



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Executive Summary

This Plan seeks to provide a positive and inclusive strategic vision for sporting provision in Hadleigh for the next 5-10 years and also as a basis for future review beyond this timescale. The Plan has been informed by collective engagement across the range of sporting clubs and organisations located in Hadleigh. The Status of each club - in terms of membership (number, age and gender), existing facilities (hired, leased, owned), activity level (club training/match schedules) and current Issues & Challenges – have been collated to give a clear picture of their existing and future aspirations and requirements to ensure that sporting clubs can remain sustainable and in many cases grow to meet the future needs of Hadleigh.

The Plan has been developed to align with and compliment the Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils' 'Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity Strategy' (BMSLSPAS). The Plan can help deliver and support the top 6 priorities which underpin the Councils' Strategy, including meeting the leisure and sporting needs across the age spectrum; the needs of those with physical and learning disabilities; and supporting the provision of new sustainable community and sports facilities.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to assist both Babergh District Council and Hadleigh Town Council with their respective plan-making in the form of a new Babergh & Mid Suffolk Local Plan (BMSLP) and Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan (NP) by providing them with information on the current status and aspirations of the Sporting Community in Hadleigh Suffolk. The Plan also looks to align with the leisure and sporting ambitions set out in the B & MSDC Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity Strategy, and can be used to inform the Councils' proposed 'Playing Pitch Strategy'.

Its main aim is to articulate the issues, future needs and recommended solutions that would benefit the Sporting Community in and around Hadleigh.

The contributors to this document are representatives of the following Sports Clubs who have all approved the release of this document.

Hadleigh Badminton Club	Hadleigh Netball Club
Hadleigh Bowling Club	Hadleigh Rugby Club
Hadleigh Cricket Club	Hadleigh Running and Triathlon Club
Hadleigh Cycling Club	Hadleigh Swimming Club
Hadleigh Football Club	Hadleigh Tennis Club
Hadleigh Gymnastics Club	

All Hadleigh clubs and associations have been approached as part of this Strategy. As can be seen from the below (Table 5), these organisations can independently accommodate their needs moving forward. Whilst this is the current position, the aim of the Strategy is to be fully embracing and dialogue will remain open with these groups through regular reviews.



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Sports Clubs Engagement

The below tables set out key information on the Hadleigh Sporting Community in terms of the Status of each club - in terms of membership (number, age and gender), existing facilities (hired, leased, owned), activity level (club training/match schedules) and current Issues & Challenges. They have been collated to give a clear picture of their existing and future aspirations and requirements to ensure that sporting clubs can remain sustainable and in many cases grow to meet the future needs of Hadleigh.

Table 1 Summary of Status of each Club

Hadleigh Sporting Community - Status 2017			Participating Members				
Club	Organisation Type	Year Est.	Total Members	Junior	Senior	Other Members	No of Volunteers
Badminton	Members NfP	1947	28	2	26	0	9
Bowling	Members NfP + CASC	1754	144	2	110	32	36
Cricket	Members NfP	1810	345	110	45	190	25
Cycling	Members NfP	2012	95	25	20	50	15
Football	Members NfP + CASC	1892	600	250	80	270	90
Gymnastics	CIC	2012	250	250			26
Netball	Members NfP	2017	36	16	20		3
Rugby	Members NfP + CASC	1984	450	320	80	50	90
Running	Members NfP	1984	205	60	135	10	18
Swimming	Members NfP	1971	112	83	10	19	19
Tennis	Members NfP	1881	40	0	35	5	8
TOTALS			2305	1118	561	626	339



