



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Pitches Condition Survey & Investment Strategy

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1. Consultation Events
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PART 1

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Introduction

- 1.1** Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council has commissioned consultants to undertake a '*Condition Survey of all Council-owned pitches and to make recommendations for a Council pitches strategy.*' The commission addresses eight sports – association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey, tennis, cricket, athletics, lawn bowls. It also addresses multi use games areas and small sided games/kickabout areas.
- 1.2** Research, carried out during April and May 2017, involved desk research, community consultation, survey work, site inspections and liaison with key stakeholders. The Council requires two main outputs, namely:-
- ❖ An ***audit of existing provision***. Design, distribution, demand/supply and condition of each of around 100 sites hosting Council and community/club owned outdoor 'pitches' and associated changing facilities in the Borough. Make recommendations and provide indicative costs in relation to any remedial work or technical investigations.
 - ❖ A ***pitch strategy***. Recommendations for a prioritised pitch (and associated changing provision) investment strategy for the Borough with indicative cost estimates. To be set out in a 5-year plan with consideration given to the best mix of surfaces and to how effective partnerships with the private, education, public or third sector organisations could bring 'benefits' to pitch provision in the Borough.

2. Strategic Context

Introduction

- 2.1** Preparation of the Council's pitches strategy is set within the context of and informed by a range of regional and local approaches to the development of public services. It's important to understand this context as the strategy takes shape. There are four strategies that are key to this work; they are:-

- ❖ *'Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019'*. Department for Communities/Sport NI
- ❖ *'Council Strategy 2015-2019'*. Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
- ❖ *'A Better Future Together: A Draft Community Plan for Causeway Coast & Glens 2017-2030'*. Strategic Framework Consultation Document, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
- ❖ *'Sports & Leisure Facilities Strategy'*; Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council 2015

- 2.2** Taken together these strategies and their outcomes have been influenced by and reflect other strategies and policies which, whilst they assist in informing preparation of the strategy are not reviewed here in detail. Not least of these is the draft 'Programme for Government' whose strategic outcomes address, amongst other things, the attainment of good health and confident and peaceful communities, targeting *'those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen'*.

- 2.3** Other literature that is relevant to this commission, especially the Pitches Strategy, includes:-

Planning

- ❖ Regional Development Strategy 2035
- ❖ Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)
- ❖ Planning Policy Statements, especially PPS8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation and PPST: Quality Residential Environments.
- ❖ *'Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard'*. Fields in Trust 2015

Government

- ❖ *'Active Places Research Report 'Bridging the Gap' 2014 Update'*; Sport NI
- ❖ Community Use of Schools; Department of Education NI Guidance Document 2014

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

- ❖ Corporate Plan
- ❖ Discussion Paper 7: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation; April 2016

‘Sport Matters: The NI Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019’; Department for Communities/ Sport NI

- 2.4** The strategy sets out a shared vision of ‘a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport. The case is made for ongoing investment in sport and physical recreation to ‘deliver a range of sporting outcomes and support the wider social agenda in areas such as education health, the economy and the development of communities over the period 2009-2019.’ Investment is directed towards three key areas:-

- (1) Participation
- (2) Performance
- (3) Places

- 2.5** As with the community planning process a number of key principles underpin the strategy’s development that could easily be applied to this commission:-

- ❖ Empowering individuals, groups and communities.
- ❖ Responding to need.
- ❖ Partnership working based on consultation and stakeholder buy-in.
- ❖ Promoting good relations and working towards ‘A Shared Future’.
- ❖ Focusing on outcomes.

The strategy highlights the importance of joined-up planning and partnership working at strategic levels as well as within delivery structures, adding that the pooling of resources, public and private is critical to achieving delivery.

- 2.6** Given the challenges posed variously by the economic downturn and local government reform since the strategy was published the targets for ‘Places’ have not been delivered in full. However, one target is highly relevant to this commission, that is:-

PL25: ‘By 2019 to ensure that 90% of the population have quality accredited multi sports facilities that have the capacity to meet demand, within 20 minutes travel time.’

The clarity of this target helps to inform the preparation of the Council's strategy for the provision of pitches and related facilities in the coming years.

'Council Strategy 2015-2019'; Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

2.7 This is the new Council's first strategic plan; the Strategy's **Vision** is to:-

'Maximise the benefits of our unique location and landscape by providing ambitious, accessible, innovative and efficient services which fulfil customer expectations.'

The Vision clearly places 'customers', residents and visitors to the forefront of the Council's activities. The Strategy's **Mission** underpins the Vision by establishing the Council's purpose and its role in the life of the community it serves; the Strategy's Mission is to:-

'Improve the quality of life and well-being for all our citizens and visitors by:-

- *Providing effective and sustainable local public services;*
- *Accelerating our economy and improving economic prosperity;*
- *Placing local communities at the heart of decision making;*
- *Protecting and enhancing our unique natural environment and assets; and*
- *Advocating for the area and our citizens in both local and international arenas.'*

2.8 A series of five corporate/strategic themes establishes the broad direction for the Council's activities through to 2019, each having its own high level outcomes. The strategic theme particularly relevant to this commission is as follows:-

Strategic Theme
▪ Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities.
Outcomes
▪ Council will work to support healthy lifestyle choices for all citizens.
▪ Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
▪ Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough.

- 2.9** The final piece of the Council's strategic jigsaw is the service level mandate set for the Council's Sport and Wellbeing service which is tasked with creating:-

- ❖ Increased levels of participation in physical activity;
- ❖ Improved health and wellbeing; and
- ❖ An enhanced quality of life;

By providing:-

- ❖ High quality leisure and sports services;
- ❖ Accessible to all via needs-based programmes; and
- ❖ Sustainable facility provision, enhanced by;
- ❖ Effective partnership working

- 2.10** The 'Council Strategy 2015-2019' as it relates to this commission, emphasises the importance of focusing on people and communities, of getting people more physically active, of communities working together, of sustainability in the provision of facilities and of improved health, both mental and physical, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for everyone. All these are key 'drivers' for the Council's pitches strategy.

'A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast & Glens 2017-2030'. Strategic Framework Consultation Document, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

- 2.11** The Council's Community Plan is an outcome based approach with three overarching long term strategic population outcomes. These outcomes embrace everyone in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, not least the significant section of the population which uses the sports and recreation facilities under consideration in this report.



The Plan emphasises that the three overarching outcomes are interlinked. So, for example, in the context of participation in sport and recreation that requires *‘infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections’*, individuals and communities will gradually become more active, benefiting their overall health and wellbeing.

- 2.12** Within each overarching outcome are a number of intermediate outcomes. Several of these have strategic relevance to this commission. Under ‘A Healthy Safe Community’ Outcome 2.1 states; *‘The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will have increased opportunities to participate in sustained physical activity.’* Sports facilities must be suitable and sufficient to enable the development of opportunities for participation whether by the Council, sports clubs, community groups or schools.

- 2.13** Still under 'A Healthy Safe Community', Outcome 4 states *'The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.'* Each of the three strands to this outcome have strategic relevance:-

- 4.1 *'There will be increased collaborative working across the Causeway Coast and Glens area.'*
- 4.2 *'There will be increased promotion and sharing of community space across the Causeway Coast and Glens.'*
- 4.3 *'The Causeway Coast and Glens area will benefit from sustainable community and voluntary activities, leading to an increased sense of community belonging and resilience.'*

In many cases collaborative working is the way forward in the provision of sports facilities which in itself can lead to the sharing of community space and an increased sense of community belonging. For example, a sports facility on an education site that is used by schools for curricular and extra-curricular programmes can potentially be used by the community outside school hours. There are examples of this already happening within the Council area and more may follow.

- 2.14** The community planning process, given its outcomes based approach as described in the three overarching strategic outcomes is an appropriate way to think about the future provision of pitches and indeed sports facilities in general. It's useful to note the Department for Communities looks to community planning to focus on local people and to *"improve the connection between regional, local and neighbourhood levels through partnership working, an integrated use of resources and a focus on collaboration between partners and the benefit of citizens."*⁽¹⁾

'Sports & Leisure Facilities Strategy': Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council 2015

- 2.15** The purpose of the strategy is to quantify the level of 'supply' (the provision of facilities) and the level of 'demand' (usage of facilities) relating to four types of sports facilities; swimming pools; health & fitness stations; sports halls; synthetic/3G pitches. The context for the strategy is the service level mandate for the Council's 'Health Wellbeing and Sport' unit, that is, *'A high quality service provision that is based on need, is affordable and sustainable and improves not only the lives of our community and visitors to the area but also the way in which we do things.'* The unit's strategic aim is also of relevance to the strategy:-

⁽¹⁾ Anthony Carleton, Director of Local Government Policy, Department for Communities.

‘To ensure leisure and sport contributes to making the new Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council a healthy, vibrant and inclusive community by:-

- ❖ *Ensuring the facilities and services on offer meet the needs of the community and visitors to the area for the betterment of their health and wellbeing and provides the opportunity to increase existing participation levels.*
- ❖ *Providing accessible and quality facilities and services for residents and visitors to the area which operate in an efficient and effective manner.*
- ❖ *Developing and improving partnerships designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.’*

2.16 The strategy highlights a number of ‘wider considerations’ which help in setting the scene for this commission:-

- ❖ The Council is not the sole ‘supplier’; clubs, sports associations and community groups will play an increasingly important part.
- ❖ Revenue savings need to be delivered to help fund investment.
- ❖ More effective and ‘joined up’ programming and management of all facilities can help meet demand.
- ❖ Some larger and specialist facilities have to be located in areas of high population density in order to be accessible by the maximum number of people and to be financially viable.
- ❖ Facilities in the education sector will need to be opened to wider community access to meet local demand.
- ❖ Specialist facilities may have economic impacts that are beneficial to the region.

2.17 The strategy also makes an important point about equal access to facilities:-

‘Without unlimited resources it is simply not possible to meet everyone’s needs fully. This is especially true in areas with dispersed rural populations. It is worth noting that those who live in the populous area may have better access to built facilities but they are more likely to be ‘out of reach’ of some of the natural amenities where people can enjoy healthy physical activities such as mountain biking, walking, climbing, etc.’

2.18 The strategy reflects Sport NI’s ‘Bridging the Gap’ (2009) for natural grass and synthetic pitches in each of the legacy Councils, showing a collective shortfall of 47 pitches. However, the report explains that unmet demand across the new Council area is a result of inaccessibility which is defined as living further than 20 minutes drive time/15 kilometres from a pitch. It’s noted that since publication of ‘Bridging the Gap’, new facilities will have altered the overall picture of provision.

- 2.19** The 'Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy' is essential in providing a backdrop to this commission. There is clarity in the Council's commitment to capital developments based on need, affordability and sustainability to provide quality services in collaboration with the community it serves.

Section Summary

- 2.20** So, this review of strategic context provides a rationale and backdrop to the work of developing a pitches strategy that could further develop the pitch infrastructure in the Borough in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision. The review underscores the importance of people and communities working together to ensure that investment in facilities achieves the best return and contributes most to the quality of life for everyone in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area.

3. Executive Summary

Introduction

- 3.1** From the outset an emphasis was placed on getting an accurate picture of participation in each sport; this was achieved by obtaining a high response to the survey of all sports clubs in the Borough, as follows:-

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Returns	% Returns
Association football	46	39	85%
Gaelic games	28	28	100%
Rugby	4	4	100%
Hockey	4	4	100%
Tennis	5	5	100%
Cricket	5	5	100%
Athletics	5	5	100%
Lawn Bowls	11	11	100%

- 3.2** Schools were also surveyed; 15 returns were received from the Borough's 17 post primary schools and 13 from the 84 primary schools. Finally, an online questionnaire relating to the Council's multi use games areas received 70 responses.

Clubs, Teams, Participants and Pitches

- 3.3** The survey of sports clubs presented an opportunity to obtain a profile of participation across the eight sports in terms of the number of clubs, teams and players, as follows:-

Table 3.1: Clubs and Teams by Sport

Sport	No of Clubs	Male		Female		Total	
		Teams	%	Teams	%	Teams	%
Association Football	46	190	33	21	11	211	27
Gaelic Games	28	289	50	146	74	435	56
Rugby	4	48	8	0	0	48	6
Hockey	4	8	2	24	12	32	4
Tennis	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cricket	5	19	3	0	0	19	3
Athletics	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lawn Bowls	11	22	4	7	3	29	4
Totals	109	576	100%	198	100%	774	100%

- 3.4** A summary of players reveals there are 10,155 male participants and 4,024 female participants giving a total of 14,179 participants in clubs across the eight sports. The breakdown is as follows:-

Table 3.2: Participants by Sport

Sport	Male		Female		Totals	
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	Participants	%
Association Football	2,393	1,243	379	81	4,096	29
Gaelic Games	2,715	1,528	1,541	686	6,470	46
Rugby	630	198	28	0	856	6
Hockey	90	24	481	159	754	5
Tennis	138	136	89	118	481	3
Cricket	248	85	31	0	364	3
Athletics	92	163	97	176	528	4
Lawn Bowls	27	445	8	150	630	4
Totals	6,333	3,822	2,654	1,370	14,179	100%

Supply

- 3.5** It was considered important to prepare and present an inventory of all pitches for the eight sports in the Council area – multi use games areas are addressed separately in Part 2: Section 12. The following summary shows there are 299 ‘pitches’ across the eight sports.

Table 3.3: Summary of All Pitches

Sport	Grass		ATP (3G, AstroTurf)		Other			Totals
	Full	Youth	Full	Youth	Shale	Bitmac	Polymeric	
Association Football	75	8	5	2	0	0	0	90
Gaelic Games	43	15	2	1	0	0	0	61
Rugby	24	9	-	-	-	-	-	33
Hockey	-	-	5	-	12	-	-	17
Tennis	6	-	16	-	0	42	8	72
Cricket	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Athletics	-	-	-	-	2	-	0	2
Lawn Bowls	13	-	0	-	-	-	-	13
Totals	172	32	28	3	14	42	8	299

Tables 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 present a breakdown of the pitches by sport, type and ownership.

Table 3.4: Summary of Full Size Pitches

Ownership	GRASS – Full				ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES - Full				TOTALS
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Rugby	Cricket	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Hockey		
							Astro	Shale	
CC&G Borough Council	50	1	0	0	3	1	3	1	59
Leased from the Council	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Education Sector	15	3	14	5	1	0	1	9	48
Clubs/Community/County Board	9	39	8	6	1	1	0	1	65
TOTALS	75	43	24	11	5	2	4	11	175

Table 3.5: Summary of Youth Size Pitches

Ownership	GRASS – Youth				ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES - Youth				
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Rugby	Cricket	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Hockey		TOTALS
							Astro	Shale	
CC&G Borough Council	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Leased from the Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Education Sector	5	5	8	0	2	0	1	1	22
Clubs/Community/County Board	1	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	12
TOTALS	8	15	9	0	2	1	1	1	37

Table 3.6: Summary of Other Sports

	GRASS		ARTIFICIAL TURF			SHALE	BITMAC	POLYMERIC	TOTALS
	Tennis	Bowls	Tennis	Bowls	Athletics	Athletics	Tennis	Tennis	
CC&G Borough Council	6	8	2	0	0	1	23	8	48
Leased from the Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education Sector	0	0	11	0	0	1	17	0	29
Clubs/Community/County Board	0	5	3	0	0	0	2	0	10
TOTALS	6	13	16	0	0	2	42	8	87

Further breakdown of the supply of pitches is presented in each sport-specific section in the audit report. In presenting the above summary tables it's useful to note:-

- ❖ Pitches are allocated to the sport that best suits their size. So, for example, the Council's 3G pitch at Scroggy Road, Limavady is allocated to gaelic games whilst the Council's three other 3G pitches are allocated to association football. This treatment, deemed necessary for inventory purposes, masks the fact that 3G pitches are multi sport.
- ❖ AstroTurf pitches are all allocated to hockey as this is their primary purpose. However they are also used for association football training and recreational play. Some MUGA's (Part 2: Section 12) are also used for association football training. It may also be the case that some of the Council's thirteen grass 'kickabout' areas are used informally for association football training; these are included in the Facility Inspections: Pitches Report (Appendix 2) and in Part 2: Section 4.

Adequacy of Provision

3.6 So how is adequacy of provision assessed? There are three assessment models relevant to this project.

- ❖ 'Playing Pitch Model' – Sport England 2013
- ❖ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' – Fields in Trust 2015
- ❖ 'Facilities Planning Model' – Sport Scotland

Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap: Active Places Research Report' (2009 with updates) used Fields in Trust's guidance to assess the provision of grass and artificial turf pitches in each local authority and Sport Scotland's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to assess the provision of tennis courts, athletics facilities, sports halls and swimming pools. Fields in Trust's guidance resonates with national planning policy, in particular *'the presumption in favour of sustainable development, the promotion of its economic, social and environmental roles and the seeking of positive improvements in the quality of the environment and people's quality of life.'* It further states that *'quantity guidelines should not be interpreted as either a maximum or minimum level of provision; rather they are benchmark standards that can be adjusted to take account of local circumstances.'* The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) effectively examines local circumstances by assessing actual demand through consultation and survey work with local sports clubs, schools and local community groups. The result is an accurate assessment of adequacy of provision that is locally specific, enabling development of the most beneficial investment strategy.

Sport England

- 3.7** Sport England's *Playing Pitch Model* (PPM) has been applied to the assessment of provision relating to association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey and cricket. The assessment process matches the number of pitches available (supply) against the demand for competitive play. Three scenarios of supply are considered in accordance with the PPM as follows:-

Reference	Description
Scenario 1	All pitches
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).
Scenario 3	Council pitches only

- 3.8** Provision across the Council area for each of association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey and cricket is summarised for each scenario, where a *positive* result indicates supply exceeds demand and a *negative* result indicates supply fails to meet demand. It is suggested that in each case Scenario 2 is the most realistic picture of provision across these five sports given that it includes all pitches that are available for matches, regardless of ownership. For the remaining sports the PPM principles have been applied in an assessment of provision.
- 3.9** A summary of adequacy of provision using the Sport England PPM model looks like this:-

Table 3.7: Playing Pitch Model – Adequacy of Provision (Scenario 2)	
Sport	Adequacy of Provision
Association Football	+ 21 pitches
Gaelic Games	- 8 pitches
Rugby	+ 2 pitches
Hockey	Even
Tennis	Surplus hours across all sites
Cricket	+ 1 pitch
Athletics	No modern athletics track in CC&G
Lawn Bowls	Surplus hours across all sites

Fields in Trust

3.10 Fields in Trust's⁽²⁾ 'Guidance for Outdoor Sport, Play and Recreation: Beyond the Six Acre Standard' is used to highlight adequacy of provision for formal space for association football, rugby, hockey, cricket, lacrosse, athletics, tennis, lawn bowls and multi use games areas. The following table compares Fields in Trust's guidance for level of provision of open space, based on the Borough's population of 140,877 (2011 census) against the current stock of facilities that are available for community use.⁽³⁾

Table 3.8: Comparison of Fields in Trust with Current Stock

Type of Open Space (FiT categories)	FiT Quantity Guidance (ha per 1,000 population)	Level of provision required in CC&G to meet FiT Quantity Guidance (ha)	Current Stock (ha)	Difference (ha)	Number of Pitches ⁽⁴⁾
Playing pitches (association football, rugby, hockey, cricket, lacrosse)	1.20	169.05	127.17	-41.88	-42 pitches
All outdoor sports (all above plus athletics, tennis & lawn bowls)	1.60	225.40	133.08	-92.32	n/a
Other outdoor provision (MUGA's and skateboard parks)	0.30	42.26	1.23	-39.80	n/a

3.11 Sport NI's 'Bridging the Gap' report assessed adequacy of provision for the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council areas as follows:-

⁽²⁾ The National Playing Fields Association is re-named Fields in Trust.

⁽³⁾ Sport England's 'Scenario 2' (see Section 3.7) considers pitches that are available for community use.

⁽⁴⁾ Sport NI estimates an average pitch size to be 2.5 acres (association football, gaelic games, rugby); 2.5 acres = 1ha.

Sports pitches	19 pitches required to meet FiT quantity guideline (assessment includes artificial turf pitches in the education sector).
Tennis	39 courts required in accordance with FPM.
Athletics	The 2009 assessment reckoned there was a shortfall of 3 tracks across the Province. Supply has increased – 3 new tracks – yet demand is estimated to have doubled.

Association Football

Quantity

- 3.12** There are 46 association football clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	2,393	1,243	379	81	4,096

The 4,096 participants represents 29% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.13** There is total of 75 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and small sided games matches, and 6 full size 3G pitches. In addition there is a number of youth pitches.

Ownership	Full and Youth Match Pitches			Training Pitches – varying sizes			
	Grass Full	3G Full	Youth Grass + 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G	Shale
Clubs/Community	9	1	1 x grass	3	0	2	1
Education	15	1	5 x grass 2 x 3G	9	0	3	0
CC&G	50	4	2 x grass	5	3	4	1
Leased from CC&G	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
Total	75	6	10	17	3	9	2

- 3.14** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of pitches for association football matches shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+21 pitches	Supply Surplus

The assessment suggests that, for adult matches on a Saturday afternoon there is a surplus of 21 pitches. This picture is of course impacted by a number of variables including pitch condition, cancellations and changing accommodation being available. A 'buffer' of pitches is needed to cover maintenance closures, resting pitches, events/competitions and increased demand in the future.

- 3.15** Looking at *adequacy of provision* of pitches for training for association football, it has been calculated (see Part 2: Section 4) that the 211 association football teams in the Council area require at least 216 training slots (one hour) each week; currently there are 210 slots available, an under-supply of 6 slots. This does not appear to be significant under-supply, however 54 (26%) of these slots are on AstroTurf which is rapidly becoming less desirable as a training surface for association football due to the availability of 3G surfaces; in the survey of clubs just 23% of clubs replied 'favourable' when asked about AstroTurf surfaces for training. *The under-supply of training slots increases to 62 when shale and AstroTurf surfaces are removed.* Given the over-supply of grass match pitches one option is to convert poorer quality match pitches to floodlit training pitches; in this context, technologies such as hybrid/sand-fibre (a mix of natural grass and synthetic grass) surfaces could be considered to increase the capacity of pitches for training.

Quality

- 3.16** For association football all Council pitches and built facilities were inspected and given a quality rating. Facilities in other ownerships were surveyed.

Pitches

Summary of Quality Rating for Full and Youth Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	6	0	0	5	11
Education	3	2	2	16	23
CC&G	41	12	3	1	57
Leased from CC&G	1	0	0	0	1
Total	51	14	5	22	92

The 3 Council pitches rated ‘poor’ are at Mosside Playing Fields (pitch No 2), Riada Playing Fields (pitch No 6) and Rugby Avenue Playing Fields (pitch No 6).

Association football clubs were asked to ‘assess’ the overall quality of their ‘home’ pitch.

Overall Quality of your home pitch		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	15	48
Standard	9	29
Poor	7	23
Total	31	100%

Built Facilities

- 3.17** For the 28 Council pitches sites that have changing accommodation, quality ratings are summarised as follows:-

Good	19
Standard	6
Poor	3

The three ‘poor’ ratings are for Burnfoot Playing Fields (pre-fabricated unit), King’s Lane Playing Fields (pre-fabricated unit with water damage evident) and the association football pitch at Armoy RFC’s ground which is leased to the club.

Location

	West	Central	East
Adult & youth match pitches (inc 3G)	14	26	19
Training facilities	12	14	4

- 3.18** Association football pitches are found in most parts of the Borough, with clusters in the urban centres. However the location map (see map 4.1 in Part 2: Section 4) shows there is no Council provision in the area of the Borough that is furthest east.

Conclusions

- 3.19** Association football relies on the Council’s provision of pitches and changing accommodation to a much greater extent than the other ‘large ball’ sports. Summary points are made:-

- ❖ Two thirds of the local clubs are prepared to accept 3G for training purposes with the remaining clubs mostly taking a neutral position. With regard to matches, 47% have a favourable attitude to using 3G pitches with a further 37% remaining neutral, giving a total of 84% having either a neutral or favourable attitude. In the knowledge that similar surveys conducted in the greater Belfast area⁽⁵⁾ revealed a more positive response towards the use of 3G for matches, it may be simply a matter of time for the local clubs to catch up with current thinking. As it stands this result helps to inform the strategic development of pitches for association football in the Causeway Coast and Glens area and whether synthetic surfaces are the future.
- ❖ There is a perception amongst clubs that pitch maintenance is an issue; nearly a third of clubs rated maintenance of their home pitch as 'poor' although other clubs comment that facilities are 'better than they have been.' A contributory factor to how pitches are viewed by clubs is likely to be the policy on carrying capacity which appears to differ between the Council's operational areas – either 1 or 2 matches per week with no training use allowed.
- ❖ Thinking about membership in the future, the clubs mostly aspire to membership growth although a significant number of clubs reckon their membership will fall in the coming years. Across the 46 clubs there is a total of 211 teams involving 4,096 players of which two thirds are small sided games and youth players. Small sided games are presently concentrated at Ulster University where demand for pitches each Saturday morning has reportedly outstripped supply. It's worth noting that the IFA's new five year strategy looks to develop a regional hub in each Council area to host small sided games and be a focal point for all local IFA activity. At nearly 90% of total membership, the gender balance is heavily weighted towards males, suggesting that future facility developments should consider female needs especially in relation to changing accommodation.
- ❖ In terms of future needs the clubs emphasise the need for *training facilities*, reflecting on the need for 'more, better and cheaper' facilities that are floodlit. Whilst there are 92 pitches suitable for competition at some level across the Borough (all ownerships) there are 29 pitches suitable for training (all ownerships), the latter including 12 synthetic surfaces. It's clear that grass surfaces are used in some areas for training, however this is likely to exacerbate maintenance issues and general playability of a pitch.

⁽⁵⁾ 'Pitches Audit and Strategy'; Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council 2016.

