

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2011 – 2016

Draft
(UPDATE 2014)



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Introduction

Playing fields make a major contribution to urban life by providing space for competitive sport, informal physical activity, play, recreation and social interaction involving families, children and others. They provide a valuable resource for people of all ages, backgrounds and interests to enjoy and benefit from. The Playing Pitch Strategy has been written to safeguard this valuable provision whilst seeking to increase their quality and quantity where deficiencies exist. In working towards these improvements, this strategy aims to help all organisations including the Council, sports clubs and schools which operate playing fields. Blackpool Council commissioned an audit of its playing fields together with an assessment of demand. This will help us to quantify the investment needed to maintain and improve our existing facilities and assist in identifying both internal and external funding.

Background

Blackpool's Playing Pitch Strategy has been developed as part of the Local Development Framework, including the Blackpool Core Strategy, and reviewed in tandem with the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018 as well as the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Position Statement. The three documents provide a positive response to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF - 2012) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG - 2014) which requires Local Authorities to assess the need for such facilities and to produce action plans. The Playing Pitch Strategy is also expected to influence the development of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy. Work on the strategy is expected to commence in 2015 with the document setting out the strategic vision for the protection, management and enhancement of Blackpool's green spaces.

Links to future developments

The Council's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018 identifies a need for the provision and development of high quality and accessible facilities for sport and physical activity as well as an urban environment that supports every day active lifestyles. This Playing Pitch Strategy fulfils this with reference to the future of sports pitches and therefore forms part of this comprehensive strategy. This document has been produced in partnership with the Parks Service, Leisure Service and Planning Department as well as key groups including the Blackpool Sports Council, Sport and Physical Alliance (SPAR), Strategic Football Group and Bowling Development Group. Through joint working, priorities for green space investment will take into account the findings of the playing pitch audit and strategic action plan.

Scope

The production of this strategy was supported by Scott Wilson's Strategic Leisure Team, who were commissioned by Blackpool Council in 2010 - 2011 to undertake the necessary research, consultation and analysis underpinning the document. The strategy is focussed on the protection and enhancement of the provision and use of playing pitches and associated facilities within Blackpool. It is not intended to be overly prescriptive or prevent worthwhile initiatives (not included within) from taking place. It provides the framework through which change and improvement can be effectively managed. The strategy covers a number of key pitch sports and wider facility types that make up outdoor sports facility provision with Blackpool:

- **Football**
- **Cricket**
- **Rugby League**
- **Rugby Union**
- **Hockey**

Blackpool Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

In addition the strategy considers facility requirements for:

- **Bowling Greens**
- **Tennis Courts**

The range of facilities covered has been determined following consultation with the Blackpool Community Sports Council, Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Alliance as well as the key local partners and community representatives outlined below.

Key Partners and Consultation

Wide spread consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders in the production of this strategy including:

- **Blackpool Community Sports Council and sports clubs**
- **Blackpool's Sport and Physical Activity Alliance**
- **National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's)**
- **Lancashire Sport**
- **Sport England**
- **Blackpool CCG**
- **School Federations**
- **Neighbouring Fylde Coast Authorities**
- **Council departments (planning, parks, leisure)**

An appropriate mix of consultation methods including postal questionnaires, telephone interviews, face-to-face interviews and focus groups was used. We have gathered data from site visits and pitch audits, club, school and national governing body consultation, the city's sports partners, to ensure a detailed and robust evidence base.

Responsible Management

There are a number of authority teams and groups who will be fundamental in the implementation of key actions within the strategy including the aforementioned key partners and the Council's Leisure and Parks Services. The strategic action plan will outline the detail of specific leads for differing key areas.

Definition of a Playing Pitch

The 1996 Town and County Planning Order defines a playing pitch as "a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.4 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounder's, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo". The inclusion of bowling and tennis within this document, although not a necessary requirement by definition, enables us assess and consider the full range of the main outdoor sports in context.

Aims and Objectives

This document provides the strategic framework for the management of playing pitches. It confirms Blackpool Council's aim to conserve and enhance existing pitches, whilst continuing to provide and improve facilities and activities for the local sporting community, engaging them in the process. It contains evidence from comprehensive research and consultation, highlighting developments for stakeholder engagement and a prioritised programme for action. This plan was originally developed in 2011 and was fully reviewed and revised in 2014 to:

- Provide an evidence base for pitch planning, development and management
- Provide a clear framework for health, sport and physical activity developments
- Support the development of an action plan
- Support the annual budget-setting process
- Identify requirements for additional financial resources
- Keep customers, elected members and partners aware of priorities
- Put community needs at the heart of improvements
- Ensure consistency with the authorities new or emerging strategic priorities
- Provide a transparent form of progress monitoring

Strategic Context

This strategy is compiled within the framework of a wider suite of strategic documents existing for the Local Authority and the local community of Blackpool. In order to ensure appropriate synergy with these, all strategic documents have been researched and consultation undertaken as appropriate. A summary of the links between the Playing Pitch Strategy and key strategic documents is given below.

National Context

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how these should be applied. The requirements of the NPPF in relation to open space (replacing PPG17) are that:

- *"Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreation provision is required."*
- *"Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land 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 alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs of which clearly outweigh the loss" [Paragraph 74].*

This update has been prepared in line with the requirement for assessments of need for sport and recreation facilities to be robust and up-to-date.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

The following guidance on how open space should be taken into account in planning and assessing open space is provided on the Government's website (replacing the Companion Guide to PPG17):

- *"Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (see NPPF paragraphs 73-74). Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see NPPF paragraph 114), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see NPPF paragraphs 6-10). It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area".*

Planning for Sport - Forward Planning Guide (Sport England, 2014).

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. To achieve this their objectives are to seek to protect sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment; to enhance existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management and to provide new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future. The PPG points to Sport England for guidance on assessing the need for sport and recreation facilities (following the withdrawal of PPG17 and its Companion Guide in 2012). This is set out in the 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities' (Sport England, 2014). This guide has primarily been produced to help local authorities meet the requirements of the NPPF. Use of the guide will help to ensure the development of positively prepared policies and a sound Local Plan.

Department of Culture, Media and Sport: Creating a Sporting Habit for Life (2012 – 2017)

This strategy sets out the DCMS and Sport England's goal to seek a consistent increase in the proportion of people regularly playing sport. In particular, raising the proportion of 14-25 year olds who play sport and to establish a lasting network of links between schools and sports clubs in local communities to keep young people playing sport up to and beyond the age of 25. The strategy highlights that this will be achieved by:

- Building a lasting legacy of competitive sport in schools – the School Games provides a framework for competitive school sport at school, district, county and national levels – with lottery, public and private sector funding of over £150m secured until 2015. In addition, PE will remain a compulsory part of the National Curriculum.
- Improving links between schools and community sports clubs – working with sports such as Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Tennis to establish at least 6,000 partnerships between schools and local sports clubs by 2017 – making it easier for young people to continue playing sport once they leave education.
- Working with the sports governing bodies: focusing on youth – we will ask those sports governing bodies, where young people are the main participants, to spend around 60 per cent of their funding on activities that promote sport as a habit for life amongst young people. We will ensure that sports are completely focused on what they have to achieve, with payment by results – including the withdrawal of funding from governing bodies that fail to deliver agreed objectives. The system will be wholly transparent.
- Investing in facilities – a further £160m will be spent on new and upgraded sports facilities, on top of the £90m already invested via Sport England's *Places, People, Play* programme. This will include funding for the first time to allow schools to open up their sports facilities (three-quarters of all sports halls and a third of all swimming pools) to the public.
- Communities and the voluntary sector – working with local authorities, voluntary groups and others to make the broadest possible sporting offer to young people. Between now and 2017, over £50m will be made available in funds which will be open to well-run sports clubs (whether or not they are connected to an NGB), voluntary groups and others to provide an exciting and appealing sporting experience.

Government's Game Plan Strategy 2002

Game Plan: A Strategy for delivering Governments Sport and Physical Activity Objectives, sets the Governments vision and strategy for sport from both a mass participation and performance perspective up until 2020. The overall aim was:

- *"To increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups, and to achieve continued levels of success in international competition."*
- Some of the overarching priorities of Game Plan were: begin raising mass participation for young people and adults, especially women and the elderly; improve the delivery of sport and physical activity by central government; reduce bureaucracy and increase funding direct to the sports user, Sport England and UK Sport; improve the delivery of sport and physical activity by non-governmental bodies; and improve the delivery of sport and physical activity by local government and the NHS.

Local Context

Blackpool Local Plan 2001/16 (Adopted June 2006)

The Blackpool Local Plan (2001-2016) sets out policies for the town's physical regeneration; balances future development needs against the protection of the countryside and open space; and reflects the need to make the best use of land in Blackpool given its tightly drawn boundary and shortage of developable land. New housing and employment development is entirely focused on the existing urban area. The main focus for promoting and managing change, including open space, sports and recreation, is similarly on the urban area, with opportunities for new provision more limited. The plan identifies four main components for promoting and managing change in Blackpool: Town centre and resort regeneration - creating a development framework and conditions for physical changes to the town centre and main resort areas to provide compelling reason to come into the heart of Blackpool as a resident, business investor or visitor; Neighbourhood development - promoting change and development where it is most needed, and managing change to achieve more balanced and healthy communities. The Council will work with local communities to develop neighbourhood plans for priority neighbourhoods. Resort management - ensuring the most is gained from resources, land, buildings and facilities that contribute positively to Blackpool; Quality - promoting or managing change to raise all aspects of environmental quality for residents, visitors and businesses. In terms of open space, sport and recreation the Local Plan aim and objective is to: "Shape the future physical development of neighbourhoods in a way that encourages more balanced and healthy local communities and promotes social inclusion".

Since 1999, there have been limited changes in the availability of open space due to the established pattern of provision and the compact and urban nature of Blackpool. Of paramount importance has been the protection and safeguarding of existing open space, sport and recreation facilities to ensure that the borough retains an adequate provision. It has also been a priority to improve open space provision and access to sports and recreation facilities in the inner area neighbourhoods to address current deficiencies (whilst recognising the challenges in doing so). The current Local Plan aims to ensure that all neighbourhoods have access to at least one significant area of green space that is attractive, safe and useable. It emphasises the importance of recreation and open space, particularly in Blackpool, where the historical pattern of development has left minimal open green spaces in the inner areas. To achieve this, policies focus on protecting, and where possible, enhancing existing open space and facilities and developing new areas, to improve the quality and quantity of open space and recreational facilities throughout the borough and increase their accessibility to local residents. Complementing these policies is a framework to regenerate the inner area neighbourhoods.

Emerging new Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012 - 2027

The Core Strategy identifies the benefits of green infrastructure in terms of supporting regeneration, adding to the attractiveness of the town as a place to invest, and making a vital contribution to the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, particularly in the inner area neighbourhoods. It provides the framework for continued safeguarding of existing open spaces and recreation, whilst encouraging new spaces and facilities and the enhancement of existing provision where possible. Increasing the amount and improving the quality of open space, whilst actively supporting green infrastructure planning, will enhance the network of open spaces across the borough. The Core Strategy Vision is for Blackpool's natural environment to consist of an accessible network of quality green open spaces, coast and countryside, which have been protected and enhanced for people to enjoy and to sustain a rich biodiversity. Blackpool also has sustainable communities with fair access to open space, sport and recreation. A number of strategic objectives support this aspect of the Vision: - create well-designed places for people to enjoy with high quality buildings, streets and spaces, whilst conserving and enhancing Blackpool's rich heritage and natural environment.

Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013 – 2018

The document identifies key themes and priorities for sport and physical activity in Blackpool which reflects Blackpool's demographics and population need. Key outcomes are increased levels of physical activity, better and more accessible facilities for all people taking part in sport and a healthier Blackpool. The strategy includes priorities to maximise the use of outdoor space and influence urban planning and developments to support an increase in physical activity. This updates the Blackpool Sport, Nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy 2008 – 2012 (2008).

Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Position Statement 2014

The Council has updated the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Audit and Position Statement as part of their assessment of open space, outdoor sport and recreation. Central Government planning guidance requires all local authorities to undertake an assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, outdoor sport and recreational provision in order to develop clear and transparent planning policies that are based on a sound and robust evidence base. The evidence base should be used to guide future provision requirements especially in relation to new development, population and investment. It is a means by which planning policy can ensure the Council are providing good quality parks and open spaces, play facilities, sports provision and recreational opportunities of the right type in the right place to meet local need.

Blackpool Demographics

It is important to analyse the demographics of Blackpool in line with analysis of current and future pitch supply and demand as well as understand the issues relating the public health and how pitch supply links with this. Blackpool is a well known Lancashire coastal resort. In geographic terms it is by far the smallest Lancashire authority covering just 35 square kilometers, has 21 wards; the number of people per km sq is more than ten times the England and Wales average. From an historic point of view there have been dramatic changes and the pace of future change is liable to increase. The population of the authority reveals little overall change over recent years and is estimated to be 141,976 (Source: ONS Mid-year Ward Population Estimates 2012).

As would be expected in a coastal authority, there is a bias towards a higher percentage of people of retirement age. It is estimated that between 2012 and 2037 the population of Blackpool will increase by just 1.1%, well below the 5.0% increase for the Lancashire 14-authority area as a whole. The 2010 Indices of National Deprivation revealed a number of areas in the authority with very high levels of deprivation. Of the 32,482 lower-layer super output areas (LSOAs) in England, three Blackpool LSOAs appeared in the bottom 10 most deprived. These are one of the five LSOAs in Bloomfield ward (3rd worst in England); one of the five LSOAs in Park ward (5th worst in England) and one of the five LSOAs in Brunswick ward (8th worst in England). In addition, a total of thirteen LSOAs in the authority were in the lowest hundred. Blackpool was ranked as the 10th worst area out of 326 districts and unitary authorities in England. This was the worst ranking of all the 14-authorities in the broader Lancashire area.

The Blackpool Health Profile, published by the Association of Public Health Authorities, reveals that the health of people in the area is generally worse than the England average. The Lancashire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provides a large amount of intelligence to inform priority setting and commissioning for health and wellbeing within Lancashire. The health of people in Blackpool is generally worse than the England average. Deprivation is higher than average and about 31.3% (8,300) children live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. Life expectancy is 10.3 years lower for men and 6.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Blackpool than in the least deprived areas.

In regards to child health, 18% (244) of children are classified as obese. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital stays among those under 18 was 97.6*, worse than the average for England. This represents 28 stays per year. Levels of teenage pregnancy, GCSE attainment, breastfeeding and smoking at time of delivery are worse than the England average.

In regards to adult health, 29.5% of adults are classified as obese (2012), worse than the average for England. The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays was 1,121*, worse than the average for England. This represents 1,570 stays per year. The rate of self-harm hospital stays was 596.0*, worse than the average for England. This represents 834 stays per year. The rate of smoking related deaths was 468*, worse than the average for England. This represents 403 deaths per year. Estimated levels of adult excess weight, smoking and physical activity are worse than the England average. The rate of sexually transmitted infections is worse than average.

Blackpool Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Neighbourhood Areas

For the purpose of providing detailed analysis of the supply and demand for grass pitches in accordance with guidance from governing bodies such as Sport England and the Towards a Level Playing Field methodology. The analysis of pitch provision has been undertaken at a town level and more locally in terms of the North, Central and Southern neighbourhoods. Put simply, this means focussing on a number of smaller defined geographic areas to highlight particular hotspots of under or over supply. The wards and population associated with each neighbourhood are outlined below and will be used in the demand modelling.

Figure: 1 Neighbourhood Areas

Neighbourhood Area	Ward	Population	% total
North Area	Anchorsholme	6264	
	Norbreck	6063	
	Ingthorpe	6823	
	Bispham	6366	
	Greenlands	6898	
	Warbreck	6631	
Total		39,045	27.5
Central Area	Claremont	7606	
	Park	7378	
	Layton	6809	
	Brunswick	7078	
	Talbot	6603	
	Bloomfield	6862	
	Marton	6851	
	Tyldesley	6658	
Total		55,845	39.3
South	Victoria	6841	
	Hawes side	7214	
	Clifton	6969	
	Waterloo	6644	
	Squires Gate	6372	
	Stanley	6520	
	Highfield	6526	
Total		47086	33.2
Total Population		141,976	

Source: ONS Mid-year Ward Population Estimates 2012

Subdividing the borough by ward into the neighbourhood areas shows that 40% of the total population live within the central area 33% live in the south and 27% live in the north. The table supports the fact that the densest population is to be found in the central area town area of the borough

Sports Participation in Blackpool – The Active People Survey

A study of data provided by the Active People Survey provides additional context and the town's current performance in relation to participation Key Performance Indicators. The survey also allows the comparison of data on a sport by sport basis with sub-regional and national figures. The results are shown below with the results from Blackpool (source Active People Survey 7) shown for comparison with those for Lancashire and the National averages.

Blackpool Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Adult (14+) Participation in Sport (at least once a week[^])

Geography	Participation rate
Blackpool	30.1%
North West	36.9%
England	36.7%

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2012/13 (APS7)

Measure: Adult participation, aged 14+

[^] 1 session a week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days)

Adult (16+) Participation in Sport (at least once a week[^]), by year

Year	Blackpool	North West	England
2005/06	30.7%	33.7%	34.2%
2007/08	29.6%	35.7%	35.8%
2008/09	27.5%	36.0%	35.7%
2009/10	30.0%	35.7%	35.3%
2010/11	34.2%	35.2%	34.8%
2011/12	32.4%	36.1%	36.0%
2012/13	29.1%	35.8%	35.7%

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), to 2012/13 (APS7)

Measure: Adult participation, aged 16+

[^] 1 session a week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days)

Number of adults (16+) wanting to do more sport

	Blackpool		North West		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
All adults	58.0	52.1%	3,099.9	55.3%	24,447.1	57.5%
Active adults	9.4	29.0%	700.8	35.0%	5,525.0	36.4%
Inactive adults	18.2	23.0%	732.3	20.3%	5,747.1	21.0%

Source: Active People Survey 7, 2012/13

Measure: Proportion and number of adults (16+) wanting to do more sport

Blackpool Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Number of facilities by type

Facilities	Blackpool	North West	
		Number	Proportion of Region
Athletics Tracks	1	45	2.2%
Golf	6	4,704	0.1%
Grass Pitches	59	4,704	1.3%
Health & Fitness Suite	22	954	2.3%
Ice Rinks	2	6	33.3%
Indoor Bowls	0	9	0.0%
Indoor Tennis Centre	1	33	3.0%
Ski Slopes	0	21	0.0%
Sports Hall	26	1,345	1.9%
Squash Courts	5	248	2.0%
Swimming Pool	13	585	2.0%
Artificial Grass Pitch	7	543	2.2%
Tennis courts	7	384	1.3%
Total	172	9,989	1.7%

Source: Active Places Power, Year: Jan 2014
Measure: Number of sporting facilities

Ownership types of sporting facilities by local authority area

Facilities	Count	Ownership Type				Not known
		Commercial	Education	Local Authority	Others	
Athletics Tracks	1	0	0	1	0	0
Golf	6	5	0	1	0	0
Grass Pitches	59	0	29	27	3	0
Health & Fitness Suite	22	11	7	3	1	0
Ice Rinks	2	2	0	0	0	0
Indoor Bowls	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indoor Tennis Centre	1	0	0	0	1	0
Ski Slopes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sports Hall	26	0	18	7	1	0
Squash Courts	5	2	0	1	2	0
Swimming Pool	13	8	2	3	0	0
Artificial Grass Pitch	7	0	5	2	0	0
Tennis courts	7	1	0	4	2	0
Total	172	40	70	52	10	0
North West	9,989	1,526	4,332	2,636	1,495	0

England	80,307	12,134	34,716	21,304	12,153	0
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Figure 2 - Sports Participation Rates as measured by the Active People Survey 7

Participation Indicators	Blackpool	Lancashire	National
Percentage of adult population participating in Football at least once in the last 4 weeks	5.47%	8.81%	7.44%
Percentage of adult population participating in Cricket at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.10%	1.24%	1.02%
Percentage of adult population participating in Rugby Union at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.38%	0.77%	0.74%
Percentage of adult population participating in Rugby League at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.70%	0.21%	0.25%
Percentage of adult population participating in Hockey at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.20%	0.57%	0.37%
Percentage of adult population participating in Tennis at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.57%	1.77%	2.37%
Percentage of adult population participating in Bowls at least once in the last 4 weeks	0.69%	0.95%	1.01%

The table shows that in terms of participation in the main pitch sports, participation rates are slightly lower in Blackpool for all the sports listed than those recorded nationally with the exception of Rugby League. Around 5.47% of the adult population participate in football compared with 7.44% nationally. Cricket participation is significantly lower than the national average. Cricket has by far the lowest participation rate of any of the sports. Of those involved in the AP3 survey in Blackpool very few people, 0.38%, participated in rugby union. Hockey participation was 0.17% less than the national average. Participation in tennis is significantly lower in Blackpool than it is nationally. Bowls participation is also markedly lower than the national average.

In all cases, these results could suggest that there is 'latent' (suppressed or unmet) demand, or the potential to increase participation across these sports, specifically in tennis. The Active People data for Bowls and Tennis has been used in the supply and demand modelling for these two sports.

Auditing Local Provision

A comprehensive audit was carried out to identify all relevant pitches and ancillary facilities across the town, using the methodology set out in Sport England's *"Towards a level playing field: A Guide to the production of Playing Pitch Strategies"* published by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) in 2002. This included undertaking a review of all recreational sites with Council officers from the planning and the parks services, to ensure that there was consistency of site classification based on primary usage. All sites that included a formal sports pitch or outdoor court were included.

In addition to the supply data gathered we have calculated the current and future demand for each type of pitch. The Sport England Playing Pitch Module (PPM) was used to assess the relationship between supply and demand for pitches and to identify areas of under or over provision. Population projections were also applied to the PPM which created figures for future pitch demand. This too was compared to the supply of pitches and identified sports which are likely to have an undersupply of pitches.