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Table 2. Facilities

Club	Owned Facilities used	Hired/Leased Facilities	Owner	Tenure	Other Facilities Used
Badminton		4 Courts at Hadleigh High School, Once per week	SSL/SCC	Block Hiring	
Bowling	8 Rinks + Clubhouse +Car Park		Bowling Club	Freehold	
Cricket	Outdoor Ground+ recently refurbished Pavilion		HCC	Lease	
Cycling		Hadleigh County Primary Playground and Field	SCC	None	Open Spaces Off and On Road
Football	Clubhouse, Floodlights, Car Park	2 Pitches at Millfield	HTC	25 Lease	Hadleigh High School Pitches and LRSB Pitch
Gymnastics		Birch Farm Hintlesham	Birch Farm	Hiring	
Netball		2 Outdoor Courts	SSL/SCC	Block Hire	Hadleigh High School Courts
Rugby	Clubhouse	2 Pitches, Training Areas, 2 Changing Rooms all at LRSB	HTC although HRFC own main Clubhouse and training floodlights	Block Hire	None
Running			SSL/HUFC/WAB	Hiring	Open Spaces Off and On Road, Equipment Stores HUFC, Hadleigh High School Hall and Grounds, Triathletes use Pool and Gym at Wattisham
Swimming			SSL/SCC	Hiring	SSL Managed Hadleigh Pool
Tennis		3 Courts +Club Room all at LRSB	HTC	Hiring	



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Table 3. Activities

Activities					
Club	No of Teams	Age Group	Major Events	Governing Body	Accreditation
Badminton	3	2 adult Mens and 1 Mixed			Badminton England
Bowls				Bowls England, English Bowls Association, English Short Mat Bowling Association	
Cricket	12	11yrs to Adult. Male and Female	Bi-Annual Celebrity Evening	ECB and Suffolk Cricket	ECB Clubmark
Cycling			Gayford Flyer	British Cycling	
Football	21	5yrs to Adult	Hadleigh Fireworks. Bi-Annual Celebrity Evening	Football Association/Eastern Counties League and Suffolk & Ipswich Youth League	FA Charter Standard Club
Gymnastics		3yrs to 16yrs		British Gymnastics	
Netball	3	9yrs to Adult		England Netball	
Rugby	22	6yrs to Adult	Fundraising Events Annual Beer & Cider Festival, Soap Box Race, Mini and Youth Rugby Festivals, Bi-annual Black Tie Ball	Rugby Football Union; Eastern Counties Rugby Union (ECRU) and Suffolk Rugby Union (SRU)	England Rugby Accredited. Kids First Accredited, RFU Presidents Award Winner 2012,2014
Running		8yrs to Adult	Annual 10 and 5 mile Road Race	England Athletics and British Triathlon	
Swimming	2	5yrs to Adult		Swim England and Suffolk County SA	
Tennis	3	Adult Ladies and Mens	Annual Great British Tennis Event	Lawn Tennis Association	



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Table 4: Club Activity Plan

Club	Season	Training Sessions	Matches	Committee Mtgs	Other Events
Badminton	Full season Sept-Apr Competitive Season Oct-Mar	Wednesday 8pm-10pm	Monday 8pm-10pm	One Annual AGM in April	Summer Club (pay to play sessions) 8pm-10pm, Wednesday nights, May-July
Bowls	Summer and Winter				
Cricket	April to Sept	Juniors Mon, Wed, Friday, seniors Tue and Thursday	Juniors, various mid-week days and Sunday mornings. Seniors Sat and Sun	AGM-Nov Committee meetings quarterly	Various fund raising events every month.
Cycling	All year around but predominantly Spring/Summer/Autumn Juniors March - October	Juniors – Wednesday 6.30 – 8.30	Regional events	AGM December Monthly meetings 1 st Monday of month	Gayford Flyer Sportive – September. Get back on your bike course for ladies (May/June)
Football	Pre Season (Junior and Senior Players) July & Aug Season Aug-May	U5 Mini's Sat am U8 Midi's Sat am U5-11 Girls Wildcats Tues 5-6pm U8-U16 Evenings Mon-Wed Seniors Evenings Wed Vets Evenings Thu	U8-U16 Sat/Sun am U18 Wed Evenings Seniors Sat pm Vets Sun am and pm	AGM May/June Committee Mtgs 2 nd Thur, monthly	Fireworks Nov Celebrity Evening May Presentation Day/Evening May Various Other Fund Raising events
Gymnastics	School Terms and half term	4-14 Yrs old Recreational gymnastics Thursday 5-6 6-8	4-15 yrs old Recreational-competition gymnastics Friday 5-6 5-7 6.15-8.15 3-15 yrs old Saturday 8.30-9.15, 8.30-10.30, 9-10, 10-12 Pre- School , recreational, competition gymnastics		