- 3.20** The analysis of demand shows there is an over-supply of pitches for matches – there is a surplus of 21 pitches for Saturday afternoon matches. Whilst supply is good across the Council area there are areas where the quality of pitches and/or changing accommodation puts pressure on staff’s ability to accommodate matches. One stark example is at Roe Mill Playing Fields in Limavady where the four grass pitches are served by a changing pavilion that has only two team changing rooms; this means that only two of the pitches can be used simultaneously. Area-specific issues such as these should be addressed.
- 3.21** A typical Council-owned grass pitch has capacity for one or, at most two matches, usually on a Saturday⁽⁶⁾; these pitches are not capable of being used for mid-week training or matches. Accessing suitable facilities for training is clearly an issue for clubs. In this regard 93% of the 46 clubs have either a ‘favourable’ (65%) or ‘neutral’ (28%) attitude towards the use of 3G for training. For matches, 84% of the clubs have either a ‘favourable’ (47%) or ‘neutral’ (37%) attitude towards 3G. Taking these results together and in the knowledge that 3G pitches are increasingly found in top flight competition, providing 3G facilities is a potential option to enhance the quality of provision for association football (and for rugby and gaelic games). It may also be an option to develop ‘hybrid’ pitches, also known as ‘sand fibre’; the surface is a combination of natural grass and plastic fibres.
- 3.22** The Council, owning 51 of the 75 full size grass pitches and 4 of the 7 3G pitches is the primary provider of pitches for association football. Just over two-thirds of the 4,096 participants linked to clubs are junior, playing either small sided games or in youth leagues. The sport is male-dominated with only 11% female participants. With the global rise in female participation in team sports generally and in association football particularly⁽⁷⁾ the reasons for this unbalance in the Causeway Coast and Glens area need to be understood and addressed.
- 3.23** Whilst ‘club’ is widely used as a group identifier within association football it begs the question – what constitutes a club? Of the 35 clubs fielding *only* adult teams only 6 have more than one team. Five of these clubs have two teams and the remaining club has three teams. This question becomes important when the Council is considering applications for funding support and whether its investment decisions represent value for money. In this regard it’s recommended the Council establishes criteria for recognising a ‘club’ across all sports.

⁽⁶⁾ A sand mattress grass pitch (‘Prunty’) or a sand fibre grass/synthetic mix pitch has a greater carrying capacity but requires a good deal more maintenance input.

⁽⁷⁾ In 2014/15 there were 1.2m registered female players across Europe, a five-fold increase from 1985 according to UEFA.

Gaelic Games

Quantity

- 3.24** There are 28 gaelic games clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	2,715	1,528	1,541	686	6,470

The 6,470 participants represents 46% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.25** Gaelic games clubs by and large train and play matches on the same pitch; often a pitch is used every weekday evening and during the weekend. Gaelic games are mostly played during the spring and summer months when grass pitches are easier to maintain than during the autumn and winter months, although with an average of 15 teams per club the quality of pitches does become an issue for some clubs.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches and training				
Ownership	Grass Full	3G Full/Youth	Youth Grass	Training (grass AstroTurf, tarmac)
Clubs/County Board	39	1 x youth 1 x full	9	3 x training
Education	3	0	5	1 x Tarmac Playground
CC&G	1	1 x Full 1 x Youth	0	1 x AstroTurf
Leased from CC&G	0	0	1	0
Total	43	4	15	5

- 3.26** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of pitches for gaelic games matches and training shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	-8 pitches	Supply Shortfall

The assessment accounts for training which takes place on most gaelic games pitches in addition to matches. Consideration of training alongside matches suggests that

demand outstrips supply as noted by a number of clubs in need of additional training facilities.

Quality

- 3.27** The Council's gaelic games pitches (grass and ATP's used for matches and training) were inspected and given a quality rating. Pitches in other ownerships were surveyed. Council-owned built facilities linked to gaelic games are included in association football.

Pitches

Summary of Quality Rating for Gaelic Pitches (Grass and 3G)

Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	33	9	6	3	51
Education	3	1	2	2	8
CC&G	2	1	0	0	3
Total	38	11	8	5	62

The club pitches rated 'poor' are at Dunloy Cuchullains, Owen Beg Centre of Excellence, Ruairi Og, St Mary's Rasharkin, St Matthew's Drumsurn and O'Brien's Foreglen.

Location

	West	Central	East
Adult & youth match pitches	25	11	22
Training pitches	2	-	1

- 3.28** Gaelic games pitches are mostly provided by clubs and schools therefore there is a strong link between where the demand is and where pitches are found.

Conclusions

- 3.29** Whilst gaelic games clubs mostly operate their own facilities the extent of participation – each club has 15 teams on average – puts a great deal of pressure on clubs' grass pitches for training and matches. Survey results show that the average weekly use of each club's main pitch is 24 hours. Council facilities are used by some clubs for training and matches, including the grass gaelic games pitch at Quay Road,

Ballycastle, however clubs are keen to develop their own grounds with an emphasis on the need to facilitate winter training (3G, floodlights, changing accommodation).

- 3.30** Gaelic games participation figures (clubs) account for 46% of total participation across all 8 sports. Females account for 34% of gaelic games participation. Developing participation is a key feature of all gaelic games clubs' efforts however it is often constrained by facilities. By way of example, three camogie clubs (Ballycastle Camogie Club, St Canice's Ladies GAC, Dungiven and St Patrick's Camogie Club also in Dungiven) have no club facilities, relying on Council and other club facilities. Between them they field 27 teams, mostly underage but with 3 adult teams. These clubs feel their development potential is particularly constrained.
- 3.31** Gaelic games clubs in the Borough are a major provider of sports facilities and opportunities to play sport. There are 11 teams for every 1 pitch, pointing to the need to 'spread the load' of pitch use by accessing other suitable facilities for training. So what is a 'suitable' training facility? The Ulster Council GAA recognises the use of 3G for training and matches to a certain level, however this does not mean clubs have the same acceptance. The challenge is to provide suitable facilities in suitable locations that will be accepted by and support clubs in their development aspirations. Provision could be developed either in a centralised hub or as club-based facilities.

Rugby

Quantity

- 3.32** There are 4 rugby clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	630	198	28	0	856

The 856 participants represents 6% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.33** As with gaelic games, rugby clubs typically train and play matches on the same pitch. Given rugby is played through the autumn and winter months training pitches are often floodlit. Careful maintenance regimes are required to ensure pitches hold up throughout the season.

Rugby Pitches used for matches and training			
Ownership	Full Grass	Youth Grass	Training (AstroTurf, 3G)
Clubs	8	1	0
Education	14	8	0
CC&G	2 ⁽⁸⁾	0	1 x AstroTurf, 1 x 3G
Total	24	9	

- 3.34** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of pitches for rugby matches shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+2 pitches	Slight surplus

The assessment does not account for training which often takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Most training needs are able to be accommodated at club facilities, however two clubs access Council facilities for mid-week training sessions.

Quality

- 3.35** A summary of the quality of adult and youth pitches, as far as information was made available, is as follows:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	5	1	0	3	9
Education	4	0	0	18	22
CC&G	0	1	1	0	2
Total	9	2	1	21	33

The Council has no built facilities linked to rugby on sites that it operates. It does, however lease a site to Armoy RFC. The pavilion here is no longer fit for purpose.

⁽⁸⁾ These 2 pitches are at Armoy Rugby Club; the ground is owned by the Council, leased to the club.

Location

	West	Central	East
Adult & youth match pitches	8	15	10

- 3.36** As with gaelic games rugby pitches are linked to clubs and schools so the spread of pitches mirrors the spread of clubs.

Conclusions

- 3.37** Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. A total of 48 teams are fielded across the four clubs involving 856 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 28 players are female and these in the 6-11 years junior category. As with association football the under representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes.
- 3.38** Three of the four clubs are prepared to train on 3G pitches; Limavady RFC trains at the Council's Scroggy Road pitch and Coleraine Rugby Club trains on both the AstroTurf and 3G pitches at the Council's Rugby Avenue site. However, the clubs each aspire to having a club-based 3G pitch for training.
- 3.39** Three of the four clubs see membership growing over the next five years with the fourth club reckoning membership will stay the same. Interestingly, all four clubs see neither a decrease or an increase in female membership which presently accounts for just over 3% of total membership across the clubs. This would appear to be at odds with the Ulster Branch's vision of growing female participation.
- 3.40** There is a good supply of rugby pitches in the Borough, facilitating training and matches. Rugby's governing body recognises 3G surfaces for training and matches yet the local clubs tend to view 3G as a stronger option for training than for matches.

Hockey

Quantity

- 3.41** There are 4 hockey clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	90	24	481	159	754

The 754 participants represents 5% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.42** Whilst shale pitches still persist in some school and Council sites, Ulster Hockey requires that matches are played on AstroTurf pitches, either sand (dressed or filled) or water. Shale pitches are included in this inventory for sake of completeness and recognising that they may be considered for conversion to an accepted sports surface at some point in the future.

Hockey Pitches used for matches and training		
Ownership	AstroTurf pitch	Shale
CC&G	3	1
Education	1 (+1 training)	9
Community	0	1
Total	5	11

- 3.43** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of pitches (excluding shale pitches) for hockey matches shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+2 pitches	Slight surplus

The assessment does not account for training needs. Given that 'large ball' sports (association football, gaelic games, rugby) favour 3G pitches over AstroTurf, hockey clubs are now more able to access AstroTurf pitches for mid-week training.

Quality

- 3.44** A summary of the quality of hockey pitches including shale and as far as information was made available is as follows:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (AstroTurf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor (Shale)	Unknown	Total number of pitches
CC&G	3	0	1	0	4
Education	0	0	0	11	11
Community	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3	0	1	12	16

All three Council AstroTurf pitches are rated 'good' although it's noted that the pitch at Quay Road is less favoured than the pitches at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre/Riada Playing Fields and Rugby Avenue, Coleraine. It's noted that an AstroTurf pitch will be developed at the new shared campus post primary school in Ballycastle – Cross & Passion and Ballycastle High. The new campus will also have a gaelic games 3G pitch and an association football grass pitch. Working in partnership with the Education Authority and the schools the Council is set to invest in these pitches to make them suitable for use by the wider community.

Location

	West	Central	East
AstroTurf	2	1	2
Shale	-	10	1

- 3.45** Each of the four hockey clubs has access to one of the four full size AstroTurf pitches in the Borough, three of which are Council owned, one in the education sector.

Conclusions

- 3.46** In terms of level of satisfaction Portrush Men's Hockey Club, based at the Quay Road AstroTurf pitch, is of the opinion that the pitch is in poor condition and that the carpet/surface is nearing the end of its lifespan. Ballymoney Hockey Club is of the opinion that maintenance of the AstroTurf pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre is poor and comment on the lack of female changing accommodation. Limavady Ladies Hockey Club has an aspiration to develop a 'community hockey pitch' at the John Hunter grounds in the town. Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club took the opportunity to compliment the new Council on the AstroTurf pitch at Rugby Avenue stating it has been 'well planned and designed and has been a major reason for the growth of hockey at the club.' This is an important point as it demonstrates the link between high quality facilities and the development of sport.
- 3.47** Between them the four hockey clubs field 32 teams and a total of 754 players of which 85% are female. In this regard club hockey in the Causeway Coast and Glens area is perhaps one of the few sports where the majority of participants are female. This presents two opportunities in relation to hockey sports development and the development of hockey facilities; (i) to consolidate and further develop female participation, and (ii) to grow male participation.
- 3.48** Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary school from which

it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey-playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf facilities, at least one and, in some cases, two pitches. Through consultation it's noted that both Coleraine Grammar School and Dalriada School aspire to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches in order to adequately facilitate the delivery and development of hockey during curriculum time.

- 3.49** As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport, however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches often replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports.
- 3.50** There is a risk that as more 3G pitches are developed and as hockey-playing post primary schools develop on-site pitches, the Council's AstroTurf pitches will be less used by large ball sports and by schools.

Tennis

Quantity

- 3.51** There are 5 tennis clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	138	136	89	118	481

The 481 participants represents just over 3% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.52** Tennis is a popular activity in the Council area. The stock of courts is provided by the Council, clubs and schools. The long established summer tournaments on Ballycastle's grass courts are something of a tourist attraction, drawing entries from throughout Ireland. There are four different surfaces in use across the 68 courts. The most substantial provision is the Council's facility at Portrush Recreation Grounds with 12 bitmac courts of which 4 are not in regular use.

	Council (9 sites)	Club (2 sites)	Education (12 sites)	Totals
Bitmac	23	2	16	41
Natural grass	6	-	-	6
Polymeric	8	-	-	8
AstroTurf/Artificial grass	2	3	8	13
Totals	39	5	24	68

3.53 An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of courts for tennis shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+ 568 court hours	Supply surplus

This shows the supply of courts comfortably meets demand based on a number of assumptions. The surplus court hours (excluding Portrush Recreation Grounds) equates to approximately 2 hours per court per day. A particular challenge for tennis clubs is that two clubs 'share' the Council's tennis facility at Anderson Park.

Quality

3.54 A summary of the quality of tennis courts in all ownerships as far as information was made available is as follows:-

Tennis Court Quality					
Ownership	No of Courts	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	5	3	0	2	0
Council	39	16	9	14	0
Education	24	-	9	5	10
Total No	68	16	18	24	10
Total %	100%	24%	26%	35%	15%

Of the Council's 39 courts, 14 are rated 'poor'. These include the courts at Roe Mill Playing Fields (2) and Portrush Recreation Grounds (12). Whilst the bitmac courts at Anderson Park are rated 'standard' Coleraine Tennis Club is of the opinion they are not suitable for club matches. The Council has changing accommodation at eight of its tennis sites. They are rated as follows:-

Good	5
Standard	-
Poor	3

The three 'poor' ratings are for the facilities at Ballycastle, Roe Mill Playing Fields and Portrush Recreation Grounds.

Location

	West	Central	East
All courts	9	38	23

- 3.55** Tennis courts are clustered in the Central area and the Ballymoney area. There is no provision in Glens area beyond Ballycastle.

Conclusions

- 3.56** Tennis participation and development is partially constrained by the condition of some facilities, both Council and club owned. The clubs and the governing body are of the opinion that bitmac surfaces are unsuitable for club matches, pointing to AstroTurf/artificial grass as a minimum standard. Sport England guidance suggests bitmac (porous macadam) courts are suitable for 'training and for some competition' whilst polymeric courts are suitable for 'training/recreational use'. Club matches are played either on bitmac surfaces (2 courts at Garvagh Tennis Club, 4 courts at Anderson Park), AstroTurf/artificial grass surfaces (3 courts at Limavady Recreation Club), natural grass or polymeric surfaces (11 courts at Ballycastle Tennis Complex). The clubs compare their situation to clubs in the greater Belfast area where 'bubbles' in some clubs facilitate indoor training and matches during the winter months. In the clubs' view participation and development is constrained for these reasons.
- 3.57** The most substantial provision for tennis is the Council's facility at Portrush Recreation Grounds which has twelve bitmac tennis courts, a pavilion and two bowling greens. There is no tennis club based at this site and its general presentation is 'poor'; colouring on the courts is faded and the pavilion building is in need of upgrading or replacement. Four of the courts are reportedly not used and the remaining eight courts are mostly used during the summer months for recreational tennis and sports development programmes. Recent consultation between the Council and the Coleraine-based tennis clubs suggests these clubs have no interest in re-locating to Portrush Recreation Grounds due to the exposed nature of the site. This being the case the scale of tennis provision at Portrush Recreation Grounds should be reviewed.
- 3.58** Whilst the assessment of *adequacy of provision* demonstrates supply comfortably meets demand this is across several sites, clubs and Council. The particular challenge for tennis is that whilst some courts lie idle for a good deal of time, others are heavily

used – Anderson Park’s courts are ‘home’ to two clubs. This begs the question: can the load be evened out across the existing courts?

Cricket

Quantity

- 3.59** There are 5 cricket clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	248	85	31	0	364

The 364 participants represents nearly 3% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.60** Cricket squares (or ‘fields’) are often located at rugby clubs where wickets are positioned between two pitches which then forms the outfield during the cricket season. There are 11 cricket squares in the Council area, 6 of which are clubs with the remaining 5 in the education sector.
- 3.61** An assessment of *adequacy of provision* of pitches for cricket matches shows the following:-

Adequacy of Provision	+1 Pitch	Slight supply surplus

Based on a range of assumptions, supply meets demand for all age categories.

Quality

- 3.62** A summary of the quality of cricket squares as far as information was made available is as follows:-

Cricket Squares used for matches and training					
Ownership	No of cricket squares	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	6	5	1	0	0
Education	5	-	-	-	5
Total	11	5	1	-	5

Location

	West	Central	East
All pitches	6	5	1

- 3.63** Cricket facilities are linked to the clubs which operate them, mostly located in the West and Central areas.

Conclusions

- 3.64** Whilst there is some surplus supply across the five clubs, one club makes the point that more practice facilities are needed to facilitate the development of female participation and to accommodate its growing youth programme. Participation in cricket is exclusively male with the exception of a group of girls – mostly primary school age – involved at Coleraine Cricket Club. Cricket Ireland, whilst having a clear female development pathway acknowledges there is a huge potential for more female participation. The local clubs mostly do not see adult female participation growing over the next five years although two clubs anticipate an increase in pre-junior female participation.
- 3.65** As recently as June 2017 Cricket Ireland received the news that its application to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for Full Membership and Test status was successful. This brings with it not only a heightened awareness of the game locally but also a doubling of ICC funding. The governing body is already talking about investment in facilities across the country in which there could be opportunities for the Council to work with clubs and the governing body towards increased participation, especially of females.

Athletics

Quantity

- 3.66** There are 5 athletics clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	92	163	97	176	528

The 528 participants represents nearly 4% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.67** The accepted minimum standard for athletics training and competition is a 400m 'Tartan' (think polymeric) track with in-field facilities for throwing and jumping disciplines. There is no such track in the Council area; the closest tracks are in Derry/Londonderry, Magherafelt and Antrim. There is however a 400m shale track at Rugby Avenue in Coleraine and a shorter distance shale track at Coleraine Grammar School.
- 3.68** It is suggested that whilst there is no modern athletics track in the Causeway Coast and Glens area presently more detailed research and analysis of need is needed to test the feasibility of developing a facility.

Quality

- 3.69** The Council's shale athletics track at Rugby Avenue was inspected. It is generally in poor condition with weed growth on the track and the long jump pit poorly defined. The track is not lined.

Location

	West	Central	East
Shale Tracks	-	2	-

- 3.70** The two shale running tracks are in the Central area in Coleraine town.

Conclusions

- 3.71** The overall view is one of clubs making do with a lack of fit for purpose training facilities. Pegasus AC Coleraine state that the lack of good facilities is the major reason club membership has stagnated and is beginning to drop. The club is ambitious to provide quality athletics training and competitive opportunities for youth and adults but feels constrained by facilities. Springwell Running Club is the largest of the five athletics clubs with over 300 members splitting training over a number of different sites. Their continued use of a shale track is likely to limit the long term potential competitive performance of its members. Ballycastle Running Club would like to provide opportunities for youth members but clearly cannot do that without safe well-lit facilities. Rasharkin and Glens clubs again are dependent on roads and public areas for training. From consultation responses it would appear there is a lack of well lit paths in smaller settlements that can be used by runners.
- 3.72** It's clear that athletics clubs in the Borough are constrained in their development and in delivery of training sessions by not have modern fit for purpose facilities.

However given the nature of running (clubs train in a variety of landscapes and topographies from urban to rural) it's not clear what the actual demand for a running track may be. Focused research and feasibility work with clubs and schools would be needed to demonstrate the extent of need. In the meantime Athletics NI is of the opinion that given the interest in running clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, an athletics track with in-field facilities for throwing and jumping disciplines is needed to help promote and develop the sport. Ulster University has an idea to construct such a facility adjacent to its Cromore Road North Entrance on the site of three former shale pitches.

- 3.73** It's worth noting that the Borough's athletics clubs demonstrate the most equal gender balance of all eight sports in their membership – 52% female, 48% male.

Lawn Bowls

Quantity

- 3.74** There are 11 lawn bowls clubs in the Borough with the following breakdown of participants:-

	Male		Female		Total
	Junior	Adult	Junior	Adult	
Participants	27	445	8	150	630

The 630 participants represents over 4% of the total number of participants across the eight sports.

- 3.75** There are 13 bowling greens across 11 sites; 2 sites (Portrush Recreation Grounds, The Warren) each have 2 greens. From a quantitative analysis of training and match green time needs at each of the 11 sites it is clear that supply comfortably meets demand.

Quality

- 3.76** A summary of the quality of bowling greens in all ownership is as follows:-

Bowling Greens – Number and Quality					
Ownership	No of Greens	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	5	3	2	0	0
Council	8	1	6	1	0
Totals	13	4	8	1	0

The green rated 'poor' is one of the two Council greens at The Warren, Portstewart.

- 3.77** 'Private' club bowling greens are rated higher than Council operated greens. The Council has changing accommodation at its six lawn bowls sites. They are rated as follows:-

Good	4
Standard	-
Poor	2

The two 'poor' ratings are for the facilities at Dungiven (pre-fabricated unit) and Portrush Recreation Grounds. The changing accommodation/pavilion at Portrush Recreation Grounds is in poor condition.

Location

	West	Central	East
All greens	2	9	2

- 3.78** Bowling greens are mostly found in the Central area with two each in the West and East. There are no bowling greens to the west of Ballycastle.

Conclusions

- 3.79** The demand for bowling greens is comfortably met by the provision of 13 natural grass bowling greens across the Council area which serve the needs of the 11 clubs. Five of the clubs are identified as 'private', that is, they operate their own facilities. Each of the remaining six clubs is linked to a Council facility; there are no greens not in use. Average membership across all clubs is 57, however three clubs – Brookgreen Bowling Club, Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club, Portstewart Bowling Club – have low numbers (31, 24 and 25 respectively) which poses a risk to their ability to field teams and perhaps their sustainability in the long term⁽⁹⁾. The private clubs have significantly higher membership than those linked to a Council facility.
- 3.80** Clubs were asked to consider their attitude to types of surface – synthetic and grass; 10 of the 11 clubs gave a response. For matches and training 8 of the 10 clubs are not in favour of a synthetic surface, 1 club is neutral and 1 club has a favourable

⁽⁹⁾ A feasibility report on bowling facilities by A&NBC concluded that an ideal number of members in a healthy club is 60. There is no governing body guidance on the ideal membership for a sustainable club, however 5 clubs in the city of Melville (Australia) average 160 members yet report a 16% drop in membership in the 5 years to 2016.

attitude to synthetic surfaces. It's useful to note that Allen Park Bowling Club in Antrim, when the Council moved it from a natural grass to a synthetic green was initially sceptical but after a period of time now prefer synthetic to grass.

- 3.81** Clubs linked to Council facilities were also asked 'would your club be interested in taking over your club bowling green maintenance'? Four of the six clubs replied, 'no'. The remaining two clubs replied 'not sure', with Portrush Bowling Club adding, 'we may be interested in a partnership type solution, however as a club we are constrained by our financial resources.'
- 3.82** For maintaining its 8 greens the Council will pay around £80,000 annually in labour alone with additional costs for equipment, fuel and materials. These greens facilitate 6 of the 11 clubs with 206 members between them, costing around £390 per member. This appears to be a very high level of subsidy which could be reduced by replacing natural grass with synthetic greens. Whilst the cost of replacement is in the order of £110,000 to £120,000 for a single green the saving comes in ease of maintenance that can potentially be taken on by club members.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)

Quantity

- 3.83** There are 19 Council-owned MUGA's across the Council area of varying design. Going by Sport England guidance on dimensions half belong to *play*, half to *sport*. The opportunity now is to define what a MUGA is so that future developments have a clear purpose. Here's a summary of key features.

MUGA	Council's Operational Area	Dimension (metres)	Area (m ²)	L x W Ratio	Does MUGA meet Sport England m ² guidance?
1. Articlave	Central	28 x 16	448	1.75:1	No
2. Ballintoy	East	20 x 12	240	1.66:1	No
3. Ballybogey	Central	36 x 20	720	1.80:1	Yes
4. Ballysally	Central	48 x 22	1,056	2.18:1	Yes
5. Coleraine West	Central	35 x 25	875	1.40:1	Yes
6. Drumbolcan Park	East	23 x 14	322	1.64:1	No
7. Dungiven	West	26 x 13	338	2.00:1	No
8. Garron Road	East	30 x 15	450	2.00:1	No
9. Garvagh	Central	34 x 14	476	2.43:1	No
10. Glebeside	East	36 x 24	864	1.50:1	Yes
11. Glentaisie	East	25 x 16	400	1.56:1	No
12. Kilrea	Central	45 x 20	900	2.25:1	Yes

13. Macfin	East	26 x 16	416	1.62:1	No
14. Macosquin	Central	38 x 20	760	1.90:1	Yes
15. McCamphill Park	East	38 x 18	684	2.11:1	Yes
16. Megaw Park	East	44 x 32	1,408	1.37:1	Yes
17. Millburn	Central	30 x 18	540	1.66:1	No
18. Stranocum	East	28 x 16	448	1.75:1	No
19. Windyhall	Central	40 x 24	960	1.66:1	Yes

Quality

- 3.84** All 19 MUGA's were inspected against seven elements to inform an overall condition assessment, summarised as follows:-

Good	12	MUGA's
Standard	5	MUGA's
Poor	2	MUGA's

The two rated 'poor' are Coleraine West and Garron Road.

Coleraine West	A lack of markings along with rusting basketball boards and fencing posts devoid of paint/covering.
Garron Road	Hazard presented by five-a-side and basketball posts.

Location

	West	Central	East
All MUGA's	1	9	9

- 3.85** The MUGA's are concentrated in the centre of the Borough, in and close to the urban centres of Coleraine and Ballymoney. There is only one in the west area, in the village of Dungiven whilst there are none in Limavady. There is no provision in the villages of Cushendall and Cushendun.

Conclusions

- 3.86** A particular difficulty in assessing how the current stock of MUGA's impacts on the Council's aspiration to promote participation lies in the fact that there is no management information relating to their usage. This may be partly because their collective purpose appears to be a mix of play, recreational activity and sport; each MUGA may be viewed slightly differently depending on its design features and its

location. The foregoing research and analysis informs a number of key observations relating to the MUGA's influence on participation.

- ❖ The design of the Council's MUGA's varies considerably. If it's necessary to identify each MUGA's key purpose (play or sport) then in accordance with Sport England guidance half belong to play, half to sport. For future developments it will be helpful to be clear about a MUGA's purpose and to design it accordingly. This would also assist with how a MUGA is marketed and the height of surrounding fencing.
- ❖ Looking at Fields in Trust guidance there is a shortfall in provision. Mapping shows gaps in provision in the Glens area and in Limavady. Survey results suggest further gaps in parts of Coleraine.
- ❖ In communities where they are available, MUGA's clearly encourage participation in play and/or sport by individuals and groups. However their 'catchment' is likely to be fairly limited, generally drawing users only from within walking distance. So gaps in provision will tend to constrain participation, especially if local alternatives are not available.

3.87 Given that some MUGA's (Kilrea, Garvagh, Articlave, Macosquin) are reportedly used by local association football clubs for training there is potential that with certain design features (eg, surface type, lighting, size) they could be presented and marketed (and charged) for training, helping to relieve pressure on full size 3G facilities.

Kickabout Areas

Quantity

3.88 Across the Council area there are 13 grass kickabout areas identified. Some may be suitable for seven-a-side association football. Five are in the West area, seven are in the East. They are regarded as 'kickabouts' due to their small size and generally poor presentation. However the kickabout at Glebeside, Ballymoney has changing accommodation; the remaining sites have no changing accommodation.