The methodology has been used to assess the adequacy of provision for:

- **Football**
- **Hockey**
- **Cricket**
- **Bowls**
- **Rugby Union**
- **Rugby League**
- **Tennis**

An overview has also been provided of Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) which provide training facilities (and match facilities for Hockey) for several of the sports assessed.

Assessment of Supply

The current supply of pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens was established utilising the following methodology:

- **Review of information held by Blackpool Council, including former playing pitch strategies**
- **Review of information published on Active Places, Active People websites**
- **Completion of quality audits using the Sport England Non-Technical Visual Assessment proforma**
- **Consultation with key stakeholders (Governing Bodies of Sport, Council Officers, Steering Groups)**
- **Electronic web based survey of all schools within the Council boundary, followed up with telephone consultation to attempt to boost response rates**
- **Electronic web based survey to all identified sports clubs as agreed with Blackpool Council. The Councils leisure team undertook consultation with all known clubs via telephone calling and completion of the online survey**

Assessment of Demand

In establishing the current demand for pitches we completed a series of research consultation exercises, specifically:

- **An initial sports club questionnaire sent to all identified clubs within the authority area**
- **Additional telephone consultation with key sports clubs (focusing on non-respondents)**
- **A review of booking information from pitch sites within the borough where applicable**
- **Analysis of local league data**
- **Consultation with governing bodies of sport via a mixture of face to face meetings, telephone calls and email**

Data Collection Issues

Establishing precisely how many pitches and teams there are within the study area was difficult for a number of reasons. The number of pitches at a given site can fluctuate over short periods of time for reasons relating to management and pitch husbandry i.e. not all pitches may be marked out on a site due to pitch rotation or the need to rest a pitch after extensive renovation. Team numbers also change from season to season especially amongst single teams such as local pub teams. The assessment of playing pitch supply and demand within the study should therefore be considered a "snapshot" in time. There is a need to ensure that the data used within the assessment is updated at appropriate intervals to ensure the ongoing validity of the recommendations made. The response rate from teams has been extremely time consuming to collate.

Data Analysis and Sub Analysis Structure

Defining Community Use

A key component of the analysis was an examination of the extent to which pitches identified were in secured public use. This was undertaken in the context of the Sport England definition of community use, and broadly embraces:

- **All Blackpool Council pitches**
- **Educational facilities subject to formal dual use, community use agreements or similar formal hire arrangements with local teams**
- **Institutional facilities which are available to the public as a result of formal dual / community use agreements**
- **Any facilities owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals, which as a matter of policy or practice are available by large sections of the public through club membership or admission fees**
- **Formal playing pitches that are marked out and in use for the relevant pitch sports**

The evidence base: survey response rates

Final response rates for the surveys administered were:

- **Football Clubs** -65% of clubs
- **Cricket Clubs** - 100% of affiliated clubs
- **Rugby Union** -100% of clubs
- **Hockey** - 100% of clubs
- **Rugby League** - 50% response rate

Quantifying Non-Club Demand for Major Sports

Although the assessment is focused on community sport, with identified teams playing regular league/competitive fixtures as the 'demand unit', the PPM prompts the need to consider other demands placed on sports pitches. **School sport and team equivalents** generated by PE use of facilities has been partially quantified and factored into the modelling accordingly. Although the focus of the assessment and resulting strategy is community sport, consideration has been given to the demand generated by school sport and the use of available supply. In Blackpool, the impact of school use of facilities is modest. As reported later, a relatively low percentage of school facilities are available and used by the local community. Accounting for and factoring in school use of pitches has been quantified slightly differently across the four major sports identified, depending on the availability and quality of information available.

Projecting Future Demand

Local population rise is predicted to be minimal and as such impact on future provision is fairly static. The team generation rates established for each area have been used to identify growth that is likely to occur as a result of predicted population increases. This is based on current demand profiles and the current percentage of residents that fall within the 'active population' (i.e. of sport playing ages). Target growth rates for each of the sports have been set at a minimum of 5% based on the Council's current sports development predictions. These have been applied to future modelling to provide an indication of growth resulting from development work and specific programmes to increase participation in key sports. The rates used are:

- **Football:** based on a blanket 5% growth rate over the next 5 years – although discussion with the FA could not identify a predicted growth rate due to the proposed changes in the way football is developed in the coming years. The FA are keen to promote new versions of the traditional 11 a side game with new fresher 9v 9 junior leagues and the potential for 5 v 5's and a number of other combinations to regenerate football at the local level and to actively engage people especially younger people and children in the sport..
- **Cricket:** a 1% year on year growth in the number of participants, or 5% overall
- **Rugby Union:** a 1% growth year on year in adult players up to 2015, equating to an average of 1 additional adult team per club (target in line with the RFU Strategic Plan) – this has roughly been assumed to equate to 10% growth over the next 10 years
- **Hockey:** Growth as projected by the individual clubs consulted – no specific national or regional target has been set.

Pitch Quality

Natural Turf Pitches

The quality of natural turf pitches has been assessed using a non-technical visual assessment proforma. This is part of the *Towards a Level Playing Field* toolkit and is included within the technical report appendices. The quality proforma collects a range of information about pitches based on a visual inspection. Specific criteria rated includes:

- **Grass cover**
- **Length of grass**
- **Size of pitch (and suitability)**
- **Slope**
- **Evenness**
- **Presence of common pitch problems**
- **Availability of changing rooms**

Each pitch is scored out of a possible 100% and graded on a quality scale from 'Poor' through to 'Excellent'. A proforma is also used to provide a quality rating for the ancillary facilities serving the site and rates the quality of the changing accommodation, parking and access.

Greens, Courts and AGPs

The quality of tennis courts, Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), Bowling Greens have been assessed on the same principles using Strategic Leisure's in-house assessment proforma. As with pitches this works on the basis of a scored assessment (out of 100%).

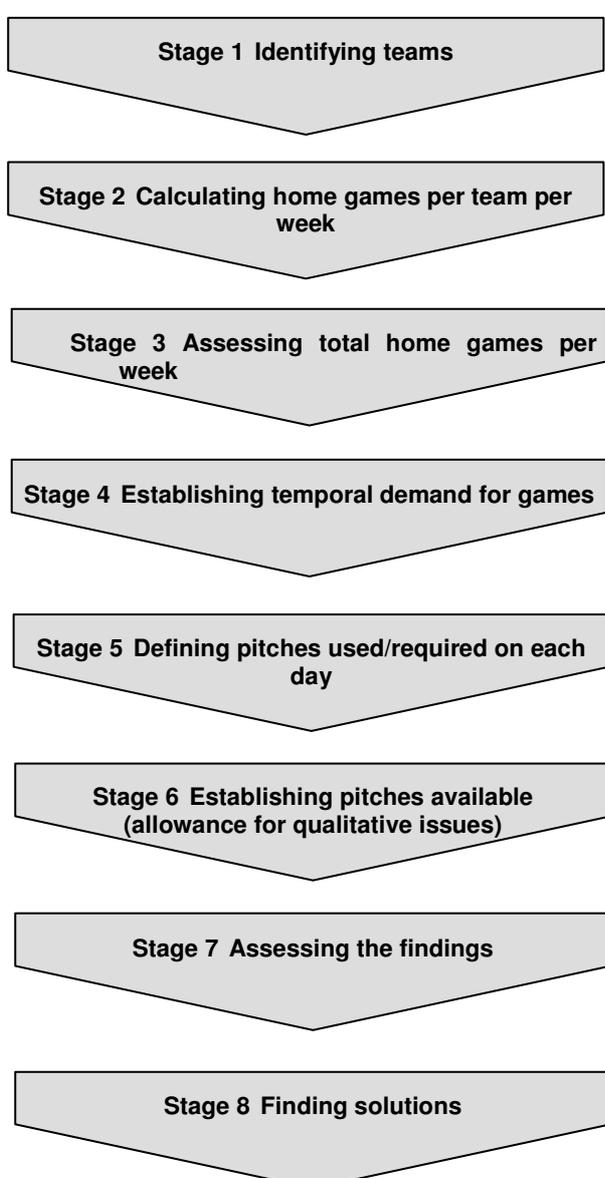
In making recommendations and interpreting assessment results, pitch quality scores have been considered alongside sports club ratings of the facilities they use. A summary of the scores for all pitches identified is included in the report appendices.

Eight Stage Playing Pitch Model

The methodology comprises an eight-stage approach, as summarised overleaf. Stages 1 to 6 are where the data is calculated numerically to assess the adequacy of current provision in terms of supply and demand and to make considerations for the future. This involves a number of specific research tasks to build a comprehensive audit. A series of toolkits are used to analyse the data collected with the resulting assessment figures interpreted in consideration to the local context and results of stakeholder consultation. The toolkits, data modelling and audit data is included within the appendices to this report.

Figure 3- The eight stage playing pitch model (PPM)

Flow-chart to illustrate the key stages:



Demand is established through a count of the number of teams for each sport using a variety of information sources, including pitch booking records, league handbooks, and a club survey. Latent demand and the impact of future population projections are also considered.

In a 'normal' situation for all sports, the number of home games is calculated as 0.5 of the total number of teams, representing weekly 'home' and 'away' fixtures.

This is the product of Stages 1 and 2, and is therefore not independent. The resultant figure indicates how many games have to be accommodated in the study area in the average week.

This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. This Stage will determine what percentage of all games are played on a Saturday for example.

This is the product of Stages 3 and 4, and is not therefore independent. The resultant figure will indicate the pitches used/required on each day and time e.g. Saturday p.m.

An accurate assessment of supply is produced which distinguishes between pitches for each sport and between ownership (public, private, voluntary and educational sites). In modelling the existing situation, only pitches currently available for the appropriate days/times will be relevant.

The requirements to accommodate demand assessed at Stage 5 are then compared with the facilities as available at Stage 6. If the existing situation has been accurately modelled there should be either a good numerical fit between requirements and facilities available, or even 'surplus' provision on some days.

A range of policy options can be developed, such as new provision or pitch improvements, to help the problems identified at Stage 7. The method can then be used to further assess the impact of policy options, and contribute to the selection of the most cost-effective solution.

Pitch Supply

The following Blackpool provision has been identified through the audit and consultation. **(Map 1)**

- **80 football pitches (42 senior, 17 junior and 21 mini pitches)**
- **7 cricket wickets**
- **8 rugby pitches (6 rugby league and 2 rugby union)**
- **4 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's)**
- **75 tennis courts (51 publicly accessible)**
- **32 bowling greens**

It is important to note that these are the facilities that are in use and several pitches, greens and courts are no longer maintained as such but could be brought back into use if the demand every required. Also important is the need to realise that provision on many of the open spaces and parks provided across the borough could also accommodate further provision if there was ever the need and obviously subject to appropriate drainage being installed.

The audit has identified that not all of the above are available to the community for use by local teams or individuals and as such the analysis has only considered those sites with pitches and facilities that are currently available for use by members of the community as an individual, as part of a team or part of a club.

Several council facilities are now leased on a long term basis to local clubs and as such are available to the community if they join the associated club. Clubs such as AFC Blackpool and South Shore Cricket Club on Common Edge Road and Collins Park also on Common Edge Road is leased to Blackpool and Fylde Sunday Alliance as a venue for football. These are included in the analysis in accordance with the Sport England guidance, owing to the fact that members of the public have the opportunity to join these clubs.

Several schools also do not allow the general public, clubs or teams other than those affiliated with the school, use of their facilities and again these are not included in the supply or demand modelling.

The audit has identified that the following facilities are available to the community:

- **59 football pitches** (36 senior, 12 junior, 11 mini) (Map 2)
- **6 cricket wickets** (Map 3)
- **6 rugby pitches** (4 rugby league and 2 rugby union) (Map4)
- **4 AGPs** (Map 5)
- **51 tennis courts** (Map 6)
- **25 bowling greens** (Map 7)

Blackpool Council Playing Pitch Strategy

The table below shows the range of community use, against total supply

Figure 4: Blackpool Outdoor Pitch and Court Supply

Sport	Pitch Type	Total Provision	Community Use	% of Total
Football	Senior	42	36	86%
	Junior	17	12	71%
	Mini	21	11	52%
Rugby	League	6	4	67%
	Union	2	2	100%
Cricket		7	6	86%
AGP/Hockey		4	4	100%
Grass Pitches and AGP'S		98	74	70%
Tennis		75	51	68%
Bowls		32	25	78%
Sub Total		107	76	71%
Total		205	150	70%

The table shows that 70% of all grass pitches provided within the borough are available for the community to use either on an informal ad-hoc basis or as a member of a team, club or league. The 4 AGPs are accessible for community use (Although the pitch at Beacon Hill is not full size and provides opportunity only for hockey training) and the key issue is the limited full size sand based provision available for hockey use. This is an issue for hockey development as the sand based AGPs that are available are also booked by non hockey playing teams for training e.g. for football training and practice games thereby reducing the available slots in which hockey can be played or the hockey teams can train.

There is a 71% rate of community access to courts and greens i.e. most of the available supply is already in community use. This is reflective of most of the Bowls provision being via the Council or private clubs. In some cases, the greens categorised as Blackpool Council provision may be operated under a management arrangement with a local club. Community use is limited in relation to most school tennis courts. In a number of cases, these facilities are not of an adequate standard to support community use. Overall 70% outdoor sports pitches, courts and greens are accessible for community use. In total, more than 91 sites have been audited. These include sites previously used for pitch provision.

Ownership, Management and Community Access

Playing pitch supply is delivered through a number of providers and only formally marked out pitches are included in the assessment. These include:

- **Blackpool Council** – This includes pitches on recreation grounds, general open space and formal parks.
- **Schools** – Individual schools provide pitches for School Sport and PE and in a number of cases make their facilities available for the local community. The local management of schools has meant that some schools make their facilities available to the local community and others do not. This can result in significant playing pitch resources within local communities not being available for the local community to use and in some cases present access issues with schools determining their own levels of fees and charges.
- **Private/ Voluntary Sports Clubs** - These providers include Private Sports Clubs that own their own facilities or have a long term lease of facilities for their own exclusive use.

Blackpool Council Playing Pitch Strategy

The table below includes the private clubs and clubs that have leased pitches from the Council as local people have the choice to apply to be a member. The Council currently provide 74% of all playing pitches in Blackpool, 13% provided through education (note these are only the pitches with identified community use, a number of schools do not allow use of their facilities by the local community). 13% of pitches are provided through private clubs, (in some instances these are pitches leased from the council). Map 8 illustrates all sites by ownership.

Figure 5: All Playing Pitches in Blackpool with Community Use

Playing Pitch Type	Ownership			
	Blackpool Council	Education	Private	TOTAL
Senior Football Pitch	32	1	3	36
Junior Football Pitch	8	4	0	12
Mini Soccer Pitch	5	6	0	11
Sub-Total Football	45	11	3	59
Cricket Pitch	5	1	0	6
Rugby Pitch	4	2	0	6
Full-Size Artificial Grass Pitch	2	1	0	3
Sub total other Pitches	11	4	0	15
Bowling Green	22	0	3	25
Tennis Court	38	2	11	51
Sub total courts and greens	60	2	14	76
Total	116	17	17	150

Blackpool Council Pitches – Management, Maintenance and Access

In terms of pitches that are available and accessible by the community, Blackpool Council is the main provider, both directly via Leisure Services, and via Education sites. The management of public pitches varies across the borough, with some facilities leased to clubs, some managed by the Council on behalf of other landowners (specifically CISWO¹).

On-site school pitches are managed directly, with decisions made about community use made by the individual schools. Levels of community use are low with currently only 1 in 4 schools provided secured access. Across the stock of town pitches, there are a variety of maintenance providers. In many cases schools arrange their own management arrangements, which sometimes includes an SLA with the Council's Parks Service.

Grounds maintenance often emerges as a key issue in any pitch assessment. Many clubs using public facilities in particular hold negative views about the facilities they use. However, not all their views are attributable to grounds maintenance specifications or quality of service. In many cases, because public pitches are often located within publicly accessible open space, there is a 'quality ceiling' i.e. they are open to unofficial sporting use and other recreational use. Although not always evident from site visits, there were some notable examples of sites which attract significant 'other' use.

The responsibility for maintenance of pitches has been split between the Council and in some instances the hirer. In some instances the clubs have entered long-term leasing of pitches and have therefore assumed the responsibility for the maintenance of their assigned pitch. On general public use pitches, the Council cuts the

¹ Coal Industry Welfare Organisation

grass and undertakes essential off season maintenance. It also marks the pitches whilst the responsibility for providing goal nests etc to the satisfaction of local leagues rests with the hirer.

Clubs that have exclusive leasing of pitches and that have subsequently fenced off their pitches are responsible for the maintenance as part of the lease arrangement. The research completed did not identify any significant issues with these arrangements; most clubs appear to work to these without any problem.

Demand for playing pitches in Blackpool - Community Clubs and Teams

The demand for grass and artificial pitches has been calculated using the Sport England approved methodology. The demand for bowls and tennis is not covered through the Sport England methodology and as such bowls and tennis are kept separate from any further calculations.

The demand for grass and artificial pitches for football, cricket, rugby (league and union) and hockey has generated the following clubs and teams

- **Football** – the audit and assessment has identified **159 teams (56 senior teams** including 4 women's teams, **50 junior teams** including 3 girls teams and **53 mini soccer teams** (27 team equivalents)
- **Cricket** – the audit and assessment has identified **21 cricket teams (10 senior and 11 junior teams** including 3 girls teams)
- **Rugby League** the audit and assessment has identified **7 teams (3 senior and 4 junior teams)**
- **Rugby Union the audit and assessment has identified 7 team equivalents** in accordance with the RFU guidance to undertaking the PPM for Rugby Union(The RFU outline a number of scenarios that are considered later)
- **Hockey** the audit and assessment has identified **8 teams(6 senior teams** including 3 women's teams and **2 junior teams)**

The demand for bowls and tennis has generated the following clubs and teams

- **Bowls 29 clubs generating 168 teams**
- **Tennis 2 clubs** (Unfortunately South Shore Lawn Tennis Club failed to respond to the consultation)

It has been necessary to aggregate data for some of the sub sectors within certain sports as both junior and senior teams make use of the same pitch, such as with cricket and hockey where junior and senior teams play on full sized pitches. The RFU have given specific scenarios that need to be considered when undertaking the analysis for Rugby Union. These are explained later.

Team Generation Rates

Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are a useful indicator of levels of demand (in terms of both population and geography) to identify variances in demand levels. The following table provides an overview of the TGRs for the five major sports across the town. The implications of these are covered in more detail in the sport specific assessments and commentary on each area within the technical report

Figure 6 - Team Generation Rates

Sport / team type		Team Generation Rates (major sports) – Borough Wide
		Blackpool Overall
Football	Mini Soccer	1:109
	Youth Football – Boys	1:108
	Youth Football – Girls	1:1650
	Adult Football – Men	1:506
	Adult Football- Women	1:6484
	Football overall	1:587
Cricket	Junior Cricket – Boys	1:678
	Junior Cricket – Girls	1:3021
	Adult Cricket – Men	1:3412
	Adult Cricket - Women	N/A
	Cricket overall	1:3803
Rugby Union	Mini Rugby Union	1:7888
	Junior Rugby – Boys	1:1110
	Junior Rugby – Girls	N/A
	Adult Rugby – Men	1:12220
	Adult Rugby – Women	NA
	Rugby Union overall	1:9136
Rugby League	Junior Rugby – Boys	1:1480
	Junior Rugby – Girls	1:4388
	Adult Rugby – Men	1:8146
	Adult Rugby – Women	N/A
	Rugby League Overall	1:8191
Hockey	Junior Hockey – Boys	1:2144
	Junior Hockey – Girls	N/A
	Adult Hockey – Men	1:8722
	Adult Hockey – Women	1:8645
	Hockey overall	1:7859

Figures show the number of residents (of the sport playing age) required to generate one team. For example across the Borough it takes 109 6-9 year olds to generate one mini soccer team – this compares to 1 team for every 53 residents aged 6-9.

Comparison with National Average TGRs

Comparisons to TGRs nationally (i.e. to demonstrate whether demand in the borough is generally higher or lower than other areas) is limited. The national database of TGRs is out of date and includes few studies completed within the last 3-4 years. It is also limited in relation to sports other than football (in relation to the number of studies included). A brief review focussing on football and cricket TGRs has been completed. Key observations are highlighted below.

- **Football**

- For mini soccer the national average is the generation of 4.56 teams per 1,000 population. In Blackpool the team generation is much higher, being 9.8 teams per 1,000 population,
- The town wide rate of team generation for junior (youth) boys football is 9.3 (teams per 1,000 population) compared to a national average of 11.
- For adult male football, figures from the national database indicate that on average 2.8 teams per 1,000 population are generated. This rate for Blackpool is similar at around 2.0.
- With regard to girls and Women's football, team generation is very similar to the national averages. For girls football 0.6 teams are generated locally compared to 0.81 nationally. For adults it is higher 0.2 teams compared to 0.08 nationally.

- **Cricket**

- Team Generation across junior cricket for junior boys and girls in Blackpool is low (at 1.5 teams per 1,000 for boys and 0.3 per 1000 for girls) compared to national figures (3.6 junior boys teams per 1,000). Adult rates in Blackpool are also way below the national average. 0.1 team per 1,000 is generated in the Borough compared with almost 2 teams per 1000 in nationally.

Consideration to TGR figures does also suggest there is some correlation between levels of supply and demand. Areas with a generally lower supply of pitches also have relatively low levels of demand and vice versa. This potentially indicates that a lack of facilities locally could stifle participation and cause latent demand in these areas.