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Netball		U10 -U12 Weekly training League Thurs	16+ Weekly Training		16+ Open Tournaments
Rugby	Pre Season (Youth and Senior Players) Jul & Aug Season Sept – May	U6 – U12 Sun 09:30 – 11:00 U13 – U18 Tues 19:00 – 21:00 Sun 10:30 – 12:30 Senior Tues 19:30 – 21:00 Thurs 19:30 – 21:00	U6 – U12 Sun morning U13-U18 Sun late morning/lunchtime Senior Sat afternoon	AGM May/June Committee Mtgs 1 st Mon, monthly	Rugby Festivals Mar, May & Jul Beer Festival July Soap Box race Sept Ball May
Running	All year	Adults Mon 7-8pm Thurs 7-8pm Ladies night Tues 7 -8pm Juniors 6-7pm Swimming – adults Tuesday Watt Bike – adults Thursday Club cycle – adults Saturday		AGM March Committee Mtgs Thursdays, monthly	2k fun run and 5 mile and 10 mile races. Open to all. November Cross country league race. Open to club runners in the 53-12 league. Jan / Feb Club 5k series 5 races monthly. May – September Club run / row August Awards night
Swimming	All year	Teaching groups Monday and Wednesday 18.30 – 19.30 Junior Coaching Monday and Wednesday 19.30 – 20.30 Senior Coaching Monday and Wednesday 20.30 – 21.30 Land-based training (Jnr) 19.00-19.25 Land-based training (Snr) 19.45 – 20.15 Fitness and Stamina work Friday 17.30 – 19.30 Sunday 17.00-19.00	Various open meets throughout the year. County Championships – February County Development Meet – June	AGM- April Committee meetings- monthly	Club Championships – November Presentation evening-TBC Various fundraising events.



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Tennis	Summer and Winter. Season from April 1 st to March 31 st .	Summer. Weekly Junior Tennis Sessions	Summer: Ipswich & District League Men's and Ladies'. Winter: Floodlit League Men's and Ipswich & District Ladies'	AGM February. Monthly Committee Mtgs	Annual Hadleigh vs Bildeston memorial Match. Great British Tennis Event. Summer BBQ. Christmas Dinner. Several Club Tournaments
---------------	---	---	--	---	--

DRAFT



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Hadleigh Sporting Community Objectives

Following on from an Audit of the Sporting Clubs, an assessment of their individual Issues and Challenges has been established and what Visions each Club has for their respective futures; these are summarised below:

Club's Individual Issues and Challenges (as stated in 2017)