Site Identity	Council Area	Quality
Aghanloo Kickabout	West	Standard
Carnany Kickabout	East	Poor
Dromore Kickabout	West	Poor
Drumnavally Kickabout	West	Standard

Feeny Kickabout	West	Poor
Glebeside Kickabout	East	Standard
Graymount Park Kickabout	East	Poor
Islandmore Kickabout	Central	Poor
Killyrammer Kickabout	East	Standard
Largy Kickabout	West	Poor
Liscolman Kickabout	East	Poor
Magherahoney Kickabout	East	Standard
Ramoan Kickabout	East	Poor

Quality

- 3.89** The kickabouts are not intended for matches, however they serve a purpose as casual recreation space. Five are rated 'standard' and the remaining eight are rated 'poor'.

Location

	West	Central	East
All kickabouts	5	1	7

- 3.90** The kickabout areas are mostly in the West and East areas.

Conclusions

- 3.91** There is no record of how kickabout areas are used, however it's reasonable to assume they are used on an occasional basis by groups of young people. Some have goal posts in place and some have bonfire sites close by. Some kickabouts could be considered for conversion to MUGA's depending on their size and location.

Audit Conclusions

- 3.92** This audit has researched the design, distribution, demand/supply and condition of outdoor sports facilities in eight sports across the Borough. All sports clubs in the eight sports were surveyed and all of the Council's pitches and facilities for the eight sports were visited and inspected. Also inspected were the Council's multi use games areas. The audit presents a comprehensive picture of present provision of facilities in all ownerships.
- 3.93** The survey of clubs informs an accurate picture of participation; the 14,179 participants represents 10% of the Borough's population. Nearly two-thirds of participants are *junior* of which females comprise under a third. This gender

imbalance is slightly more pronounced in adult participation where female participants comprise just over a quarter. There are clear messages here for the future development of facilities in that their design should encourage female participation.

- 3.94** For the ‘big three’ – *association football, gaelic games, rugby* – the particular issue is being able to access suitable facilities for mid-week training. The idea of sports hubs, that is, locating a range of facilities in a single location should be further considered as a way to address the needs of these sports. The use of 3G will ensure the facilities are used as extensively as possible. In association football there is a surplus of 21 pitches for adult matches whilst there is a slight under-supply of 3 pitches for youth matches. In gaelic games there is an under-supply of 8 pitches for youth and adult matches and training combined. In rugby there is a surplus of 2 pitches for matches.
- 3.95** *Hockey* has a slight surplus of provision of pitches. Whilst more AstroTurf pitches are not needed (based on analysis of current demand) both Coleraine Grammar and Dalriada School aspire to have on-site AstroTurf facilities. Should this happen it may have implications for use of the Council’s AstroTurf pitch at Rugby Avenue and at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.
- 3.96** In *tennis* there are 44 courts in the Borough (plus 28 in the education sector) serving a club population of 481 participants. Some courts are mostly not in use (eg, the 4 sea-facing courts at Portrush Recreation Grounds) and others are used on a casual basis. Whilst there is scope to consider a change of use for some courts it is also necessary to look at the surfaces; the bitmac surface found on 23 of the Council’s courts is not suitable for club tennis.
- 3.97** In *cricket* supply of cricket squares is meeting demand, however constraints on practice facilities mean that clubs feel restricted in being able to encourage female participation. It’s noted Ulster University has an aspiration to put in place a cricket development facility at its Coleraine campus.
- 3.98** *Athletics* is continuing to grow participation nationwide as more people take up running; one of the Borough’s clubs has over 300 athletes registered with Athletics NI. The shale running track at Rugby Avenue is generally unsatisfactory for club training. The clubs report they are constrained in their development and in the delivery of training sessions by not having modern fit for purpose facilities. A 6 lane x 400m track with in-field facilities should be considered in order to support existing activity and help grow participation – Ulster University is considering developing a track.

- 3.99** In *lawn bowls* the Council operates 8 of the 13 greens in the Borough, the remaining 5 owned and operated by 'private' clubs. Whilst there is adequate supply of greens the Council has maintenance responsibility for its greens which host 6 clubs with a combined membership of just over 200; annual maintenance costs are in the region of £80,000 - £90,000 for the 8 greens, about £390 per member. Consideration should be given to replacing the natural turf greens with synthetic surfaces, greatly reducing the cost of maintenance.
- 3.100** The Council has 19 multi use games areas across the Borough. Given they vary greatly in design (size, surface, fencing, lighting, etc) for future provision it will be necessary to establish the MUGA's purpose, be it play, recreation activity, sport or a combination of these. Design criteria should be established in accordance with the MUGA's purpose to inform local consultation. There are gaps in provision in the West and parts of the East operational areas and these gaps should be addressed. MUGA's have some potential to be used for team sports training sessions.
- 3.101** The Council has a moral and a legal duty (resulting from its responsibilities under S75 of The NI Order) to promote equality and good relations. In the furtherance of this duty via the Pitches Investment Strategy Council should consider the following:
- All facilities should comply with the Disability Sport NI Design Guidance
 - Investment should be based on need across a range of outdoor sports and geographic areas to ensure a broad range of beneficiaries from across the S75 protected groups.
 - Measures such as baby changing should be included to support those with dependants
 - Features such as hearing loops and appropriate signage for the deaf, blind and visually impaired will help insure the inclusion of those with a sensory disability
 - The design of new MUGAS should give particular attention to the needs of blind or partially sighted players
 - The programming of the Councils estate, and associated Sports Development interventions should give particular attention of the need to promote good relations
 - The development of sporting hubs should be afforded some priority in relation to future investment decisions as a result of the ability of such facilities to encourage the sharing by a range of sporting codes and the associated positive good relations impact.

4. Strategic Recommendations

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

Council Facility Developments

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

Priority 1 – Years 1 to 3

Priority 2 – Years 2 to 4

Priority 3 – Years 3 to 5

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

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

Facility Developments – Council Sites

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs									
<u>ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL</u>														
1.	Develop additional floodlit 3G provision where need is evidenced.	The demand for mid-week training accommodation in the Coleraine area exceeds supply. Added to this, small sided games activity at the University of Ulster has reportedly outstripped supply. An additional 3G pitch in the Coleraine area could potentially address both mid-week training requirements and act as a second site for small sided games on Saturday mornings (see Item 20 for more detail on location and cost). There is a limited provision for mid-week training in the Portrush/Portstewart area. Club development is being constrained; efforts by clubs to develop more participation, not least amongst females and young people are hampered by the lack of suitable facilities for training.	Depending on location there may be partnership potential with local clubs. Facilities should be presented as multi-sport and multi-activity. Explore ‘partnership’ potential through local clubs (via capital grants programme) and the associated cost savings.	Additional floodlit 3G training facilities will better facilitate the demand for mid-week training.	<table><tr><td>Floodlit 3G 140m x 90m</td><td>£1m</td></tr><tr><td>Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m</td><td>£250k</td></tr><tr><td>Ancillary accommodation</td><td>£300k</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£1.55m</td></tr></table>	Floodlit 3G 140m x 90m	£1m	Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m	£250k	Ancillary accommodation	£300k	Total	£1.55m	
Floodlit 3G 140m x 90m	£1m													
Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m	£250k													
Ancillary accommodation	£300k													
Total	£1.55m													

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs	
2.	Ensure existing Council facilities for association football in the Limavady area are used to their full potential; consider the potential to increase the quality, capacity and flexibility of the facilities at Scroggy Road and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	One example of a Council site not used to its full potential is at Roe Mill Playing Fields. Here the pavilion has 6 changing rooms however one room is given over to a local pigeon club whilst two other rooms, due to their small size, are needed for a single team. Effectively this means only 4 teams (2 pitches) can be accommodated simultaneously. There are 4 pitches at Roe Mill Playing Fields requiring 8 changing rooms. A new pavilion and further improvements to the existing grass pitches are required.	There is some potential to develop a 3G training area and improve the quality and scale of provision at the Roe Mill site. Partnership potential should be explored. Location on the site should be on the raised area adjacent to the tennis courts so avoiding the flood plain at Roe Mill.	This will make better use of the Council's pitches at Roe Mill Playing Fields by unlocking the full capacity of the 4 pitches.	New 8 room pavilion Floodlit 3G 70m x 40m	£1.25m £250k Total £1.5m

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs	
3.	Consider existing pitches across the Borough that have playability issues for remedial work to the playing surface and/or changing accommodation.	The Council has 57 grass pitches (full size and youth size) of which 11 are judged to be of <i>standard</i> quality and 4 of <i>poor</i> quality, the remainder being <i>good</i> quality, in accordance with Sport England's Non Technical Assessment system. The need is to bring all Council pitches up to <i>good</i> quality, so enhancing the playing experience and minimising the risk of match cancellations. In some cases it is poor changing accommodation that risks pitches not being used to their full potential.	None	The objective is to ensure all grass pitches remain playable throughout the season, reducing cancellations and the need to rearrange fixtures. A target of improving 2 pitches each year for 5 years at an average cost of £50k per pitch is set.	10 pitches @ £50k	£500k
4.	Extend the existing changing accommodation at Riada Playing Fields.	Riada Playing Fields offers 7 grass pitches, a 3G pitch and an AstroTurf pitch. The present changing pavilion has 6 team changing rooms which falls short of the need for changing on a busy Saturday. An assessment of the ideal number of changing rooms, to suit existing and future demand, should be carried out.	None.	This will assist in positioning Riada Playing Fields as a major sporting hub within the Borough.	Increase the existing accommodation (by 4 team rooms) to include consideration of referee's facilities, DDS requirements, 'dry' room (team talks, coaching, etc) and public toilets. This should be carefully designed and located to also consider the needs of hockey at the site (see Item 10).	£800k

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
5.	Consider the potential to improve grass pitches in line with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .	A sand fibre natural grass pitch reportedly has a weekly capacity of between 10 and 20 hours of use, depending on maintenance regimes and weather conditions; Ulster University has recently completed such a pitch at its Coleraine campus. The need for increased capacity grass pitches should be considered after new 3G pitches have had a 'settling in' period.	There is potential for association football, gaelic games and rugby clubs to access 'hybrid' grass pitches for mid-week training and they could be marketed as 'multi sport'.	Increasing the capacity of grass pitches will result in greater use of Council resources, not least changing accommodation which is generally not used from one weekend to the next.	Convert 2 existing grass pitches to hybrid/sand fibre plus floodlighting £400k
6.	Implement an appropriate Pitch Usage Policy and maintenance programme.	Parks and Estates department in Council to introduce a programme of routine, programmed and major maintenance activities across the pitch estate and introduce a Pitch Usage Policy.	This policy should be devised in liaison with user groups and clubs to engender understanding and acceptance of the need for and content of the policy.	The Council's pitches will be preserved and protected, enhancing their quality and playability.	None.

Gaelic Games

7.	Develop additional grass pitch facilities in the Dungiven area.	Two local clubs have each expressed the need for increased access to pitches (St Canice's – men's football and Kevin Lynch – hurling) whilst two other clubs (St Canice's – ladies football and St Patrick's – camogie) have no 'home' pitch.	A site has not been identified. Consideration should be given to a range of options including, for example, a partnership with a local club or other provider.	A pitch in Dungiven could be shared by local clubs, a mix of training and matches. The development of local clubs will be supported.	New grass sand mattress pitch - 140m x 90m with floodlighting Pitch Lights Changing & ancillary accommodation (4 rooms) Total £100k £200k £500k £800k

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
		The new 3G pitch (approximately 90m x 60m) at Dungiven Sports Centre has helped with the need for mid-week training, however is not suitable for matches.			
8.	Identify Council sites surplus to requirements and consider their future use.	The audit evidences a number of Council-owned grass pitches that are no longer in use, most likely due to changing demographics over time. Examples include pitches at Drumsurn, King's Lane, Armoy and Mosside. Gaelic games clubs are particularly challenged by a shortfall in training facilities. An exercise to match clubs with surplus pitches in their local area may assist in addressing this shortfall. Clubs availing of this opportunity may be able to raise/source funds to carry out upgrading work as necessary.	Depending on the location and scope of a pitch being offered and a club's plans for its re-development (eg, 3G and floodlit) the potential for multi-sport use could be good. Partnership potential in terms of clubs and the Council working together on upgrading/re-development projects is good.	This will potentially make better use of parts of the Council estate that are presently surplus to requirements. Depending on the responses from clubs it will help to alleviate the shortfall in training facilities thereby assisting in clubs' development including levels of participation. In considering sites currently surplus to requirements the main options are:- (i) Long term lease to local clubs who would be required to raise their own funds.	Capital grants programme

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs						
				(ii) Re-develop, at Council's cost, for use by local clubs. (iii) Retain for informal recreation use and possible future development.							
RUGBY											
9.	Depending on the long term future of the club there is a need to replace the changing accommodation at Armoy Rugby Club and complete drainage work on the pitches. Council to explore construction options for changing accommodation, including modular options.	Presently the changing accommodation is in very poor condition and not fit for purpose. The site, known as Lime Park, is owned by the Council and leased to the club.	Some potential for other sports clubs to use the site for training but only if the pitches are upgraded. The changing accommodation would be managed and maintained by Armoy Rugby Club.	Armoy Rugby Club's on-going operation and development is severely constrained by the present changing accommodation. This will assist them in sustaining the club and to deliver their sports development plan.	<table><tr><td>Drainage works</td><td>£40k</td></tr><tr><td>Changing accommodation (4 rooms)</td><td>£500k</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£540k</td></tr></table> (The cost of providing changing accommodation is dependent on the type of construction; a bricks and mortar building will typically cost more than a modular construction.)	Drainage works	£40k	Changing accommodation (4 rooms)	£500k	Total	£540k
Drainage works	£40k										
Changing accommodation (4 rooms)	£500k										
Total	£540k										
HOCKEY											
10.	Consider the development of a changing pavilion in Riada Playing Fields adjacent to the AstroTurf pitch, especially suited to the requirements of female hockey players.	The present changing pavilion for Riada Playing Fields is some distance from the AstroTurf pitch. The audit reveals that accommodation in this pavilion is inadequate, not least for females.	The pavilion could be used by more than one sport. No partnership potential.	Female participation in sport is often constrained by inadequate changing accommodation. A second pavilion may encourage greater participation.	Refer to proposed accommodation and anticipated costs at Item 4. Consultation with the local hockey club and other clubs is advisable to determine a best fit solution.						

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
11.	Replace the ageing surface on the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle.	This AstroTurf pitch is regarded as poor quality by the local men's hockey club, however, should the proposed AstroTurf pitch be developed at the shared campus project in Ballycastle the pitch at Quay Road could be viewed as surplus to requirements.	AstroTurf is a multi-sport surface. Partnership with Portrush Hockey Club may be possible.	A fit for purpose surface in Ballycastle will assist the local men's hockey club in developing under-age participation.	New AstroTurf surface (only required if the proposed AstroTurf surface at the shared campus does not proceed.) £150k
TENNIS					
12.	Consider the development of improved tennis provision in the Coleraine area in respect of scale of provision and playing surfaces.	Presently two clubs in Coleraine share a single site – 4 courts with a bitmac surface unsuited to inter-club competition. This is unsustainable in terms of tennis development. Consultation identified local aspirations for an indoor tennis facility but it is considered likely that the lack of a fit for purpose outdoor facility is a greater limiting factor to the development of tennis in the area.	No multi sport potential. There may be some partnership potential with one or other of the clubs presently based at Anderson Park.	Providing artificial grass tennis courts in Coleraine will enhance the playing experience for club training and matches. It should encourage more participation in tennis and it will complement existing facilities and sports at the host venue.	Five new floodlit artificial surface tennis courts to accommodate club and community (pay 'n play) use. Due to the flood risk at Anderson Park a different location will be necessary. Capital project to include a pavilion building (changing, club rooms, toilet provision, DDA requirements) and parking. £975k

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

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

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
ATHLETICS					
17.	Develop perimeter walking/jogging paths (with lights) at a range of club and Council facilities. Also consider Quay Road Playing Fields and a section of the proposed Ballymoney-Ballycastle Greenway, Riada Playing Fields and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	There is a need for safe jogging paths in urban areas. Other Council sites, urban and rural may also be considered. Walking/jogging paths are a simple way to encourage more people to get active and lead healthier lifestyles. It's noted that Ulster University has an aspiration to develop a 400m track at its Coleraine campus.	Multi sport/activity. Partnership potential may be possible through the Council's capital grants programme .	Whilst there are over 500 participants in the 5 athletics clubs in the Borough there are undoubtedly many hundreds more 'recreational joggers' who choose not to join a club. It is likely there are many people who aspire to being more active but are constrained by lack of safe jogging paths. The impact is quite simply more people becoming active and being able to sustain activity throughout the year, not just during the months of light evenings.	There are also opportunities for applications to the capital grants programme for related projects in club settings. £500k
LAWN BOWLS					
18.	Consider a new approach to supporting lawn bowls including the provision of synthetic greens.	High maintenance costs (at least £10k per year per green) and low club membership numbers at the Council's greens point to the need to review how	With synthetic greens there is good potential for partnership arrangements between the Council and clubs	The intended impact is to increase membership within lawn bowls clubs across the Borough, so making	Convert (say) 3 natural grass greens to synthetic @ £120k Upgrade 1 grass green £50k Total £410k

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
		the Council continues to support participation whilst achieving best value from its assets. Synthetic greens greatly reduce the maintenance costs and may be seen as encouraging greater participation through increased playability.	operating on Council greens, including lease arrangements. A range of options for Council greens includes:- ▪ Hand over maintenance responsibility along with a small equipment grant to the resident club. ▪ Conversion from grass to synthetic green(s). ▪ Transfer the asset to the resident club (with non-disposal conditions) along with a small equipment grant; the club manages and maintains the facility. A separate business case should consider the cost effectiveness of these and other options.	them more sustainable in the long term. One of the natural grass greens at Portrush Recreation Grounds is assessed as being in 'poor' condition.	

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
MUGA's / TRAINING AREAS (in this document the term 'MUGA' means a multi-sport training and small-sided games area, minimum dimension 37m x 18.5m in accordance with Sport England's recommendations for training facilities)					
19.	Consider the development of MUGA's at Cushendall, Limavady, Dungiven, Castlerock, Dervock, Cloughmills and Portrush. The development of smaller MUGA's has some crossover with the work of the Council's Play Strategy.	The audit shows gaps in the provision of MUGA's in these areas. Community consultation (reported in the audit) supports the need for these facilities, however as each one is considered the Council will need to carry out further consultation to determine their purpose and the type/design best suited to the agreed purpose, not least the surface.	Multi-sport and multi-activity, potentially embracing play, recreation and sport dependent on agreed purpose. There may be partnership potential in some projects. Local need will help determine the primary purpose of a project and the design solution for the need.	Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) are a valuable asset for unstructured and semi-structured play by individuals and small groups that can encourage an interest in sport. Training areas are critical to support sports clubs' delivery of training sessions. The provision of additional MUGA's and training areas (minimum size 37m x 18.5m) will reduce the shortfall in these facilities revealed in the audit. Community feedback supports the need for more of these facilities.	Assume 8 floodlit MUGA's, average size approximately 40m x 20m £1.2m
20.	Develop a multi-sport synthetic training area at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields with a high specification synthetic surface suited to a range	Local clubs have a particular need to access full-size training facilities in the winter pre-season period; club-based grass pitches are over-used in this period, partly due to clubs	The training area can be marked for a range of codes, giving it excellent multi sport potential.	Rugby Avenue Playing Fields offering as a sports hub enhanced.	Refer to Item 1

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
	of sports; approximate size 140m x 90m. Ancillary accommodation (parking, pavilion) to be enhanced.	having more teams than they can accommodate on club facilities. The development of a third multi-sport synthetic training area at Rugby Avenue will complement the existing AstroTurf pitch and 3G pitch. It will help to further reduce the under-supply of one hour mid-week training slots for association football. Gaelic games particular need in the Coleraine area is for more training facilities, most notably for Eoghan Rua GAC.	Some partnership potential depending on local clubs' appetite/ability.		
21.	Consider re-development of the Council's shale pitches where this is possible.	With the advent of synthetic turf technology, shale pitches are effectively redundant.	Multi-sport and partnership potential dependent on the nature of re-development.	This will assist in realising value from the Council's assets.	Budget allowance £500k
CAPITAL SUPPORT FOR SPORTS CLUBS					
22.	Support clubs in their aspirations for improved club-based facilities. This could be delivered through the Council's capital and minor grants programmes.	In consultation many clubs noted the need for facility developments and equipment improvements at club sites. Given the rural nature of parts of the Borough, many clubs serve communities where Council-supported	Multi-sport outcomes may be possible dependent on the nature of improvements, however the focus here is to achieve better facilities for club-based activity to encourage	The audit reveals there are over 14,000 playing members in 109 clubs across the eight sports. Improved club-based facilities will result in increased participation, not least amongst	Council grant programmes.

Item No	Description	Comment / Link to Audit	Multi Sport & Partnership Potential	Impact	Indicative Capital Costs
		opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity can be limited. A strategically focused grants programme can encourage partnership working and enhance VFM for the Council.	participation and growth.	young people in general and females in particular.	

Priority 1 – Years 1 to 3		
Item No	Description	Indicative Capital Costs
1.	Develop additional floodlit 3G provision where need is evidenced.	£1.55m
3.	Consider existing pitches across the Borough that have playability issues for remedial work to the playing surface and/or changing accommodation.	£500k
4.	Extend the existing changing accommodation at Riada Playing Fields.	£800k
6.	Implement an appropriate Pitch Usage Policy and maintenance programme.	n/a
8.	Identify Council sites surplus to requirements and consider their future use.	n/a
9.	Depending on the long term future of the club there is a need to replace the changing accommodation at Armoy Rugby Club and complete drainage work on the pitches. Council to explore construction options for changing accommodation, including modular options.	£540k

10.	Consider the development of a changing pavilion in Riada Playing Fields adjacent to the AstroTurf pitch, especially suited to the requirements of female hockey players.	Ref Item 4
11.	Replace the ageing surface on the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle.	£150k
13.	Replace the ageing surface on the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle.	n/a
14.	Carry out upgrade to the tennis pavilion in Ballycastle, including toilet provision and maintenance issues.	£100k
22.	Support clubs in their aspirations for improved club-based facilities. This could be delivered through the Council's capital and minor grants programmes.	Capital grants
Sub Total		£3,640,000

Priority 2 – Years 2 to 4		
Item No	Description	Indicative Capital Costs
2.	Ensure existing Council facilities for association football in the Limavady area are used to their full potential; consider the potential to increase the quality, capacity and flexibility of the facilities at Scroggy Road and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	£1.5m
7.	Develop additional grass pitch facilities in the Dungiven area.	£800k
12.	Consider the development of improved tennis provision in the Coleraine area in respect of scale of provision and playing surfaces.	£975k
16.	Consider the design of future indoor facility developments regards their suitability for indoor cricket practice.	CLC budget
18.	Consider a new approach to supporting lawn bowls including the provision of synthetic greens.	£410k

19.	Consider the development of MUGA's at Cushendall, Limavady, Dungiven, Castlerock, Dervock, Cloughmills and Portrush. The development of smaller MUGA's has some crossover with the work of the Council's Play Strategy.	£1.2m
21.	Consider re-development of the Council's shale pitches where this is possible.	£500k
Sub Total		£5,385,000

Priority 3 – Years 3 to 5		
Item No & Description		
Item No	Description	Indicative Capital Costs
5.	Consider the potential to improve grass pitches in line with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .	£400k
15.	Consider supporting cricket clubs with specialist equipment to assist the delivery of training sessions and in maintenance of grass surfaces. This could be achieved through the capital grants programme.	Capital grants
17.	Develop perimeter walking/jogging paths (with lights) at a range of club and Council facilities. Also consider Quay Road Playing Fields and a section of the proposed Ballymoney-Ballycastle Greenway, Riada Playing Fields and Roe Mill Playing Fields.	£500k
20.	Develop a multi-sport synthetic training area at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields with a high specification synthetic surface suited to a range of sports; approximate size 140m x 90m. Ancillary accommodation (parking, pavilion) to be enhanced.	Refer Item 1
Sub Total		£900,000
Strategy Total		£9,925,000

Other Providers

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

The audit process revealed a considerable number of sports and other providers identifying a need/aspiration for facility improvements at their sites:-

Gaelic Games

▪ Ballerin GAC	Indoor 3G hall and community building
▪ Carey Faughs GAC	Hurling wall and lights
▪ Cuchullains Dun Lathai GA&CC	Third full-size grass pitch
▪ Kevin Lynch Hurling Club, Dungiven	Second full-size grass pitch
▪ Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	Second full-size pitch and indoor training hall
▪ Glen Rovers GAC	Additional changing rooms with dedicated spectator toilets, 1st aid room and gym
▪ Glenariffe Oisin CLG	Clubhouse due to be demolished, will need alternative for club use
▪ Glenullin GAC	Upgrade to changing accommodation
▪ Kilrea GAC	Storage and disability access
▪ Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	Acquired land for grass/3G pitch development - no funding in place
▪ Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	Third full-size grass pitch – funding obtained through Council's capital grant scheme (Oct 2017)
▪ McQuillan GAC Ballycastle	Additional full-size pitch
▪ Naomh Padraig North Antrim	Indoor winter training accommodation
▪ O Connors Glack GAA	Fencing

▪ O'Briens Foreglen GAC	In the short-term, floodlights and trim trail – in the long-term a second pitch
▪ Ruairí Og GAC, Cushendall	3G pitch suitable for club and community use
▪ Robert Emmett's GAC, Cushendun	3G pitch in Cushendun
▪ St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills	Clubhouse upgrade
▪ St Canice's Ladies GFC, Dungiven	Do not have own facilities, rely on heavily used local GAA club facilities
▪ St Colm's Drum GAC	Floodlit sand-based grass training pitch
▪ St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	New clubrooms and changing accommodation
▪ St Mary's Rasharkin GAC	Indoor 3G community facility - applied for Peace IV funding
▪ St Mathew's GAC	Has acquired ground for second grass pitch - no funding in place for development
▪ St Patrick's Camogie Club, Dungiven	Do not have own facilities, rely on heavily used local GAA club facilities
▪ St. Aidan's GAC Magilligan	Floodlights for pitch and trim trail
▪ St. Canice's GAC Dungiven	3G training pitch and new changing accommodation - no funding in place

Rugby

- Coleraine RFC; training facilities
- Ballymoney RFC; training facilities
- Armoy RFC; pavilion accommodation
- Limavady RFC; synthetic pitch for hockey and association football

Hockey

- Coleraine Grammar; 1/2 on-site AstroTurf pitches
- Dalriada School; on-site AstroTurf pitch

Tennis

- Garvagh Tennis Club; replace bitmac with artificial grass
- Limavady Rec Club; pavilion upgrade

Cricket

- Equipment request from clubs

Athletics

- Ulster University; athletics track

Lawn Bowls

- Ballycastle Bowling Club; pavilion refurbishment and floodlighting.