Changes since the previous Playing Pitch Strategy

Changes to the overall levels of supply and demand since the previous strategy can provide a key indication of overall trends or growth and retraction. Where there has been little growth in sports, this can indicate that optimal levels of demand have been met or there is little potential for further growth, particularly where sports development programmes have been in place. The following changes between the strategy developed in 2003 and current strategy are:

- **Football**

- **Demand:** A slight increase in the overall number of football teams - currently 106 adult and junior football teams compared to 101 previously. This overall growth does not include the 53 mini football teams that also play in the borough. The number of adult teams has fallen by 10 teams since the 2003 study, whilst junior teams have increased by 15 teams. Overall therefore football has seen a net gain of 5 junior teams since 2003.
- **Supply:** An increase in the number of pitches in secured community use overall. There has been an increase in pitch provision of 2 adult and 1 junior pitches. Possibly as a reflection of older junior teams playing on pitches that within the pitch dimensions of adult pitches. It is important to note that mini teams in the borough either play in a mini league or play friendlies and both operate on a home and away basis.

Blackpool Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- **Cricket**

- **Demand:** The audit has identified 21 teams (10 adult and 11 junior teams) currently participating in cricket across the borough. This is a decrease in adult and increase in junior teams since the 2003 survey which showed 14 adult and 8 junior teams.
- **Supply:** There are 6 pitches available today which is the same as in 2003. .

- **Rugby Union /Rugby League**

- **Demand:** Unfortunately the 2003 assessment fails to break down the analysis of rugby into league and union. Instead it gives an overall figure for rugby. In doing so the 2003 survey identifies 10 rugby teams (5 senior and 5 junior) .The 2010 assessment identifies 14 teams (7 rugby league (3 adult /4 junior) and 7 rugby union (5 adult /2 Junior).The RFU have stipulated that in order to reflect the truer nature of the game and the way it is played that junior teams need to be counted as full time equivalents of senior teams.
- **Supply:** The number of pitches has remained the same as in 2003 with 6 pitches identified as having community use.

- **Hockey**

- **Demand:** has remained the same with 8 teams identified in 2010 the same as in 2003.
- **Supply:** has remained the same with 12 pitch slots available

Assessment and Analysis Summary – Pitch Sports

Football

Local Clubs

In summary there are 52 local football clubs generating 159 teams in total. These teams play in a number of different leagues predominantly across the weekend. Higher Education teams affiliated to the FA and playing in local community leagues are included in this list.

School Demand and Team Equivalents

There are 47 schools in the borough impacting on both supply and demand. In terms of demand, assumptions have been made about the levels of use of facilities. Consultation with schools suggests there is significant variance in the use of on site facilities, influenced by focus sports, teacher preferences, pupil roll numbers and softer factors, such as the weather or financial issues in relation to the cost of additional security, caretaker time or wear and tear to facilities. Factoring in the potential impact of school use on facilities is specifically important if there is a heavy reliance on school provision for community sport. This is not the case in Blackpool, with relatively few facilities accommodating secured community use.

For the purposes of drawing conclusions and findings relating to pitch capacity, we have made an assumption that school use equates to a minimum of 1 full game per week. In simple terms, it has been assumed that a school with an adult pitch will use this to at least the equivalent of 1 game per week. Because school demand is effectively 'off peak' (i.e. during the week) it is the impact on overall capacity rather than peak demand that is important to consider. For the purposes of the assessment, school demand has been assumed to impact on 1 adult pitch, 4 junior pitches and 6 mini soccer pitches.

Borough wide Supply

Figure 7 Football Supply –Borough-wide

Sport	Pitch Type	Total Provision	Community Use	% of Total
Football	Mini	21	11	52%
	Junior	17	12	71%
	Senior	42	36	86%
	Total	80	59	74%

A total of 80 football pitches have been identified, of which 59 (around 74%) are judged to have secured community use. Of the 59 pitches, 11 are dedicated mini soccer facilities, 12 junior pitches and 36 adult pitches. Most of these pitches are provided directly by Blackpool Council. Football facilities are shown on Map 3.

Area Based Supply

Figure 8 Football Supply –Area

Sport	Pitch Type	North	Central	South	Borough
Football	Mini	6	2	3	11
	Junior	8	1	3	12
	Senior	12	7	17	36
	Total	26	10	23	59

The distribution of accessible pitches and pitch type across the borough varies significantly. The north and south area are best served in terms of the number of pitches and by the pitch types available. The central area has the least provision and provision here is dominated by senior pitches. This is possibly a reflection of the more densely populated central area and the fact that the town centre is within the central area of the borough.

Assessment

A summary of the application of the eight stage model assessment for football is provided in the figures overleaf. Figures show the results of the current and future modelling (10 years time). Future modelling has included the impact of natural population projections and growth. Figures represent the surplus or deficiency in pitches required to meet demand, when modelled across the Borough, and when considered on a local area basis.

Quantity of pitches

A separate playing pitch model (PPM) has been used for each sub-analysis area. This is to ensure that any differences in peak demand periods across mini, youth and adult football within the 3 sub-analysis areas is accounted for. In the case of football in Blackpool, the peak day for senior and junior forms of the game in all areas is Sunday, for mini football it is Saturday. However, the level of demand (in terms of how much of the demand falls on these days) does vary from area to area. For example, although the peak demand period for Adult football across all 3 areas is on a Sunday morning, the amount of demand varies from 73% of all demand in North Blackpool to 100% in the Central area

Quality of pitches

Quality assessment results are also included in the table and are also illustrated on Map 7 (based on site averages). Figures indicate the percentage of pitches within each area (and across the Borough as a whole) that were rated as at least 'good'. These relate to community accessible pitches only.

Figure 9 - Assessment Results - Pitch Quantity and Quality - Football: COMMUNITY TEAMS ONLY

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT	Results	BOROUGH WIDE	North	Central	South
CURRENT ASSESSMENT Surplus / deficiency in pitches	Mini Soccer	-8	0	-3	-6
	Youth Football	-8	3	3	-8
	Adult Football	+20	7	0	5
FUTURE ASSESSMENT Surplus / deficiency in pitches	Mini Soccer	-33	-5	-17	-11
	Youth Football	-10	+2.5	-8.1	-3.9
	Adult Football	+11.8	+5.8	+3.3	+9.2
QUALITY ASSESSMENT %of pitches rated as 'good' or 'excellent'	Mini Soccer	47%	38%	50%	47%
	Youth Football	56%	56%	N/a	56%
	Adult Football	54%	65%	30%	52%
	All Football	52%	54%	31%	59%

Factoring in other demand

Any deficiencies in football pitches to serve community sport need to be considered alongside estimated for the amount of non-community demand they may also need to accommodate. As highlighted earlier, for the purposes of the Blackpool assessment, an estimate has been made on the school use of pitches that are also available to the local community. Although the school use of pitches is confined to 'off-peak' periods, the demand generated does add to the overall use of pitches. This is demonstrated in the table below where an indication is provided of the total number of potential games each week versus the number of pitches in the area. **For the basis of the calculations an estimate has been made for all schools and pitches in the specific area, including just those with community use and assuming school use is the equivalent of one game.**

Figure 10 - Football - Impact of school demand /use of football pitches

Analysis Area	Estimated games of football per week on community accessible pitches	Estimated games per pitch per week to meet demand
North Area	19 games / 26 pitches	0.7 games
Central Area	23 games / 10 pitches	2.3 games
South Area	39 games / 23 pitches	1.7 games
Indicative average for town	81 games / 59 pitches	1.4 games

Overall it is estimated that there is the equivalent of 81 games of football per week, played on 59 pitches, equating to an average of 1.4 games per pitch per week. This provides an initial suggestion that supply is plentiful, given that a good quality pitch should have the capacity to accommodate 3 games per week. It should be noted that this is an indicative estimate only. Given there is relatively small reliance on education stock, the capacity of education pitches to service community demand is less of an issue than in other areas. However, the quality of facilities (school and non-school) does have an impact (at least theoretical) on capacity. This is considered later in this section, with the results of the quality audits used to illustrate capacity issues.

Latent demand

Latent demand has been assessed through consultation with clubs and consideration to the TGRs for the borough (in comparison to national figures) and variances across the borough. Although a comparison of TGRs for the Borough compared to national averages suggests relatively low levels of demand, there are some areas of the Borough where TGRs will be significantly lower. If cricket development work is focused on these areas and TGRs were increased to mirror the Borough average, then the demand for pitches would increase slightly.

50% (2 clubs) of clubs have identified potential issues relating to latent or suppressed demand. The two clubs identifying a potential increase by at least 1 team. Latent demand also varies in terms of the area of the borough clubs are based i.e. latent demand does not appear to be concentrated in any one area. 50% of clubs and teams expressed the view that they aim to increase their membership numbers.

Linked to latent demand, is club perceptions on the appropriateness of local facilities. 2 of the 4 clubs (50%) responding to the survey identified 'lack of appropriate facilities' as an issue Both clubs indicating they believe they are going to increase in numbers

Offsetting this is feedback from league secretaries. Not all leagues with a stake in football responded to the consultation. However, it is clear from the consultation completed that some leagues have experienced considerable decline in their numbers, some have remained static in terms of overall numbers (some teams fold, some new teams join) while others especially the junior league expect an increase if the plans to introduce new versions of the game go ahead such as the introduction of 9 v 9's. The leagues see the quality of changing facilities and pitches as the key issues to future development.

The key conclusion from the data collected is that there are pockets of latent demand across the Borough. Some of this is attributable to the potential to grow sports (on the basis on TGRs) and some is attributable to local facilities and their suitability. Recommendations to address these issues are included later in the report.

Club and league secretary views

Pitch ratings and feedback from football clubs appear vary, with Clubs rating facilities slightly more positively than the results of the non-technical quality assessments. The quality audit rated 52% of all pitches as good. This compares to 55% of clubs rating pitches they use positively. However, despite the difference there is an underlying view that pitch quality varies and changes as the season progresses. 36% of clubs rate changing facility quality negatively. The data collected provides both an independent objective view point and a user perspective with similar conclusions.

League Secretaries generally agreed that quality was lacking. In many cases this is attributable to the overall site facilities, and specifically a lack of changing room accommodation. However, League secretaries also highlighted a lack of information about local services. Knowledge and awareness of what is proposed for each site (i.e. the specification) would enable more informed opinions on quality. That is, are poor quality pitches the result of poor or inadequate maintenance regimes, or more fundamental site issues? Overall there is also a perception, in relation to Council provision that hire costs are increasing year on year, but the quality is not on some council sites if anything the quality is worsening

Impact of quality on capacity

If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand and this could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. The results of the quality inspections have therefore, in line with guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field, been used to show how quality might affect capacity. Map 7 identifies football pitch sites and their average quality rating.

The analysis completed suggests that just over half of all pitches are of a good quality standard. Based on an assumption that excellent/good pitches can accommodate 3 games per week, average pitches 2 games per week and those rated below average only carrying 1 game per week, the following observations are made:

- **The capacity of pitches across the stock currently available for community use is (theoretically) significantly limited by a large proportion of average and below average pitches.**
- **Pitches are not given enough time to rest especially during renovation and as such quality and therefore capacity is affected on some sites more than others**
- **The use of council pitches for training during summer months by teams from outside the borough is a reported issue that impacts on pitch capacity for teams in Blackpool.**
- **Waterlogging is an issue that also affects the quality of pitches and results in cancellations which then add increased demand on pitches towards the end of the season as teams try to complete the fixtures**

Ancillary Facilities

Of the sites accommodating football pitches, only 16 with football pitches across the borough are served by changing rooms. And at 3 of these sites the changing provision was out of use at the time of the audit. Clubs also report significant issues in relation to access to changing rooms. A number of clubs raised issues in relation to the quality of changing facilities or use of provision they rate as only average or poor. Further analysis shows that of those 16 sites with changing facilities on site, 2 were rated as very poor (Stanley Park and St George's), 2 rated poor (Moor Park South and Fleetwood Road) 6 rated average (AFC Blackpool, Wren Rovers, Prebonds, Fishersfield, Co-op club, and Common Edge Road) 6 rated as good (St Mary's Whiteholme Playing Fields, Beacon Hill Montgomery School Highfield and Humanities College). The audit result, coupled with feedback from clubs themselves indicates an issue with access to good quality changing facilities. This fundamentally affects the quality and capacity of existing pitch facilities and addressing this will be a key priority moving forward.

Pitch Access

Access has been considered from a number of perspectives. Specifically access to affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire) and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective, taking account of the capacity for new members at the clubs as identified through their survey responses. The assessment highlights that:

- **49% of clubs identify 'internal funding' as a key issue and 53% of clubs identify 'external funding' – that is many experience issues with running costs and balancing money in via subs etc with expenditure, including pitch hire charges**
- **The hire fees and charges that clubs pay vary significantly. These range from free pitch use to clubs paying £220 per season. Many clubs pay seasonal fees and block book facilities. This is on the basis of limited information received from clubs, so in reality variances could be more exaggerated**
- **86% of clubs report capacity for new members suggesting that opportunities exist to play football locally are plentiful – however, 59% of these do not estimate any growth and many (as reported earlier) raise issues with access to appropriate facilities – this suggests that future growth could be modest at best**

Most of the clubs travel less than half an hour to access pitches. This suggests that teams are willing to travel a significant distance to access appropriate facilities. This is reinforced by responses to questions on future priorities. 60% of clubs stating they would be prepared to travel further to access better quality facilities. Put simply, a significant number of clubs prioritise quality over location, although a base level of local provision is expected.

Other Issues and Challenges

The collection of raw data and application of the PPM overlooks a number of key characteristics of supply and demand that need to be highlighted and considered within the assessment conclusions. These include:

- **A relatively high number of multi-pitch sites without changing facilities – these include a number of the Education run sites.**
- **Capacity, quality and usability of a number of key sites would all be greatly enhanced with ancillary facilities. The introduction of ancillary facilities on a relatively small number of sites would increase significantly the percentage of pitches served by changing rooms.**
- **The development plans of the FA – these include a plan to introduce 9v9 football, initially at U11 level as a transition between mini and junior football. This will have implications for pitch provision on sites supporting junior and mini soccer**
- **The FA's aspiration is to develop a network of strong sustainable grass routes clubs. These will need access to appropriate facilities to support development and growth. A potential network of 20-25 clubs would be required to ensure that there is at least one focal club per ward**
- **There are currently only two Charter Development clubs in the borough – a key aim to enable more to be developed. This has implications for facilities**

Summary of assessment findings: Football

The Headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is relatively sufficient, although there are pockets of deficiency in several of the 3 sub-area assessments. In some cases these will be addressed by improvements and improved availability of Education facilities.
2. There is a surplus of adult pitches in all areas generally offset by deficiencies in all areas for either mini or youth pitch provision.
3. In terms of estimating all demand against available supply, indications are that available pitches only need to accommodate between 1 and 2 games per week in most areas to service demand.
4. There are issues around pitch quality with just over half of all pitches being rated as good. Quality is on average better in the South. Just over half of all clubs consulted rate their facilities positively. Poor quality pitch provision has potential implications for capacity with the available stock only just adequate to service the estimated total number of games per week.
5. There are key issues such as waterlogging, out of season use, dog fouling and litter that impact on the perceived quality of the pitches

Access arrangements (in terms of fees, charges and distances travelled to access provision) vary significantly across the Borough – Teams are prepared to travel further to access better quality.

Cricket

Local clubs

There are 4 local cricket clubs generating 21 teams in total. These teams play in various different leagues all through the week and weekend. There is a relatively even split between adult and junior teams across the borough, although the ration varies significantly across the 3 areas assessed. Across the borough there are very few female teams with no women's teams being identified in the assessment.

School demand and team equivalents

School demand has negligible impact on the modelling for community sport, as there is only one education facility servicing both school and community use. There is only one additional school (Montgomery High School) that has a cricket wicket, only Beacon Hill High School Business and Enterprise College has a facility available for community use. This is not currently used by clubs. As a result, school cricket has been deemed to have little impact on supply available to the community.

Supply

A total of 6 cricket sites (with a total of 7 pitches) have been identified, of which 5 (around 88%) are available to regular community use. These are predominantly in Council ownership. The Council currently only provides 5 cricket pitches across the Borough It is important to note that 2 of the Councils 5 pitches are now on long term leases to South Shore and Blackpool Cricket Clubs and community use of these facilities is reliant upon the public joining the associated clubs. An overview of where cricket facilities are provided is included on Map xxxx

Assessment

A summary of the application of the eight stage model assessment for cricket is provided in the figure overleaf. Figures show the results of the current and future modelling (10 years time). Figures represent the surplus or deficiency in pitches required to meet demand, when modelled across the Borough, and when considered on a local area basis. Future modelling has included both the impact of natural population projections Predicted growth may vary and as such affect the 3 defined areas differently.

Because adhoc fixtures are played and teams also take part in cup fixtures with varying levels of games, a demand 'factor' of 0.5 has been used in the assessment. That is, an assumption has been made to reflect home and away fixtures

Quantity of pitches

As with the football assessment a separate playing pitch model (PPM) has been used for each sub-analysis area. This is to ensure that any differences in peak demand periods within the 3 sub-analysis areas is accounted for. In the case of cricket in Blackpool, the peak day for cricket demand for seniors is Saturday afternoon whilst for juniors it is split between Saturday morning and midweek games across the three areas. The level of demand (in terms of how much of the demand falls on these days) does vary also from area to area and the extent to which games are spread over a number of different week days also differs. Note because junior cricket is played on the same pitch used by adults cricket demand is based on adult and junior teams combined (10 adult, 11 juniors) resulting in 21 teams equivalents. In combining junior and senior usage the assumption is made that pitches can facilitate two games as day with good quality pitches facilitating up to 3 games per day.

Quality of pitches

Quality assessment results are also included in the table and illustrated on Map xxx (on the basis of site averages). Figures indicate the percentage of pitches within each area (and across the Borough as a whole) that were rated as at least 'good'. These relate to all pitches identified and rated using the non-technical visual inspection proforma. (Map 10)

Figure 11 - Assessment Results - Pitch Quantity and Quality - Cricket: COMMUNITY TEAMS ONLY

FOOTBALL ASSESSMENT	Results	BOROUGH WIDE	North	Central	South
<u>CURRENT ASSESSMENT</u> Surplus / deficiency in pitches	Cricket	+2	+1.8	+0.7	-0.5
<u>FUTURE ASSESSMENT</u> Surplus / deficiency in pitches Based on Borough wide TGR and future population	Cricket	0	+0.5	+0.4	-1
<u>QUALITY ASSESSMENT</u> %of pitches rated as 'good' or 'excellent'	Cricket	68%	67%	68%	73%

Factoring in other demand

As highlighted early, school demand, due to the fact that there is only one educational facility available for community use, this will have little impact on community sport. The figures in the table below therefore represent community sport only, but do show an indication of the total levels of demand (as opposed to just those games at peak time).

Figure 12 - Cricket – Current games v capacity

Analysis Area	Estimated games of cricket per week on community accessible pitches	Estimated Games per pitch per week to meet demand
North Area	1 games / 2 pitches	0.5 games
Central Area	6 games / 3 pitches	2 games
South Area	4 games / 1pitches	4 games
Indicative average for the Borough	11 games / 6 pitches	1.8 games

The analysis above indicates that there is reasonable use of the cricket facilities available in relation to overall games. As highlighted in the modelling summary, deficiencies are modest or only just adequate despite demand being spread across several days of the week. The figure above factors in an estimate of all the games played (based on a demand factor of 0.5, or each team playing 1 game per week). Overall, the available supply has to accommodate more than 3 games per week in some instances and 1 game every other week in others. For example, in the central area Blackpool Cricket Club run 11 teams playing (6 junior playing midweek, 4 senior playing Saturday am and 1 senior playing Sunday, but playing outside the borough) whereas teams such as Bispham Mercurials have 1 team that plays home and away every other week. Stanley Park has 3 cricket pitches (One leased long term to Blackpool Cricket Cub).

Latent demand

In addition there are some indicators of latent or suppressed demand across the Borough when reviewing the TGRs and variances across the borough and also when comparing national rates. A key observation is that the adult rate (men) is half the nationally published TGR – for every 1,000 residents of cricket playing age 1 team is generated in Blackpool compared to 2 on average nationally. The percentage of adults participating in cricket in Blackpool as measured by the Active People Survey is also around half the national average rate, and about a third of the rate recorded for South Blackpool. These indicators alone suggest there could be potential, if supported by development work, for significant increases in cricket demand.

The assessment identifies a current slight surplus against demand. However two clubs both in the North and Central areas have predicted an expected increase by one additional team each to their current team numbers (Anchorsholme Cricket Club (North) and Bispham Mercurials Cricket Club (Central)). The increase of predicted teams in the future balances surplus and deficiencies in terms of future pitch provision leading to no additional pitches being available for future growth of the sport. Ideally there should be at least one surplus wicket to give flexibility to the game should a site be out of play for any reason during a season. Factors such as improved drainage can lead to a site being unplayable for at least one season.

Some clubs have also identified potential issues relating to latent or suppressed demand. 50% of the clubs responding to the survey question on key issues identified 'lack of appropriate facilities' as a concern. Of these clubs, 2 out of four also had plans to grow their membership which arguably will not be possible unless access to facilities is improved. Half the clubs overall report plans to grow their membership. More specifically two of the clubs consulted report specific latent demand. Both of these are currently reliant on Council provision to play their matches. All clubs identified that they have capacity for new members. The key conclusion is that there is potentially a reasonable level of potential demand that could be developed.