<p>Badminton Club Maintaining Membership; Increasing Hire Costs; Poor Maintenance; irregular Court availability.</p>
<p>Bowls Club Maintaining Membership; Financing maintenance Costs; Maintaining volunteers to keep club running</p>
<p>Cricket Club To have a second pitch area to ease pressure on ground; be involved with BDC in discussions of future of BDC Offices; Rebuilding finances following Pavilion refurbishment; Retaining volunteers to support Club's growth</p>
<p>Cycling Club In need of a hardcourt area for Juniors to be coached; Challenged to provide good quality coaches for the Junior Members; Require storage space for our equipment.</p>
<p>Football Club Insufficient football pitches in Hadleigh to support Club's needs; Club's own 2 pitches at the Millfield and hired pitches at LRSB plus pitches at the High School fully utilised; Training Pitch over utilised; No more pitches available for Youth expansion; Many young players, and their families who come to support them, never come to the Millfield to enjoy the use of the Club's modern Clubhouse and facilities resulting in the loss of potential income for the Club. In addition we are challenged to maintain our volunteer workforce and to keep raising the funds required to sustain our development and growth.</p>
<p>Gymnastics Club Being let down and having to move when school requires hall; Lack of availability of Hall (we need 8-10 hours per week) ; Expensive Hall rates; no storage facility for equipment restricting purchase of needed equipment</p>
<p>Netball Club Shortage of affordable courts to train on or use for games; Lack of coaches and umpires limiting the number of players the club can support; The Club has very little funds and needs sponsors to support their plans for growth; Lack of School Year 7 (Age 10-11) tournaments resulting in having to travel to other counties to play.</p>
<p>Rugby Club HRFC does not have tenure at LRSB. Without tenure, the funds, permissions and usage rights necessary to improve, develop and expand its offering are out of reach. LRSB is too small to accommodate the number of teams and visitors now using the ground. Parking provision is woefully inadequate (c. 50 spaces). The small clubhouse, kitchenette and dated changing facilities prevent HRFC from offering a broader programme of rugby. The playing pitches and training areas are over used and therefore in poor condition and too often unplayable. Attracting and retaining membership and financial support/sponsorship whilst operating at LRSB site is a real challenge. Securing a move to and developing a new purpose-built facility will allow HRFC to markedly improve the breadth of its offering (incl. women's and representative rugby and other activities/sports), sustain and grow membership and strengthen its community links, attract financial support and establish new income streams.</p>
<p>Running Club Recruiting and training volunteer coaches; finding safe training spaces , particularly in the winter months ; lack of track facilities; no base with proper kit storage; raising awareness of the achievements of the athletes</p>
<p>Swimming Club Expenses of Hiring Pool; No Clubhouse for meetings and fundraising activities; Training and retraining teachers; retention of older age swimmers.</p>
<p>Tennis Club Attracting New Members; High Court Costs; Changing Rooms and Toilet provided by HTC of a poor standard</p>



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Club's Individual Visions

<p>Badminton Club The survival of a Badminton Club in Hadleigh; Increase Youth participation; Improve Club's relationship between Abbeycroft and High School.</p>
<p>Bowls Club Improve the playing performance of the membership whilst not losing the enjoyment of the game; Maintain the high quality of the green; Improve Clubhouse facilities; Keep playing and membership fees reasonable giving good value to the membership.</p>
<p>Cricket Club Complete Phase 2 of Pavilion Project; Win the Two Counties League; Continue expansion of Ladies Cricket.</p>
<p>Cycling Club Encourage cyclists and young people interested in cycling; To encourage and support their members to participate in local regional and national competitive and non-competitive cycling events</p>
<p>Football Club Continue the growth, development and footballing status of the Club within its sustainable means; Retain FA Charter Club accreditation. The Club see's the potential move of the Rugby Club to a new site as a positive opportunity, to work in conjunction with the Cricket Club and the Town Council, and review the use of the Layham Road Sports Ground with a view to facilitating more football and cricket pitches for use by the Club's Youth Sections. The planned redevelopment of the Layham Road Sports Pavilion supports this vision as additional changing rooms would be required by the older youth age groups. If not provided elsewhere within the development of a new site to support Rugby, the LRSG Area should be considered as a potential site for an All Weather Floodlit 3G Pitch to support the number of teams and associated activity. Increase use of the Club's own Millfield Clubhouse facilities, particularly by the Club's Youth Section to enable the Club to better support the growth in demand from the expanding number of families living in Hadleigh.</p>
<p>Gymnastics Club Finding own premises; expanding classes offered; having facilities for parties and other community groups.</p>
<p>Netball Club Continue to grow the membership; Expand the number of coaches; Enter a Team in local league in 2018-19; One Junior team to finish in top half of the Colchester Netball League; 2 girls selected for England Netball Academies in 2018-19.</p>
<p>Rugby Club Retain England Rugby Accreditation and be recognised by our peers, governing bodies and local community for the quality of our offering. Demonstrate the quality of that offering year on year by growing both junior and senior membership, expanding the mix of our sports/fitness and well-being activities/events, creating inclusive activities and events for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities, retaining a higher percentage of members. Be recognised and considered as a multi-sport provider and a centre for excellence. Be a community rugby club that others would like to emulate. Be an amateur sports club that measures its success not by the number of games its teams win, but by the satisfaction and happiness of its membership and the strength of its position within and value to the local community. By 2025 support a full programme of rugby, rugby related activities and competitive teams/squads in each age group for men and women from U6 - adult.</p>
<p>Running Club Have a proper base and safe training space; Encourage more people to be active; Attract more Run Leaders and Coaches; Develop and grow the coaching team</p>
<p>Swimming Club To teach and train children and adults up to National standard; Develop the Club with a view to retaining rather than feeding larger clubs.</p>
<p>Tennis Club</p>