These and other providers may look to take forward capital projects.

PART 2

AUDIT OF EXISTING PROVISION



1. Introduction

The Study

- 1.1** Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council ('the Council') has commissioned a two-part study to look at current pitch provision across the Borough. The first part is an 'audit of exiting provision'; the second part is a 'pitch strategy' informed by the audit. The objective of the study is to *'create a strategy that could be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the Borough in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision'*.
- 1.2** The methodology for the audit is based on Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field; Playing Pitch Model'; this is used as the main tool to audit demand/supply, design and condition of the pitches/facilities used for association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey and cricket. The principles of the Playing Pitch Model are also applied to the audit of tennis, athletics, lawn bowls and multi use games areas/kickabout area. GIS mapping is used to audit the distribution of facilities. The audit results are taken forward to inform the strategic recommendations.

Commission

- 1.3** The Council's brief for this commission is as follows:-

Part 1 – Audit of Existing Provision

- ❖ Audit the design, distribution, demand/supply information and condition of each of around 100 sites hosting Council and community/club owned outdoor 'pitches' and associated changing facilities in the Borough. This audit is to include all natural turf and synthetic 'pitches' for association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey, tennis, cricket, athletics, lawn bowls, multi use games areas and small sided games/kick about areas.
- ❖ Make recommendations and provide indicative costs in relation to any identified remedial works or further technical investigations necessary.

Part 2 – A Pitch Strategy

- ❖ Review the current hot and cold spots for pitch provision identified in the (Council's) 'Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2015'; to make recommendations for a prioritised 'pitch' (and associated changing provision) investment strategy for the Borough and provide indicative cost estimates.

- ❖ The Pitches (and associated changing provision) Strategy should set out a 5-year plan and make area specific recommendations and provide cost estimates in relation to a range of options including inter alia:-
 - Refurbishments
 - New provision
 - Disposals
 - Extensions
 - Rationalisation into outdoor sports hubs
 - Partnership provision/shared
 - Facility types, sporting codes, scale and playing surface
 - High level specifications to accommodate the likely use pattern, sporting code and standard of competition
- ❖ The Strategy should consider the best mix and distribution of natural turf and synthetic surfaces based on the projected demand pattern, data on current booking levels and the distribution and scale of sports clubs and sporting codes in the area.
- ❖ Consideration should be given to how effective partnerships with the private, education, public or third sector organisations could bring benefits to the pitch provision in the Borough in a way that is open and accessible while at the same time maximises sustainability, efficiency and community benefit.
- ❖ The Strategy recommendations should take account of levels of deprivation and barriers to access such as disability or rurality, etc.

Background and Context

- 1.4** Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council came into being in April 2015 as a result of the reform of local government in Northern Ireland. The new Borough covers a geographical area of nearly 2,000 square kilometres which has over 140,000 citizens. The Borough's population is growing, albeit at a slower rate than across Northern Ireland as a whole, however the proportion of young people living in the area is declining whilst there is a growing number of older people; the population's general health is better than that of the Northern Ireland average. Both of Northern Ireland's main traditions are represented in the Borough.
- 1.5** With 14% of Northern Ireland's total land mass the Borough is one of the largest of the 11 newly formed administrative districts, stretching from Lough Foyle in the west to the Glens of Antrim in the east, from the Atlantic coast and Rathlin Island in the north to Benbradagh Mountain in the south. There are 7 District Electoral Areas (DEA's) in the Borough; Benbradagh, Limavady, Bann, Coleraine, Causeway,

Ballymoney and The Glens. The Borough is bordered by three others: Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Mid Ulster Borough Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council.

- 1.6** Sport and physical activity plays an important part in the lives of the Borough's citizens and visitors. With over 140 kilometres of coastline and three 'areas of outstanding natural beauty' (Binevenagh, the Causeway Coast and the Glens of Antrim) the Borough is popular with water activity enthusiasts and walkers. In the context of this study the long established international youth soccer⁽¹⁾ competition has given a focus to association football throughout the Borough whilst the Council's leisure facilities have encouraged people to get active and enjoy sport over many years.

Sport and Physical Activity in Society

- 1.7** The economic benefits of a physically active lifestyle are well documented. Against an estimated total cost of physical inactivity of £1.89 billion annually it's reckoned that a 10% increase in physical activity amongst adults in England would benefit the economy by £500 million annually or 26%⁽²⁾. The positive impacts of regular exercise on health include:-

- ❖ Decrease in the risk of cardiovascular mortality
- ❖ Delays in the development of high blood pressure
- ❖ Assist in weight control
- ❖ Reduces the risk of certain cancers
- ❖ Reduces the risk of depression
- ❖ Helps prevent non-specific lower back pain

Current thinking suggests a minimum of thirty minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on at least five occasions per week is needed as part of a healthy lifestyle⁽³⁾.

- 1.8** Sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland makes an important contribution to the economy⁽⁴⁾. Over £932 million was spent on sport-related goods and services in 2013, accounting for 3.2% of total consumer expenditure in the region, an increase of 35% compared to 2008. It's also of interest to note that sport-related employment in Northern Ireland grew considerably between 2008 and 2013, from 17,900 to 25,700 or 43%. Growth on this scale is undoubtedly linked in part to the

⁽¹⁾ 'Soccer' and 'association football' are interchangeable through this report.

⁽²⁾ 'Sport, Health & Economic Benefit'; Sports Industry Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University 2002.

⁽³⁾ British Cardiac Society.

⁽⁴⁾ Sports Industry Research Centre.

growing awareness of the health benefits of exercise and increased participation in certain sports. Facilities that are suitable and sufficient clearly have an important part to play in encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyle choices that contribute to the economy.

Playing Pitches

- 1.9** The provision of playing pitches is an emotive subject, often making national headlines when pitches/playing fields are sold off to make way for development. Across the UK the number of planning applications to carry out developments on existing playing fields doubled between 1999 and 2009, from 625 to 1,322 applications. The playing fields ‘watchdog’ is Fields in Trust⁽⁵⁾. Recommendations made by Fields in Trust have been incorporated in the recently published ‘National Planning Policy Framework’⁽⁶⁾; specific reference is made in the policy framework to the need to assess provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities when considering planning applications. It is also recommended that in applications where open space, sports and recreational facilities are due to be lost, the developer should replace them to at least an equivalent standard in the vicinity.
- 1.10** In Northern Ireland planners recognise the need for provision of outdoor recreation space in ‘Planning Policy, Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation Section 5.15 states *‘In large developments there may be a need to provide more formal outdoor recreation facilities such as playing pitches to meet the needs generated by the development.’* It is therefore appropriate for local authorities to audit the provision of pitches to inform discussion in relation to planning applications and in the strategic development of opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity. In preparing its Local Development Plan the Council’s Planning Committee developed ‘Discussion Paper 7: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation’ (April 2016) which reflects planning policy and relevant strategies.
- 1.11** Four of Northern Ireland’s former local authorities are known to have carried out similar pitch audits to inform playing pitch strategies; these are Strabane, Derry, Belfast and Newtownabbey. Post-local government reform Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has also completed a pitches strategy. Whilst the pressure of urban development is a key factor in looking at pitches there are other important factors, not least:-

- ❖ The need to ensure equality of opportunity in relation to age, ability, gender and rurality.

⁽⁵⁾ *Fields in Trust was formerly the National Playing Fields Association, rebranded in 2007.*

⁽⁶⁾ *Published in March 2012.*

- ❖ The increasing interest in team sports, especially amongst children, largely the result of successful sports development initiatives by local authorities, sports clubs, Sport NI and sports governing bodies.
- ❖ The availability of artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology. For example, Third Generation, or '3G' surfaces provide an alternative to natural grass that have the potential to totally transform how local authorities and sports clubs look at playing pitches.
- ❖ The limited capacity of natural grass surfaces, especially for winter season competition, accommodating two or at most three games each week with a three to four month rest period in the summer. The match capacity of any natural grass pitch is determined by a range of technical issues as well as the maintenance regime and the operator's policy.
- ❖ Sports' clubs constraints when it comes to developing facilities to accommodate and encourage growing demand.
- ❖ Schools' attitudes and constraints in terms of facilitating community access to school-based pitches, both grass and ATP.
- ❖ The potential to develop shared public spaces especially on education sites.
- ❖ Governing body influences, most notably through sports development programmes.

1.12 The overarching rationale for reviewing pitches' adequacy of provision is better quality and adequate facilities for a better quality experience so encouraging more participation. The particular challenge for local authorities as providers is to make best use of resources to maximise the value of the pitches estate in terms of its contribution to citizens' lifestyles.

2. The Approach

Part 1 - Audit

- 2.1** The audit is an opportunity to develop a complete picture of the situation pertaining to all pitches in the Council area regarding condition/quality, location, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities; it is also an opportunity to develop a picture of club membership, facilities used, challenges, aspirations and unmet demand. Phase 1 of the audit was approached as follows:-

Audit Phase 1: Research and Consultation

- ❖ **Consultation events.** Three events were held across the Borough; (i) Flowerfield Arts Centre on Tuesday 2 May; (ii) Sheskburn Recreation Centre on Wednesday 3 May; and (iii) Dungiven Sports Centre on Thursday 4 May. Sports clubs, community groups and schools were invited. Total attendance was 58 individuals representing 21 sports clubs, 9 community groups and 5 schools (see Appendix 1).
- ❖ **Site visits.** Each of the Council's pitches/facilities for the eight sports was visited and inspected. Sport England's Non-Technical Visual Assessment within its Playing Pitch Model (PPM) system was applied to association football, gaelic games, rugby and cricket whilst the principles of the PPM system were also applied to hockey, lawn bowls, tennis and athletics. The PPM system, designed primarily for grass surfaces, considers slope, drainage, grass cover, wear and tear, floodlighting, litter, dog fouling, vandalism, changing accommodation, parking and access. This helps identify pitches that are over-used, explains why some pitches might be under-used and helps prioritise investment decisions. Also visited and inspected were the Council's multi use games areas (MUGA's). Pictorial records of the site visits are appended (Appendix 2 – Pitches; Appendix 3 – MUGA's).
- ❖ **Survey.** The purpose of survey work was to gather information on supply/demand *and* on the condition of pitches and related facilities not in Council ownership. The main target groups for the survey were:-
 - Clubs (who own a pitch)
 - Teams/clubs (who don't own a pitch)
 - Education sector
 - Community sector

Given that completed questionnaires informed facility inventories and participation profiles it was important to maximise the returns, especially for sports clubs and teams. Returns obtained were as follows:-

Sport	No of Clubs	No of Returns	% Returns
Association Football	46	40	85%
Gaelic Games	28	28	100%
Rugby	4	4	100%
Hockey	4	4	100%
Tennis	5	5	100%
Cricket	5	5	100%
Athletics	5	5	100%
Lawn Bowls	11	11	100%

A total of 15 returns (88%) were obtained from post primary schools and 13 returns from primary schools (16%). An online survey relating to MUGA's attracted 70 responses.

- ❖ **Consultation Meetings/Interviews.** A series of meetings and interviews was conducted with key individuals and organisations in order to help complete the picture of existing provision and aspirations for future provision.
- ❖ Meetings were also held with Council staff responsible for booking out the Council's pitches and information requested on bookings for each pitch, cancellations and unmet demand (waiting lists).

Audit – Phase 2: Analysis and Audit Report

Phase 2 of the audit was approached as follows:-

- ❖ **Playing Pitch Model (PPM).** This is where information gathered through the audit is applied to Sport England's numerical model to reveal 'adequacy of provision' for each of the natural grass pitch sports to which the PPM can be applied directly; association football, gaelic games, rugby, hockey and cricket. For the remaining sports and MUGA's the principles of the PPM were applied where appropriate. The stages in the PPM are as follows:-

Stage 1	Identifying teams
Stage 2	Calculating home games
Stage 3	Assessing total home games per week
Stage 4	Establish demand for games throughout the week

Stage 5	Defining pitches used/required
Stage 6	Establishing pitches available
Stage 7	Adequacy of provision

- ❖ **Audit Report.** The audit report records research and consultation undertaken for the commission, leading to analysis and recommendations. The audit report can be thought of as '*what*' and '*so what*':-

WHAT	- quantity of current supply - quality of current supply - geographic location
SO WHAT	- impact on the community - impact on the Council's aspiration to promote participation - impact on the Council's running costs - need for repairs/improvements (costed)

The audit report deals with each sport/facility in turn.

Part 2 – A Pitch Strategy

- 2.2** Following on from the audit this is effectively '*what next*'? The approach has the following elements:-

- ❖ Strategy Consultation Workshop, leading to a;
- ❖ Draft Pitches Investment Strategy, inviting;
- ❖ Stakeholder views on emerging recommendations, resulting in a;
- ❖ Final Pitches Strategy

Consultation on and preparation of the strategy takes into account a number of key considerations, including:-

- ❖ Local government reform and the challenges facing the new Council in relation to pitches provision.
- ❖ Relevant regional and local strategies and planning policies.
- ❖ The growth in artificial turf surfaces.
- ❖ The advent of multi-sport pitches.
- ❖ The potential to develop shared public spaces.
- ❖ The IFA's Small Sided Games initiative and the impact of this on local youth leagues and provision of facilities.
- ❖ The potential for partnerships and partnership funding in the development and operation of facilities.
- ❖ The potential to create sports 'hubs'.

2.3 The final Pitches Strategy identifies policy options and solutions. It addresses each sport/facility in turn, looking at a range of considerations, including:-

- ❖ Rationalisation
- ❖ Repairs/enhancements
- ❖ Re-location
- ❖ Sports facility hubs and location options
- ❖ The potential of partnerships
- ❖ High-level costings
- ❖ Community access
- ❖ Equality screening

2.4 This report is ***Part 2: Audit of Existing Provision***. It is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ The Approach
- ❖ Stakeholder Engagement
- ❖ Audit (by sport)
- ❖ Remedial Works / Technical Investigations

3. Stakeholder Engagement

Introduction

- 3.1** Sport NI and the Education Authority were contacted and given an opportunity to comment on current provision of facilities in the Borough across all eight sports. In addition a site visit and meeting was held with Ulster University. Three public consultation events were held, giving individuals and groups a chance to think about future provision – these consultation events supplemented a survey of sports clubs, schools and community groups. Consultation with governing bodies is reported within the sport-specific sections.

Sport NI

- 3.2** Key data sets on the provision of a range of sports facilities is presented for each local authority in Northern Ireland in Sport NI's *Active Places Research Report 'Bridging the Gap' 2009*. Of the nine facility types being considered in this report, 'Bridging the Gap' presents information on association football, gaelic games, rugby, tennis and athletics; for association football, gaelic games and rugby, both grass and ATP's are included in Sport NI's assessment of provision, based on an audit of the stock of facilities, the Sport NI Facilities Database.
- 3.3** The 2009 report on pitches revealed a shortfall in provision in Ballymoney and Coleraine and slight over provision in Limavady and Moyle, as follows:-

	EXISTING PROVISION										SUPPLY SITUATION		
	Grass							Synthetic		Total Acres SNI	SNI Standard		
	Soccer	1.93 Acre	Gaelic	3.29 Acres	Rugby	2.10 Acres	Total Grass Acres	Existing Acres	SNI by 4		Perceived Acres	Pitches Required	Shortfall by Acre to Population
Ballymoney	13	25.09	4	13.2	3	6.3	44.55	1.81	7.24	51.8	39	16	0.13%
Coleraine	23	44.39	6	19.7	5	11	74.73	1.29	5.16	79.8	91	37	0.16%
Limavady	17	32.81	20	65.8	4	8.4	107	2.82	11.3	118	-10	-4	-0.03%
Moyle	4	7.72	12	39.5	2	4.2	51.4	0.89	3.56	55	-4	-1	-0.02%
TOTALS	57	110	42	138	14	29	277.6	6.81	27.2	305	116	47	

A 2010 analysis of pitches in the former Limavady Borough Council area⁽⁷⁾ found that 3 pitches listed in the Sport NI Facilities Database did not exist. A 2014 update to 'Bridging the Gap' presents a scenario where ATP's located on education sites are included in the supply side of analysis as *'in the light of recent Community Use of Schools guidance published by Sport NI and the Department for Education, it is important to recognise the potential value of school sports facilities in addressing the facility shortfalls throughout Northern Ireland.* The scenario proposes an overall shortfall of 19 pitches (grass or ATP) for the Borough as a whole. Whilst it is important to recognise the potential impact that community use of all school-based ATP's could have on the shortfall in provision (ie, a reduced shortfall from 47 to 19 pitches) based on 'Bridging the Gap', education sites are mostly not available for community use.

- 3.4** For tennis 'Bridging the Gap', uses the Facilities Planning Model, comparing Northern Ireland's tennis court provision to England and Scotland:-

	England & Scotland	Northern Ireland
Outdoor Courts	1 court per 3,700 people	1 court per 6,200 people
Indoor Courts	1 court per 39,500 people	1 court per 171,000 people

The report reckoned the Causeway Coast and Glens area as having a shortfall of 39 tennis courts although it also noted that the influence of gaelic games participation and the *'overwhelming demand for pitch-based sports'* in Northern Ireland could reduce this shortfall by an estimated 60%, ie, to 16 courts. Sport NI's research revealed that *'many providers suggested that if existing under-specified courts were refurbished to a suitable standard, the shortfall in tennis courts could be significantly reduced'*. Research further identified that 13% of all tennis facilities were found to have *'rough tarmac'* or gravel/shale surfaces which are unappealing and unsafe. It also noted that whilst many of Northern Ireland's tennis courts are in the education sector, *'only 47% of schools makes their facilities available to outside groups'*. Whilst this is reckoned to be a high estimate, increased community access to sports facilities on education sites could potentially help reduce any shortfall in provision.

- 3.5** For athletics, 'Bridging the Gap' again uses the Facilities Planning Model, assessing provision as follows:-

	England & Scotland	Northern Ireland
Athletics Facilities	1 facility per 185,000 people	1 facility per 214,000 people

⁽⁷⁾ *Economic Appraisal for the Development of a 3G pitch at Scroggy Road; Limavady Borough Council 2010.*

However, the report notes that UK Athletics recommends 1 track per 250,000 people which would suggest there are sufficient tracks to meet demand. It further notes that some areas may be disadvantaged due to travel time to the nearest track – Coleraine was cited in the report as one of the areas affected in this way.

General Comments

- ❖ The view put forward in ‘Bridging the Gap’ regarding the carrying capacity of grass versus artificial turf pitches was that a ATP can accommodate 4 times the use of a grass pitch. Sport NI recognises there are conflicting views on this figure; on the one hand, Fields in Trust’s ‘Six Acre Standard’ reckons the value of an ATP to be twice that of a grass surface whilst other agencies use a factor of 6. So, Sport NI’s view that an ATP is 4 times the value of a grass surface can be looked on as having a degree of flexibility.
- ❖ Multi-sport 3G pitches with floodlighting are encouraged by Sport NI as a way to embrace the three main large ball codes – association football, gaelic games and rugby on a single site. Typically a multi-sport 3G pitch measures approximately 140m x 90m and depending on markings is capable of accommodating 2 association football matches **or** 1 gaelic games match **or** 1 rugby match. Examples are at Crumlin Leisure Centre, Scroggy Road Playing Fields (Limavady) and Valley Park (Newtownabbey).
- ❖ ‘Bridging the Gap’s’ assessment of provision uses the Fields in Trust’s guidance in relation to formal outdoor space for sport, play and recreation which proposes 1.2 hectares of playing pitches per 1,000 population⁽⁸⁾ (association football, rugby, hockey, lacrosse, cricket). Fields in Trust also addresses athletics, tennis, lawn bowls and MUGA’s. This audit report uses Fields in Trust guidance to highlight adequacy of provision. It then uses Sport England’s ‘Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model’ to prioritise investment. The Playing Pitch Model (PPM) looks at demand, matching it to supply to calculate whether there is an over-supply or under-supply in provision.

Education Authority

- 3.6** The Education Authority (EA) is the operational arm of the Department of Education. Given that most schools have sports pitches the Education Authority is a key stakeholder in any audit of and strategy for pitches.

⁽⁸⁾ *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: ‘Beyond the Six Acre Standard’; Fields in Trust 2015.*

Community Use of School Pitches

- 3.7** Strategically the Department of Education (DE) promotes use of schools by non-school groups to help build stronger links with parents and local communities. DE's policy for school improvement, 'Every School a Good School'⁽⁹⁾ states *"School premises are a valuable facility for community use and schools are actively encouraged to consider making their premises available as a community facility where possible."* DE sees schools as a hub for community activity, which can only be achieved through a pro-active stance by school Governors. To encourage more community use of schools and assist schools in setting up community use DE produced *'Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools'* in 2014.
- 3.8** The EA's Regional Manager for Schools Development Service was contacted in relation to this commission; discussion points are summarised as follows:-
- ❖ The document 'Community Use of School Premises: A Guidance Toolkit for Schools' places a responsibility on schools to consider how the schools estate can be used more broadly in the context of community use. Also, the 'Extended Schools Programme' provides a strategic context to encourage schools to consider community use.
 - ❖ The newly formed Education Directorate will have an Assistant Director tasked with strategic oversight of community use of schools. This move fits with the on-going Area Planning process within education and the Community Planning process being led by local authorities.
 - ❖ Quality indicators in school inspections now recognise community engagement and use of school facilities by local communities. This is a relatively recent development that will, through time, encourage schools to be pro-active in developing community links. Two examples of primary schools in the Causeway area that are recognised as being pro-active in community engagement are Harpur's Hill and Ballysally, both located in Coleraine.
- 3.9** Several general observations relating to community use of school sports facilities, based on research for this and similar commissions, can be made as follows:-
- ❖ Primary schools mostly are not in a position to consider community use of their facilities as they tend not to have facilities that are suited to community use. This is especially the case with sports pitches. There are of course exceptions to this.

⁽⁹⁾ 'Every School a Good School'. Department of Education; June 2011

- ❖ Insurance is often put forward as a barrier to community use; DE makes clear that responsibility for on-site control and supervision of community activities rests with the user group so there is an expectation that user groups will hold public liability insurance. However, this is not always the case; a group of people wanting to come together to play recreational five-a-side in a school hall or on a pitch is not likely to have insurance and is unlikely to want to take out insurance just for a kick-about amongst friends. Requiring insurance of user groups may actually create a barrier to the very people who want to see using school facilities.
- ❖ Schools are not obliged to open their doors to community use; it's often down to individuals, either staff or Governors to champion community use. When this does happen the benefits often lead to an expansion of community use.
- ❖ Post primary schools that develop sports pitches with public funding from, say, Sport NI or a local authority are required to make the funded facilities available for community use. However, pricing structures for community use must be reasonable.
- ❖ Community use ideally should be a coming together of the local authority, the Education Authority and the school each bringing their particular skill and resource to the project.
- ❖ Area Planning in the education sector is on-going, leading to school amalgamations and possible closures; the amalgamation of Coleraine High School and Coleraine Academical Institution is a recent example. Amalgamations such as this which result in a larger enrolment may lead to the development of new pitches on education sites in accordance with the Department of Education Handbook.

Ulster University – Coleraine Campus

- 3.10** The Ulster University at Coleraine provides outdoor and indoor sports facilities primarily for its students, sports clubs and staff but also for use by the local community. Its outdoor sports facilities are as follows:-

Association Football

3 x grass pitches; one of these is a floodlit training pitch and it has been upgraded from 'Prunty' (also referred to as 'sand mattress') to grass 'sand fibre'. Work is nearing completion and the pitch will need another 12 months to allow grass growth. Whilst the 'Prunty' pitch facilitated approximately 12 training hours of use weekly it is anticipated the 'sand fibre' pitch will facilitate

approximately 20-24 training hours per week during the winter season. It may also be able to be used for an extended season.

Gaelic Games

1 x grass pitch, full size. This pitch will be developed (18/19 academic year) as a grass 'sand fibre' pitch.

Rugby

2 x grass pitches; one of these pitches has floodlights. It is planned to develop this floodlit pitch as a multi-sport '4G' facility (140m x 90m), facilitating gaelic games, rugby and association football. Should the project be approved it is anticipated work will start in the 19/20 academic year.

Tennis

4 x artificial grass courts.

3.11 The University opened a new Sports Centre on the Coleraine campus in January 2017, providing an 8 court sports hall, fitness/strength & conditioning suite, changing accommodation (indoor and outdoor) and office accommodation. The Sports Centre is located beside the pitches. It is planned to re-develop an existing pavilion building (close to the Sports Centre) to provide more changing accommodation – estimated cost £1.5 million. In terms of sports development the University, in partnership with sports governing bodies has recently appointed sports-specific Development Officers for athletics, cricket, gaelic games (x2), rugby, association football, women's football and hockey, a total of 10 officers. Other points in relation to future development of outdoor facilities at the University are of interest:-

- ❖ Three former shale pitches adjacent to the Cromore Road North Entrance are 'earmarked' for development. One idea is to construct a 400m x 6 lane 'Tartan' running track.
- ❖ A grass training area, with lighting along one side, is earmarked for development as a grass pitch.
- ❖ An open grass area between the two main University buildings (referred to as 'Phase 1' and 'Phase 2') could become a cricket development facility. This could be complemented by indoor cricket nets in the new Sports Centre.
- ❖ The existing sports pavilion building provides changing accommodation for teams using the sports pitches. It is set for a major refurbishment.
- ❖ A 5km path, with lighting, will be constructed around the campus. It is intended for use by walkers and joggers.

3.12 The University's Coleraine Campus is second only to the Council in terms of the scale and scope of its provision for sports generally and outdoor sport in particular. Beyond the sports mentioned here the University has a keen interest in golf; it is one of 11 Universities in the UK that is linked to the R&A through their golf support programme. As the University continues to re-organise its campuses, the Physiotherapy Department and Life & Health Sciences will move from Jordanstown to Coleraine in 2018. Civic engagement will be a key driver as the University continues to develop its sports facilities and programmes in the coming years.

Consultation Events

3.13 Three consultation events were held:-

- ❖ Flowerfield Arts Centre, Tuesday 2 May 2017 (18 attendees)
- ❖ Sheskburn Recreation Centre, Wednesday 3 May 2017 (18 attendees)
- ❖ Dungiven Sports Centre, Thursday 4 May 2017 (22 attendees)

The purpose of these events was to (i) provide an opportunity to introduce the audit and strategy project to the community; (ii) promote the survey; (iii) allow the consultants to hear first-hand about pitches provision and how it influences participation across the eight sports; (iv) supplement survey work. Appendix 1 presents a record of attendance and comments at each consultation event. Four topics were introduced and attendees were asked to record their thoughts. A random selection of comments is highlighted here to give a flavour of the events.