Club views

Pitch ratings and feedback from cricket clubs appear to almost match the results of the quality audit completed, in terms of an overall consensus that most pitches are of a sufficient quality. 50% of clubs stating the pitch as good. Overall 85% of cricket pitches are rated as good or excellent using the non-technical visual assessment. The variance in perception may be from the fact that the non technical assessment is a snapshot in time. However, it is clear that some quality deficiencies exist and this will impact on capacity and that these quality deficiencies will obviously be a point of long term reference for clubs. Given that current pitch numbers are at best adequate and deficient in some areas (particularly when modelling future demand) to meet demand and the overall volume of games is significant compared to pitches available, then maximising capacity at all sites is important.

Impact of quality on capacity

If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand and this could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. As with the assessment of football facilities, the results of the quality inspections have in line with guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field been used to show how quality might affect capacity.

- **The analysis completed suggests that around 86% of pitches currently available could, given the high quality of some of them, accommodate up to 3 games per week**
- **Pitches leased by council to clubs currently do play more than 1.8 games per week whereas council pitches are in the main used once every other week by a single team**

Ancillary Facilities

In terms of sites accommodating cricket pitches, 6 sites (83%) with cricket pitches across the Borough are served by changing rooms. Out of the 5 sites with community use 4 have a changing facility (Stanley Park currently does not provide a cricket changing facility) although one site with community use (Beacon Hill High School) does not appear to be used on a regular basis by teams.. In terms of pitch numbers not served by a changing facility, this equates to 2 of the 6 pitches in community use (33%). However, the quality and suitability of the changing facilities that are provided where in the main found to be good or very good

The club survey findings corroborate the audit findings. One of the clubs responding to the survey report access to no changing facilities, the remaining clubs rate their facilities as good or excellent.

Pitch Access

Access has been considered from a number of perspectives. Specifically access to affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire) and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective, taking account of the capacity for new members at the clubs as identified through their survey responses. The assessment highlights that:

- **Over 75% of clubs identify ‘external funding’ as a key issue – that is many experience issues with sponsorship and balancing money in via subs etc with expenditure (50% of clubs identify internal funding as an issue)**
- **100% of clubs report capacity for new members suggesting that opportunities exist to play cricket – all of these clubs estimate either an increase in membership or no change in membership**

The consultation with clubs has revealed that 50% of clubs identify a travel time for members of between 21-30 minutes.. The issue, as indicated earlier lies with appropriate quantity on an area by area basis. When asked about their future priorities, 100% of clubs stated they would be prepared to travel further to access better quality facilities. Put simply, a significant number of clubs prioritise quality over location.

Other issues and challenges

The collection of raw data and application of the PPM overlooks a number of key characteristics of supply and demand that need to be highlighted and considered within the assessment conclusions. These include:

- **Many clubs outgrowing single pitch sites as their membership has grown and more teams are operated**
- **A relatively high number of clubs would be willing to travel further to access higher quality pitches, however facility development plans need to consider the current infrastructure for cricket and the need to ensure facilities are in the right place**
- **The Towards a Level Playing Field Modelling shows that pitch demand on a town wide basis currently has a low surplus of +2 pitches. However, future modelling shows that with the predicted growth by teams (especially the current single teams) then the current level of supply in the future will only just be enough, with very limited scope if a pitch falls out of use for maintenance/improvement purposes**
- **All clubs have stated they have capacity for new members, all teams have stated they will travel further to better quality facilities. There are a number of cricket pitches identified that currently do not have community use, there are a number of clubs identified that would welcome new members**

Summary of assessment findings: Cricket

The Headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is just about sufficient. Only the North has an adequate amount of provision in comparison to the other sub-analysis areas
2. The quality of pitches is generally good and suggests pitches could accommodate more games
3. Clubs have shown that their priorities are for improved membership and retention of existing members which may require members to travel further to better facilities
4. The future modelling of supply and demand shows that the level of supply will not allow for flexibility in resting sites unless the status of community access to school facilities changes

Rugby Union

Local clubs

In summary, there is only 1 local rugby union clubs (Blackpool RUFC) generating 7 teams in total in the town. These teams play in various different leagues over a Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning adult men and Sunday morning (junior rugby).

School demand and team equivalents

None of the schools have indicated demand for Rugby Union.

Supply

There are 2 identified rugby union pitches in the town provided at Blackpool RUFC and the club has indicated these are available for community use. Consideration to club specific issues are covered later in this section.

Assessment

A summary of the assessment results are provided overleaf. Area based assessments in line with those for other sports, have not been completed. This is because the club draws membership from the whole of the town. This is confirmed through the club consultation with members travelling on average between 30 mins to an hour to participate at the club.

The RFU have recommended that analysis of RFU needs to consider 5 scenarios to reflect a more accurate view of rugby union. However, the fact that there is only 1 club in Blackpool means we consider the implications of supply and demand for that club and as such, focus on the localised issues.

All demand and All Supply

The audit has identified a total of 2 pitches. Total demand generated is estimated to be equivalent to around 7 adult team equivalents. This is based on the fact that the 5 junior teams make use of the same pitch as the 2 adult senior teams. The modelling shows that there is no flexibility for pitch loss with the current supply of 2 pitches being slightly inadequate against current demand the modelling shows a slight deficiency if mini teams are factored in as they make use of half an adult pitch when participating in tag rugby.

Localised issues

It is recognised that because rugby is focussed around key club sites, it is important to identify localised supply and demand issues relating to these. The audit has identified no potential 'spare' pitches for rugby union. The following table provides a summary of issues and challenges highlighted:

Consultation with the club and the RFU confirm that the priority for the club is to recruit more adult players (16 years +) if the club is to sustain itself and grow whilst also sustaining and developing its mini and junior sections.

The club has been identified in the 'People and Places Continuum' The RFUs national facility strategy as a club that will need additional floodlit grass training pitches if it is to meet its sustainability and growth targets

Blackpool Council
Playing Pitch Strategy

Figure 13 - Assessment Results - Rugby Union: Scenario 5 results

Club	Total Supply	Total Demand	Comment
Blackpool RUFC: Facilities rated as 'Excellent/Good'	2 pitches	7teams(4 Junior 2 senior and 1 mini(counted as a senior equivalent in accordance with RFU guidance) The are also 4 training team equivalents midweek based on 2 senior teams Total Games per week: 4 games Peak: 2 games Sun am (based on teams playing home and away)	There is currently a very slight deficiency in provision to meet demand based on team equivalents and peak demand (if mini tag teams are factored in as using a half share adult pitch)

A key issue facing both clubs is how to meet potential future growth. The RFU has a target of developing one additional adult team per club by 2015 for all Section 1 and 3 clubs. Blackpool RFU has ambitions for future growth that will be difficult to accommodate with current facilities. A potential solution may be to play some mini and junior friendly games on AGP provision.

Summary of assessment findings: Rugby Union

The Headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is theoretically only just adequate to meet demand, but this does not accurately reflect specific issues faced by the club located within the town. In reality the club is nearing capacity in terms of meeting current and future projected growth in membership
2. The site assessment rated the pitches as 'Average' and the feedback from the club supports this with the club rating their pitches also as being 'Average'.
3. The club has been identified in the 'People and Places Continuum' The RFUs national facility strategy as a club that will need additional floodlit grass training pitches if it is to meet its sustainability and growth targets

Rugby League

Local clubs

In summary there are 2 main local rugby league clubs in Blackpool: Blackpool Scorpions (4 teams including 2 senior male and 2 junior boys teams) and Blackpool Stanley (including 1 veterans senior male team and 2 junior, 1 under 12's and a mixed junior team) teams. Blackpool Sea Eagles is a summer conference team and they failed to provide any detailed information as part of the consultation. Overall there are three adult and four junior teams. These teams play in various different leagues with peak demand being Sunday.

Supply

There are only 6 dedicated rugby league pitch sites in the town and only 3 sites have community use (Common Edge Road, Stanley Park and Beacon Hill High School and Business College. The latter does not appear to be used by any of the identified clubs. The three sites combined provide 4 pitches.

A summary of the application of the eight stage model assessment for rugby league is provided in the figures overleaf. Figures show the results of the current and future modelling as well as the surplus or deficiency in pitches required to meet demand, when modelled across the town. As with Rugby Union, given the small scale of rugby league in Blackpool, more focus has been placed on specific challenges facing the two clubs.

Assessment

An overall assessment of the surplus/deficiencies has been completed. Separate playing pitch models (PPM) have not been used for each sub-analysis area given that the two clubs draw their membership from across the town and sub-region rather than a particular neighbourhood area. This is supported by the fact that the consultation with the two clubs has revealed that players travel on average between 25 minutes to an hour to access the club they play for

For the purposes of the assessment it has been assumed that there are 4 pitches available for Rugby League. On this basis there is **currently +2 surplus provision** to meet demand (estimated at 2 games). Both clubs project some growth in their membership. Blackpool Scorpions estimate growth in the region of 60+ players whilst Blackpool Stanley predict a growth in the region of 30 – 40 players. The NGB have plans to grow the sport within these two existing clubs by developing the numbers that play at the junior levels.

Quality

Quality assessment results have also been considered. All of the pitches used for Rugby League rated as 'good'. However, it is important to note that the audits were completed at the start of the playing season (audits undertaken at the end of September early October). On the basis of the findings collated, quality does not adversely affect quantity (in terms of theoretical capacity). (**Map 11**)

Latent demand

There are some indicators of latent or suppressed demand for Blackpool Scorpions. The TGR for the sport is generally lower than other areas and both clubs have indicated the potential for growth although Blackpool Stanley have indicated a current lack of capacity for new members. There is a need to address potential issues for both clubs to ensure they can expand and grow their membership.

Club views

Blackpool Scorpions rate the pitch at Common Edge Road as average and rate the changing facilities as good whereas Blackpool Stanley rate the pitch as good and the changing facilities at Stanley Park as poor'. According to feedback from the RFL Blackpool Stanley are currently looking to relocate away from Stanley Park and the priorities will change for the club as it strives to develop a new clubhouse and pitch.

Impact of quality on capacity

If pitches are particularly poor then they may not be able to accommodate the number of games required to meet demand and this could increase any deficiency recorded or reduce surpluses. The results of the quality inspections have therefore, in line with guidance detailed in Toward a Level Playing Field been used to show how quality might affect capacity. As indicated earlier, a lack of quality is not the key issue affecting the capacity of pitches. It is proposed changes to the playing season and the compatibility with other sports that make use of the same pitches.

The analysis completed suggests that the pitches currently available could with a little more investment and attention to reinstatement, accommodate up to 3 games per week. If the overall theoretical capacity of pitches (based purely on their quality rating) is considered alongside the assessment results, then the following observations can be made:

- **The capacity of pitches across the stock currently available for community use is theoretically sufficient to meet the demand – however, this is based on an assessment of Rugby League in isolation. There is a need to consider the extent to which pitches need to be rested during off season periods for essential maintenance to take place**
- **The quality assessment was undertaken at the start of the season and pitch quality especially pitches with unrestricted access may deteriorate as the season progresses.**

Ancillary Facilities

In terms of sites accommodating rugby league pitches, both sites used currently for Rugby League are served by changing rooms. Blackpool Stanley who make use of the changing facilities at Stanley Park rate the facilities as poor.

Pitch Access

As with other sports assessed, access has been considered from a number of perspectives. Specifically access to affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire) and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective, taking account of the capacity for new members at the clubs as identified through their survey responses. The assessment highlights that:

- **Both Rugby League clubs identify key issues as being the lack of external funding**
- **There was some difference between the clubs in relation to other issues – Blackpool Scorpions have an issue with internal funding with regards to fees and hire costs and see a lack of appropriate facilities also as an issue whereas Blackpool Stanley mainly have an issue with the lack of floodlit training facilities**
- **Both clubs report capacity for new members, and both project an increase in their overall club membership**

When asked about their future priorities the two clubs report that they want facilities closer to home and as such are prepared to accept lower quality

Other issues and challenges

The collection of raw data and application of the PPM overlooks a number of key characteristics of supply and demand that need to be highlighted and considered within the assessment conclusions. These include:

- **Issues with funding reported by both clubs**
- **The potential relocation of Blackpool Stanley**
- **Site specific issues such as problems with dog fouling and unauthorised use of pitches in public places.**

Summary of assessment findings: Rugby League

The Headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) at present is adequate to meet current demand. However the lack of floodlit training is an issue that is not helping club development
2. The quality of pitches varies from average to good and this is a slight concern as the audit was undertaken at the start of the season and therefore average pitches may well deteriorate in quality as the season progresses
3. Both clubs have capacity for new members, and the NGB plans to support both clubs to grow with the focus being on the junior elements of the game

Hockey

Local clubs

There is only one identified hockey club (Blackpool Hockey Club) and the club generates 8 teams in total. This is the same as in the 2003 assessment and shows that the sport has not grown in Blackpool and the club is sustaining the level of interest in the game despite increasingly limited resources.. The teams play in various different leagues (junior boy's only playing friendlies) but all play on a Saturday.

School demand and team equivalents

Given that hockey is played on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitches), and that community hockey (training and matches) are played outside of school time, it is unlikely that school demand will impact negatively on the use of pitches by community teams. However, other demand, from football teams for example, for training use of pitches will need to be considered. Currently there are other full size and small sided AGPs in use with a predominant football focus.

Supply

There are currently 3 sites in the Borough with an artificial grass pitch (AGP). (Beacon Hill High School Business and Enterprise College, 1 AGP, Stanley Park 2 AGPs and Blackpool and the Fylde College 1 AGP. Stanley Park being the home ground for Blackpool Hockey Club has 2 AGPs (2 sand dressed pitches) and Beacon Hill and Blackpool and the Fylde College being sand based facilities. The facilities at Stanley Park are key for community hockey and this needs to be considered in terms of the availability of the AGPs in the park for use by other sports as this impacts on the use for hockey.

Assessment

As with the two codes of Rugby, the assessment for hockey, given its modest presence in the town has focussed on specific issues and challenges faced by the local club.

Quantity of pitches

Because AGPs can generally support back to back fixtures, and the presence of floodlighting extends their use, they have significantly greater capacity than a natural turf pitch. Taking these factors into account, the current and future Playing Pitch Modelling for Hockey has been completed on the basis of an AGP being able to support up to 4 matches per day.

Peak demand is on a Saturday – all identified fixtures take place at this time. The demand generated by the 8 teams identified equates to 4 matches every Saturday (based on teams playing home and away games). **There is therefore currently only just sufficient provision to meet current demand.** This is subject to priority use for hockey and does not necessarily take account of any specific access challenges. There is further capacity at the pitch at Beacon Hill potentially for training use or as an alternative to the use by other sports of the facilities at Stanley Park.

In modelling the future levels of demand, consideration has been given to the levels of projected growth reported by the local clubs which equates to around 1 additional team. There is currently no local NGB set growth rate, but even projecting a 10% growth rate coupled with potential growth resulting from population growth would yield only one additional team. **The additional demand generated by the additional team, at peak time would raise issues with appropriate supply on the current pitches available.**

It is important to note that this finding is made on the assumption that the pitches at Stanley Park are given over to Hockey at peak demand times for the sport namely Saturday. It is understood that this is currently the case but the club have experienced problems with the allocation of pitch slots on Saturday for use by other sports such as football which overtime may also start to affect the playing surface.

Quality of pitches

The pitches at Stanley Park both rated as being good according to the non-technical visual assessment proforma. This takes account of a number of criteria, including the quality of the playing surface, fencing and whether the pitch is floodlit. On this basis, the quality of the pitch is not considered to adversely affect the capacity (and subsequent quantity) of provision. (Map 12). The pitches at Beacon Hill school also rated as good (as they are not full sized they are not suitable for hockey games but may provide an opportunity as a training facility).

Factoring in other demand

The adequacy of current AGP provision could be challenged if the other potential use of AGPs is considered. In particular the potential demand for AGP use from the 159 football teams identified, casual sport and other forms of football (small sided games etc) could all place demands on the existing network of AGPs including the facilities at Stanley Park.

Latent demand

There are few indicators of latent demand. The clubs do not report any issues relating to suppressed demand, and although the Active People Survey suggests participation is lower in Blackpool than the national average, increasing participation to this level would not necessarily generate significantly more teams. There has been no growth in team numbers in the period since the previous strategy was developed. Blackpool Hockey Club has though identified an issue relating to other use and demand for the facilities at Stanley Park. This is attributable to a lack of AGPs generally. i.e. demand is inflated due to a lack of availability.

Club views

The club rate the pitches at Stanley Park positively although they consider the playing surface to only be average. As reported above, there are some issues reported by the club related to availability and high levels of demand placed on the pitch as a result of a lack of pitches in the area and sub-region.

Impact of quality on capacity

Given the quality and high capacity in general of AGPs, subject to good levels of access and prioritisation for hockey, the assessment suggests quality does not adversely affect capacity.

Ancillary Facilities

Blackpool Hockey Club who responded to the questionnaire reported that their changing facilities are 'good'. The non-technical visual inspection revealed a lower quality, but facilities are broadly deemed to be adequate.

Pitch Access

Access has been considered from a number of perspectives, specifically access to affordable facilities (i.e. cost of hire) and geographical access (i.e. proximity to quality facilities and average travel distances). Access has also been considered from a demand perspective, taking account of the capacity for new members at the clubs as identified through their survey responses.

The assessment highlights that:

- **Blackpool Hockey Club identified a key issue as being the lack of appropriate facilities in the area which leads to heavy demand (not necessarily all hockey demand)**

Blackpool Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- **The club also reported that they do have the capacity for new members suggesting that opportunities exist to play hockey**
- **The club rate the pitch surface as average and the changing facilities as good**
- **The club identify that members travel up to 30 minutes to play hockey at Stanley Park. In real terms the club draws members from across the Borough.**

When asked about their future priorities the club prioritised access to better quality facilities that may be further from where they draw their membership would be preferential and the main issue is transport. Put simply the hockey club prioritises quality over location.

Summary of assessment findings: Hockey

The Headlines:

1. The modelling results show that provision (in terms of quantity) is sufficient to meet demand. This is on the assumption that access is secured for hockey use at the Stanley Park pitch at the appropriate times
2. The quality of pitches is good – the provision at Stanley Park is of a good standard with priority markings for hockey. It is also floodlit.
3. Although Blackpool Hockey Club rated their current facility as 'average' they report issues with the availability of AGP facilities in the area generally

Assessment and Analysis Summary – Courts and Greens

Tennis Assessment Summary

As highlighted in the methodology overview, the Toward a Level Playing Field assessment methodology does not apply to tennis provision. The assessment therefore has followed the generally principles of a supply and demand assessment. It has focussed more on local factors and an overview of current and planned provision in the context of an overall aspiration to provide an accessible network of facilities across the town.

Demand

There are 2 identified tennis clubs in Blackpool these are Norbreck Bowling and Tennis Club and South Shore Tennis Club. Unfortunately South Shore has failed to engage in the extensive club consultation undertaken by the council as part of the development of this strategy. North Shore Tennis club has identified that it currently has 9 members and the club expects to increase it membership. The previous Playing Pitch Strategy did not include any detailed analysis with regards to tennis and as such it is not possible to determine how the club is progressing in terms of active membership.

The Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England indicates just under 1% (0.97%) of the active population are regular participants (at least once in a four week period) This figure is lower than that advocated by the Lawn Tennis Association who believe the figure to be 2% of the population. In assessing demand we have used the lower participation rate as it is the most recently published In Blackpool this means that an estimated 869 people in total (from the 6-55 year old Active Age population) play tennis at least once in a four week period. Clearly this is dependent upon the availability of courts and importantly the availability of nets throughout the year. It has long been the practice in many local authorities to only put tennis nets up during the summer months. This is supported by the audit of courts in that many of the grass courts had no line markings or nets available and only appear to be provided for use during the summer months, this is traditional in many public parks and open spaces as it gives the courts time to rest and be renovated in readiness for the following season.

Demand Assumptions

Although the Active People indicator is based on an average of participating at least once every four weeks, for the purposes of the modelling completed it has been assumed that regular players will participate at least once per week, particularly during the summer months. The number of weekly players is therefore estimated to be in the region of 869 equating to demand for at least an hour session per week. It has been assumed an average of 3 players per court, to take account of some singles and some doubles usage.

Based on an average availability of 20 hours community use per week per court (this will be higher or lower for some courts and for some periods during the year) there is an estimated need for around 29 courts to accommodate current demand across the borough (demand for 580 hours accommodated within a peak period of 20 hours). This is calculated on the basis of demand being evenly spread across the 20 hour peak period. The model provides an indication only and is the minimum level of demand. Many other factors, including seasonal fluctuations, local initiatives etc will impact on demand levels.

Supply

There is a current provision of 75 tennis courts in total across 12 different sites in Blackpool. Of these 7 sites have been identified having secured community access, providing a total of 51 community accessible outdoor tennis courts in Blackpool. The tennis courts on sites which currently do not have community access are on school sites. 49 of the community accessible sites are parks, sports grounds or tennis clubs. There is only one school which has publicly accessible tennis courts. The location of tennis courts, and a breakdown of ownership is shown in Map 13. A breakdown of courts by area is provided in the figure overleaf.

Figure 14: Tennis Courts by Neighbourhood Area

Neighbourhood Area	Number of Sites	Number of Courts	Number of Courts	Accessible courts per head of population*
North	5	19	18	18 courts / 1 court per 1,264
Central	2	26	24	24courts / 1 court per 1,589
South	3	30	9	9 courts / 1 court per 3193
Town Total	10	75	51	51 courts / 1 court per 1,757

*Active Population (6-55 year olds) used

The figure above indicates a variance in the number of courts and accessibility to these across different parts of Blackpool. In particular the south area has the greatest number of courts yet the lowest provision of accessible courts. The Central area has the highest number of accessible courts this is mainly due to provision made in Stanley Park. The South Area is dependent upon a single club, South Shore Lawn Tennis Club to provide accessible courts and again provision here may be restricted in terms of the court types with the club having a mixture of clay, tarmac and grass courts.