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Grow Membership; Attract and retain young players; LTA compliance to support junior and family membership; Improved Tennis facilities in Hadleigh.

The above assessments have been collated to inform and shape the Sporting objectives for the town and provide a framework for a potential sustainable solution to meeting the sporting needs of the town. These solutions include the long-term consideration of a new ground for the Rugby Club.

The relocation of the Rugby Club to a new facility should give the Club security of tenure and the opportunity to access major grant funding. Both the Hadleigh Football Club and Hadleigh Cricket Clubs can demonstrate the huge advantage that security of tenure can bring a Club in the form of major grants to support their ambitions as well as provide excellent facilities for the Community to enjoy.

It is recognised that Abbeycroft Leisure (A Not-for-Profit Charitable Trust) have the primary responsibility to manage many of the sports and leisure facilities owned by Babergh and Mid Suffolk and West Suffolk District Councils. Several of the Hadleigh Sports Clubs who participated in this initiative enjoy and depend on the use of Abbeycroft managed facilities. It is therefore logical for Hadleigh Town Council to consider the sports facilities they own at the Layham Road Sports Ground being similarly managed by a professional organisation with experience of managing similar open space sports facilities.

Meeting District and Town Council Sport and Recreational Policies, Requirements and Aspirations

Current Plans

The current Development Plan for Babergh District comprises the Babergh Local Plan (Alteration No.2) adopted by the Council on 1st June 2006 (BLP 2006) and the Babergh Core Strategy & Policies (which supersedes some of the policies contained in the Local Plan 2006), which was adopted on 25th February 2014 (BCS 2014)

Chapter 8 of the BLP 2006 sets out policies for 'Recreation and Tourism' and includes 6 key objectives which includes "...providing for the recreational needs of the community." The supporting text further expands on this and states:

"The provision and retention of recreation and leisure facilities has increasing importance as a result of attitudes to healthy living, more leisure time and active participation. There is, therefore, a need to safeguard existing facilities and make good recognised deficiencies."

BLP 2006 Policies RE01 and RE02 provide support and encouragement to the provision of additional formal sports facilities and playing fields subject to the consideration of wider impacts such as landscape impact and residential amenity.

With respect to the Babergh Core Strategy, it is worth highlighting the 'Key Issues for Growth and Climate' which amongst other matters point to the need for "...appropriate infrastructure to ensure that our communities are sustainable in all important respects; and achieves an appropriate balance between social, economic and environmental objectives."

In terms of Core Strategy policies, Policy CS15 (Implementing Sustainable Development in Babergh) is relevant. It states that:



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

“Proposals for development should...make provision for open space, amenity, leisure and play through providing, enhancing and contributing to the green infrastructure of the district.”