Topic / Question	Comment
PRESENT NEED	
What is your need for Council facilities?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Our need is for tennis courts with artificial grass and floodlights which match the standard for club play.' (<i>Coleraine Tennis Club</i>) ▪ 'We have 26 teams; no grass facility to hire.' (<i>Owen Roe GAC</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'Need for all weather facility and indoor facility.' (<i>McQuillan's GAC</i>) ▪ 'We need pitches on a Thursday evening for training and also for weekend matches.' (<i>Ballycastle United Youth Academy</i>)

	<u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'As a women/girl's club we have no access to any Council pitches or do not have grounds of our own, therefore we have an urgent need for pitches in a safe environment for children.' (<i>St Patrick's Camogie Club</i>) ▪ 'Where the club has one main pitch and a rather poor training pitch it would be very beneficial if Council could help with the provision of a second playing pitch on land recently purchased by the club.' (<i>St Matthew's GAC</i>)
How does the Council's present provision meet your need?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Hockey pitch at Rugby Avenue is tremendous. An all-weather indoor facility would benefit all sports in the area.' (<i>Coleraine RFCC</i>) ▪ 'Doesn't! 3G Rugby Avenue only available for 1 club night per week, then individual teams need to find a slot.' (<i>Bertie Peacock Youths</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'Council provision for the disability sector in the Glens is all but non-existent.' (<i>Friends</i>) ▪ 'The pitch on the Quay Road more or less meets any need we have.' (<i>Carey Faughs GAC</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ '1 indoor hall facilitates some indoor training over winter season. There are no grass pitches for ladies football. There is no equality when it comes to the provision of facilities for females.' (<i>St Canice's Ladies GFC</i>) ▪ 'It doesn't. There is high costs involved to access any of the Council facilities. Roe Valley Leisure Centre and 3G pitches are neighbouring our estates. We have been lobbying this last few years to get access to a pitch/green space. We cater for over 150 young people on a weekly basis. (<i>Roe Valley Residents Association</i>)

If the Council's present provision doesn't meet your need tell us why.

Flowerfield Arts Centre

- 'Only one pitch, so not enough space for all teams to train adequately. On a Saturday due to Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club having priority booking of the one pitch we only have access from 10.45am (by the time pitch is cleared) to 12.30pm. This means we are only able to fulfil one fixture and therefore teams/players are missing out on matches. Also many schools are unwilling to travel and play against us due to the late start. This is because many of the pupils and teaches are involved in afternoon matches and need to be available for their clubs in the afternoon. Because of this we are having to play a lot of away fixtures and this has impacted with less of our players playing for their club as they are sometimes not back in time.' *(Coleraine Grammar School)*
- 'Other sports, particularly for youth, 12-20 not catered for. Need for a MUGA facility with lights for winter evenings. Need for a proper adult gym to cater for all ages, youths to seniors. Need for seating, green area, strolling area to create village green atmosphere. Trees & shrubs for screening.' *(Castlerock Community Association)*

Shesburn Recreation Centre

- 'Usually waterlogged. All games played on Saturday 11am.' *(Ballycastle United Youth)*
- 'No pitches available in area especially for underage and difficulties involving travel.' *(Ruairi Og GAC)*

Dungiven Sports Centre

- 'The only Council facility that we have access to is the new sports centre, but as a profitable club we are unable to afford to pay the rates charged at the new facility. We are currently using school pitches, which have no toilet or shower facilities. As a health & safety matter this is not feasible.' *(St Patrick's Camogie Club)*
- 'With the game of soccer continuing to grow in the Dungiven area the amount of teams within our club far exceeds the playing facilities available.' *(Dungiven Celtic)*

QUALITY	
What is your view of the Council's pitches?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Can only comment on the Council pitches we use. Astro hockey pitch at JDLC is excellent. Football pitches in Ballymoney are good but sometimes the pitches cannot be used after bad weather.' <i>(Dalriada Grammar School)</i> ▪ 'Castlerock's actual playing surface is good. No dug-out facility or shelter for support team. Lack of litter bins, littering a problem after a game.' <i>(Castlerock Community Association)</i> <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'Would like to see development of all-weather pitches in our area which would give us possibility to increase winter training and possibly introduce other sports to the youth of Glens. We are happy to join with other clubs/schools/sporting organisations to try and develop a facility in our area. Cushendun GAC would be happy to lead and host such a project within our current grounds.' <i>(Cushendun GAC)</i> ▪ 'Neighbourhood Renewal Groups feel that there needs to be more investment in 4G pitches and that the lack of pitches available means that certain sporting events can't be held in the area. Eg, the Northern Ireland Junior team has never been able to train in this Borough.' <i>(Neighbourhood Renewal Area Groups)</i> <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'The 3G in the new facilities is too small for our GAA needs for the majority of our teams. It can cater for our U8 only. The 4G in Limavady is too far to travel for underage teams. Senior competitive games are not played on 4G due to risk of injury.' <i>(St Canice's GAC)</i> ▪ 'Scroggy Road currently is in good condition but does not meet future requirements. Pitches we play on are of a good standard. Roe Mill Road does not have enough changing facilities – small and out of date.' <i>(Newtowne FC/Youths)</i>

Name the top 3 Council pitches and tell us why.	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Brookgreen, Castlerock, Portstewart – past experience.' (<i>Brookgreen Bowling Club</i>) ▪ 'Ballysally, Crescent, Rugby Avenue.' (<i>Harry Gregg Foundation/Coleraine FC Academy</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'Billy Watson pitch is best soccer pitch but drainage is poor.' (<i>BUFC Seniors</i>) ▪ 'Rugby Avenue – excellent pitches but low availability if not booked for in advance.' (<i>Neighbourhood Renewal Area Groups</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'Joey Dunlop (Riada Centre), Rugby Avenue, Dunlop FC.' (<i>Newtowne FC/Youths</i>) ▪ 'There is no grass pitch provision by Council in the wider Dungiven area.' (<i>Kevin Lynch Hurling Club</i>)
Name the bottom 3 Council pitches and tell us why.	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Ballymoney astro – floodlights never work properly. Anderson Park – poor surface & lighting.' (<i>Coleraine Grammar School</i>) ▪ 'Crescent – dogs using it as a toilet, used for bonfires. Not maximising sport. AstroTurf Rugby Avenue, wrong surface for football, too slippery & not utilised as well as a 3G.' (<i>Bertie Peacock Youths</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'James McShane – poor drainage, under-sized. Only usable less than 50% of the year. AstroTurf – size, poor surface, limited use during winter. Thompson Field – no GAA goals, has to be multi-purpose pitch, inadequate drainage, too small.' (<i>McQuillan's GAC</i>) ▪ 'An area beside Millburn PS which has gone into a state of disrepair but could be developed to meet community/school needs.' (<i>Neighbourhood Renewal Area Groups</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'Ballycastle, Limavady, Burnfoot.' (<i>Dungiven Celtic</i>) ▪ 'The Crescent, Vale Centre, Ballysally.' (<i>Newtowne FC/Youths</i>)

What about changing accommodation?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Limited mobile changing accommodation for hockey at JDLC.' (<i>Dalriada Grammar School</i>) ▪ 'Could do with cleaner, more up to date facilities, particularly for ladies and disability. Facility for making tea/coffee for visiting teams. Need to be opened up, insufficient time to allow coaches to get set up and warmed up pre-match.' (<i>Harry Gregg Foundation/Coleraine FC Academy</i>) <u>Shesburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'At Armoy RFC our changing accommodation is a 40 year old pre-fab. Not suitable for use for young people or even adults.' (<i>Armoy Rugby Club</i>) ▪ 'Changing accommodation at Quay Road is fine but needs tidying up.' (<i>BUFC Seniors</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'In Dungiven new facilities the changing rooms are too small because our U6=8 number are roughly 30 – 45 respectfully. They are too small for seniors as there are normally between 24-30 of a panel.' (<i>St Canice's GAC</i>) ▪ 'Generally really poor – with some average.' (<i>Newtowne FC/Youths</i>)
ASPIRATIONS – SPORTS DEVELOPMENT	
What are the aspirations for your club / group / school thinking about sports development (eg, more people involved, targeting specific groups, coaching, etc)	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'We would like two AstroTurf pitches on site at Coleraine at Coleraine Grammar School (Castlerock Road). This would be a community facility which could be accessed by local primary schools/post primary schools during the day (eg, Coleraine College, DH Christie) and community groups in the evening. This would hopefully lead to more people/girls/young people involved in hockey but other sports could also make use of the facilities. Access to the pitches would also help/aid to deliver the PE curriculum at CGS and other primary and post primary schools. High quality training and coaching would develop our elite pupils and

	hopefully lead to more Ulster & Irish representatives.’ (<i>Coleraine Grammar School</i>) ▪ ‘A MUGA/pitch would be available for the children attending Harpur’s Hill & Cuilrath Corner Nursery. We also have strong links with Harpur’s Hill Children & Family Centre and the principal is on Cross Glebe Community Association. We would hope to target all the children in the school (220) and all the children in the Cross Glebe, Grasmere, Newmills Area. The schools are also part of a cluster group with other local primary schools where we would be able to hold sports competition (football, tag rugby, ball games, cricket, hockey). The school is now in the top 10% in some areas of social deprivation and the community Association are keen to use it in the evenings to coach sports and run youth clubs (the pitch, the MUGA is on is attached to Sunlea Youth Centre).’ (<i>Harpur’s Hill Primary School</i>) ▪ ‘Continuous development U5 → senior players. Enjoyment/fun/friendship for all ages. Increase the number of young people playing our games. Sustain the number of people playing. Get more coaches to complete courses beyond foundation level (weekend time issues). More coaches – particularly hurling. Proper provision for our sport – facilities needed. Links with community/other communities/young/adult/older people. Better school and programme/club school links. Keep fielding as many teams as possible senior level – team are competitive as possible.’ (<i>Owen Roe GAC</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ ‘Groups in areas of high deprivation would like to offer more outdoor based activities to their residents at no/low cost. They would like to try sports that are non-traditional to their culture. They have more young people wanting to participate in organised sport than they have qualified coaches so investment in training would be excellent. The groups wish to have more input in regards to what activities are available in their areas. They wish to build capacity within their teenage members to eventually take over the

	development of the group.’ (<i>Neighbourhood Renewal Area Groups</i>) ▪ ‘To broaden the provision towards a more inclusive health and wellbeing approach for all pupils. Making plans with proper facilities will allow greater emphasis to be placed on participation and skill development.’ (<i>St Patrick’s Primary School</i>) ▪ ‘Our club holds a fit club every year which is supported by all members of the community and beyond – male, female, aged 16 – 60+. It is a great social as well as healthy activity. We have a walking club in the area who would use the facilities. The local primary school uses the pitch. All age groups are catered for in our club and our juvenile club – Naomh Padraig. We hold a ‘fun-day’ every year at the pitch for all ages.’ (<i>Carey Faughs GAC</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ ‘Dungiven is a deprived area, our aim is to promote camogie, increase our numbers and get the girls off the street and into a safe environment, which will help them develop physically and mentally. At the moment we have no facilities to play or train. We are begging to get a pitch for any home matches, again women are treated as second class citizens from our local Council, and under equality issues this is unacceptable. Without the assistance of our local GAA Clubs (which are not Council property) we would struggle to survive at all, therefore this puts added pressure on their facilities.’ (<i>St Patrick’s Camogie Club</i>) ▪ ‘Our aspiration is to remain solvent and to continue to provide top class sporting facilities to local clubs and to the wider community. We in particular would like to promote the following sports – soccer, GAA, rugby. We also would like to get more women involved in sports. Our pan is also to engage youth in sport as a tool to eradicate anti-social behaviour and sectarianism within our community. Opportunity for youth to work with groups that had never got to before.’ (<i>Greysteel Community Enterprise</i>)

	▪ 'With a surge in Youth football over the past 5 years from 1 team to 15, 2 of which are all girls teams the club plan to sustain growth at adults and youth level. With the girls/ladies game continuing to gather momentum throughout the country special emphasis will be made in developing this aspect within our club. The hope is that within a period of time we will have a fully affiliated ladies team running alongside our male adult teams and youth system. At the minute we have over 100 registered adults and over 200 registered Youths. This in our opinion will continue to rise dictating the need for more playing facilities.' (<i>Dungiven Celtic</i>)
FUTURE NEED – FACILITIES	
What facilities (pitches and/or changing accommodation) do you need to help deliver your sports development aspirations?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'We need more than 4 courts. They need to be artificial grass and the floodlights need to be up to the standard for club play. We also need 4 indoor courts. It is not just having the facilities that is important it is the upkeep. There is no point in having tennis courts if they are not looked after properly.' (<i>Coleraine Tennis Club</i>) ▪ 'Two AstroTurf pitches are needed and refurbished changing facilities. This will allow for top class hockey facilities in the area. Athletics provision also needed in area. We are poor relation in athletics due to Antrim Forum and Meadowbank, Magherafelt & Derry. Indoor cricket facilities are non-existent in the area from Ballymena to Limavady.' (<i>Coleraine Grammar School</i>) ▪ 'Facilities to hire – grass/3G/4G pitches. Help to or create our own facilities either grass or 3G/4G pitch.' (<i>Owen Roe Gaelic Club</i>) <u>Sheskburn Recreation Centre</u> ▪ 'We need 3 pitches that are playable. We need changing accommodation for 5 teams. We need training facilities for 200 kids mid-week.' (<i>Ballycastle Youth</i>) ▪ 'Access to all year round full sized 3G and grass pitches which would include adequate changing

	facilities. This would include floodlights. Provision of an indoor facility to GAA. Size to be 6 x 2 badminton court sizes. These facilities need to be in Ballycastle.' (<i>McQuillan's GAC</i>) ▪ 'All weather surface; floodlighting.' (<i>Cushendun GAC</i>) <u>Dungiven Sports Centre</u> ▪ 'We would like to have a long term sustainable and maintenance arrangements, which will keep our pitch in top condition and provide upgrades when they are due.' (<i>Greysteel Community Enterprise</i>) ▪ 'We require a pitch to play games on and train on, which has changing facilities and toilet facilities with lighting for the darker evenings. It needs to be a safe and secure facility as our youngest members are U6 so we require an enclosed place for safety.' (<i>St Patrick's Camogie Club</i>) ▪ '(1) Updated and extended toilet facilities. (2) A second playing pitch – the club purchased additional land 3/4 years ago and would like to develop this in the short term. However financial constraints are a major obstacle.' (<i>St Matthew's GAC</i>)
How do you see these facilities being developed?	<u>Flowerfield Arts Centre</u> ▪ 'Through a joined up approach, working with other organisations. Joint funding applications. Creation of a fully inclusive community atmosphere around tennis. Withdrawing stumbling blocks currently in place. Clubs working together for the benefit of tennis. Acceptance of changing times, new clubs, different generations. A willingness to acknowledge the work groups. Do without Council involvement. Many clubs are run voluntarily and work on a voluntary basis with other organisations.' (<i>Causeway Community Tennis Club</i>) ▪ 'Land available at Coleraine GS could be used as an area for a sporting hub. Hockey, rugby, tennis, football, athletics, cricket, rowing, gym to be used by primary schools, post primary schools, local clubs from 9am – 9pm in conjunction with Council and School.' (<i>Coleraine Grammar School</i>)

- 'Jointly with club, community, Council and schools to ensure continued use every day all day. Remove legacy issues and favouritism.' (*Harry Gregg Foundation/Coleraine FC Academy*)

Shesburn Recreation Centre

- 'We have room available to expand changing facilities on site and could do with upgrading toilets and facilities for disabled. Developing a 4G playing field with the Council would suit other organisations such as youth club and be able to provide facilities all year round in the community.' (*Ruairi Og GAC*)
- 'The school has land attached that is in need of development for exactly this purpose. It is actually seeking to bring a proposal forward to develop this area. Very willing to discuss this as a joint school/community use.' (*St Patrick's Primary School*)
- 'In a partnership with other sports clubs in the area and with Council as the driver to draw down funding.' (*Friends*)

Dungiven Sports Centre

- 'It will take a joint effort from both Council and community to ensure Greysteel has the same opportunities as other villages in the area, that are fortunate to have Council pitches in their areas.' (*Greysteel Community Enterprise*)
- 'Part funding with local Council, joint effort to secure and develop a playing pitch.' (*Roe Valley Residents Association*)
- 'Council to fulfil its commitment to the original consultation. Funding from NI Sport & Lottery. Percentage of club fundraising.' (*St Canice's GAC*)

Section Summary

- 3.14** The consultation process for this commission has engaged a range of key groups and organisations having an interest in the development of outdoor sports in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. The Education Authority encourages schools to consider how the school estate can benefit the wider community. The University's Coleraine campus, with its recently opened Sports Centre and improvements to its outdoor provision is keen to work with community partners in future capital developments and programmes. Sports clubs, community groups and schools are the lifeblood of the sporting community and the development of their activities and programmes is linked to the provision of facilities that are suitable and sufficient in encouraging more participation.

4. Association Football

Introduction

- 4.1** This section presents consultation with the Irish Football Association followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for association football pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 46 association football clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Irish Football Association
- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Operational Costs

Irish Football Association

- 4.2** The IFA acts in an advisory capacity for 'senior football' setting criteria for grounds in the Premiership, the Championship and the Intermediate Leagues. In the Causeway Coast and Glens area there are 46 association football clubs with 4,096 playing members, an average of 89 playing members per club. As the governing body the IFA is heavily involved in development of the game amongst young players; it does this through the Grassroots Development programme, involving a team of Grassroots Development Officers working at a local level across the Province. One of these officers has responsibility for the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area.
- 4.3** In June 2017 the IFA launched its new five year strategy – '*Promoting Fostering and Developing Football for All: 2017-2022*'. Several elements have relevance to the Council's provision:-
- ❖ **Stadia Improvements** – the strategy looks to deliver 'several major stadia improvements' at Premiership grounds to improve the experience for supporters and improve the chances of hosting further UEFA tournaments. In addition the strategy looks to complete 'up to 20 other smaller projects with clubs outside the Premiership' including intermediate and junior clubs, incorporating stadia and training facilities (timeline 2018-2020).

- ❖ **Regional Hubs** – the aim is to deliver a football hub in each Council area, serving as a host venue for small-sided games and becoming the focus for all local IFA activity (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Lending Strategy** – the IFA will act as a financial lender for clubs to ensure they can access the full range of government funds (timeline 2018-2020).
- ❖ **Pitch Strategy** – the IFA will provide subsidised training for club ground staff, hosting workshops and practical demonstrations (timeline 2019).
- ❖ **Tweak the Season** – the aim is to have clubs playing in May and June so that Premiership clubs qualifying for Europe are in peak form and fitness (timeline 2019).

As the Council considers future investment in association football it's important to work alongside the IFA to maximise value for money and avoid duplication.

- 4.4** The IFA launched its current strategy for the development of youth football in 2015 – *'Let Them Play; Irish FA Youth Football Strategy 2015-2025'* – which aims to increase youth football participation from around 50,000 currently to 75,000 by 2020 and 100,000 by 2025. The obvious implication of a 100% increase in participation for local authorities and other facility providers is increased pressure on facilities for training and competition for youth participation and for adult participation as players mature.

Futsal

- 4.5** The game of Futsal, popular in Asia and South America, is growing in popularity here in Northern Ireland – the Foyle Futsal Arena opened recently in Londonderry. Futsal is a form of five-a-side generally played indoors using court markings to define the area of play. A court typically measures anything from 25 metres to 42 metres in length and 16 metres to 25 metres in width. It improves techniques and is very popular with girls. Schools are encouraged to adopt Futsal with a Schools and Colleges Futsal League to be established by 2020.
- 4.6** Futsal is to take over from the 'traditional' five-a-side game in the coming years. From a starting point of around 150 participants in late 2015 the game has grown to around 8,000 participants today in Northern Ireland. More facilities are now lining Futsal courts in sports halls; the Ulster University has a Futsal court in its new sports centre in Coleraine. Other points to note are:-

- ❖ Futsal is being developed in Northern Ireland in accordance with a five-year strategy, 'Game Changer'. Northern Ireland now competes in a home nations championship, with the Ulster University set to be used for residential training camps.
- ❖ Unlike 'five-a-side', Futsal plays to the lines, therefore it is a more skilful game. The ball (size 4 for adults, size 3 for juniors) has a reduced bounce which is now preferred to the 'oversize tennis ball' used for five-a-side.
- ❖ A Futsal squad has 14 players of which 5 are on court. The game is played in two 20 minute halves, however the clock stops when the ball is out of play so games can last considerably longer than 40 minutes.
- ❖ Northern Ireland now has a domestic Futsal league, with both male and female sections. It is expected that children playing in Small Sided Games leagues will take up Futsal in the 'close' season. The IFA intends to employ a Futsal development officer.

- 4.7** The IFA advises that Futsal is one of several initiatives that will see more 'small-sided' alternatives to the competitive eleven player game with a view to encouraging more participation in the sport by people of all ages. It's important to keep an eye to these developments and how they may affect the future provision of pitches by local authorities and others.

Small Sided Games

- 4.8** The phenomenon of Small Sided Games (SSG) continues to grow. Its success is attributed to the child-centred ethos which parents and clubs are embracing. There are four age groups:-

Age	Team Size	Squad	Pitch Size	Goals Size
Under 8's	Five-a-side	8	35mx25m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 9's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.65mx1.83m
Under 10's	Seven-a-side	10	55mx35m	3.63mx1.83m
Under 11's	Nine-a-side	12	65mx45m	4.87mx2.13m

Matches are played on Saturday mornings usually in three time slots; 9.00am – 10.00am, 10.00am – 11.00am, 11.00am – 12noon. The duration and structure of matches is specified as follows:-

Five-a-side	–	3 periods of play, each 12 minutes
Seven-a-side	–	3 periods of play, each 15 minutes
Nine-a-side	–	2 periods of play, each 25 minutes

There are no referees; instead team coaches 'referee' from the side-lines. Changing facilities are not essential.

- ❖ Small Sided Games in the Causeway area started at the Ballysally Playing Fields with a small number of teams. Today it operates under the umbrella of the Harry Gregg Foundation at the Ulster University pitches with up to 50 games taking place each Saturday morning during the SSG 'season'.
- ❖ There are around 16 clubs putting forward approximately 115 teams in the league. Eight of these clubs are based in the Causeway area:-
 - Ballycastle United Youth Academy
 - Ballymoney United Youth Academy
 - Bertie Peacock's Youth
 - Coleraine Academy
 - Dungiven Celtic
 - Limavady Youths
 - Portrush FC
 - Roe Valley FC

The remaining clubs are based variously in the three local authority areas that border the Causeway Coast & Glens Council area. The SSG league operates two twelve week 'seasons' each year:-

- September to mid-November
- End of February to start of May
- ❖ The SSG league is something of a victim of its own success as it is unable to accommodate every registered team with a match each Saturday. Whilst the organisers are presently considering re-locating some matches to other venues there is a view that this could detract from the overall experience for children and parents alike. For example, a family with two or more children, each playing in a different age group, would have to travel between venues. This may affect participant numbers, depending on the distance between venues. There is also a view that two or more venues may compromise the SSG/Harry Gregg Foundation 'brand' which has developed at the University site.

4.9 Elsewhere in the Province SSG leagues have experienced similar growth. In the Lisburn Castlereagh area the SSG league has around 100 teams registered, however Saturday mornings see eight different venues in operation, a mix of 3G and natural grass. This league reports that children moving on after their eleventh birthday are often disillusioned by the opportunities in youth football; this is a developmental

issue. The league organisers also feel that indoor 3G must be the next step for SSG as inclement weather often results in cancellations even on synthetic surfaces.

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

4.10 The majority of association football clubs don't own or operate premises, relying instead on Council provision. Just two of the clubs identified for this study own their own grounds (Dungiven Celtic FC and Drummond Utd FC); a further two clubs lease their pitch from the Derry and North Antrim Agricultural Associations (i.e. Limavady, Coleraine and Ballymoney Showground pitches) whilst a third club, Portstewart Football and Community Club, leases from the Council; the remaining clubs make use of Council facilities for their matches and training needs.

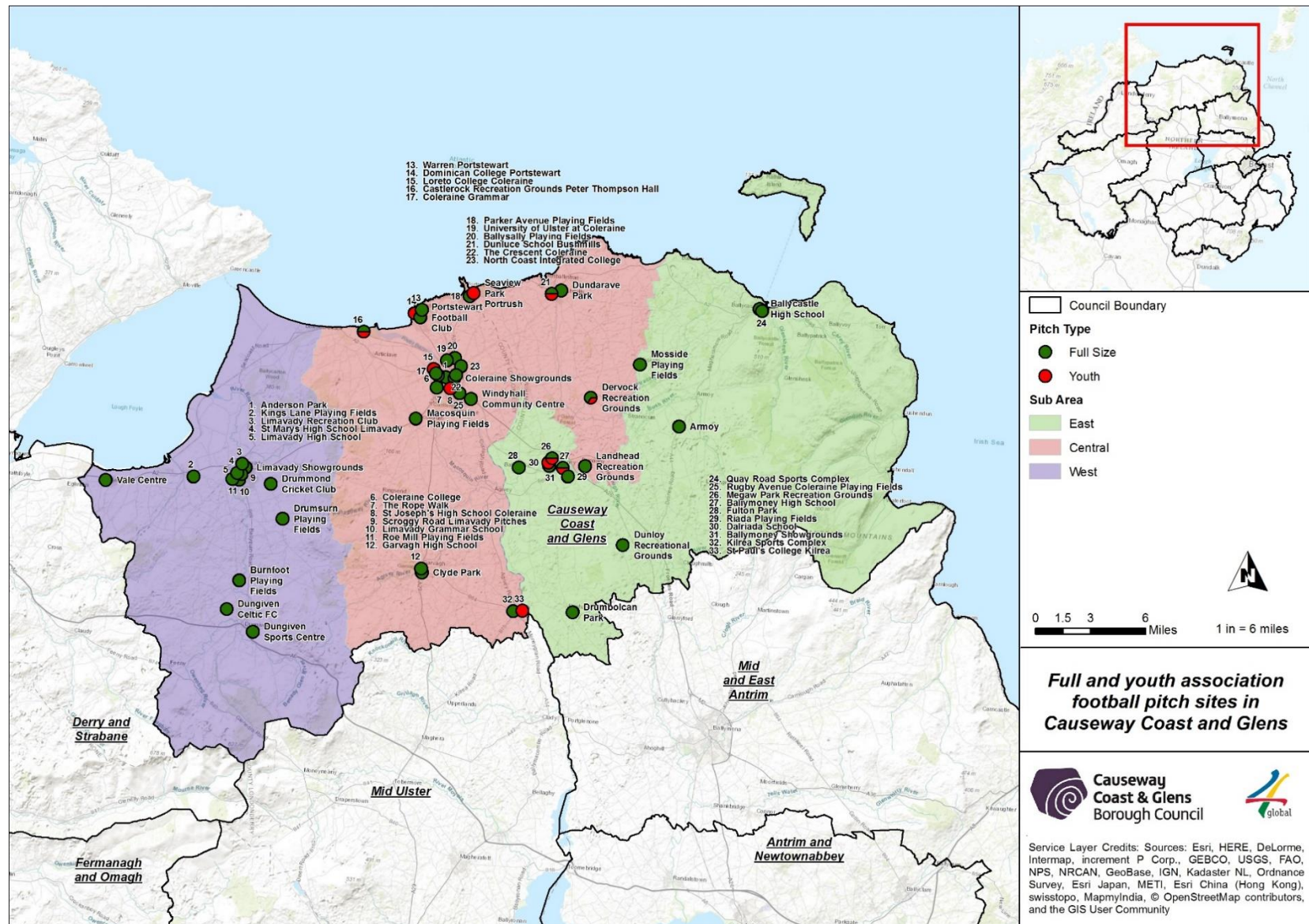
4.11 The following four pitch categories are considered:-

- ❖ **Full pitches** suitable for competitive adult, youth (U13 to U16) and small sided games (U8 to U12) matches – includes both 3G and grass surfaces.
- ❖ **Youth pitches** suitable only for competitive (U13 to U16) and small sided games (U8 to U12) fixtures – includes both 3G and grass surfaces.
- ❖ **Training pitches** – pitches identified from the club survey that are used for training – includes a mix of surfaces (AstroTurf, 3G, grass and shale) and sizes.
- ❖ **Grass Kickabouts** – Council owned grass areas of varying sizes and quality.