Court Quality

The quality audit completed included a non-technical visual assessment of all courts to provide an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. As with the audit of natural turf pitches, the score attributed to each court is banded to provide an indication of whether facilities are Very Poor, Poor, Below Average, Average, Good or Excellent. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot' in time and records the quality of the site at the time of the visit. The average quality rating for tennis courts across Blackpool is 48% or "average". Quality of tennis courts in Blackpool ranges from 22% (poor) to 80% (good), and the variance across each of the three areas is indicated below. (Map 13 illustrates the quality of courts for those sites audited)

Figure 1 - Quality of Tennis Courts by Neighbourhood Area

Neighbourhood Area	Minimum Quality Score	Maximum Quality Score	Quality Variance	Average Quality Score	Quality Rating
North	33%	80%	47%	53%	Average
Central	22%	33%	11%	30%	Poor
South	58%	76%	18%	63%	Below Average
Borough Wide	33%	80%	47%	48%	Average

The figures show a variance in the overall quality of tennis courts in the borough. However, this variance is more pronounced in the North of Blackpool where the quality of courts varies by up to 47% between sites depending on if the provision is a private club or council facility. The average quality scores are relatively stable between the north and south area but dip quite markedly in the central area. It is important to note that at the time of the audit the courts in Stanley Park lacked nets or posts, signage was missing and the grass courts were out of use for the season. Other factors that affected the quality to the tarmac courts was that surfacing was found to be uneven with areas of puddling (on day of audit), the line marking was worn and breaks in the lines due to wear lowered the quality score along with areas of the perimeter fencing being damaged and lacking gates.

Assessment Results

A key issue for the development of tennis in Blackpool, in addition to there being only two tennis specific clubs, is the absence of specialised indoor facilities. This presents potential issues in promoting tennis as an 'all year round' game. Players must travel to South Ribble, Blackburn or Preston or further in order to use indoor tennis facilities.

Summary of assessment findings: Tennis

The Headlines:

1. The assessment indicates some theoretical deficiencies in supply in accordance with the LTA recommended provision.
2. The central area has limited access to courts all year around and the quality of courts are in need of improvement.
3. Deficiencies are more likely to relate to indoor and floodlit facilities.
4. There are a significant number of courts on school and college sites that do not serve the wider community.
5. Quality varies across the town, however, some investment will be needed within the timeframe of this strategy to upgrade several of the council based facilities.
6. Opportunities for formal participation are limited – there is only one formal tennis club in the borough based in the North area. Linked to this, the Club cannot accommodate significantly more growth within the constraints of their current facilities.

Bowls Assessment Summary

Demand

The audit identified 24 bowling clubs in the borough of which 13 responded to the consultation exercise completed. The clubs consulted generate in excess of 500 members, although membership levels vary significantly from clubs with around 12 members to those with over 60+ members.

The Active People Survey indicates just over 0.5% (0.57%) of the adult population are regular participants, participating at least once per 4 week period. This is slightly below the rate of participation for South Yorkshire (0.63%) and only around half of the national average participation rate (1.01%). A participation rate of 0.57% equates to around 1,000 potential regular adult participants (at least once in a four week period) which is marginally lower than the estimates made on the basis of average club membership levels.

Demand Assumptions

For the purpose of modelling levels of demand, we have made an assumption that there are around 1,000 regular participants within the town (average of Active People data and local research). For Bowls we have made the assumption that demand equates to a 2 hour weekly visit (or 2 x 1 hour sessions) and that all of the regular bowling participants will visit at least once per week during the peak season.

We have assumed that this demand will be spread over a 20 hour period across the week to take account of casual and competition play during the day and during evenings. This does not necessarily reflect the total time greens are available, but is on the basis of most players being members of local clubs and the absence of significant floodlit facilities or any artificial greens.

On the basis of number of weekly players is estimated to be in the region of 1000 equating to demand for around 2,000 hours per week of individual usage. This equates to a weekly average of around 200 hours of demand based on an average capacity of 10 people per green at any one time. If the 230 hours is evenly distributed across a peak period of 20 hours then there is an estimated need for around 10 greens.

Supply

The audit identifies 20 sites providing a total of 34 greens which currently have public use and are included in the assessment calculation. Only one further green has been identified which was not maintained and clearly disused during the time of the audit and this site has been removed from further assessment.

Figure 2 - Bowls Greens by Neighbourhood Area

Neighbourhood Area	Number of Sites	Number of Greens	Accessible greens per head of population*
North	5	7	1 green per 3,250
Central	8	16	1 green per 2,383
South	7	11	1 green per 2,612
Borough Total	20	34	1 green per 2,636

*Adult population 16+ used

The figure above indicates a variance in the number of greens and accessibility to these across different parts of the borough. The Central area has the highest levels of provision per head of population. Provision per head of population is lowest in the North with half the number of sites than most other areas. There are though a number of key sites within each of the neighbourhood areas, and with the exception of the North relatively similar levels of provision in all of analysis areas.

Bowling Greens Quality

As with pitch sports and tennis court assessments, the quality audit provides an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. It is important to note that the quality score represents a 'snapshot' in time and records the quality of the

site at the time of the visit, and some greens were visited towards the start of end of the playing season. The average quality score for bowling greens across Blackpool is 46% or “average”. The quality audit reveals some variance in the quality of provision of bowling greens across sites in the borough. The audit shows that the quality of bowling greens in Blackpool ranges from 16% (poor) to 58% (average). The audit identified also that there are differences in quality scores not only within -areas but also between areas.

Figure 3 - Quality of Bowls Greens by Area

Neighbourhood Area	Minimum Quality Score	Maximum Quality Score	Quality Variance	Average Quality Score	Quality Rating
North	16%	58%	42%	43%	Average
Central	42%	56%	14%	51%	Average
South	31%	49%	18%	41%	Average
Borough Wide	16%	58%	28%	46%	Average

The quality audit completed included a non-technical visual assessment of all courts to provide an indicative rating of quality out of 100%. As with the audit of natural turf pitches, the score attributed to each court is banded to provide an indication of whether facilities are Very Poor, Poor, Below Average, Average, Good or Excellent. The greatest variance in quality amongst greens is in the North where there is 42% difference between the highest and lowest scoring greens. It is important to note that the audit to greens was undertaken out of the season when greens are not necessarily at their best and winter maintenance programmes are being undertaken to prepare the greens for the following season.(Map 14 Illustrates the quality of greens for those greens audited)

The quality audit findings broadly mirror the quality ratings of clubs using facilities, particularly in relation to ancillary facilities. Only 50% of clubs responding to the survey rated the facilities they used as ‘excellent’ or ‘good’. 21% of clubs rated the facilities as poor or very poor. Access to bowling greens has been considered from a number of different perspectives including capacity for new members and where members travel from. The research completed shows that:

- **64% of clubs report that they expect their membership to remain the same only 1 club expects its membership to increase**
- **Only around 3 clubs report a 'lack of access to appropriate facilities' as a key issue - suggesting that in the main there is plentiful supply**
- **All clubs consulted have capacity for new members**
- **Most clubs (86%) state that all or most of their members drive to the clubs’ venue – in most cases up to 30 minutes. This suggests there is potential to rationalise the facilities across the borough to provide a smaller number of higher quality facilities**

Assessment summary: Bowls

The Headlines:

1. The assessment indicates sufficient supply to accommodate estimated regular demand, in all areas of the town currently and when taking account of potential future growth
2. Provision is also sufficient if participation levels were almost doubled to mirror the national average – however, bowls participation has declined since the last survey, more clubs expect a decline in their membership than an increase and there are more greens than clubs across the town
3. There are quality issues across the town – across all areas assessed facilities are viewed as average across the area at best
4. From the research completed, the majority of bowls participants travel by car to access facilities

Conclusions and Recommendations

This section of the report provides an overview of the key conclusions of the assessments and research completed. In order to develop specific recommendations that form the basis of strategy and action moving forward, a number of policy options have been appraised in relation to the assessment results. The outcome of this review has helped to shape the overall strategy and approach to tackling the deficiencies highlighted. A brief summary of the review is detailed below.

Policy Options Appraisal

Any option to address the findings of the assessments and the priorities emerging from these is going to require significant investment and time to address. There is no quick fix, and any strategy needs to be phased and incremental. It needs to have partnership working at its core and adopt the 'sweating the asset' principle as a fundamental approach. Underpinning this is a need to be realistic about the current position (or baseline) and the ideal, and the amount of progress that can be made. An appraisal of a number of policy options has been completed to determine which broadly are most appropriate to address the assessment findings.

Changing the use of existing pitches: 'Re-designation'

This policy is most appropriate when there is a large surplus in provision for one sport, and deficiency in others, particularly in relation to winter sports. It is normally particularly relevant for football where junior and mini soccer provision is relatively easy to provide on existing adult pitches. It is less straight forward to re-designate surplus football into rugby. In addition to different pitch dimension and specifications, rugby is very much a club focussed game. Addressing any deficiencies in rugby provision for example must take into account the location of clubs, the location of existing demand and the subsequent usability of these pitches. It is also important to consider the ownership of the current stock of pitches – from the Council's perspective re-designation is ordinarily only viable across pitch stock in their direct control. The usefulness of this option needs to be considered in light of the overall assessment findings. In football in particular, there is in most areas a 'net' sufficiency. This will need careful consideration in the future as the NGB has indicated a desire to change the very nature of football and how it is played particularly at the junior and mini team levels. The FA are keen to develop 9v 9 games especially to the junior levels. There is a need to consider the development of a venue for women and girls teams.

There is some potential for this option to have an impact given the modest deficiencies in certain types of football facilities in areas of the borough, off set with a small surplus in other types. The Council need to consider the financial implications of the changing nature of football as variations in the game may require new pitch dimensions and new goal post sizes. In some instances the Council has already undertaken a change in use by introducing multi games courts to former tennis courts and changing the use of former bowling greens.

Dual-use facilities and greater use of education pitches

This policy option is most appropriate when there is a large stock of high quality education facilities not in community use, and commitment from schools to open their facilities for wider use. In the case of Blackpool, little of the playing pitch stock across the education stock is currently in secured community use. Not all these pitches are of a sufficient quality to meet the demands of community sport in addition to school use. For this policy to work there would need to be investment pitch quality, potentially increased maintenance and ancillary provision in some cases, as well as a commitment to the Extended Schools agenda.

As indicated in the future assessments, the results indicate it will have more impact in some areas than others, and on some sports more than others. There is potential for it to impact significantly on cricket and tennis in particular. Where this option is likely to be key to addressing current deficiencies, recommendations have been included. However, this will rely on commitment from schools and partners to ensure that community use is managed appropriately.

Enhancing carrying capacity through improving the quality of pitches

This option has most impact where there is generally poor provision across available stock, but the potential to improve provision at a number of key sites to increase capacity. The audit identified that only 52% of football pitches are viewed of being a 'good' standard, and in many cases access to quality changing provision is poor. There is therefore potential to target some investment at key sites to increase the overall capacity of key sites. This would need to be done in conjunction with other policy options and through ensuring the use of all pitches, and managed appropriately (i.e. not overplayed).

This option should be explored and a number of priority sites are identified in the recommendations, with a focus on multi-pitch sites. The option needs to be considered alongside other options, particularly those involving potential changes to management and maintenance. There is a potential to build on existing community partnerships to maximise sustainability. Carrying capacity needs to be monitored as current multi-pitch sites are potentially over used - any investment in improvements to quality need to be supported by sufficient maintenance packages.

Changing the use of other existing recreational open space

This option is most appropriate when there is a known surplus of provision across other types (typologies) of open space that could, at modest cost be brought into use as sports pitches.

This option has the potential to be pursued given that some wider greenspace assessments have been completed. However the Council do need to complete a comprehensive audit of all open space ,outdoor sport and recreational facilities in accordance with NPPF and the PPG whereby new standards of provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility need to be developed. However, given the spare capacity, i.e. a number of key sites where more pitches could be provided; and existing playing field land, together with potential additional playing fields released by schools and some of the larger private colleges allow community use of the facilities.

Bringing into play unmarked and disused facilities

This option is relevant where there is existing land designated as playing pitch provision which is currently disused or unmarked and could address local deficiencies. In the case of Blackpool it links with the above option in relation to a number of sites that have previously been used as playing fields. Although these are not necessarily classed as 'disused' there is potential, if required to add additional provision (i.e. mark out additional pitches) on a number of key sites. However, in some cases investment is needed to improve quality and stimulate demand. (Some sites are under used, have low levels of demand because their quality is lacking).

The audit has identified a number of sites that were recently used for playing pitches. This option therefore has some potential to help address some of the findings, but it is not viewed as much a priority as improving the quality and access to existing multi-pitch sites. Sites where there is potential, or further exploration is required are highlighted in the area specific recommendations. Any site brought into use would need to meet the size and technical requirements of the appropriate NGB and supported by appropriate ancillary facilities. However, the 'quality ceiling' on public sites (given non-sporting and informal use) needs to be factored into decision making. As with other options, those sites with the potential to accommodate multiple pitches should be viewed as a priority.

Management options, including Community Asset Transfer and long term leasing

This option is most appropriate where there is a track record of this policy resulting in more effective investment and access to external funding, improvements in quality etc and where there is also adequate provision to service demand created by the emergence of new clubs / teams. The option is more attractive where there is a surplus or adequate provision in a local level, and less pressure on facilities.

There is also an opportunity to transfer assets in different models and governance arrangements e.g. community sports hubs and community interest companies. There are already a number of models used across the Council's current portfolio of pitches. Under certain arrangements, through a partnership model, assets can be made available to service several sports, clubs, teams and schools and enough flexibility can be built in to allow

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for other ad hoc casual hire, particularly if quality and carrying capacity is improved and specialist provision (e.g. AGPs) are installed.

There is potential for this option to be explored further, dependent on the Council's policy on priority use of pitches. In some areas, transferring assets to one club when there may be several clubs demanding additional facilities could have an overall negative impact. It is suggested that the option is piloted in more detail, and further research is needed to explore capacity and willingness of sports clubs, leagues and consortia of clubs to adopt this approach.

Develop new facilities on new sites

This option is generally a 'last resort' approach when all other options have been explored given the capital investment implications. It is only appropriate where there is a lack of provision overall and deficiencies across a number of sports which cannot be fully addressed by implementing the policy options outlined above.

This option is not deemed relevant for Blackpool in light of the assessment findings. The supply audit has identified a number of former pitch sites with potential (subject to investment) for bringing back into use should the need arise.

Recommendations

It is clear from the appraisals that although there is no one policy option that will adequately address the assessment findings and issues and challenges emerging from these, a number do present a viable approach on which to base a future strategy. The reality is that public sector funding is reducing and not increasing – this means the context for delivery of a future strategy is focused on protecting existing provision and that new and improved facilities have to be realised through external funding (capital and revenue). This means the following:

- **Ensuring current facilities are used as effectively as possible with clear management, maintenance and booking responsibilities**
- **Delivery of improvements through partnership working with private, other public and voluntary sectors**
- **Continue to build on the councils existing approach of enabling leases and/or Community Asset Transfers to community sports hubs (multi-sport groups, collectives and social enterprises) where there are clear sports participation benefits, with appropriate access rights for schools, leagues and other user groups – this would required Dedicated Officer enabling support**

General Strategy

The general strategy for the town comprises the following priority themes. **Underpinning them all is the need for investment.** This is a given in relation to the assessment results where across the board there are deficiencies in quality. The Playing Pitch Strategy must:

- **Maximise the impact of current assets and be protective of what is current provision:** For Blackpool Council this means taking a more holistic and co-ordinated view of its existing pitch stock (across directorates, i.e. including Education pitches on schools) and bringing into use facilities that do not currently have community use. Community Use Agreements (CUAs) will need to be managed and reviewed appropriately. It is important that the Council complete a comprehensive open space outdoor sport and recreational assessment in accordance with Planning Policy guidance to establish future provision standards for all open space in the borough.
- **Be delivered in partnership:** Linked to the above theme, it is important that the Council works in partnership (ongoing) to address the assessment findings. There are a number of key partners and stakeholders involved in the development of, and provision of sports pitches. The recommendations need 'buy in' from both internal and external partners, including, the regional offices of the NGBs. Partnership working needs to be effective in minimising increases in maintenance and management costs, through design, co-location, community involvement, and Community Asset Transfer, ("community sport

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development led") and community sports hubs (where suitable and completed in the enabling way). If CAT of some sites is pursued, there needs to be recognition that the Council does not simply divest of sites or its responsibilities to the community, but actually transfers time and expertise formerly used to manage sites to advising, training and supporting the "new providers". This already has a number of successful role models across Blackpool and across the sports in the town. There are also potential partnership opportunities through Blackpool FC now being in the Premier League. This Playing Pitch Strategy will be used as part of the evidence base that will identify the priority sites that will be put forward to secure the funding available.

- **Maximise current investment opportunities and adopt a prioritised process of site identification to guide the development of new provision that uses external funding where available.** Ensuring Section 106 monies / community infrastructure levy and other investment through the planning process and local regeneration is targeted at the right types of provision in the right areas is important. It is unlikely, even through maximising the above practices that all shortfalls in quantity and in particular quality will be met. Monies from developer contributions should in the main be targeted at improving the quality and value of existing sites. There needs to be completion of the requirement by the Council to undertake a full and detailed PPG audit and assessment to deliver new planning policy standards in relation to the quantity, quality and accessibility of all open space, outdoor sport and recreational facilities. The danger is that at present this Playing Pitch Strategy deals with pitch units linked to demand, whereas planning policy currently deals with provision per 1000 head of population and makes no reference to quality or accessibility.
- **Link to the priorities and drivers of other strategies.** Acknowledgement that Team Generation Rates (the numbers of people required to generate enough demand for a sports team) in some town areas are low (compared to borough and national averages) need to be considered. There will be a role for wider partners, such as the local CSPAN (Community Sport and Physical Activity Network), in addressing some of the issues identified.
- **Prioritise multi-pitch and multi-sport sites initially** - It is widely accepted that it is more cost effective to invest in sites benefiting a number of sports and securing year round use. This could take the form of the community sports arena/ sports hubs where a number of local organisations come together with the wider community to develop and manage provision. On a practical level there is the potential for shared maintenance costs across a number of stakeholders and different sports. The sports arena would then be supported in the enabling role by the council. This option needs incentives for clubs to come together. There is the start of a community sports hub/sports arena at Common Edge Road in the South where several clubs participate in different sports on the same site although in most instances they have separate club house parking and training facilities running alongside the councils changing facility all with separate associated running costs. Also in the South is the opportunity provided through Palatine Leisure Centre especially in light of the Councils vision and aspirations to develop the facilities at the Centre. The Council plan to upgrade existing pitches through improved drainage and to provide an AGP facility that compliments the existing centre and sports college. In the Central Area Stanley Park is an obvious choice to become a sports hub with the planned development of the changing facilities in the arena which will support the idea of the park developing as a sports village with multi sport changing facilities that will serve athletics, cycling, football, cricket and rugby league. The construction of a new BMX track is to start early in 2011. In the North there is the opportunity to link the Moor Park facilities into a wider campus approach which would include the existing football pitches and changing facilities at Moor Park extension. These facilities are in need of investment in order to improve the overall standard of playing pitches and changing facilities. A new major health and leisure facility development at Moor Park is already under construction. The facilities will include a 44 station fitness studio, spinning studio, exercise class studio, Sports Hall, 25 metre swimming pool and learner pool, library and learning Centre, GP surgeries chemist and outdoor play areas. There is also the potential to develop the Beacon Hill High School and Business Enterprise College sports pitch facilities. These sites have the potential to become the top quality venues in a sports site hub network where smaller single sites given over to individual clubs to manage. (The Council needs to consider the Sport England Sustainable Sports Hub Guidance as an output from this strategy)
- **Impact in the Short, Medium and Long Term:** The assessment has looked at the current position and relatively short term changes in demand. The strategy needs to focus on addressing the issues highlighted, but be seen as a working document. Not all the shortfalls in provision will be addressed in a 5-10-year strategy; the journey from the current situation to ideal facility mix may not be achievable in any timescale

and there may be issues in accessing NGB funding in particular which in some cases is determined and allocated in adherence to different timescales. Short term and interim solutions will be required to deal with the issues arising. This is most relevant when seeking to address deficiencies in changing provision in a realistic way. More temporary changing accommodation, on some sites may be a short term solution and more cost effective on a larger scale. In other cases there may need to be a phased approach to improving ancillary facilities – for example, the development of basic toilet facilities followed by a phased approach to changing room development.

Sport Specific Recommendations

A number of recommendations are made on a sport by sport basis to address the results of the assessments. As indicated earlier in the report, there is a heavy bias towards football within the recommendations. Of the sports assessed, football is the highest participatory and football facilities make up the bulk of the provision audited and assessed. The key conclusions from the assessments and recommendations for each sport are summarised below:

Football: The future modelling indicates a ‘net’ deficiency in mini football provision – deficiencies can be offset by re-designation of senior pitches. These shortages are further compounded by poor quality mini pitches.

To address the findings it is recommended that:

- **The Council and the Football Development Group work in partnership with the regional FA to facilitate the changes predicted in football and the way the game is played.**
- **Develop a priority action plan to drive up improvements to pitch quality and changing facilities to address issues such as water-logging, inadequate changing facilities. In developing improvements the output should be to focus on increasing pitch capacity this in turn would allow for sites to be properly rested or rationalised. By this the council could focus on providing fewer pitches and changing facilities but provide better quality. The Consultation shows that teams will travel to access better quality.**
- **The current demand is almost holistically by male teams and this does not appear to have changed since the previous strategy. There needs to be a real focus on developing the sport for girls and women. The potential to make use of a site and changing facilities primarily for female football need to be investigated further.**
- **The opportunity to reduce provision through wider community use agreements needs to be developed especially at a time of significant financial constraint facing both the council and local schools. In some instances there are pitches being maintained on one side of the fence by the council and on the other by the school and the extent and level of duplication is a concern.**
- **There is a need to tackle issues such as litter and dog fouling on pitches.**
- **The council needs to work with neighbouring authorities to ensure Council pitches are not being overused especially out of season by teams for training as this has a marked impact on pitch quality for the following season**
- **There is a need to promote the multi use courts provided across the Borough as potential training facilities for soccer skills training, thereby taking pressure off pitches during reinstatement periods.**

Cricket: The future modelling indicates a fine line between surplus /deficiency in cricket provision, although pitches are of a reasonably good quality and theoretical capacity of pitches is high.