Emerging Plans

The combined memberships of the Hadleigh Sporting Community who have participated in this initiative represent a significant percentage of the population of Hadleigh and surrounding areas. Their voices and messages should be reflected in the formulation of the emerging development plans and strategies. Work has commenced on a B&MSDC Development Plan which will take the form of a new joint single Local Plan which will replace the current individual Local Plans. As this Plan is still in development it is hoped that this document can be used as part of the evidence base.

We are aware that B&MSDC produced a ‘Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy’ (LSPAS 2017) in late 2017 and it is assumed will form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Plan. This document provides information from the Clubs who have participated in the preparation of the HSC Plan. We recognise and support the top 6 priorities, as follows:-

1. Children and Young people. Increase the number and frequency of children, young people (1-18 years) and families across the district regularly taking part in traditional and non-traditional sport and physical activity.
2. Older people. Increase the number and frequency of older people regularly taking part in traditional and non-traditional sport and physical activity to reduce social isolation and to improve health and wellbeing.
3. Volunteers. Increase the volunteer base of sport and physical activity clubs and groups to build capacity, resilience and support growth in participation levels
4. Mental Health. Increase active participation and benefits to participants with mental health issues through sport and physical activity.
5. Physical and Learning Disabilities. Improve the engagement and uptake of those with physical and learning disabilities into community and leisure facilities, ensuring that facilities are accessible and activities are available to all.
6. Sports and Leisure Infrastructure. Support the provision of sustainable community sport and leisure facilities and the spaces and infrastructure that individuals, clubs, schools and groups can access and use to take part.

We note and draw on a number of key statements and approaches set out in the Strategy and would highlight the following:-

- The Local Authorities will “...support sustainable facility developments that are evidence based on needs of the local community.” The very essence of the HSC Plan.
- The Local Authorities will “...encourage shared use of sports facilities and infrastructure to support sustainability of local sports clubs.” The proposed new site and facility to primarily support Rugby would go beyond rugby provision and will help support and directly provide for the needs of other local recreational clubs and activities. See Appendix 1.
- The Local Authorities future role will include supporting and enabling “...the voluntary sector, sports clubs, schools, Town and Parish Councils to support behaviour changes in the community.” This Plan through its holistic approach to looking to develop a joined up approach to the existing and future sport



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

and recreational needs in Hadleigh is the starting point to facilitating and building on the already vibrant sporting community in the town.

The number of volunteers who support the Hadleigh based clubs who participated in our initiative is 330. These volunteers provide a full range of skills covering not just their respective sporting knowledge and facilities management, but also they provide financial and legal admin services to allow their clubs to operate. Increasing the volunteer base of sport and physical activity is a stated priority in the B&MSDC Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Summary. How this could be achieved is not articulated. Most Clubs have indicated maintaining volunteers is a key challenge.

We note with interest that there is a reference to a Playing Pitch Strategy as follows:

The Council has recently commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy (2016) which highlights future needs for provision, an assessment of quality and under/oversupply of main outdoor sports. This will enable us to plan the right number of facilities to meet population growth and the needs of individual sports.

As a result of our learning of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) we met David Bass the BDC lead contracted to produce the PPS and he is aware of this initiative and the Hadleigh Community Sports Vision. To date a Playing Pitch Strategy has not been completed or published by BDC.

Delivery

In response to the above Audit and the identified 'Issues and Challenges' and 'Visions' for participating Clubs, this section seeks to articulate the proposed way forward to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Hadleigh Sporting Community. For ease of reference, this has been broken down into groupings to reflect the needs of particular sports:

Group 1. Clubs requiring outdoor grass pitches. Football, Rugby, Cricket.

The factual data above demonstrates that the Football, Rugby and Cricket Clubs represent 60% of the total number of sporting participants shown in Table 1 and they have a common issue, namely the lack of space to support their successful growth. The amount of open space in Hadleigh for these 3 sports activities has not increased for over 20 years yet the population has and will continue to grow significantly. The lack of space is already acting as a constraint on the visions and growth plans for all 3 Clubs and also in the case of the Rugby Club, the absence of security of tenure is a big blocker to accessing readily available grant funding. It is therefore imperative that going forward alternative land be found and made available.