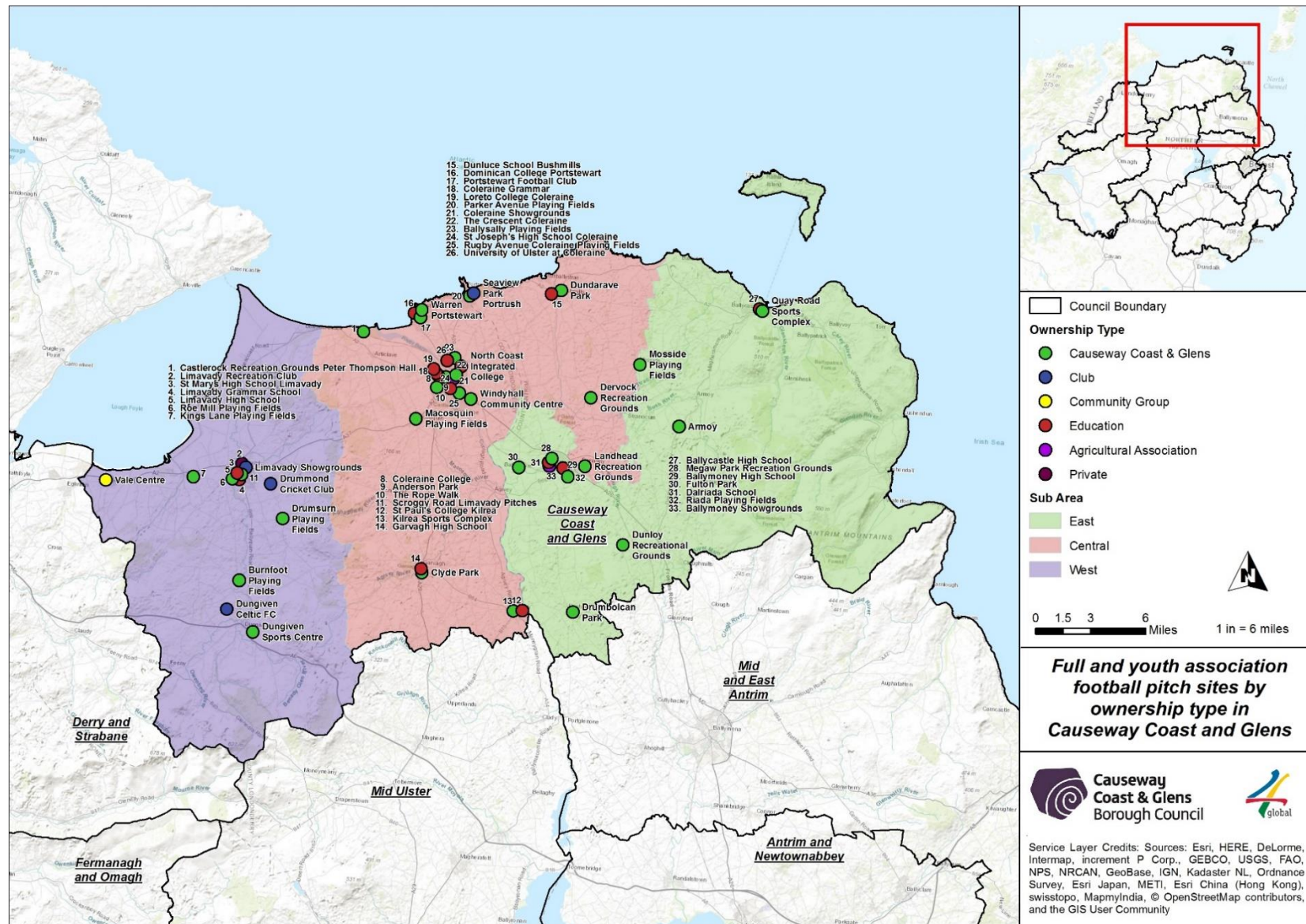
4.12 Table 4.1 presents a detailed inventory of the full and youth association football pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type*, *number*, *quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 4.1 and 4.2 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, ownership, quality⁽¹⁰⁾, number of pitches and type respectively. Four different types of pitch 'Ownership' are recorded: -

- ❖ **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council leased** – pitches leased from the Council for dedicated use by one association football club.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club and Community (owned/leased)** – pitches owned or leased by an association football club.

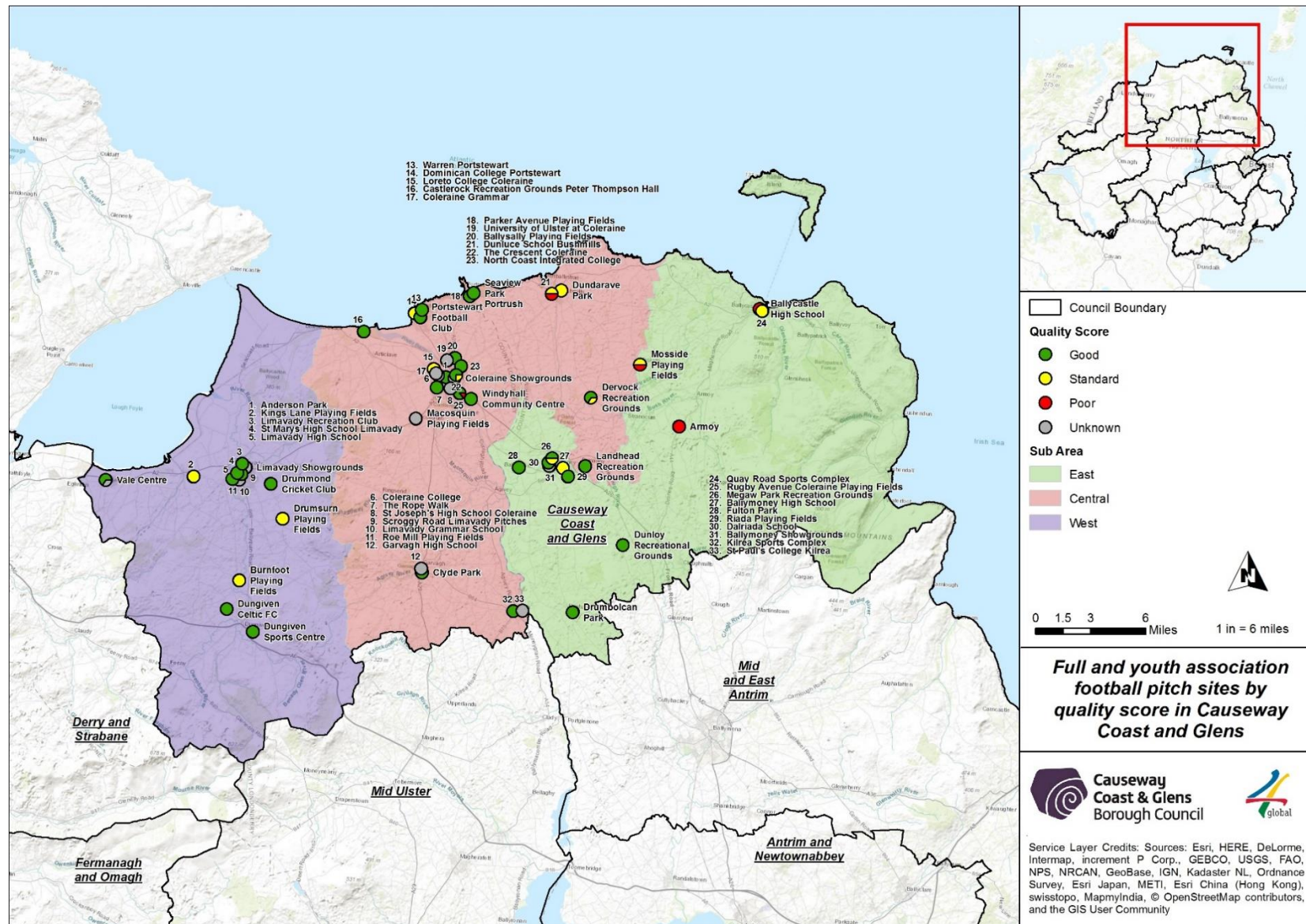
⁽¹⁰⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.

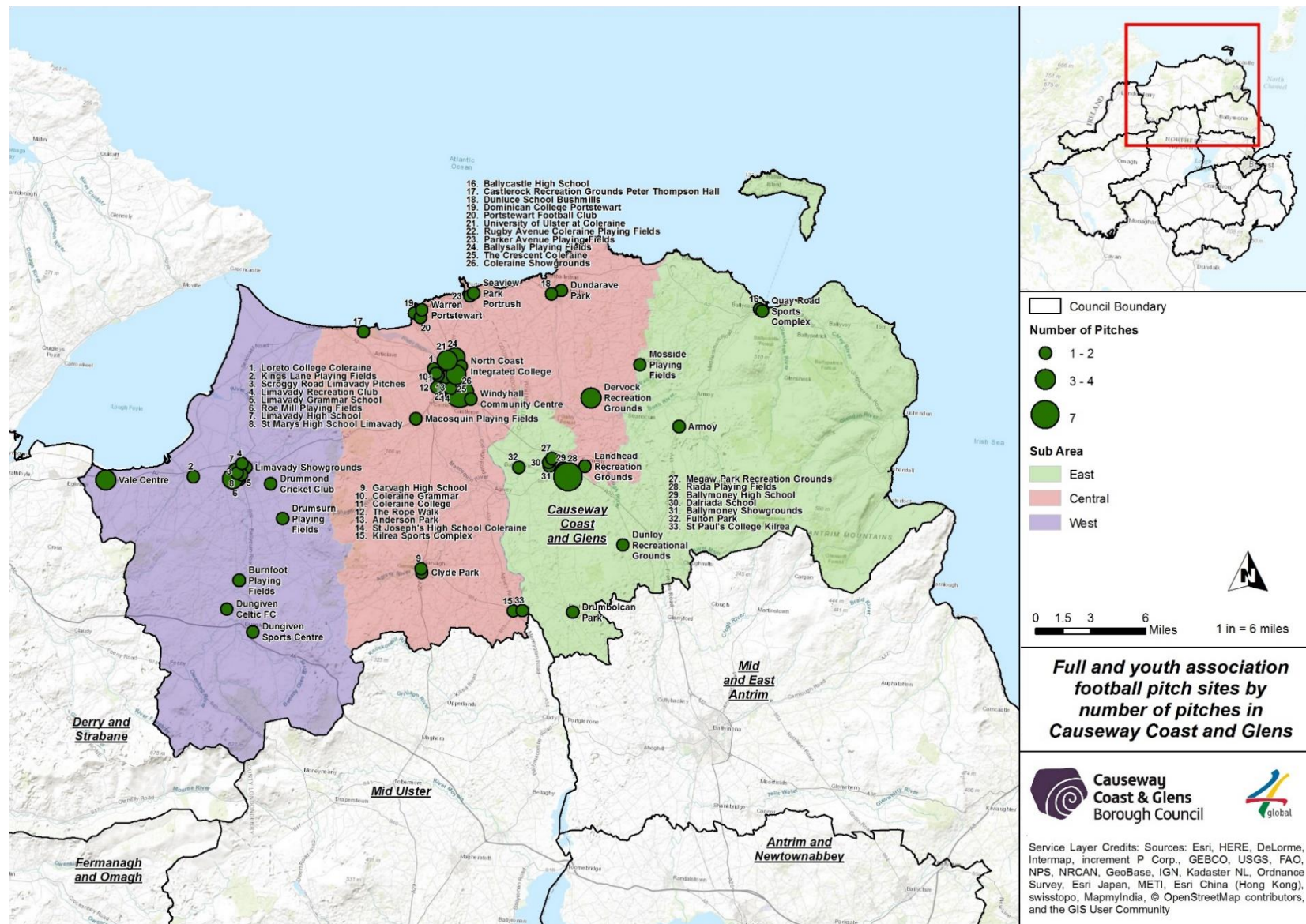


Map 4.1 Location - Full and Youth Association Football Sites

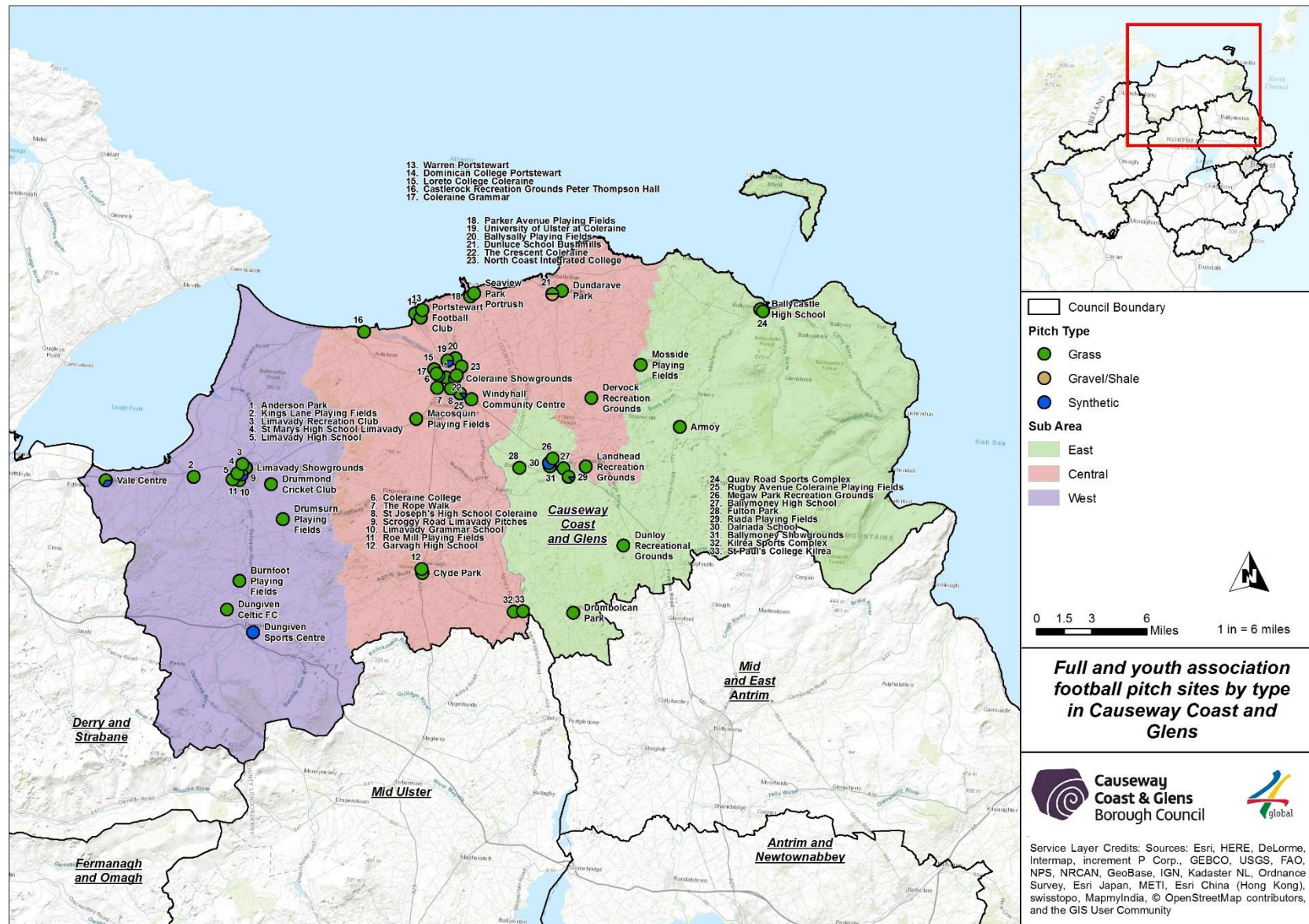


Map 4.2 Ownership - Full and Youth Association Football Sites





Map 4.4 Number of Pitches - Full and Youth Association Football Sites



Map 4.5 Type - Full and Youth Association Football Sites

Table 4.1: Association Football – Location, Quantity and Quality of Full and Match Pitches by Ownership

<u>Council</u>				
Location		No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Armoy	East	1 x Full Grass	1x Poor	Located in the grounds of Armoy Rugby Football Club – pitch has been unused for a number of years- currently no posts, grass not maintained.
Anderson Park, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Home venue for Millburn FC – pitch is fenced and rated Standard.
Ballysally Playing Fields, Coleraine	Central	3 x Full Grass	3 x Good	Located in Ballysally housing estate – surrounding fence to all 3 pitches. Pitches are currently used for youth matches only. Small sided games were run here weekly from 2009 to 2015. All 3 pitches rated as good.
Burnfoot Playing Fields, Dungiven	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Home venue for Burnfoot Utd FC, rated as Standard. Changing accommodation is a Portacabin in need of replacing/upgrade. There is also a floodlit shale pitch at the site used for training.
Castlerock Recreation Grounds, Peter Thompson Hall	Central	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	2 x Good	Home venue for Berthas FC and Villagers FC. Located beside bowling green, children's play area, tennis courts and community centre. Not fenced.
Clyde Park, Garvagh	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Home venue for Aghadowey FC and Garvagh FC. Both pitches rated Good well maintained and fenced. Good level of changing accommodation.
Dervock Recreation Grounds, Ballymoney	East	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Home venue for Dervock FC and Stranocum Youth FC. Both full pitches are fenced – one pitch is floodlit. There is also a small grass training pitch also floodlit. The pitches are reported to be unplayable in wet weather suggesting poor drainage.

Drumbolcan Park, Rasharkin	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue for Cloughmills Thistle FC. Pitch is fenced and in good condition – changing accommodation is located in adjacent community centre. There is also a children’s play area, MUGA and outdoor gym equipment at the site.
Drumsurn Playing Fields, Limavady	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Currently pitch is not used – there is no changing accommodation.
Dundarave Park, Bushmills	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Home venue for Bushmills FC and Finn McCool’s FC. Good facility located in the centre of Bushmills town. Noted from club survey that pitch was not available till October 2016 due to bonfire damage.
Dungiven Sports Complex	West	1 x Full 3G	1 x Good	New 3G facility located on the previous Curragh Road pitch site.
Dunloy Recreation Grounds	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Dunloy FC. Pitch is fenced – poor drainage evident in one corner of the pitch. Located next to MUGA and children’s play area.
Fulton Park, Balnamore	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Balnamore FC. Pitch inspection noted considerable wear and tear to goalmouths. Pitch is fenced.
Kilrea Sports Complex	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue for Kilrea Utd FC. Pitch is fenced and in good condition. Located in a complex including a MUGA, Bowling Green, children’s play area.
Kings Lane Playing Fields, Ballykelly	West	2 x Full Grass	2 x Standard	Home venue for Ballykelly FC. Both pitches are unfenced – access and use by scrambler bikes is noted. Changing accommodation in need of upgrade. One of the pitches is not used.
Landhead Recreation Grounds, Ballymoney	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue to Dunaghy FC which has 2 adult male teams. The pitch is fenced and kept locked outside training and match times.

Macosquin Playing Fields, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Home venue for Macosquin FC. Pitch located next to Primary School and used by primary school teams. Pitch is maintained by the Council – the clubs reports the addition of floodlights next season.
Megaw Park Recreation Grounds	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Home venue to Riada FC. Located close to centre of Ballymoney. Also located at the facility are: MUGA and children's play area. The youth pitch showing significant signs of wear and tear to grass cover particularly around goal mouth areas.
Mosside Playing Fields	East	2 x Full Grass	1 x Standard 1 x Poor	One of the pitches is occasionally used by Finn McCool's FC. The second pitch is in very poor condition and not useable showing significant signs of unofficial use including a bonfire. Changing accommodation is located in adjacent community centre.
Parker Avenue Playing Fields, Portrush	Central	1 x Full Grass	Good	Home venue for Portrush FC which has 3 adult teams and a large youth section. The pitch is fenced and in good condition. There is a small floodlit grassed area adjacent to the pitch used extensively by Portrush FC for training.
Quay Road Sports Complex, Ballycastle	East	2 x Full Grass	2 x Standard	Home venue for Ballycastle Utd. Pitch 1 is fenced and locked outside training and match times. Pitch 2, known as Thompson Field is not fenced and prone to water logging and mostly unplayable during winter months.
Riada Playing Fields, Ballymoney	East	5 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	6 x Good	Home venue for Ballybogey FC, Sporting Ballymoney, Ballymoney Utd and Glebe Rangers FC. The pitches are located in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre site. The 3G facility is nearing completion and soon to open for public use. The Stadium pitch is used by Ballymoney Utd first team and

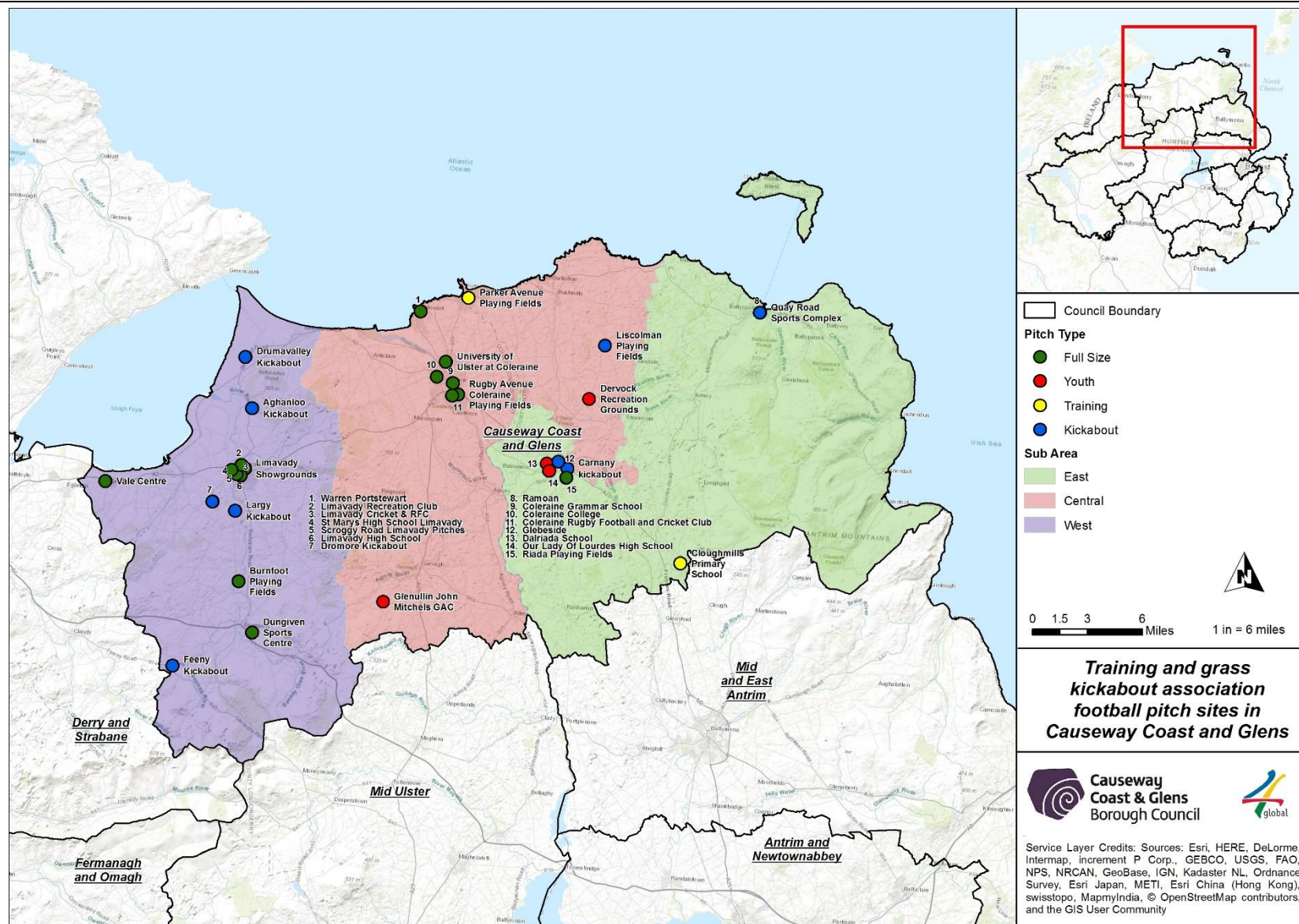
				Glebe Rangers FC. Serviced by a 6-room changing complex.
Roe Mill Playing Fields, Limavady	West	4 x Full Grass	4 x Good	Home venue for Dromore FC, Roe Rovers, Limavady Ladies FC/Roe Rover Girls FC and Limavady FC. Changing facilities constrain use of pitches to 2 at any one time.
Rugby Avenue Playing Fields, Coleraine	Central	6 x Full Grass 1 x 3G	5 x Good 1 x Poor 1 x Good	Substantial sports venue home to Bertie Peacock Youth FC, North Coast Utd FC, West Bann Athletic FC, Ballyrashane FC and Berthas FC. Pitch 1 is fenced; the other 5 pitches are unfenced and prone to dog fouling and litter. Teams report having to spend considerable time removing dog foul (using supplied bucket and spade) prior to morning games. Pitch 6 is currently unused due to drainage issues.
Scroggy Road Pitches, Limavady	West	1 x Full Grass 1 x 3G	2 x Good	Home venue for Newtowne FC, Roe Rovers FC. Both pitches are fenced. The 3G is multi-sports accommodating rugby, gaelic games and association football training and matches. Changing facilities are of a high standard.
The Crescent, Coleraine	Central	4 x Full Grass	3 x Good 1 x Standard	Home venue for Coleraine Olympic FC. The site is unfenced leading to unofficial use particularly team training in August and September. At the time of inspection, a bonfire was being constructed close to the end of one of the pitches. The pitches are serviced by an eight-block changing accommodation. Also on the site is a shale pitch with floodlights.
The Rope Walk, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue for Heights FC which has 2 adult teams. The pitch is fenced and in good condition.
The Warren, Portstewart	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue on occasions for Portstewart Football and Community Club and Portrush Utd FC. The pitch is unfenced resulting in

				some dog fouling and littering. The pitch is constructed on sandy soil and therefore dry even in wet weather.
Windyhall Pitch, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Home venue for Tullans FC. Adjacent to Windyhall Community Centre and MUGA. The pitch slopes slightly but is in good condition.
Totals 50 x Full Grass Association Football Pitches 2 x Youth Grass Association Football Pitches 3 x Full 3G Pitches				
<u>Leased from Council</u>				
Portstewart Football and Community Club	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Portstewart Football and Community Club has a 5-year lease from the Council with approximately 35 years left. The club is responsible for all pitch maintenance.
Total – 1 x Full Grass Association Football Pitch				
<u>Education</u>				
Pitch Site	Area	No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Ballycastle High School	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	
Ballymoney High School	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	2 x Unknown	
Coleraine College	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Unknown	
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Unknown	
Dalriada School, Ballymoney	East	1 x Youth 3G	1 x Good	70m x 40m; floodlit
Dominican College, Portstewart	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Standard	
Dunluce School, Bushmills	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	