To address the findings it is recommended that:

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- **The Council works with the LCB and local clubs to explore solutions to increasing club memberships and the possibility of realigning clubs with single teams into clubs that field several teams thereby providing fewer but stronger clubs.**
- **Support is given to local clubs to maintain the quality and capacity of local facilities**
- **Increased use of Blackpool school facilities is explored and develops community use agreements with schools (with suitable pitches and ancillary facilities).**
- **Work with the bigger clubs to develop borough wide training venue that promotes and develops the skills and provides net training.**

Rugby Union: Blackpool RUFC facilities are at capacity to meet demand. Quality is generally high, but further increases may result in supply problems

To address the findings it is recommended that:

- **The club is supported to maintain the quality of facilities at Fleetwood Road**
- **There needs to be work through schools to develop the sport at mini and junior levels**

Rugby League:

To address the findings it is recommended that:

- **Working with the governing body and local clubs to develop mini and junior teams**
- **There is a potential supply issue against demand and this will need careful consideration in the future if the sport is to develop**
- **There are two pitches in the north area that do not appear to be used by community clubs despite them being available for community use. (Beacon Hill High School and Business Enterprise).**

Hockey:

There is only one club in the borough and they need support from the council to facilitate their growth. The club have issues in gaining access to the AGPs in Stanley Park due to the facilities being used for training by other clubs.

The council need to work with the Hockey club to ensure that the clubs needs in terms of access to the pitches in Stanley Park on peak match days (Saturday) and for training purposes Mid-week are met.

The development of a 4G AGP at Palatine Leisure Centre will resolve much of the conflict faced by the hockey clubs use of the AGPs in Stanley Park. The provision of a new facility has the potential to release additional pitch playing time (slots) at the Stanley Park facilities.

Tennis:

To address the findings it is recommended that:

- **There is a need to consider how tennis is managed and promoted in the borough especially within the councils land holding. At present there are two private clubs Norbreck and South Shore that promote tennis development and the sport in general. From a strategic perspective the priority for the Council needs to be to develop the recreational tennis facilities in Stanley Park as this would geographically compliment the existing clubs in both the north and south of the Borough. The Council need to enter dialogue and discussion with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Tennis Foundation in relation to potential investment and funding streams to achieve this.**

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- **There is a large supply of courts in local schools that appear to have no community use and many of these are often with a reasonably close proximity to council provided courts in parks and open space and as such there is duplication in terms of provision but an over reliance on the council to provide community use.**
- **Council courts are mainly used for a brief but peak period during the summer and in winter many courts have no posts or nets and perhaps the management of courts needs to be localised to neighbourhood areas.**

Bowls:

Quality is a concern in parts and there are issues borough wide with dwindling club membership and overall sustainability of the current infrastructure

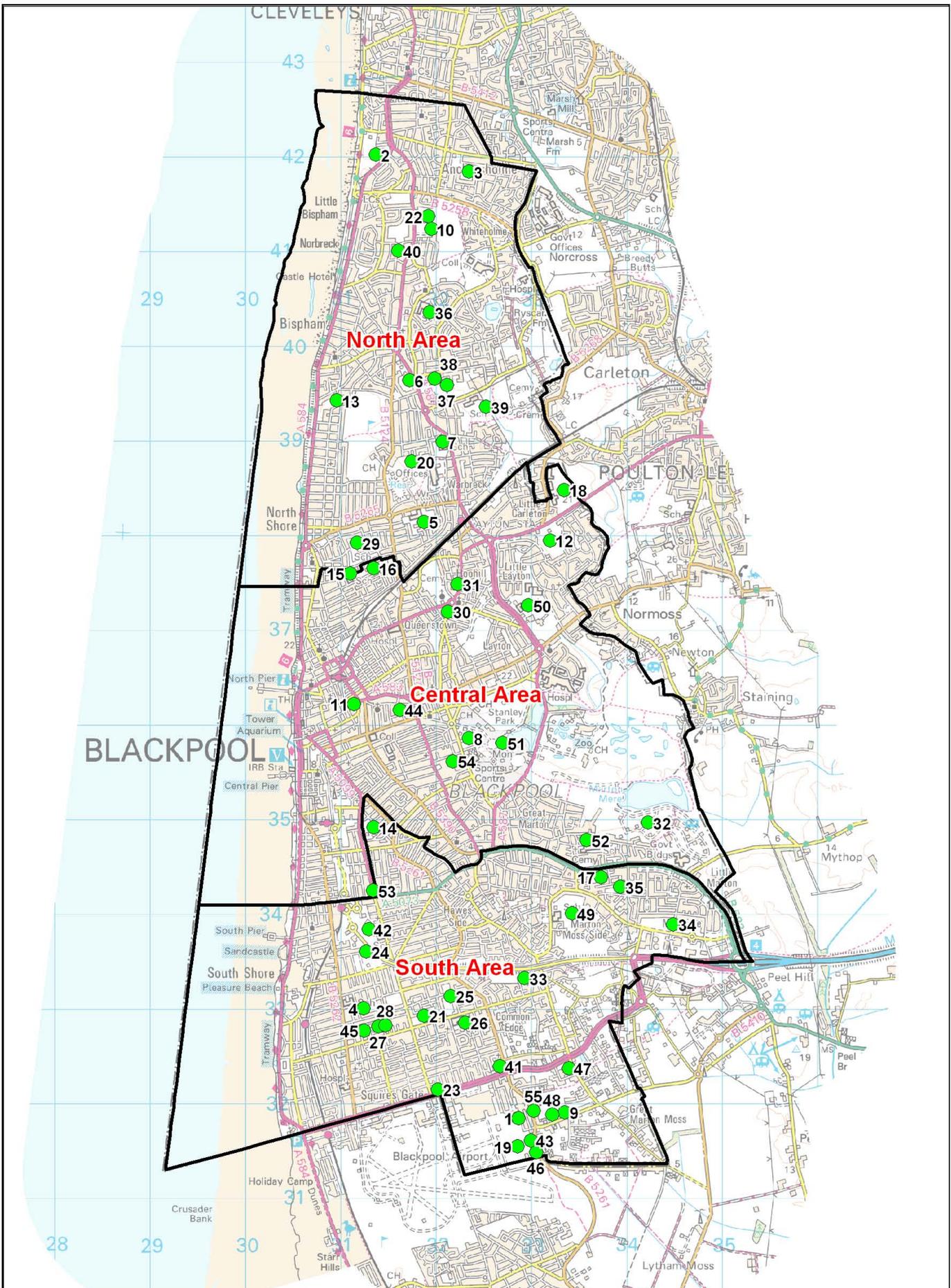
To address the findings it is recommended that:

- **The Council and its partners need to produce a development plan for bowls which promotes the sport across the Borough, considers the opportunities to link the sport with wider sport and physical activity development initiatives and addresses issues in relation to participation. A rationalisation of bowling facilities has taken place and some sites have been closed, great strides have been made in recent years in terms of self management and the facilities transferring into the management of clubs with support from the council, the next objective on this journey would be for the clubs to maintain the greens themselves as this function is currently performed by the Council.**
- **The council needs to ensure its facilities are fit for purpose and accessible, if this means reducing the number of greens to provide better facilities then this needs to be discussed in detail with all clubs to ensure the council provide the right facility in the right place to meet local demand**

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Job Title

**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title

**ALL PITCH SITES AND
NON PITCH (BOWLS AND TENNIS) SITES**

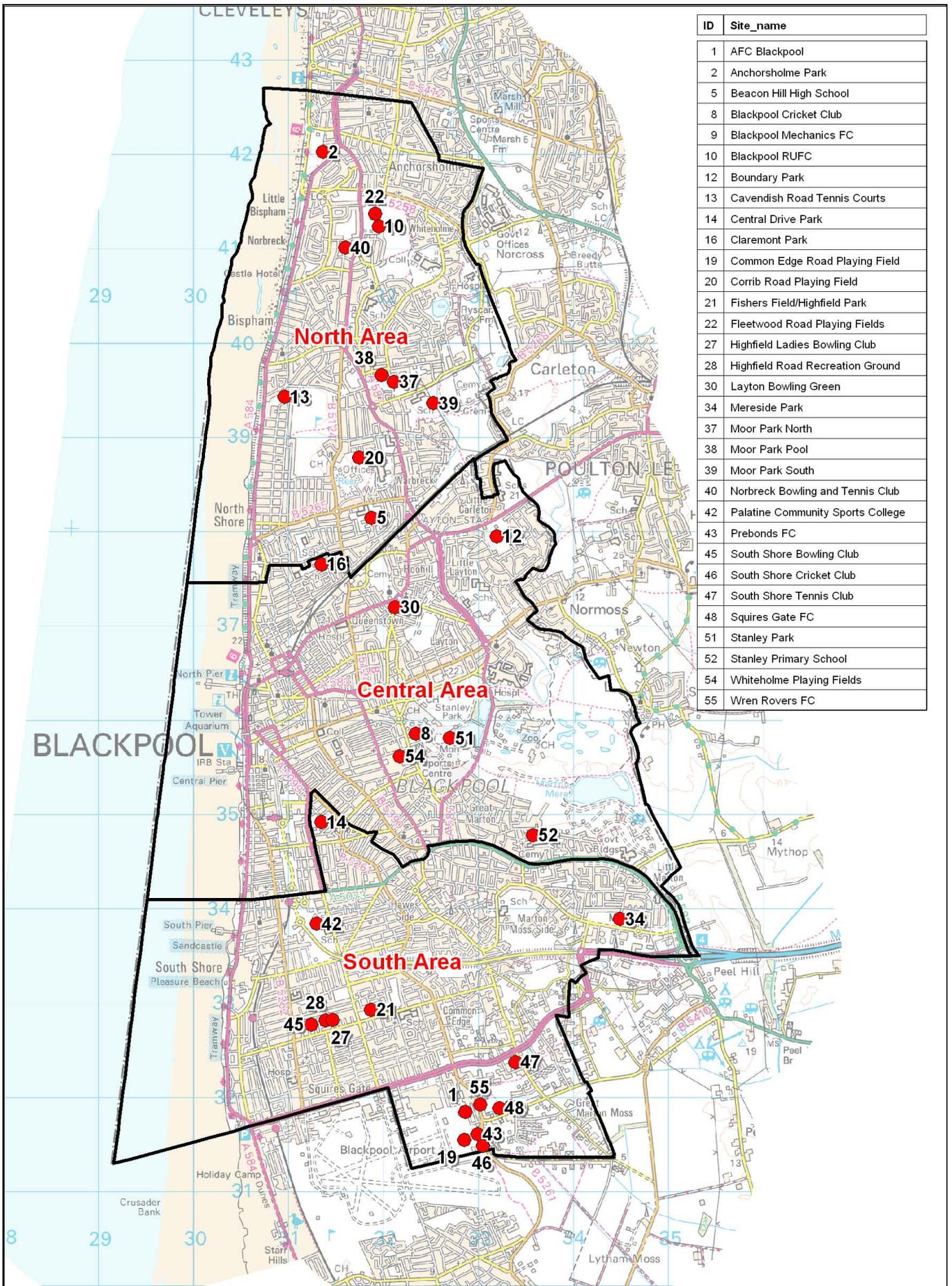
MAP 1		
Scale: NTS		
Drw	RMC	Rev
Date	04/01/11	Date

Strategic Leisure

Scot+ Wilson

Map 1 Legend

ID	Site Name	Area	Ownership	Community Use
1	AFC Blackpool	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
2	Anchorsholme Park	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
3	Anchorsholme Primary School	North	School/education	No
4	Arnold School	South	School/education	No
5	Beacon Hill High School Business and Enterprise College	North	School/education	Yes
6	Bispham Conservative Club Bowling Green	North	Blackpool Council	No
7	Bispham High School - An Arts College	North	School/education	No
8	Blackpool Cricket Club	Central	Blackpool Council	Yes
9	Blackpool Mechanics FC	South	School/education	Yes
10	Blackpool RUFC	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
11	Blackpool St John's Church of England Primary School	Central	School/education	No
12	Boundary Park	Central	Blackpool Council	Yes
13	Cavendish Road Tennis Courts	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
14	Central Drive Park	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
15	Claremont Conservative Club Bowling Gree	Central	Private/club	No
16	Claremont Park	Central	Blackpool Council	Yes
17	Co-op Sports Club & Fields	South	Private/club	No
18	Collegiate High School Sports College	Central	School/education	No
19	Common Edge Road Playing Field	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
20	Corrib Road Playing Field	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
21	Fishers Field/Highfield Park	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
22	Fleetwood Road Playing Fields	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
23	Halfway House Bowling Green	South	Blackpool Council	No
24	Hampton Road Bowling Green	South	Blackpool Council	No
25	Hawes Side Primary School	South	School/education	No
26	Highfield Humanities College	South	School/education	No
27	Highfield Ladies Bowling Club	South	Private/club	Yes
28	Highfield Road Recreation Ground	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
29	Holy Family Catholic Primary School	North	School/education	No
30	Layton Bowling Green	Central	Blackpool Council	Yes
31	Layton Institute Bowling Green	Central	Private/club	No
32	marton mere holiday park	Central	Private/club	No
33	Marton Primary School and Nursery	South	School/education	No
34	Mereside Park	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
35	Mereside Primary School	South	School/education	No
36	Montgomery High School - A Language College	North	School/education	No
37	Moor Park North	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
38	Moor Park Pool	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
39	Moor Park South	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
40	Norbreck Bowling and Tennis Club	North	Private/club	Yes
41	Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School	South	School/education	No
42	Palatine Community Sports College	South	School/education	Yes
43	Prebonds FC	South	Private/club	Yes
44	Raikes Hall Bowling Green	Central	Private/club	No
45	South Shore Bowling Club	South	Private/club	Yes
46	South Shore Cricket Club	South	Blackpool Council	Yes
47	South Shore Tennis Club	South	Private/club	Yes
48	Squires Gate FC	South	Private/club	Yes
49	St George's Church of England High School	South	School/education	No
50	St Mary's Catholic College	Central	School/education	No
51	Stanley Park	Central	Blackpool Council	Yes
52	Stanley Primary School	Central	School/education	Yes
53	Waterloo Hotel Bowling Green	Central	Private/club	No
54	Whiteholme Playing Fields	North	Blackpool Council	Yes
55	Wren Rovers FC	South	Private/club	Yes



Job Title

**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title

**FOOTBALL PITCH SITES
WITH COMMUNITY USE**

MAP 2

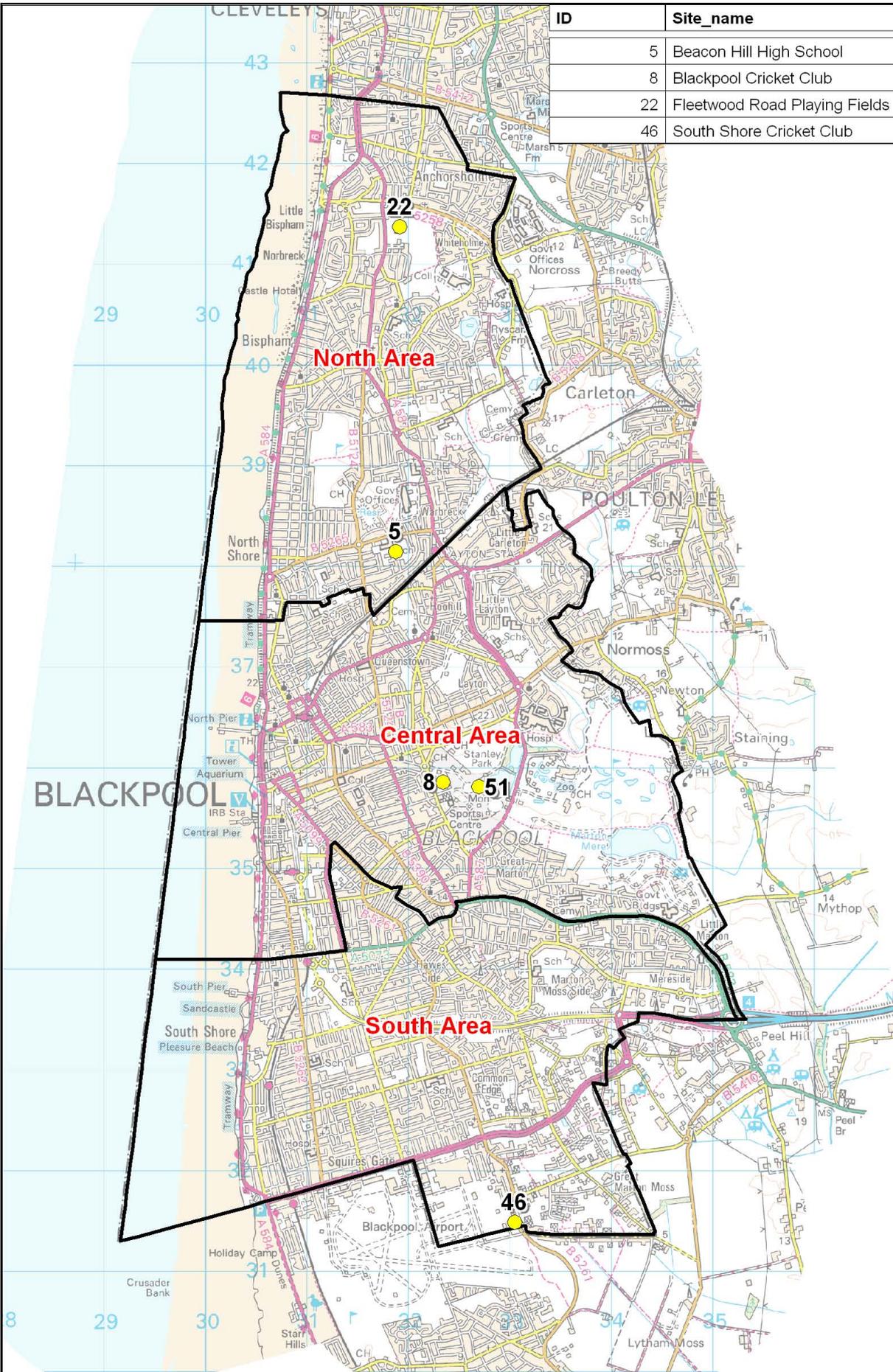
Scale: NTS

Drw	RMC	Rev
Date	04/01/11	Date

Scot+ Wilson



ID	Site_name
5	Beacon Hill High School
8	Blackpool Cricket Club
22	Fleetwood Road Playing Fields
46	South Shore Cricket Club

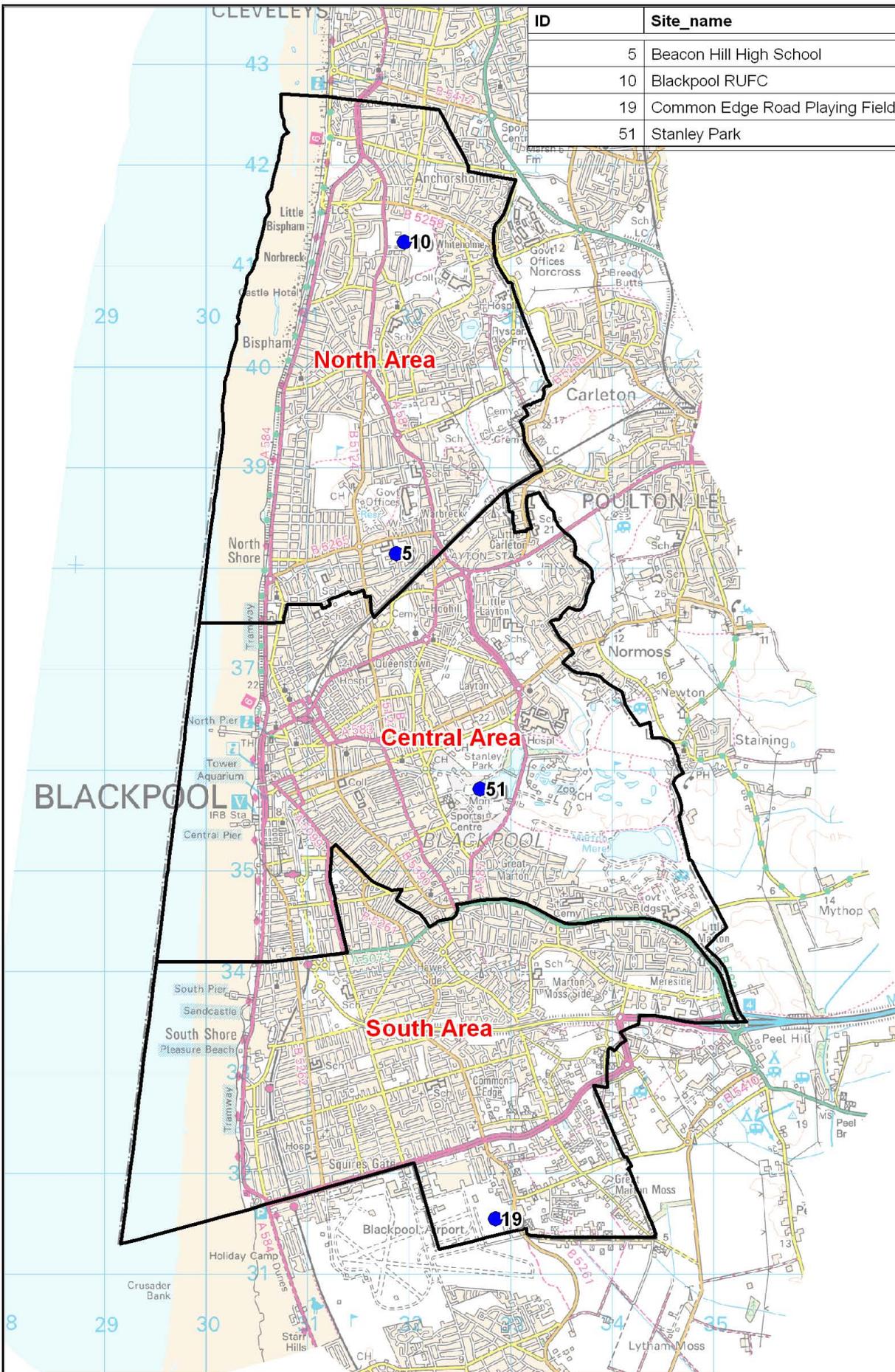


Job Title	BLACKPOOL COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
Drawing Title	CRICKET SITES WITH COMMUNITY USE