There is strong logic in the long term for the Rugby Club to move to a new site with security of tenure and in doing so access major grant funding currently not available to them. However, in the short to medium term the Rugby Club's future depends on the facilities provided by the Town Council at the Layham Road Sports Ground and making best use of the facilities that can be provided. The loss of the Sports Pavilion due to fire in 2020 requires the Town Council to accelerate its plans to rebuild the Sports Pavilion, a decision that was taken some years previous but not brought to fruition. The rebuild of the Sports Pavilion is now an active Hadleigh Town Council project.

If in the future land for a new facility accommodating the Rugby Club could be procured, the Football and Cricket Clubs would then work together with the Town Council to form solutions to support their expansion needs based around the Layham Road Sports Ground. Earlier in this report the Club Audit identified that the football club currently has insufficient football pitches in the town to support its needs and the cricket club need to secure a second pitch and have space for training to ease pressure at their ground. The Football Club and the



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Cricket Club (both run by volunteers) operate very successfully under long leases on land owned by Hadleigh Town Council and both clubs can demonstrate major improvements in their facilities that are now enjoyed by the wider Hadleigh Community.

This message directly supports the District Councils LSPAS 2017 Strategic Priority 6, and facilitates Strategic Priorities 1-3.

Group 2. Clubs dependant on facilities provided by Abbeycroft, Swimming, Badminton and Gymnastics

It seems clear from the data gathered that the facilities at Hadleigh High School and Hadleigh Leisure Centre are already heavily used by several growing clubs. There are common stories of short term cancellations of Club bookings to support the needs of the School. We can see that the current Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy produced by B&MSDC recognises the needs of these Clubs and the capital investments that are critical to those plans. The recent opening of the new Swimming Pool at the Babergh owned Hadleigh Leisure Centre is pleasing evidence of a capital investment that will support the swimming community and Hadleigh Swimming club. This report demonstrates the need for similar investments to support the growth of those sports that require open space areas.

This message directly supports the District Councils LSPAS 2017 Strategic Priority 6, and facilitates Strategic Priorities 1-5.

Group 3. Clubs who need open spaces. Cycling, Running,

The nature of the sports for this group is they use public open spaces, but nevertheless they need facilities to meet up, hold social and fund raising events. These clubs would benefit from more sharing of the clubhouse facilities and the bigger clubs. Hadleigh United FC already supports the Hares running Club, Hadleigh Bridge Club and Hadleigh Slimming World. The Hadleigh Cricket and Rugby Club's also have clubhouses that could be used by other clubs.

This message directly supports the District Councils LSPAS 2017 Strategic Priorities 1-3.

Group 4. Clubs who need dedicated playing facilities. Bowling

The Bowling Club is currently in a good place following their relocation and ownership of their facilities. Their sport traditionally provides activity for older people and **directly supports the District Councils LSPAS 2017 Strategic Priority 2.**

Group 5. Clubs dependant on facilities provided by Hadleigh Town Council. Tennis Club.

The Tennis Club hire court time at Layham Road Sports Ground from the Town Council. Members of the public routinely use the Courts without paying a booking fee. It has been difficult for the Town Council to control and enforce a pay for use policy and new remote technology-based solutions should be considered. Consequently the Tennis Club finds it hard to attract fee paying members and the Town Council finds it difficult to finance court maintenance. There is an opportunity to collaborate with other clubs and grow the number of people playing Tennis in Hadleigh. There is an opportunity for the Town Council to consider granting the Tennis Club security of tenure for the tennis courts to enable it to secure grant funding from the LTA. The redevelopment of the Layham Road Sports Pavilion could also be used to improve facilities for the tennis club, working in collaboration with the football and cricket clubs and the Town Council.



