100%
Bowls	Rushey Mead BC	Rushey Fields	1	22	0	-22	0	0	0	22	0	-22	-100%
Bowls	Aylestone Hall BC Men	Aylestone Hall Gardens	1	0	19	19	0	0	0	49	19	-9	-18%
Bowls	Aylestone Hall BC Ladies	Aylestone Hall Gardens	1	0	0	0	0	21	21	0	21	0	%
Bowls	Brookfield Electric BC	Brookfield Electric BC	2	0	48	48	0	0	0	77	54	-23	-30%
Bowls	Knighton Victoria BC	Knighton Victoria BC	1	0	50	50	0	12	12	50	62	12	24%
Bowls	Leicester Banks BC	Leicester Banks BC	1	0	14	14	0	8	8	52	22	-30	-58%
Bowls	Leicester Bowling Club	Leicester Bowling Club	1	0	35	35	0	25	25	102	60	-42	-41%
Bowls	Spinney Hill BC	Spinney Hill BC	1	20	10	-10	0	0	0	20	16	-4	-20%
Bowls	Leicester Visually Impaired BC	Victoria Park	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	-36	-100%
Bowls	Abbey Park BC	Abbey Park BC	1	0	12	12	0	5	5	28	17	-11	-39%
Bowls	Mowmacre BC	Mowmacre BC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	-21	-100%
Bowls	Westcotes BC	Westcotes BC	1	0	54	54	0	7	7	52	61	9	17%
Bowls	Western Park Mixed BC	Western Park	1	21	26	5	20	6	-14	41	32	-9	-22%
Total				105	411	306	20	130	110	957	553	-321	-34%

## Tennis membership

Sport	Club	PPS Tennis members	2022 total members	Change +/-	%
Tennis	Midland Coop Sports Club	180	180	0	%
Tennis	Roundhill Tennis Club	240	212	-28	-12%
Tennis	Victoria Tennis Club	220	186	-34	-15%
Tennis	Westfields Tennis Club	110	57	-53	-48%
Tennis	Carisbrooke Tennis Club	258	368	110	43%
Tennis	Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club	520	595	75	14%

Highlighted yellow cells are estimates – 2022 team numbers unavailable at this time

## Cricket team numbers

Club	Men	2017 PPS	Change	Women's	2017 PPS	Change	Junior	2017 PPS	Change	Total 2022	Total PPS	Total
Electricity Sports	4	6	-2	1	0	1	6	4	2	11	10	1
Leicester Banks	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
Maher Stars	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Highfield Rangers	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Leicester Caribbean	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Bharat Sports	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	3	-3	4	6	-2
GNG	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Nabipur	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Leicester Iconz	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
YMA	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Mutual Cricket League	6	8	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	-2
Last Man Standing	0	12	-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	-12
Leo	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Bombay Utd	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-1
Leicester CSA	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	1	-1	0	2	-2
Crown Hills Junior Cricket Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	-4	0	4	-4
Soar Valley Strollers	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	5	-5	0	6	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-22</b>

## Football team numbers

### 2022 team numbers compared with 2017 team numbers

Sport	Group	2022	2022 % of Teams in City	2017 PPS	2017 PPS % of Teams in City	Change	% Change
Football	Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	140	40%	123	36%	17	4%
Football	Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	23	7%	8	2%	15	5%
Football	Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	56	16%	68	20%	-12	-4%
Football	Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	11	3%	4	1%	7	2%
Football	Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 yrs)	34	10%	49	15%	-15	-5%
Football	Football 9v9 Girls(10 and 11 yrs)	8	2%	4	1%	4	1%
Football	Football Mini	75	22%	78	23%	-3	-1%

## Rugby Union team numbers

Club	Mens Teams	2017 PPS	Change	Womens Teams	2017 PPS	Change	Boys 13-18	2017 PPS	Change
Aylestone Athletic RFC	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aylestonians RFC	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belgrave RFC	2	3	-1	0	0	0	0	3	-3
Leicester Tigers FC	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
De Montfort University	2	4	-2	1	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>2022 total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2017 total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>-6</b>				

## Hockey team numbers

Sport	Club	Site used	PPS Men	2022 Men	PPS Women	2022 Women	PPS Mixed	2022 Mixed	PPS Juniors	2022 Juniors
Hockey	Leicester Westleigh	English Martyrs	4	6	0	1	0	0	1	5
Hockey	Leicester Thursday Hockey Club	English Martyrs / Soar Valley	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Hockey	Half Century Hockey Club	Soar Valley	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hockey	Roundhill Hockey Club	Soar Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hockey	Gremlins Hockey Club	Soar Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hockey	Nomads Hockey Club	Soar Valley	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Hockey	Bosworth Ladies	St Margaret's Pastures	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hockey	Panthers	St Margaret's Pastures	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
Hockey	DMU	St Margaret's Pastures	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Hockey	Leicester City Hockey Club	St Margaret's Pastures	0	3	0	3	0	1	3	4