MAP 3	
Scale:	NTS
Drw RMC	Rev
Date 04/01/11	Date



ID	Site_name
5	Beacon Hill High School
10	Blackpool RUFC
19	Common Edge Road Playing Field
51	Stanley Park



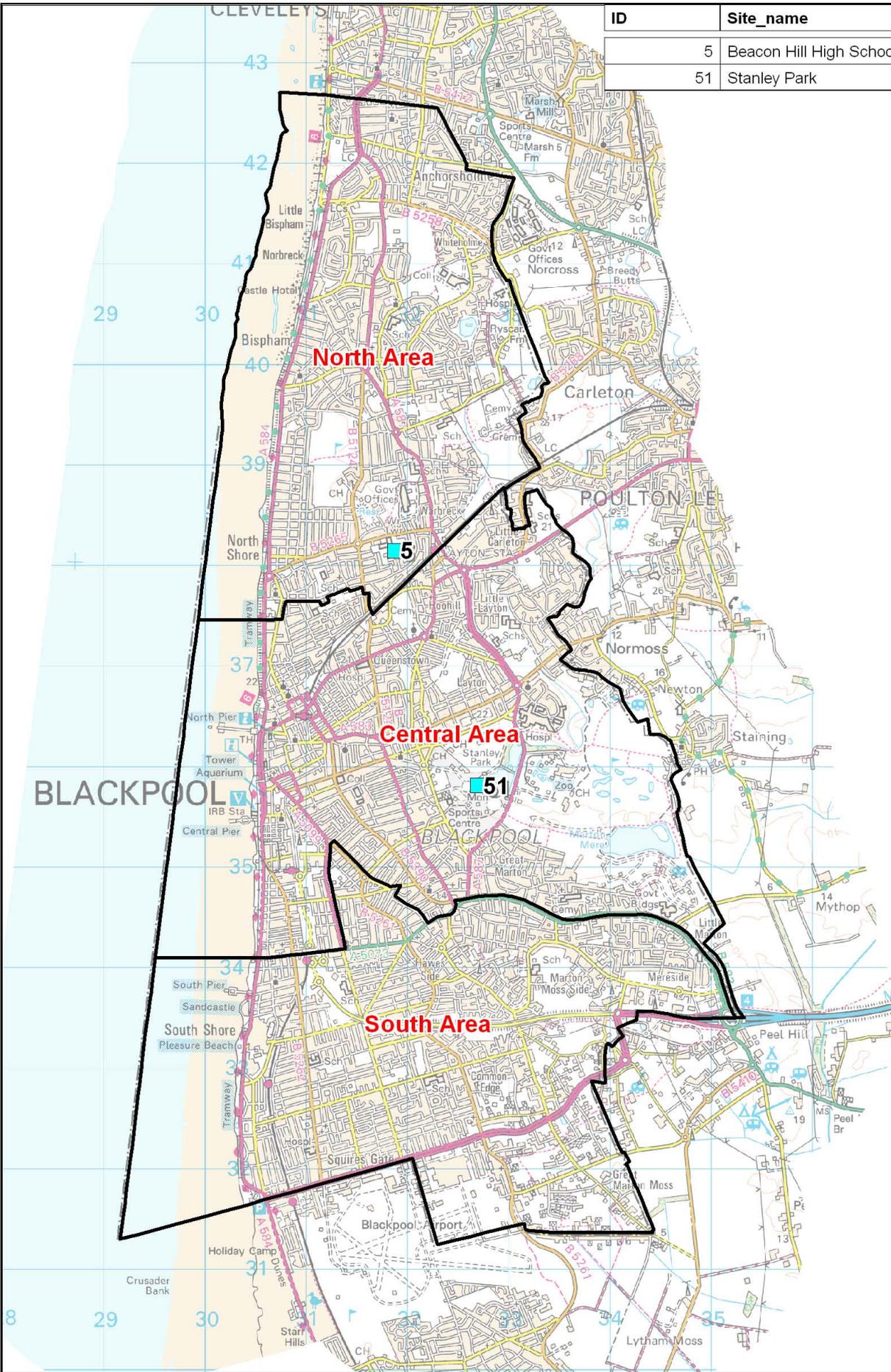
Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**RUGBY PITCH SITES
WITH COMMUNITY USE**

MAP 4		
Scale: NTS		
Drw	RMC	Rev
Date	04/01/11	Date



ID	Site_name
5	Beacon Hill High School
51	Stanley Park

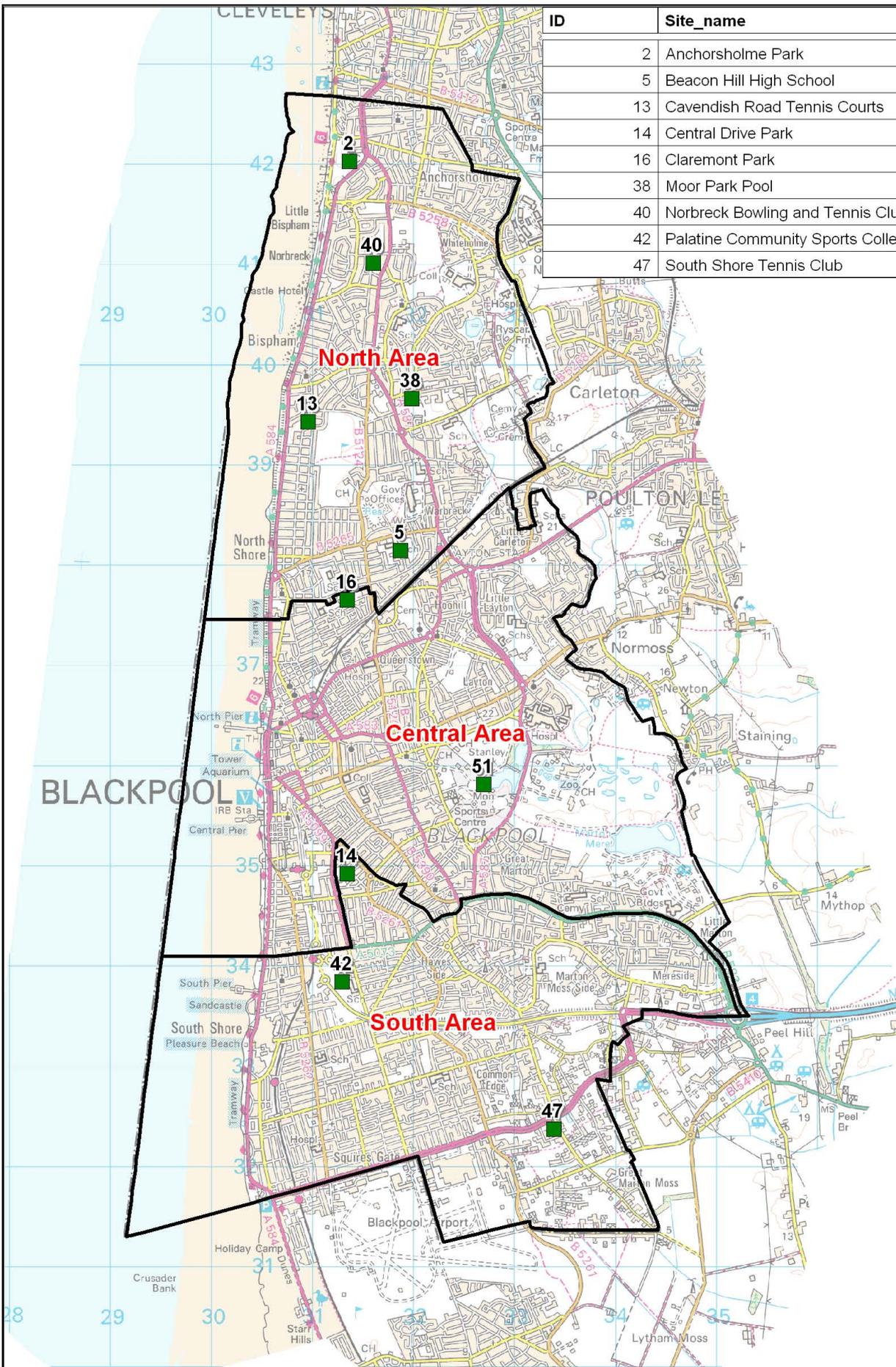


Job Title	BLACKPOOL COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
Drawing Title	ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES WITH COMMUNITY USE

MAP 5		
Scale: NTS		
Drw RMC	Rev	
Date 04/01/11	Date	



ID	Site_name
2	Anchorsholme Park
5	Beacon Hill High School
13	Cavendish Road Tennis Courts
14	Central Drive Park
16	Claremont Park
38	Moor Park Pool
40	Norbreck Bowling and Tennis Club
42	Palatine Community Sports College
47	South Shore Tennis Club



Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**TENNIS COURTS
WITH COMMUNITY USE**

MAP 6

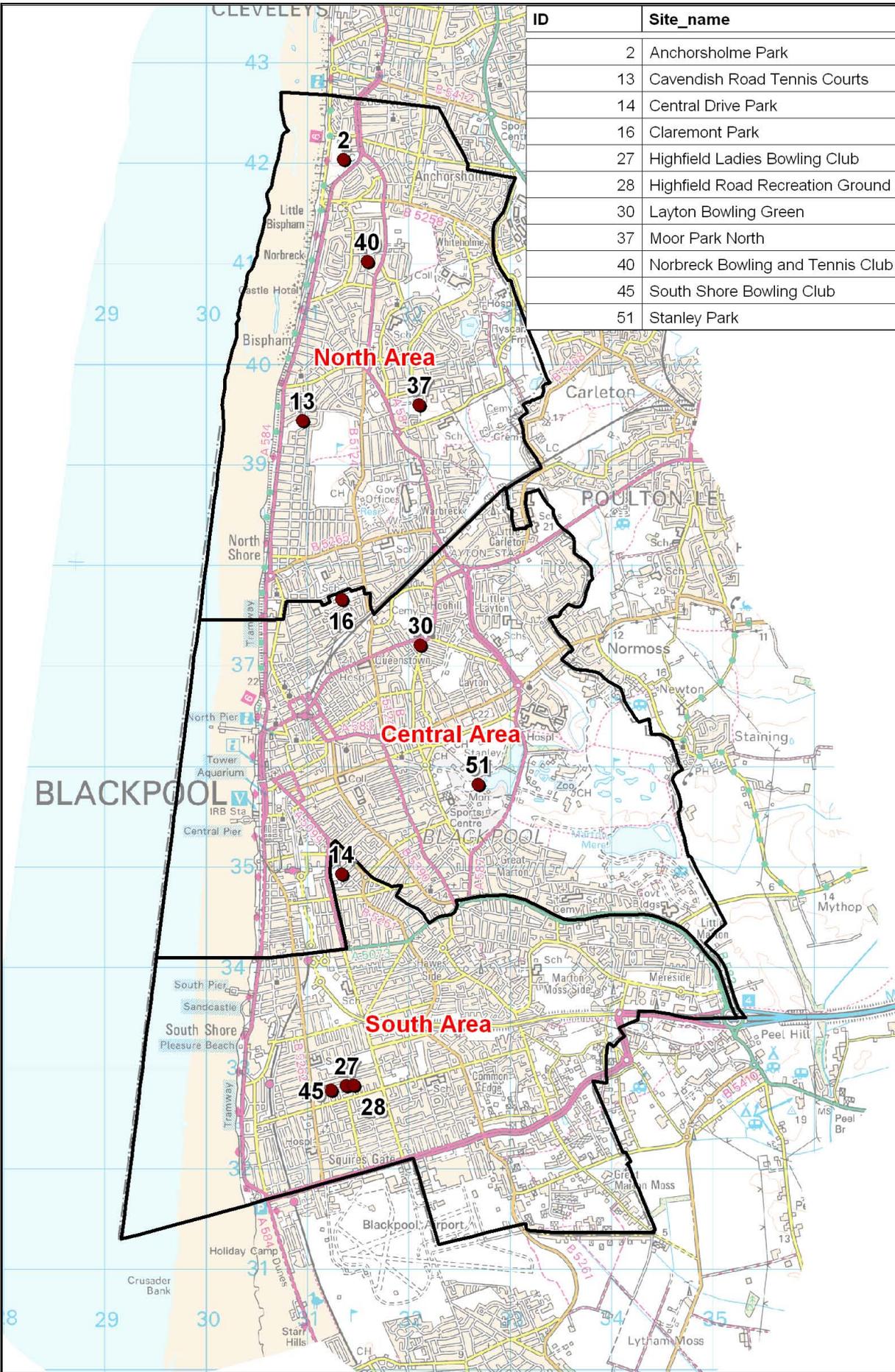
Scale: NTS

Drw	RMC	Rev
Date	04/01/11	Date

**Scott
Wilson**



ID	Site_name
2	Anchorsholme Park
13	Cavendish Road Tennis Courts
14	Central Drive Park
16	Claremont Park
27	Highfield Ladies Bowling Club
28	Highfield Road Recreation Ground
30	Layton Bowling Green
37	Moor Park North
40	Norbreck Bowling and Tennis Club
45	South Shore Bowling Club
51	Stanley Park



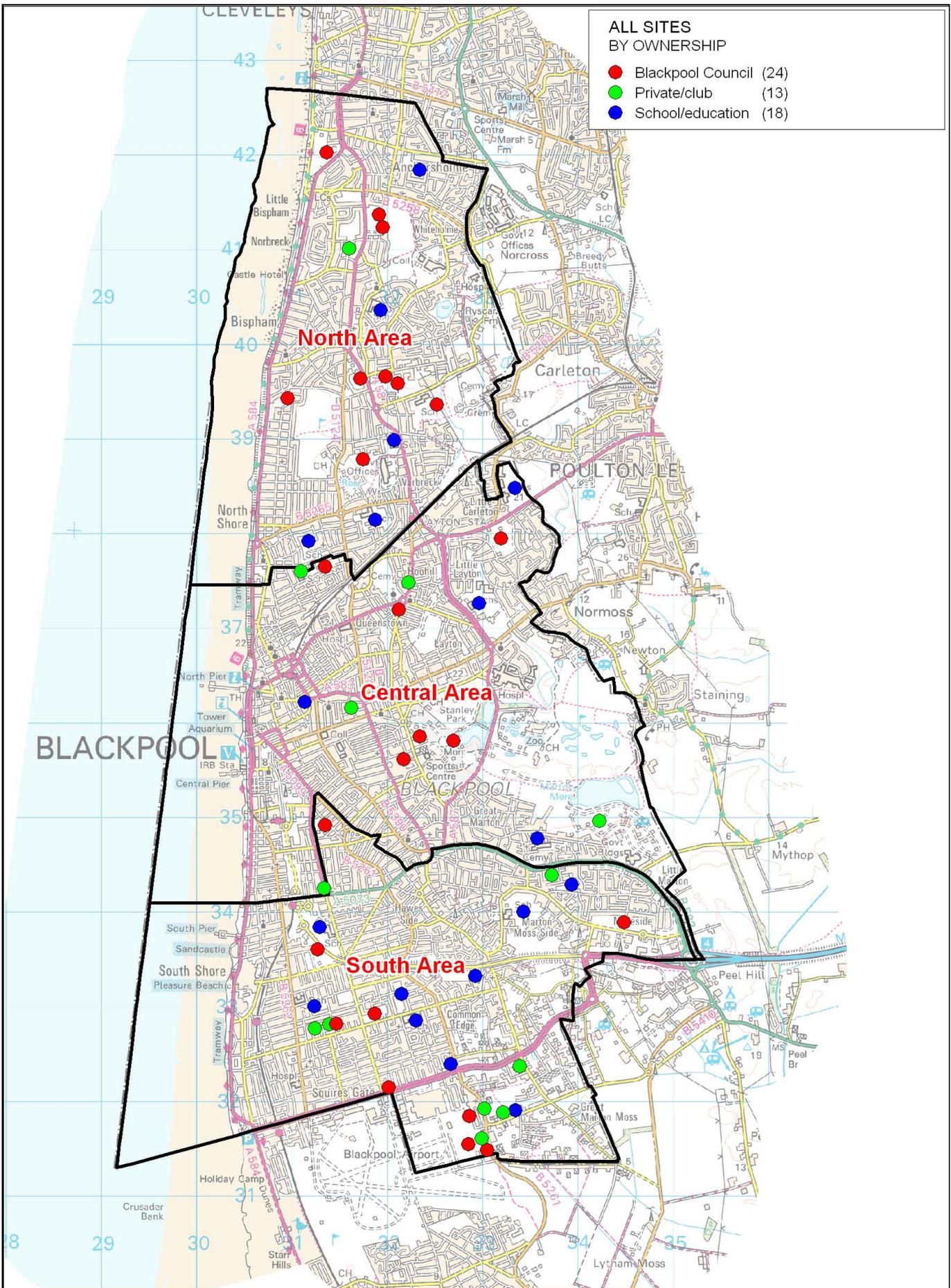
Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**BOWLING GREENS
WITH COMMUNITY USE**

MAP 7		
Scale: NTS		
Drw RMC	Rev	
Date 04/01/11	Date	



- ALL SITES
BY OWNERSHIP**
- Blackpool Council (24)
 - Private/club (13)
 - School/education (18)