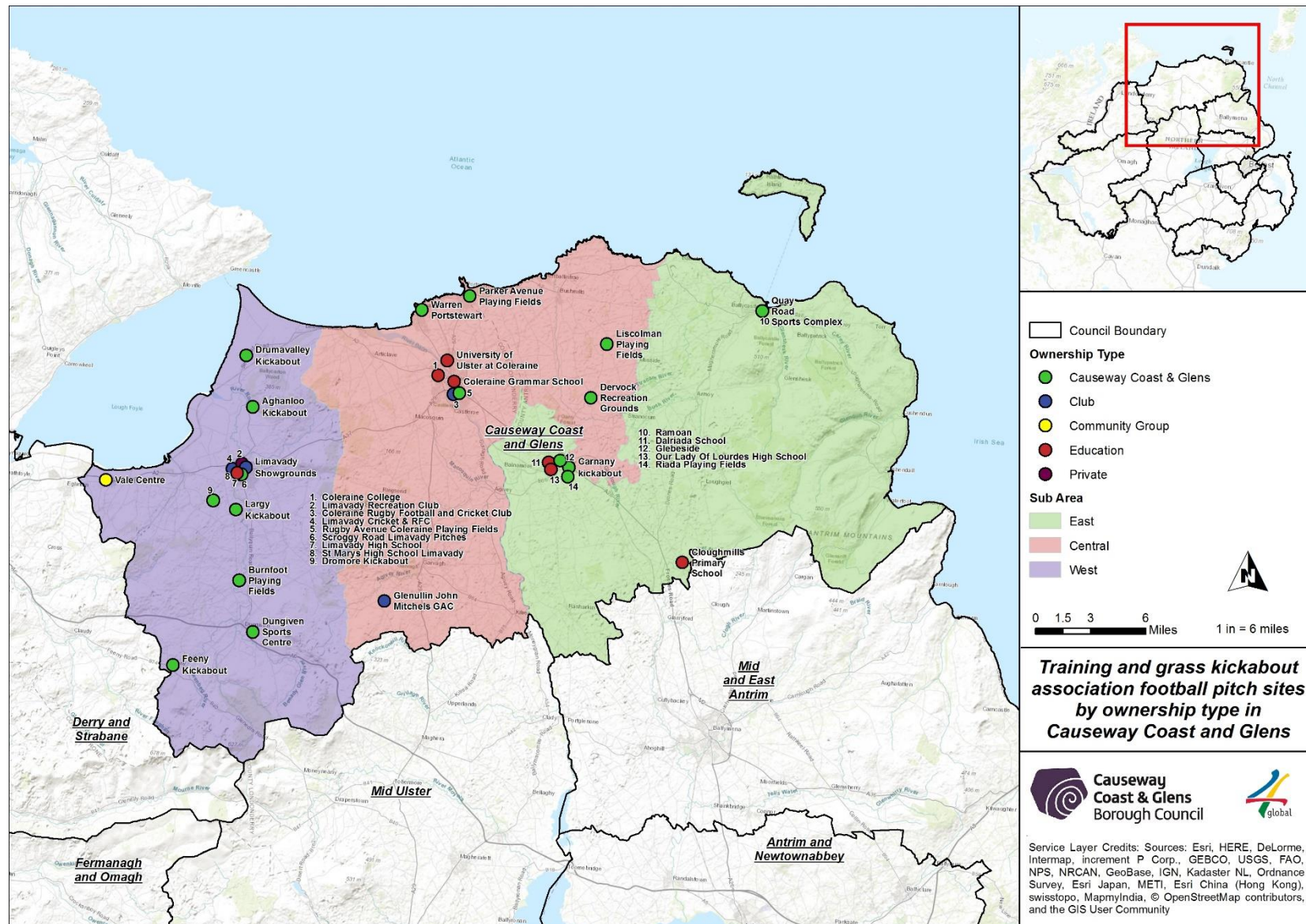
Garvagh High School	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	School closed; condition or use of pitch unknown
Limavady Grammar School	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	
Limavady High School	West	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass 1 x Youth 3G	3 x Unknown	
Loreto College, Coleraine	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Standard	
North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	
St Joseph's High School, Coleraine	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Unknown	
St Mary's High School Limavady	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	
St Paul's College, Kilrea	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Unknown	
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	3 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	4 x Unknown	
Totals 15 x Full Grass Association Football 5 x Youth Grass 1 x Full 3G 2 x Youth 3G				
<u>Club and Community (owned/leased)</u>				
Pitch Site	Area	No Pitches/Type	Quality	Remarks
Ballymoney Showgrounds	East	1 x Full Grass	Unknown	5 years left on the lease from North Antrim Agricultural Association. Ballymoney Utd Reserves use this pitch for home matches until November after which it is too wet to use. The club is unsure if they will look to renew the lease.
Coleraine Showgrounds	Central	2 x Full Grass	Unknown	25-year lease from North Derry Agricultural Association with 12 years left. Stadium has a capacity of 6,500 (seats 1400).

Drummond Cricket and Football Club	West	1 x Full Grass	Good	Site leased and maintained by Drummond Cricket Club. The football section of the club comprises one adult team.
Dungiven Celtic, Ballyguddin Park	West	1 x Full Grass	Good	Owned and maintained by Dungiven Celtic which has 18 youth and 2 adult teams.
Limavady Recreation Club	West	1 x Full Grass	Good	Roe Valley FC lease the pitch from the Limavady Recreation Club Community – it has a 20-year lease with 1 year left. Also located here are: bowling green and 2 tennis courts. The club reports the quality of the football pitch is poor and in need of upgrade works.
Limavady Showgrounds	West	1 x Full Grass	Unknown	Lease runs out in 2029 - the club reports they have plans to develop grounds in another location not known at the time of this report.
Seaview Park, Portrush	Central	1 x Youth Grass	Good	Leased by Portrush Hockey Club from Portrush Golf Club. Pitch is suitable for up to U15/U16 youth football and is slightly too short for adult matches. There are no changing facilities – the club maintains the grass.
Vale Centre, Greysteel	West	2 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	2 x Good 1 x Unknown	Home venue for Greysteel FC. The facility is owned and operated by a community group – although the Council maintains the pitches. The 3G pitch is multi-sports accommodating rugby, gaelic games and association football.
Totals 9 x Full Grass Association Football Pitches 1 x Youth Grass Association Football Pitch 1 x Full 3G				

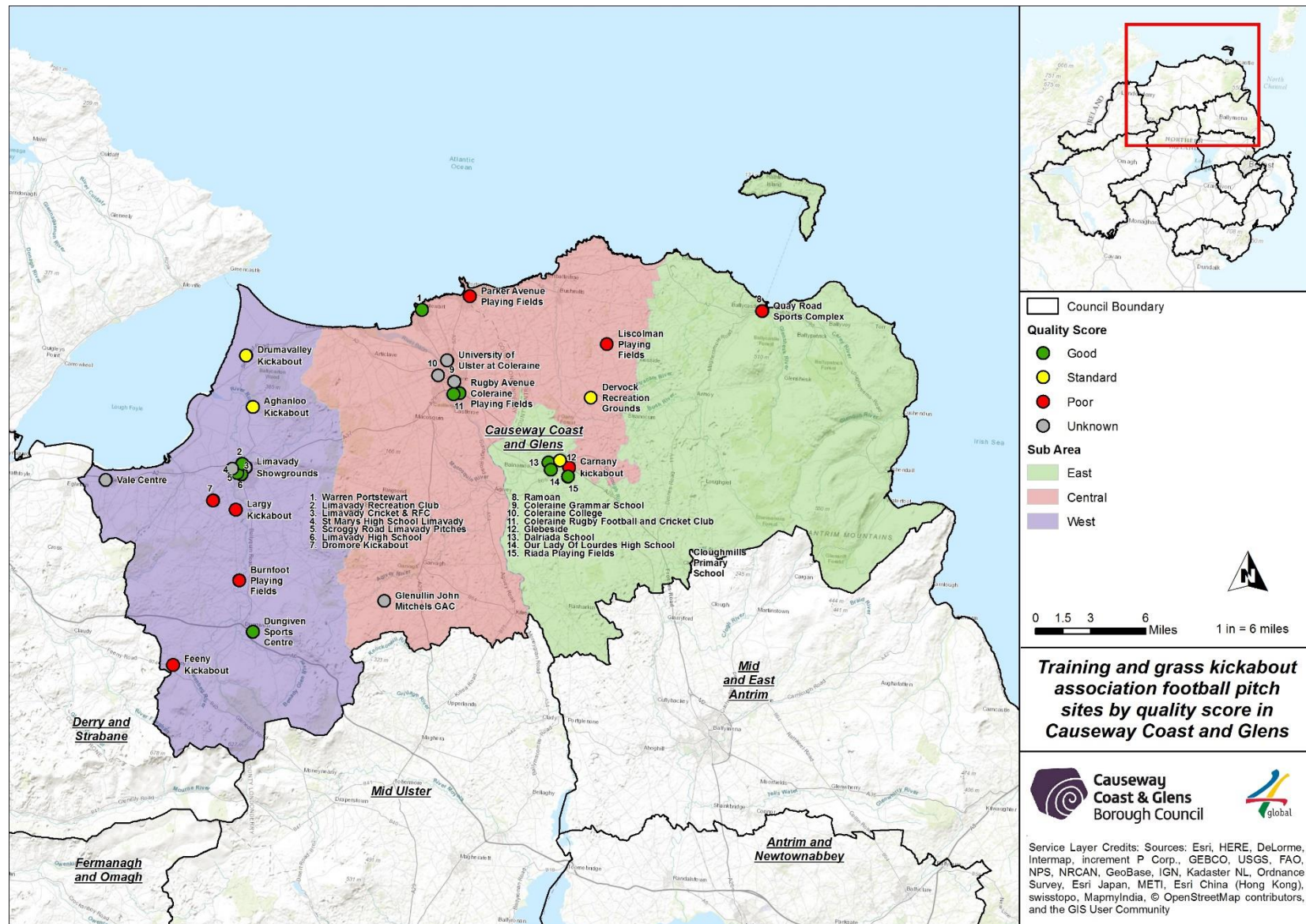
- 4.13** Table 4.2 presents a detailed inventory of outdoor *training* facilities identified from both the club and school online survey and information provided by the Council – see Maps 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 for location, ownership, quality and type. The outdoor training facilities include a variety of surfaces (3G, grass, shale and AstroTurf) and in a range of ownerships (Council, club, education, and community). Table 4.2 and Maps 4.3 and 4.4 also include a number of Council grass kickabouts. Whilst the kickabouts do not appear to be used for club training they are included here as they may be developed for future training purposes.



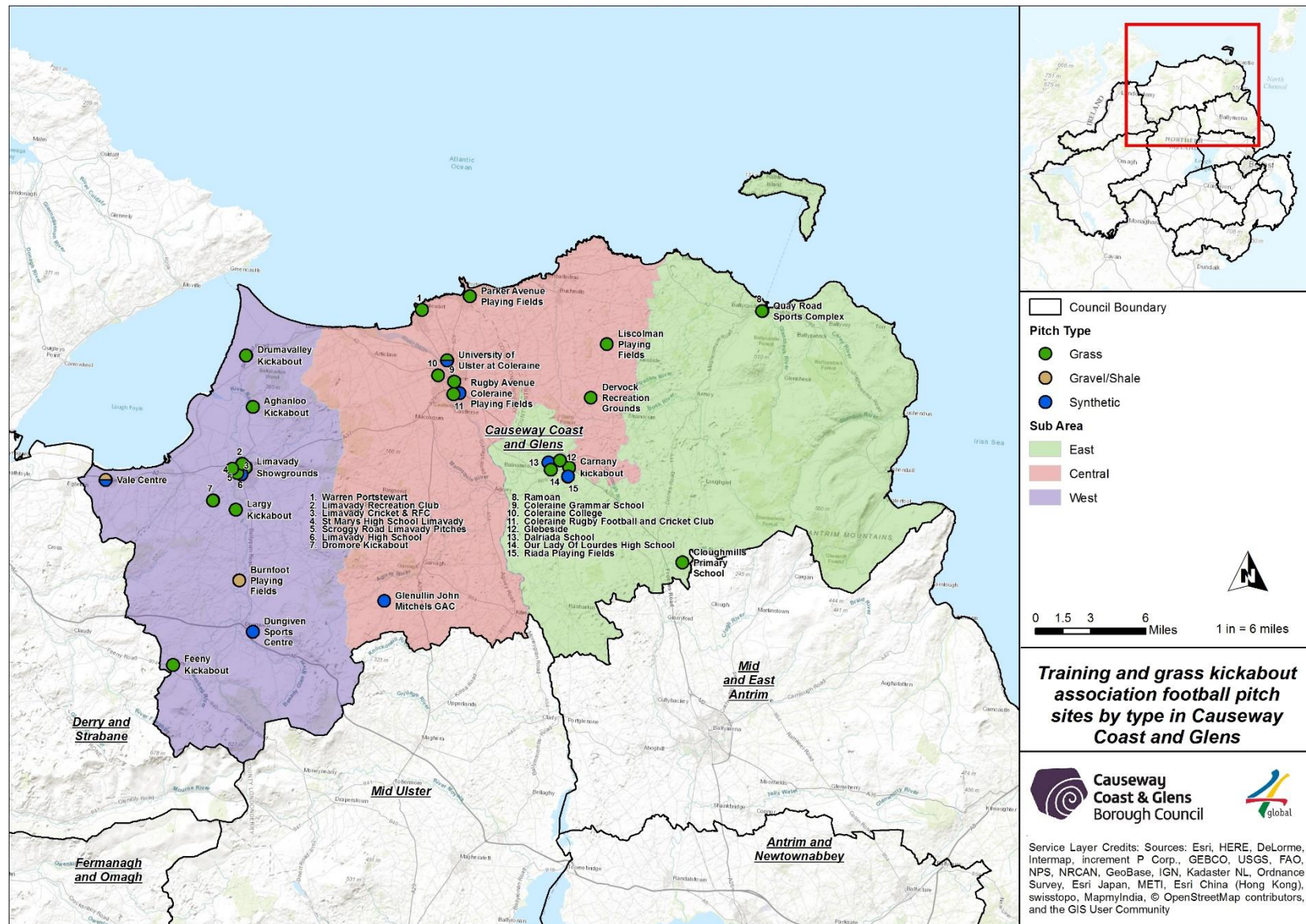
Map 4.6 Location – Association Football Training and Kickabout Sites



Map 4.7 Ownership – Association Football Training and Kickabout Sites



Map 4.8 Quality – Association Football Training and Kickabout Sites



Map 4.9 Type – Association Football Training and Kickabout Sites

Table 4.2: Association Football – Inventory of training and grass kickabout facilities

Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Type	Remarks
<u>Council</u>				
Burnfoot Playing Fields, Dungiven	West	1	Shale	Burnfoot FC
Dervock Recreation Grounds	Central	1	Grass	Dervock FC; Dunaghy FC
Dungiven Sports Centre	West	1	3G	Centre opened in early 2016
Parker Avenue - small floodlit grass training pitch	Central	1	Grass	Portrush adult and youth teams
Quay Road	East	1	AstroTurf	Ballycastle Utd FC
Riada Playing Fields	Central	1 1 1	AstroTurf 3G Grass	Ballymoney Utd FC; Ballybogey FC; Dunloy FC; Sporting Ballymoney FC; Bertie Peacocks; Bushmills Utd
Rugby Avenue 3G	Central	1 1	3G AstroTurf	West Bann Athletic FC; Heights FC
Scroggy Road	West	1	3G	Newtowne FC; Roe Rovers FC; Limavady Youth FC
The Warren	Central	1	Grass	Portstewart Football and Community Club
<u>Education</u>				
Cloughmills PS	East	1	Grass	Cloughmills Thistle FC for pre-season
Coleraine College	Central	1	Grass	4 hours per week – Coleraine FC
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	1	Grass	2 hours per week – Coleraine FC
Dalriada School, Ballymoney	East	1	3G	12 hours per week, community use
Limavady High School	West	2 1	Grass 3G	6 hours per week
Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	East	1	Grass	4 hours per week community use

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

St Mary's High School Limavady	West	1	Grass	1 hour per week
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	1 1	Grass 3G	Used by a number of association football teams. The grass pitch is being upgraded to a sand-fibre surface.
<u>Club/Community/Other Sport</u>				
Coleraine Rugby Club	Central	1	Grass	Portstewart FC
Glenullin GAC	Central	1	3G	Dungiven FC; Aghadowey FC
Limavady Recreation Grounds	West	1	Grass	Roe Valley FC; Limavady Ladies FC
Limavady Rugby and Cricket Club	West	1	Grass	Dungiven FC; Aghadowey FC
Limavady Utd FC, Showgrounds	West	1	Grass	Limavady Utd FC
Vale Centre, Greysteel	West	1 1	3G Shale	Greysteel FC; Ballykelly FC
<u>Outside Council</u>				
Ballykeel, Ballymena	Outside Council	1	Shale	Cloughmills Thistle FC
Clough MUGA	Outside Council	1	Polymeric	Cloughmills Thistle FC
<u>Grass Kickabouts</u>				
Aghanloo Kickabout, Magilligan	West	Standard – no changing facilities, size approximately 7-aside.		
Carnany Kickabout, Ballymoney	East	Poor – Large unfenced grassed area. No changing, waterlogged with high weed coverage.		
Dromore Kickabout, Limavady	West	Poor - small pitch, unfenced, uneven and in poor condition – no changing facilities.		
Drumavalley Kickabout	West	Standard – pitch uneven and small, no changing facilities.		
Feeny Kickabout	West	Poor – small, playing surface very poor and showing signs of damage.		
Glebeside, Ballymoney	East	Standard - suitable for 7-aside matches, has prefabricated changing facilities, pitch is fenced.		

Graymount Park Kickabout, Ballymoney	East	Poor – uneven surface, pronounced slope, no changing facilities.
Islandmore Kickabout, Portrush	Central	Poor – pronounced slope and uneven surface with several large holes.
Killyrammer Kickabout, Ballymoney	East	Standard – gentle slope with good grass cover.
Largy Kickabout, Dungiven	West	Poor – located next to a main road – no catch nets to prevent balls on road. Grass and surface in poor condition.
Liscolman Playing Fields	East	Poor – small grassed area with sub-standard goal posts – signs of substantial wear in goal mouths – bonfire site is very close to the Kickabout.
Magherahoney Kickabout, Ballymoney	East	Standard – fairly even surface with surround fence. Some fire damage to one side.
Ramoan Kickabout, Ballycastle	East	Goalposts in poor state of repair, pitch surface poor.

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

4.14 Looking at competitive match pitch provision within the Council area there is a total of 75 full size grass association football pitches suitable for adult, youth and small sided games matches and 6 full size 3G facilities. In addition, there is a number of youth pitches. However not all of these full and youth grass pitches are available for community use – generally post primary school pitches are not available for competitive matches. This is further discussed under Adequacy of Provision.

4.15 A summary and breakdown of current match and training pitch provision by ownership is:-

Ownership	Full and Youth Match Pitches			Training Pitches – varying sizes			
	Grass Full	3G Full	Youth Grass + 3G	Grass	AstroTurf	3G	Shale
Clubs/Community	9	1	1 x grass	3	0	2	1
Education	15	1	5 x grass 2 x 3G	9	0	3	0
CC&G	50	4	2 x grass	5	3	4	1
Leased from CC&G	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
Total	75	6	10	17	3	9	2

- 4.16** Whilst 3G pitches are currently available for competitive fixtures just a small number of teams appear to be playing on them, often only when grass pitches are not available due to inclement weather. There is a considerable difference in the total number of training pitches (31) and match pitches (92) reflecting the differing nature of their use. Matches are only played in a very narrow time window either Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon and therefore more will be required to satisfy demand. Training occurs across four to five weekday evenings over a 3 to 4-hour period and therefore fewer pitches in total are needed.

Summary of Quality of Pitches

- 4.17** A summary and breakdown of current *full and youth match pitch* provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Full and Youth Match Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	6	0	0	5	11
Education	3	2	2	16	23
CC&G	41	12	3	1	57
Leased from CC&G	1	0	0	0	1
Total	51	14	5	22	92

- 4.18** A summary and breakdown of current *training pitch* provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Training Pitches - All surfaces					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	4	0	0	4	8
Education	5	0	0	6	11
CC&G	8	1	3	0	12
Leased from CC&G	-	-	-	-	-
Total	17	1	3	10	31

Pitch Quality – Online Survey

- 4.19** In addition to the non-technical quality assessment of each pitch as presented above, clubs were asked to rate the following three aspects in relation to pitch quality and maintenance of their home match venue. Results are:-

1. Has the quality of your home match pitch(es) got better or worse since last season?		
Answer Option	No of Responses	% of clubs
Much better	6	17
Slightly better	5	14
No difference	11	30
Slightly poorer	9	25
Much poorer	5	14
Total	36	100%

Comments

- ❖ 30% of respondent clubs report 'No difference' in pitch quality this season compared to last season.
- ❖ A combined 31% report pitch quality is either 'Slightly better' or 'Much better'.
- ❖ A combined 39% feel the pitch quality is either 'Slightly poorer' or 'Much poorer'.

Respondents were asked to record reasons for their response on pitch quality – the following comments were collected:-

- 'It is getting worse due to the large numbers of children having to train in the same area in all conditions. This then leaves the surface unplayable after a short space of time.'
- 'The Council haven't cut it or rolled it as often as they used to. Therefore, the pitch cuts up and makes it hard to play on.'
- 'Good pitch '
- 'They are well looked after'
- 'We are a small town and out of the way, don't get our grass cut as often as Coleraine area teams, our pitch has never been rolled and needs lined more often...even though we are the most successful team in the league this past 10 years our pitch lags way behind especially as we need new posts and nets this past 5 years and it seems to be falling on deaf ears.'
- 'Pitch maintained poorly. No lines, posts missing hooks and grass very long.'
- 'General wear and tear. Also, winters are getting much wetter and the pitch is getting cut up more.'
- 'Maintenance and drainage recent.'
- 'Softer'
- The Council's maintenance programme on pitches not being carried out.
- 'Lack of maintenance to the pitch and we feel the Council doesn't do enough with regards to dog fouling.'

- 'No maintenance programme outside of cutting.'
- 'Doesn't seem to be as well looked after as the previous years.'
- 'The Warren has deteriorated.'
- 'Still bad!'
- 'Better pitches and better looked after although I believe some matches were called off unnecessarily.'
- 'Drainage issues in the corner of the pitch and the local GAA club training on the pitch during the summer months.'
- 'Ollie and his team in Limavady have done a great job rotating the use of our pitches and maintaining the facilities.'
- 'Needs dug up and drained again.'
- 'Works carried out at the wrong time and damage done to the pitch, and work that has been carried out hasn't been thought through.'
- 'Less games, none played on venue when weather is bad.'
- 'No maintenance'
- 'Council Maintenance programme and closing of pitch during summer.'
- '3G facilities and Uni facilities are generally similar standard than last year, Council pitches are not as well maintained and the access prior to match time has been reduced.'
- 'Needs drainage'
- 'Poor drainage'
- 'Local Council grounds men are good.'
- 'Changing rooms good - issue with balls going to play park - need nets all - changing rooms behind goals - balls hitting spouting.'

The survey results for the second aspect of pitch quality/maintenance are:-

2. How would the club rate the maintenance on its home match venue/ground?		
Answer Option	No of Responses	% of clubs
Good	16	46
Standard	8	23
Poor	11	31
Total	35	100%

Comments

- ❖ The majority of respondents (69%) rate pitch maintenance as 'Standard' or 'Good'.
- ❖ A significant 31% of clubs rated maintenance of their home pitch as 'Poor'.

The survey results for the third aspect of pitch quality/maintenance are:-

3. Overall quality of your home pitch		
Answer Option	No of Reponses	% of clubs
Good	15	48
Standard	9	29
Poor	7	23
Total	31	100%

Comments

- ❖ Almost 50% of respondent clubs rate overall quality of their home pitch as 'Good'.
- ❖ A significant 23% rate their pitch as 'Poor'.

Built Facilities Quality

4.20 Built facilities are also scored and rated using the Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment. The assessment is based on:-

- ❖ Are changing rooms in place; exterior and interior quality, showers and toilets, officials changing, spectator toilets, dedicated medical room.
- ❖ Are DDA compliant facilities provided?
- ❖ Boundary fence and vehicle parking.