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Conclusions and key messages

This initiative represents the first phase of activity from the Sporting Community where ideas for better use of existing facilities have emerged. Hadleigh Town Council have considered the possibility of setting up a more formal organisation representing the Sporting Community in Hadleigh and has decided to outsourcing of the LRSG facility to a 3rd Party company who specialise in managing sports facilities. The next phase is the delivery of the core element of the plan and this depends on gaining the full support of the Town Council as owners of the Layham Road site, and Babergh District Council and the associated development plans that can lead to the necessary future land acquisition for new facilities.

This Plan has sought to provide a positive and inclusive strategic vision for sporting provision in Hadleigh which can be aligned with the Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils 'Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity Strategy' and help inform the emerging Joint BMS Local Plan, BMS Playing Pitch Strategy and Hadleigh Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan has been informed by collective engagement across the range of sporting clubs and organisations within the town. It provides a clear picture of their existing and future aspirations and requirements.

There are existing issues with the availability of facilities in the town both to meet existing and future needs. Indeed, the Plan confirms that there is pent up demand in many of the clubs which will only be fulfilled through the provision of further facilities in the form of new sports pitches and/or indoor space.

The relocation of the Rugby Club not only offers the Club security of tenure the Club needs and the opportunity to access major grant funding (currently not available to the Club as they don't own a site) for a new purpose-built sport facility. Whilst a principal element will be to provide new sports fields for community rugby, other elements will provide benefits for the wider Hadleigh Sporting Community, either at a new site or by freeing up space at Layham Road Sports Ground and other locations in the town.

The relocation of the Rugby Club will afford the football, tennis and cricket clubs to work with the Town Council to form solutions to their own needs with respect to the Layham Road Sports Ground.

The inclusion of a new all-weather 3G Pitch at LRSG will help meet the identified needs of several clubs who have current issues with a shortage of affordable space to train on or use for matches, particularly during the winter months. This includes the Rugby Club and the Football Club who both have insufficient all-weather, floodlit facilities for training, and several other organisations in the surrounding area have registered their interest to utilise a new 3G Pitch in Hadleigh. A 3G Pitch will offer day time usage to support local Fitness Clubs, Hadleigh Health Centre outdoor Physio area and local school's sports events.

2021 Update

In May 2020 following a major UK wide consultancy project sponsored by the Football league, The Premier League and Sport England, a Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) was produced for every District Authority. The Babergh LLFP can be found at [Babergh District Local Football Facility Plan](#).

The Babergh LFFP examines the current provision of football facilities and contrasts this with the population and national guidelines and the report cites Hadleigh as the highest priority area in the Babergh District for the provision of 3G pitches.



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

The Football Foundation who administers grant funding on behalf of the Football Association, The Premier League and the National Lottery have stated that the LFFP will be the 'Go To' document when considering funding applications for 3G Pitches.

Hadleigh Town Council in conjunction with users of the Layham Road Sports Ground are working towards making an application to the Football Foundation in conjunction with Hadleigh United Football Club for major funding towards the provision of a new Sports Pavilion and a full size 3G pitch at the Layham Road Sports Ground. Hadleigh Town Council are also working towards making an application to the RFU and Babergh District Council for the additional funding required to deliver the improved facilities.

A Programme of Use had been drafted to support the Business Case for a 3G Pitch at LRSO and this document already demonstrates 100% usage during Weekday Evenings and Weekends, with the primary users being the Football Clubs and the Rugby Club. Provision will be made for casual use by the Public.

The document should be used to inform and be incorporated into any emerging Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Policy Strategy documents along with B & MSDC Playing Pitch Strategy, and is key to the vision and priorities of many of the Hadleigh Sporting Community Clubs.

DRAFT



Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

Appendix 1 Long Term Vision for Hadleigh Sports. Blue Lines Existing. Blue Dotted Lines potential change to existing. Green Lines Vision.