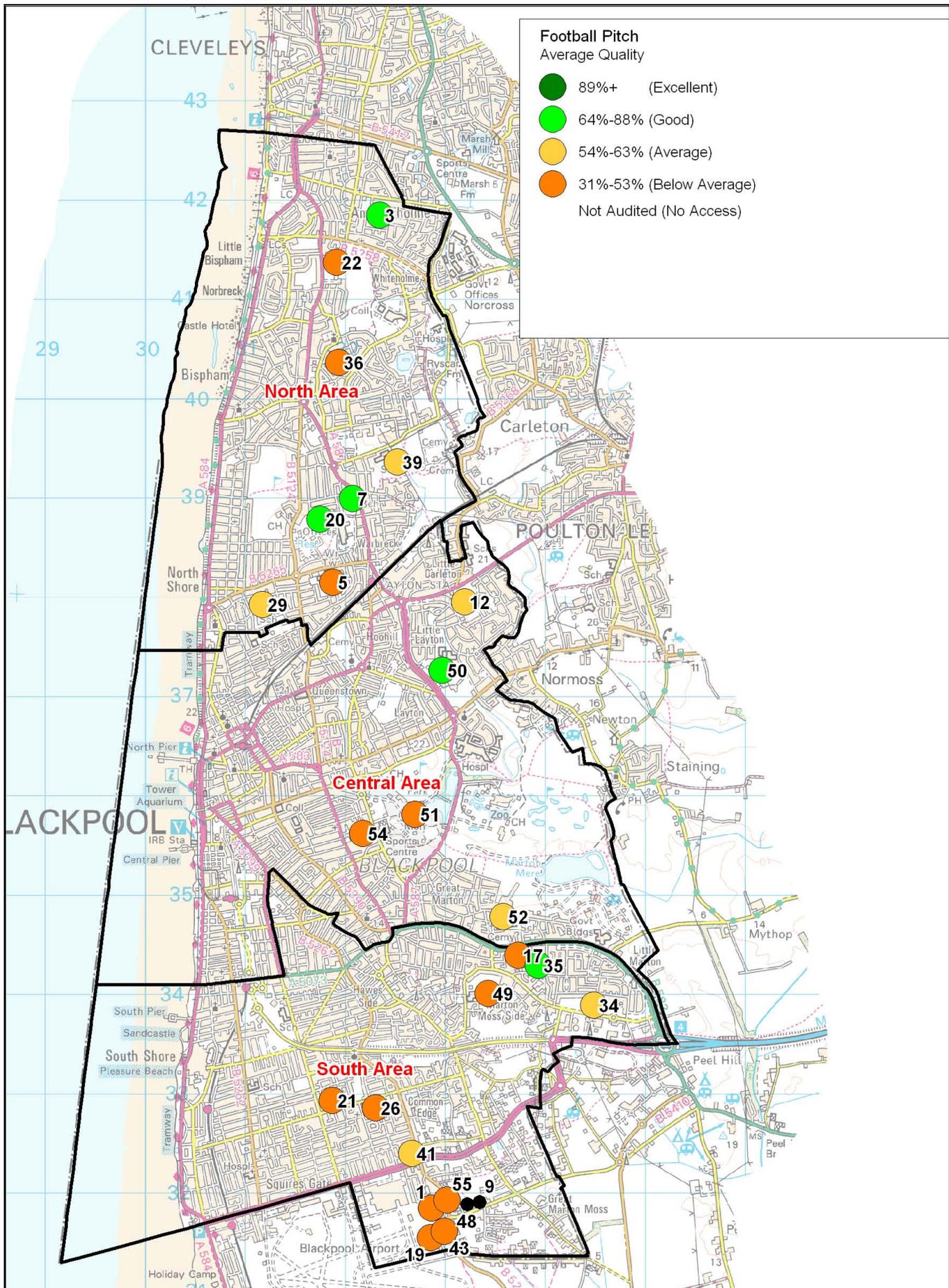


Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**ALL SITES BY
OWNERSHIP**

MAP 8		
Scale: NTS		
Drw RMC	Rev	
Date 04/01/11	Date	





Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**FOOTBALL PITCH SITES
 AVERAGE PITCH QUALITY**

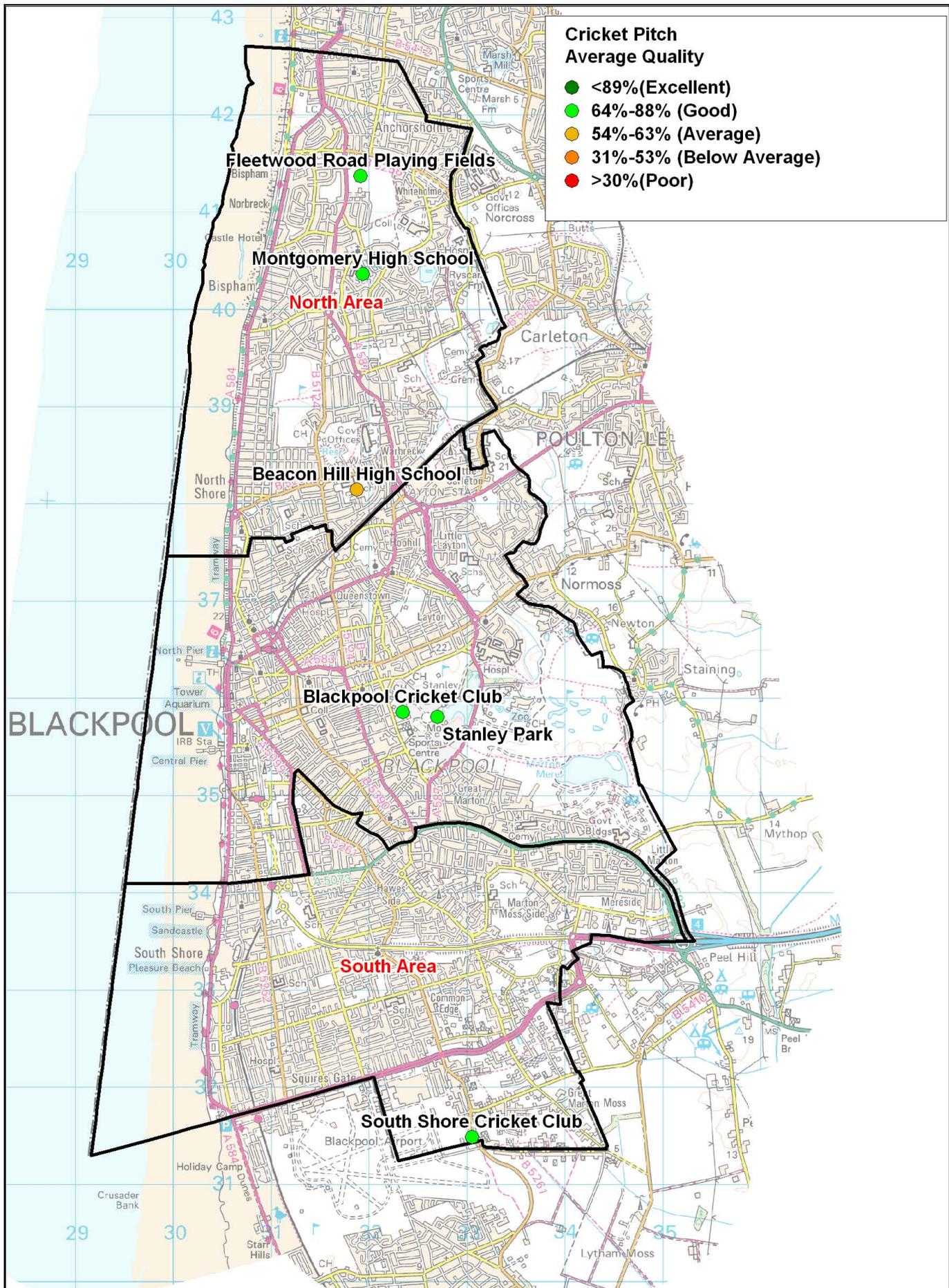
MAP 9

Scale: NTS

Drw	RMC	Rev
Date	04/01/11	Date

Scott
Wilson





- Cricket Pitch Average Quality**
- <89% (Excellent)
 - 64%-88% (Good)
 - 54%-63% (Average)
 - 31%-53% (Below Average)
 - >30% (Poor)

Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

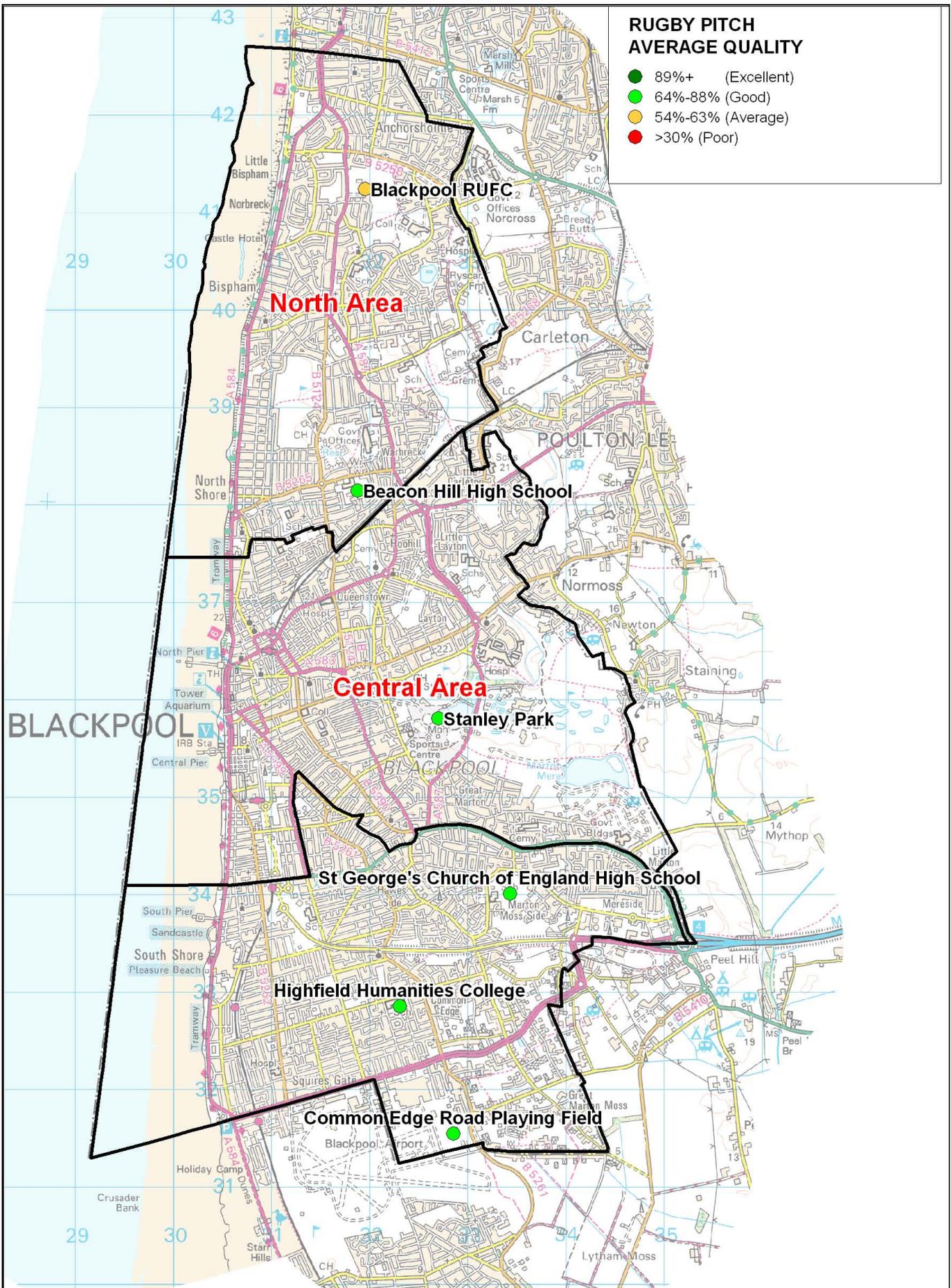
Drawing Title
**CRICKET PITCH SITES
 AVERAGE PITCH QUALITY**

MAP 10		
Scale: NTS		
Drw	RMC	Rev
Date 04/01/11	Date	



**RUGBY PITCH
AVERAGE QUALITY**

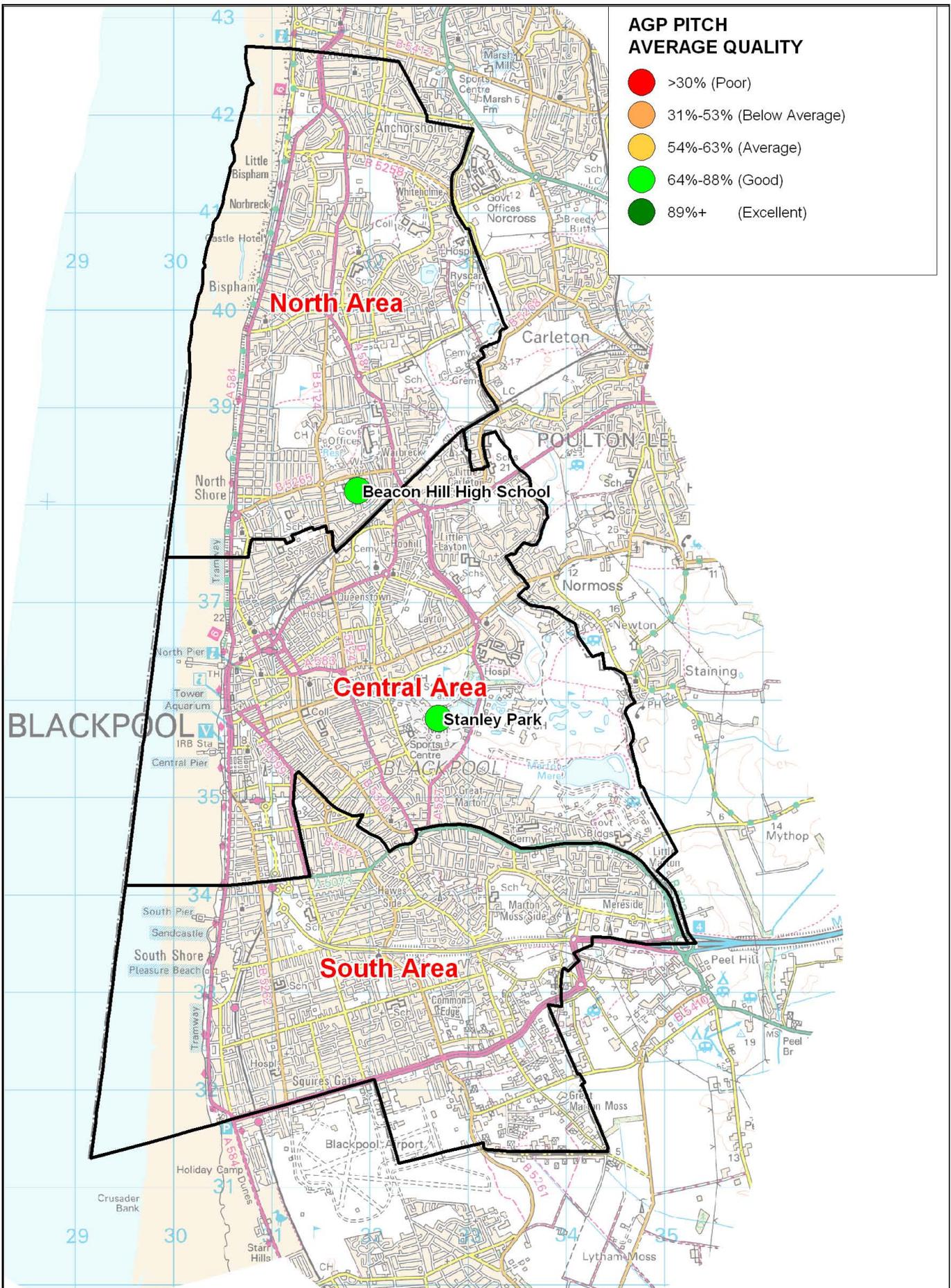
- 89%+ (Excellent)
- 64%-88% (Good)
- 54%-63% (Average)
- >30% (Poor)



Job Title	BLACKPOOL COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY		MAP 11		 <p>strategic leisure</p>
Drawing Title	RUGBY PITCH SITES AVERAGE PITCH QUALITY		Scale:	NTS	
	Drw	RMC	Rev		
	Date	04/01/11	Date		

**AGP PITCH
AVERAGE QUALITY**

- >30% (Poor)
- 31%-53% (Below Average)
- 54%-63% (Average)
- 64%-88% (Good)
- 89%+ (Excellent)

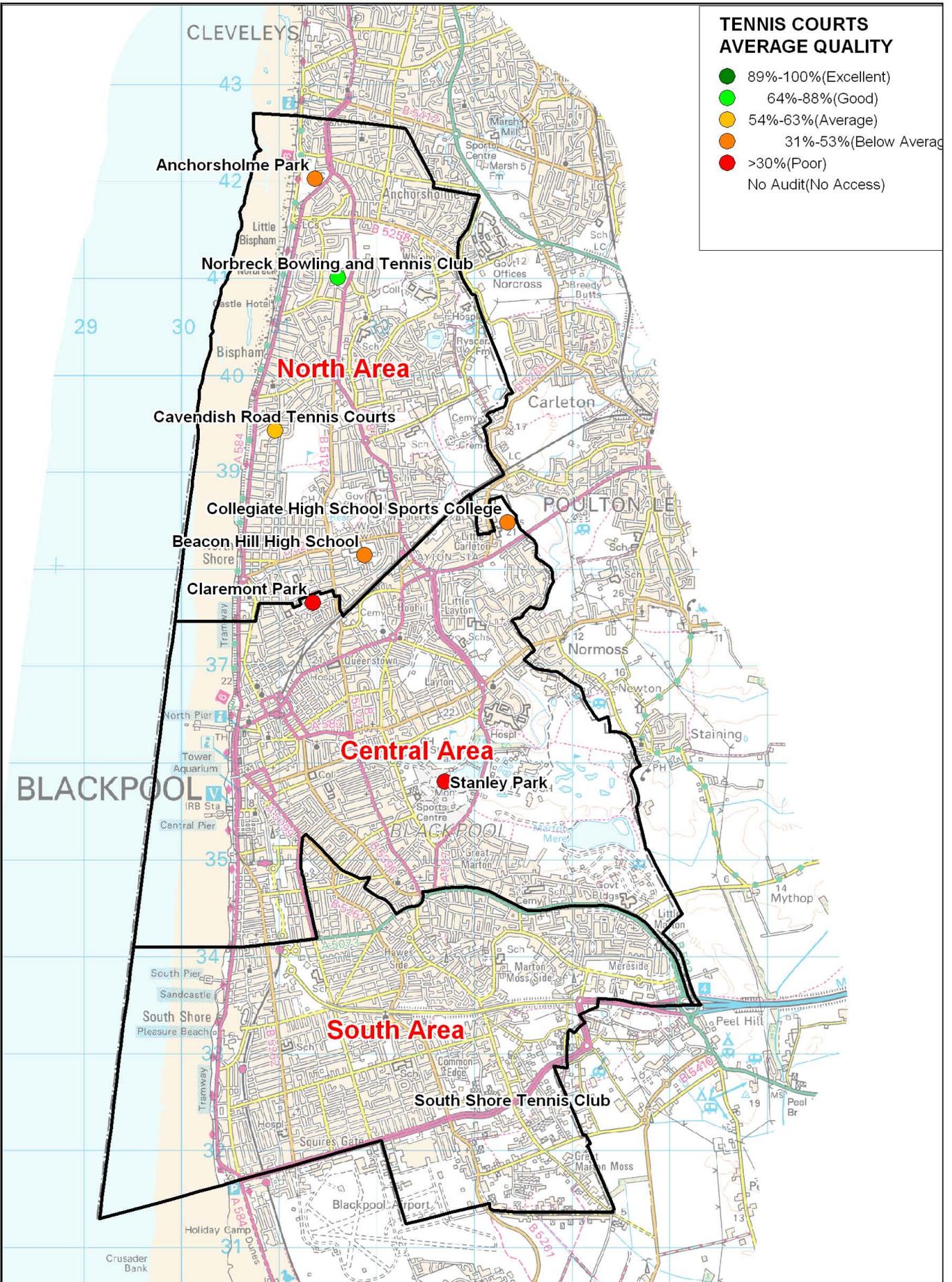


Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**AGP PITCH SITES
AVERAGE PITCH QUALITY**

MAP 12		
Scale: NTS		
Drw	RMC	Rev
Date 04/01/11	Date	

**Scott
Wilson**



Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

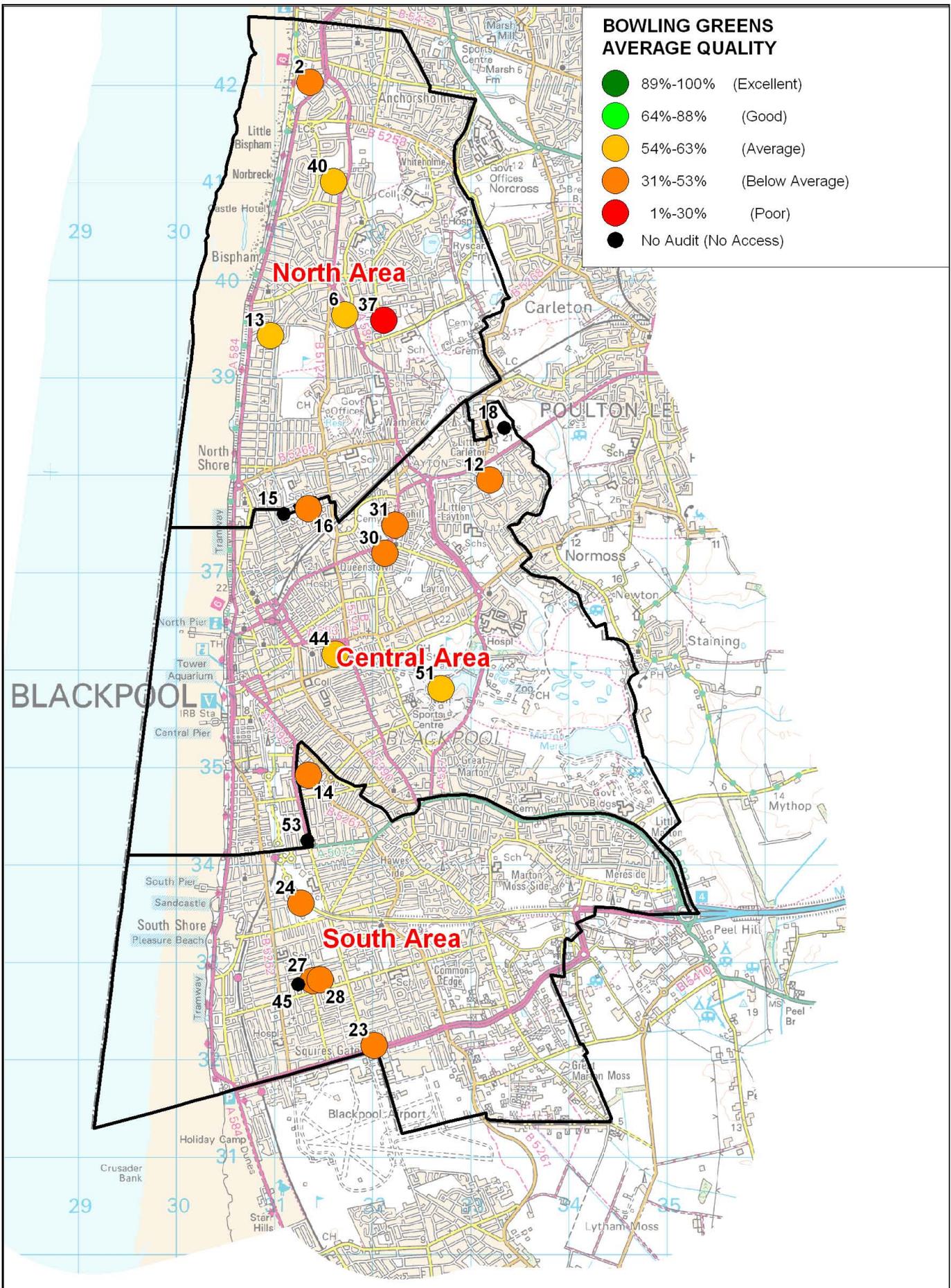
Drawing Title
**TENNIS COURT SITES
 AVERAGE COURT QUALITY**

MAP 13		
Scale: NTS		
Drw	RMC	Rev
Date 04/01/11	Date	



**BOWLING GREENS
AVERAGE QUALITY**

- 89%-100% (Excellent)
- 64%-88% (Good)
- 54%-63% (Average)
- 31%-53% (Below Average)
- 1%-30% (Poor)
- No Audit (No Access)



Job Title
**BLACKPOOL COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Drawing Title
**BOWLING GREEN SITES
AVERAGE GREEN QUALITY**

MAP 14		
Scale: NTS		
Drw RMC	Rev	
Date 04/01/11	Date	