Built Facilities Score (%)	Rating
65 – 100	Good
35 – 64	Standard
0 – 34	Poor

Site Name	Changing? Yes = ✓ No = x	Quality Score %	Rating
Aghanloo Kickabout	x	x	x
Anderson Park	✓	58	S
Ballysally Playing Fields	✓	76	G
Burnfoot Playing Fields	✓	23	P
Carnany Kickabout	x	x	x
Castlerock Recreation Grounds	✓	76	G
Clyde Park	✓	76	G
Dervock Recreation Grounds	✓		G
Dromore Kickabout	x	x	x

Site Name	Changing? Yes = ✓ No = x	Quality Score %	Rating
Drumavalley Kickabout	x	x	x
Drumbolcan Park	✓		S
Drumturn Playing Fields	x	x	x
Dundarave Park	✓		G
Dungiven Sports Complex	✓		G
Dunloy Recreation Grounds	✓		G
Feeny Kickabout	x	x	x
Fulton Park	✓		G
Glebeside	✓		G
Graymount Park Kickabout	x	x	x
Islandmore Kickabout	x	x	x
Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	✓		G
Killyrammer Kickabout	x	x	x
Kilrea Sports Complex	✓		G
Kings Lane Playing Fields	✓		P
Landhead Recreation Grounds	✓		G
Largy Kickabout	x	x	x
Liscolman Kickabout	x	x	x
Magherahoney Kickabout	x	x	x
Megaw Park	✓		G
Mosside Playing Fields	✓		S
Parker Avenue Playing Fields	✓		G
Quay Road Sports Complex	✓		S
Ramoan Kickabout	x	x	x
Riada Playing Fields	✓		G
Roe Mill Playing Fields	✓		S
Rugby Avenue Playing Fields	✓		G
Scroggy Road Pitches	✓		G
The Crescent	✓		S
The Rope Walk	✓		G
The Warren	✓		G
Windyhall Pitch	✓		S

Pitch Usage Profile

- 4.21** The starting point in looking at how grass pitches are used is to understand their carrying capacity. Whilst each pitch will have its own carrying capacity Sport England guidance shows *‘the number of match equivalent sessions a week that a natural*

grass pitch is likely to be able to regularly accommodate, based on an agreed quality rating without adversely affecting its current quality' to be as follows:-

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

Given that only five of the Council's grass pitches have a 'poor' rating it is reasonable to assume that, based on Sport England guidance most pitches should have a carrying capacity of at least two adult matches per week, or 60 matches in a 30 week season⁽¹¹⁾. However, scheduling of fixtures may result in only one match each Saturday.

- 4.22** By way of example, association football bookings on three of the Council's grass pitches for the 2016/17 season are reviewed.

Anderson Park, Coleraine

- ❖ 36 bookings, of which 2 were cancelled.
- ❖ First booking on Saturday 20 August, final booking on Saturday 5 May.

User Group	Day of Week / Number of Bookings						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Totals
Coleraine Crusaders	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Northern Regional College	1	-	7	-	-	-	8
Coleraine Academy	-	-	-	1	-	6	7
Millburn FC	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Villagers FC	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Dominican College	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Coleraine Leisure Centre Member	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Bertie Peacock's	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Coleraine & District League	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	1	2	7	1	3	22	36

⁽¹¹⁾ The period from September 2016 to March 2017 inclusive spanned 30 weeks.

The Warren, Portstewart

- ❖ 14 bookings, of which 1 was cancelled.
- ❖ First booking on Saturday 20 August, final booking on Wednesday 29 March.

User Group	Day of Week / Number of Bookings						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Totals
Ulster University, Coleraine	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Dominican College	1	1	3	2	1	-	8
Coleraine Leisure Centre Member	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Coleraine Academy	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	1	1	3	2	1	6	14

Castlerock Recreation Grounds

- ❖ 24 bookings, of which 2 were cancelled.
- ❖ First booking on Saturday 20 August, final booking on Saturday 11 March.

User Group	Day of Week / Number of Bookings		
	Wednesday	Saturday	Totals
Villagers FC	1	14	15
Bertha's FC	1	7	8
Coleraine & District League	-	1	1
Totals	2	22	24

These examples show:-

- ❖ 'Seasons' may vary from pitch to pitch although the start of the season appears to be towards the end of August. In two of the examples the season extends beyond a typical 30 week period.
- ❖ Anderson Park has nine different user groups, albeit five of the groups had 2 or fewer bookings. The Northern Regional College is one of three colleges/schools booking the pitch on weekdays and/or Saturdays; Coleraine Academy had 7 bookings in the season, 6 of which were on Saturdays. Adult football clubs account for 15 bookings, the majority by Millburn FC playing in the Hutchinson Tiles League.

- ❖ The Warren pitch in Portstewart had no football club bookings; all but one bookings were by school/college/University groups with Dominican College (it has a youth grass pitch at the school) making 8 bookings on weekdays. It is noted that on one occasion the pitch had 4 bookings in an eight day period.

4.23 The above examples show a number of bookings cancelled. Cancellations can be an indicator of pitch quality. Again by way of example, the Central Area records for the 2016/17 season show the following:-

Number of pitches	30
Number of bookings	671
Number of bookings cancelled	74
Average number of bookings per pitch	22 (inc cancellations)

The record shows 11% of bookings, an average of between two and three bookings per pitch, were cancelled. Reasons for cancellation are not recorded, however they may include cancellations by the booker rather than due to poor weather.

Clubs, Teams and Players

4.24 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. Association football has a total of 46 recognised clubs in Causeway Coast and Glens area. For the purposes of this audit it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce an accurate picture of association football membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

4.25 Information from the Council, association football league secretaries and desktop research identified a total of 46 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- a) Home match pitch is located within the Council area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use pitches within the Council area for training.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within the Council area.

Every effort has been made to contact these clubs and secure a survey response. Where it has not been possible to get a response from identified clubs an estimate of team numbers was made using information from the league secretaries and

desktop research; this was necessary for 7⁽¹²⁾ of the clubs indicating that responses were obtained for 85% of all association football clubs.

Questionnaire

- 4.26** The comprehensive questionnaire (49 questions in total) distributed to the 46 identified association football clubs (ie, satisfying the above criteria) collected information on the number of players (male/female/adult), number of teams, home venue, training venue, preferred home venue etc. This information is used to help inform an assessment of the adequacy of pitch provision in the Council area.
- 4.27** The questionnaire also collected information on issues related to club development, attitudes to 3G playing surfaces, pitch condition and quality, pitch maintenance and condition/quality of ancillary facilities.
- 4.28** All of the responses were collected via an online Survey Monkey link emailed to the club contact either by the consultant or the league secretaries. A number of responses were obtained by telephone interviews (these were then entered online by the consultant to Survey Monkey). In order to encourage completion of the survey 8 clubs completed a shortened version of the questionnaire. The 46 clubs included in this audit are listed below in the following categories (those that did not make a survey response are marked *):-

- ❖ Clubs with only adult male teams
- ❖ Clubs with youth and adult teams

Table 4.3: Association Football Clubs with only Adult Male Teams (35)		
Club	No of teams	League
Aghadowey FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Premier
Ballybogey FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Ballykelly Utd FC	1	North West and Junior League
Ballyrashane FC	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
Balnamore FC	1	Hutchinson Tiles Winter League
Berthas FC*	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
Burnfoot Utd FC	1	North West and Junior League
Bushmills United FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Cloughmills Thistle FC	1	Ballymena and District Sat Morning League

⁽¹²⁾ The 7 clubs not making a return are: Cushendall FC, Greysteel FC, Dromore FC, Millburn FC, Villagers FC, Berthas FC and Finn McCools FC – all of these clubs have just one adult male team as reported by League secretaries.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

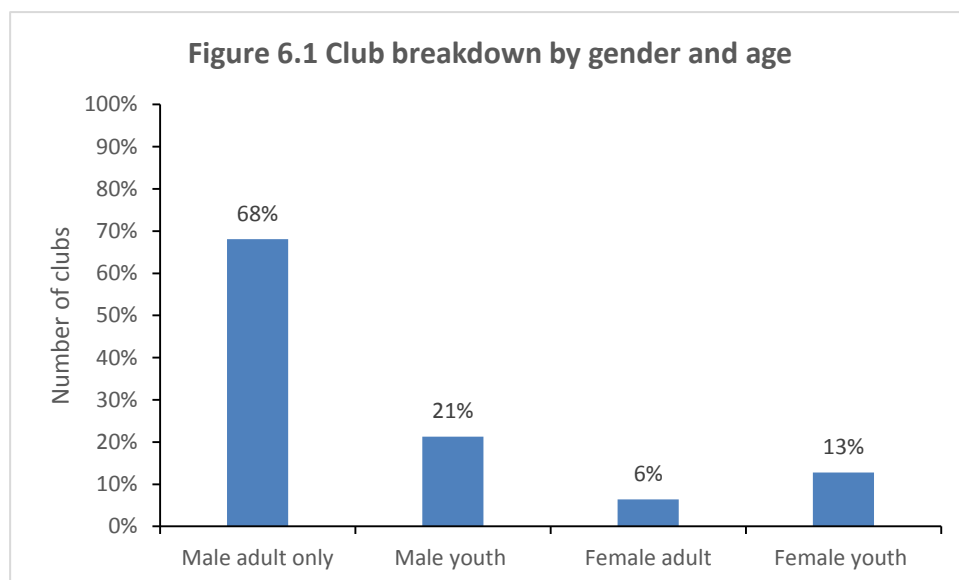
Coleraine Olympic	1	Hutchinson Tiles Winter League
Cushendall FC*	1	Ballymena and District Sat Morning League
Dervock FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Dromore FC*	1	North West and Junior League
Drummond Football and Cricket Club	1	North West and Junior League
Dunaghy FC	2	Coleraine and District League – Premier, Hutchinson Tiles League
Dunloy FC	1	Ballymena and Provincial League
Finn McCool's FC*	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
Garvagh FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Premier
Glebe Rangers FC	3	Ballymena Provincial Intermediate League, Coleraine and District League – Morning, Hutchinson Tiles League
Greysteel FC*	1	North West and Junior League
Heights FC	2	Coleraine and District League – Premier and Morning
Kilrea United FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Premier
Limavady Rugby FC	1	North West and Junior League
Macosquin FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Millburn FC*	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
Newtowne FC	1	North West and Junior
North Coast Utd FC	2	Hutchinson Tiles League
Portstewart Football & Community Club	2	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Riada FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Premier
Roe Rovers FC	2	North West and Junior
Roe Valley FC	1	North West and Junior
Sporting Ballymoney FC	1	Ballymena Saturday Morning League
Tullans FC	1	Coleraine and District League - Morning
Villagers FC*	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
West Bann Athletic FC	1	Hutchinson Tiles League
Total number of teams	42	

Table 4.4: Association Football Clubs with Youth and Adult Teams (11)

Club	No of Youth Teams	No of Adult Teams	League/s
Ballycastle Utd FC	10 x male 1 x female	1 x male	Coleraine and District – Morning, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Ballymoney Utd FC	24 x male 3 x female	2 x male 1 x female	Northern Ireland Intermediate League, Coleraine and District League – Morning, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Bertie Peacocks FC	14 x male 0 x female	0 x adult	Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Coleraine FC	27 x male 3 x female	2 x male 1 x female	Northern Ireland Football League, Northern Ireland Women's Football League, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Dungiven Celtic FC	15 x male 3 x female	2 x male	North West and Junior League, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Newtowne FC	1 x male	1 x male	North West and Junior League, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Roe Valley FC	6 x male	1 x male	North West and Junior, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Stranocum FC	5 x male	0 x male	Pappy's Bakery Friendship League
Limavady United FC	3 x male	1 x male	Northern Ireland Football League, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League
Portrush FC	14 x male 3 x female	3 x male	Coleraine and District League –Premier + Morning, Hutchinson Tiles League and Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and League
Limavady Ladies/Roe Valley Girls FC	3 x female	1 x female	Northern Ireland Women's Football Association North 2 League, Harry Gregg Foundation SSG and Youth League

4.29 Figure 6.1 shows that of the 46 clubs included in this report, 68% have only adult male adult teams (mostly one team), 21% of the clubs have youth teams whilst a relatively significant percentage (13%) have female youth teams. Just 6% of clubs (i.e. 3 clubs) have adult female teams, however this is expected to increase given the growing number of female youth teams. Youth development is confined to a comparatively small number of clubs with 11 out of 46 indicating movement of players between clubs in the transition from youth to adult football. Clubs that operate with just one team may be less sustainable from year to year compared to those with a structure allowing players to feed through from youth to adult; for example, Ringsend Swifts FC (1 adult male team) and Coleraine Crusaders FC (1 adult male team) have both folded this season. The annual profile of association football

across the Council area will therefore vary as players progress to other teams/clubs and this may have implications for pitch provision. The club numbers and profiles presented in this audit are therefore a 'snapshot' of association football participation in the Council area at the end of the 2016/2017 season.



4.30 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 46 identified clubs is as follows:-

Table 4.5: Association Football Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams based in CC&G			
	Male	Female	Total Male & Female
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1,296	223	1,519
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	1,097	156	1,253
Adult	1,243	81	1,324
Total Players	3,636	460	4,096
<u>Teams</u>			
Small Sided Games (U7, U8)	28	2	30
Small Sided Games (U9, U10)	36	1	37
Small Sided Games (U11, U12)	37	7	40
Youth (U13 to U18)	37	8	41
Adult (Excl Veterans)	52	3	55
Total Teams	190	21	211

- 4.31** It is important to note that the Small Sided Games (SSG) initiative has been adopted by the Irish Football Association (IFA) wherein children from Under 7 to Under 12 play matches in teams of 5-a-side, 7-a-side or 9-a-side according to age. This has been reflected in the reporting of team numbers. For this audit SSG teams are from U7 to U12 and include boys and girls teams.

Provision for teams from outside the Council area (Harry Gregg Foundation)

- 4.32** In order to decide on the adequacy of pitch provision, an accurate account of the total number of teams using the pitches within the Council area is necessary. The Causeway Coast and Glens area hosts the high profile Harry Gregg Small Sided Games Centre (HGSSG), founded in 2105 and now based at Ulster University, Coleraine Campus. The HGSSG Centre formerly known as the North West Coleraine and District Youth League - Small Sided Games Centre was based at Ballysally Playing Fields until 2015. Having outgrown Ballysally Playing Fields, the centre moved to the Coleraine Campus of the Ulster University and rebranded to come under the Harry Gregg Foundation charity. The Harry Gregg Foundation includes three strands: Coleraine FC Academy, The Harry Gregg Small Sided Games Centre (HGSSG) and the Harry Gregg Foundation Youth League (HGYL).
- 4.33** HGSSG provides small sided matches weekly for over 100 teams from U8 to U12 from 27 clubs based both within and from outside the Council boundary. All games are played on seven pitches⁽¹³⁾ at the University on Saturday mornings from 9.00am – 1.00pm from September to May in two 12 week ‘seasons’. Competitive games are provided for, on average, 1500 young boys and girls on seven 9-aside pitches and thirteen 7-aside pitches. The Harry Gregg Foundation volunteers set up all 20 pitches on Friday afternoon/evening, with portable goalposts and cones – a considerable task, moving a total of 40 goal posts. The 9-aside pitches are overmarked in blue by University pitch maintenance.

Adequacy of Provision

- 4.34** The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

⁽¹³⁾ Small pitches are set up on 6 grass pitches including association football, rugby and gaelic pitches; the 3G pitch at the University is also used.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

4.35 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of association football pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario.

Reference	Description	No. of grass and 3G pitches available for adult matches	No. of grass pitches available for youth matches only	No. of pitches available for SSG ⁽¹⁴⁾ only
Scenario 1	All pitches	71 ⁽¹⁵⁾ grass 7 x 3G ⁽¹⁶⁾	12 x grass	7
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	49 x grass 6 x 3G	7 x grass	7
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	40 x grass 5 x 3G	6 x grass	0

4.36 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass Council pitches have been excluded for the reasons listed below:-

⁽¹⁴⁾ SSG as it is currently delivered in the Council area requires a site with multiple pitches, sufficient car parking and toilets and be available Saturdays from 9am to 2pm.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Note 4 of the full size pitches are dedicated to youth football and therefore not counted in adult total

⁽¹⁶⁾ 3G pitches are: Rugby Avenue (1), Riada Playing Fields (1), Dungiven (1), Scroggy Road (2), University (1), Vale Centre (1)

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Armoy RFC soccer pitch	1	Pitch unused for a number of years after local football club folded.
Drumsum Playing Fields	1	Pitch not cut, lined out or used in some time. No changing facilities.
Mosside Pitch 2	1	Pitch in very poor state and not used.
Rugby Avenue Pitch 6	1	Closed presently due to ongoing drainage works.
Ballysally Playing Fields	3	Only used for youth football matches – accounted for in number of pitches available for youth football matches.
The Crescent Playing Fields	1	1 pitch reserved for only youth matches – accounted for in number of pitches available for football matches.
King's Lane Playing Fields	1	One of the two pitches is not in use.
Roe Mill Playing Fields	2	Whilst there are 4 pitches at Roe Mill, changing accommodation constraints mean only 2 can be used simultaneously.
Total	11	

4.37 Pitch provision for Small Sided Games (SSG) is fully accommodated on seven pitches⁽¹⁷⁾ at the Ulster University's Coleraine Campus on Saturday mornings. Youth football matches are given priority use of four full size grass pitches (three pitches at Ballysally and one pitch at The Crescent). Should the HGSSG Centre require additional pitches they are able to access unused adult pitches after all adult fixtures have been accommodated. Generally, any spare pitch capacity is confirmed on the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to a Saturday fixture.

4.38 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and SSG's is:-

⁽¹⁷⁾ These pitches are a mix of rugby, gaelic games and association football.

Pitch Site	Scenario 1			Scenario 2			Scenario 3		
	Full Grass + 3G	Youth Grass	SSG	Full Grass	Youth Grass	SSG	Full Grass	Youth Grass	SSG
Clubs/Community	10	1	0	10	1	0	0	0	0
University	4	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0
Post primary schools	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCG	51	6	0	44	6	0	44	6	0
Leased to club	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	78	12	7	55	7	7	45	6	0

Comments

- ❖ The above table records the number of full sized pitches used in each scenario.
- ❖ Junior and adult matches are played on full size pitches. It is noted that each full size grass pitch can only accommodate one match per Saturday either in the morning or afternoon but not both.
- ❖ For adult and youth association football Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude fifteen education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ For adult and youth association football, Scenario 3 excludes both education and club pitches – here only Council provision is assessed.
- ❖ The University playing fields are the only site in the Council area used to provide small sided games for U8 to U12 teams and are therefore included in SSG playing pitch modelling.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude seven identified unused Council pitches (Armoy, Drumsurn, Mosside Pitch 2, Kings Lane Playing Fields x 1, Roe Mill Playing Fields x 2 and Rugby Avenue Pitch 6).
- ❖ The three pitches at Ulster University, Coleraine Campus are excluded from the total available for adult and youth matches as they are used for SSGs.
- ❖ The four dedicated youth pitches at Ballysally Playing Fields and The Crescent are also excluded from the full size adult total in all three scenarios.

4.39 The results of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model for each of the above 3 Scenarios are presented in Tables 4.5, 4.6, 4.7. In addition, in order to apply the Sport England Playing Pitch Model, Small Sided Games (SSG) teams have been calculated for 2 groups: SSG (U8, U19, U10) requiring 7-side facilities and SSG (U11 & U12) requiring 9-side facilities.

Scenario 1

4.40 The picture for Scenario 1 for male association football in accordance with the Sport England model is presented in Table 4.6 below. Women's association football teams are not modelled here as generally their fixtures are in the summer months and therefore do not compete for pitches with male teams.

Table 4.6: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	SSG – 7-aside	69	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	45	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	37	
	Adult (U17, U18, older)	52	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	SSG – 7-aside	1.0	Based on a home game every other week for and Adult and 1 tournament every week for SSG
	SSG – 9-aside	1.0	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 7-aside	69	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	45	
	Youth (U13 to U16)	19	
	Adult	26	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	SSG - 7-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as assessed from club surveys and league secretaries ⁽¹⁸⁾
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Adult – 43% - Sat AM	0.43	
	Adult – 57% - Sat PM	0.57	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into	SSG 7-aside total needed	3	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.
	SSG 9-aside total needed	4	
	Youth total needed	10	
	Adult Sat AM total needed	12	

⁽¹⁸⁾ This stage assesses the proportion of total home games played on each day. The data is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. It will determine what percentages of all games are played on a Saturday for example. For this study from an analysis of the survey data together with knowledge of league fixtures it is known that 100% Small Sided Games are held on Saturday mornings and 100% of Junior and 43% of Adult matches are held Saturday AM and 57% of Adult matches are held Saturday PM.

account pitch capacity –	Adult Sat PM total needed	22	Capacity is 24 teams ⁽¹⁹⁾ for 7-aside and 12 teams ⁽²⁰⁾ for 9 aside. Capacity for adult and youth is 1 game of either youth or adult per pitch
6. Establishing pitches available	Ssg - All	7	All SSG pitches satisfying SSG hub requirements (7) Youth = Youth pitches (12) + Adult pitches (78) = 90 in total. Adult = all adult size pitches (78)
	Youth	90	
	Adult	78	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽²¹⁾	SSG	7-7	Supply just meeting demand
	Youth	90-10=+80	Good level of supply
	Adult AM	78-12=+66	Good level of supply
	Adult PM after AM matches satisfied	66-22=+44	Good level of supply

4.41 The results for Scenario 1 shows supply is only just meeting demand for SSG. There is a good level of supply for youth and adult matches with an over-supply of 44 pitches.

Scenario 2

4.42 The picture for Scenario 2 for association football in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where post primary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for club matches. Also excluded are the seven Council pitches currently not in use, plus the four dedicated youth pitches therefore reducing the number of full size grass pitches to 49 for adult games:-

⁽¹⁹⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x 7-aside SSG pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 3-hour tournament on Saturday morning capacity is 3 x 8 =24 teams.

⁽²⁰⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 2 x 9-aside SSG pitches and therefore 4 teams per hour – for a 3-hour tournament on Saturday morning capacity is 3 x 4 =12 teams.

⁽²¹⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Table 4.7: Association Football – Demand & Supply Scenario 2 - All community available pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	SSG – 7-aside	69	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	45	
	Youth	37	
	Adult	52	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	SSG – 7-aside	1.0	Based on a home game every other week for Youth and Adult and 1 tournament every week for SSG
	SSG – 9-aside	1.0	
	Youth	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 7-aside	69	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	44	
	Youth	19	
	Adult	26	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	SSG - 7-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as assessed from club surveys and league secretaries
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Adult – 43% - Sat AM	0.43	
	Adult – 57% - Sat PM	0.57	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity –	SSG 7-aside total needed	3	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity for each pitch is: 24 teams for 7-aside and 12 for 9 aside for Sat AM and 1 game per pitch for juvenile and adult.
	SSG 9-aside total needed	4	
	Youth total needed	10	
	Adult - 43% Sat AM total needed	12	
	Adult – 57% Sat PM total needed	22	
6. Establishing pitches available	SSG - All	7	7 pitches available and used for SSG 7 dedicated pitches for youth teams 49 pitches available for adult teams and youth
	Youth	7	
	Adult	49	
7. Adequacy of Provision	SSG (7-aside + 9-aside)	7-7 =0	Supply just meeting demand
	Youth	7-10= -3	Supply not meeting demand
	Adult AM	55-12= +43	Good level of supply
	Adult PM	43-22 = +21	Good level of supply

4.43 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is just meeting demand for SSG teams. Supply is not meeting demand for youth matches with an undersupply of 3 pitches. There is a good level of supply for adult matches on Saturday mornings with a surplus of 43 pitches. For adult matches on Saturday afternoons this surplus is reduced to 21 pitches. However, 3 of these pitches are needed to satisfy youth matches on Saturday mornings.

4.44 It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is only just meeting demand for SSG and there is an undersupply of 3 pitches for youth games.
- ❖ From consultation, the number of pitches dedicated to youth football matches in general does not meet demand. It is noted that additional pitches for youth football are only available after adult needs are satisfied. Sometimes this can result in youth venues being located on lesser quality more distant pitches.
- ❖ Scenario 2 includes the use of 3G facilities for adult and youth matches. Anecdotal evidence from the club survey and consultations suggests that clubs prefer grass surfaces for competitive matches but appreciate the advantages of 3G surfaces with regard to availability and capacity in poor weather conditions.

Scenario 3

4.45 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are used. A total of 40 full sized pitches are available for all adult, youth and SSG matches. The results are:-

Table 4.8: Association Football – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 – Only Council owned pitches are available pitches for each age category

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	SSG – 7-aside	69	Complete picture from survey and leagues.
	SSG – 9-aside	45	
	Youth	37	
	Adult	52	
	SSG – 7-aside	1.0	
	SSG – 9-aside	1.0	

2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth	0.5	Based on a home game every other week for and Adult and 1 tournament every week for SSG
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	SSG – 7-aside	69	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	SSG – 9-aside	44	
	Youth	19	
	Adult	26	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	SSG - 7-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	This is the peak demand period and the % of games played as assessed from club surveys and league secretaries
	SSG - 9-aside 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Youth - 100% Sat AM	1.0	
	Adult – 43% - Sat AM	0.43	
	Adult – 57% - Sat PM	0.57	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity –	SSG 7-aside total needed	3	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Capacity for each pitch is: 24 teams for 7-aside and 12 for 9 aside for Sat AM and 1 game per pitch for juvenile and adult.
	SSG 9-aside total needed	4	
	Youth total needed	10	
	Adult - 43% Sat AM total needed	12	
	Adult – 57% Sat PM total needed	22	
6. Establishing pitches available	SSG – All	0	
	Youth	6	
	Adult	45	
7. Adequacy of Provision	SSG (7-aside + 9-aside) – Sat AM	0 -7= -7	Good level of Supply
	Youth – Sat AM	6-10 = -4	Under supply
	Adult – Sat AM	45-12= 33	Good level of Supply
	Adult – Sat PM	33-22 = +11	Supply meeting demand

4.46 The results for Scenario 3 demonstrates a shortfall in provision for SSG and youth. The shortfall in SSG pitch requirement is modelled assuming a multi-pitch site with sufficient car parking and toilets and is available from 9 am to 2pm. Should SSG needs change and be delivered across multiple sites then demand may well be met through use of adult size pitches. Under Scenario 3 the demand of adult pitches meets supply with a surplus of 11 pitches.

Adequacy of Provision – Training

- 4.47** The majority of association football training takes place on pitches separate to those used for competitive matches on Saturdays. Training pitches in the Council area include floodlit grass, AstroTurf, 3G and shale surfaces as detailed in Table 4.9; these are summarised in terms of the supply of ‘one-hour’ training slots as follows:-

Table 4.9: Adequacy of Provision for Training	
Facility type and site	Number of 1-hour training slots midweek (i.e. Mon to Thurs) ⁽²²⁾
Grass – Floodlit (11 sites)	
Dervock Recreation Ground	3
Parker Avenue Training pitch	3
The Warren	3
Coleraine College	4
Coleraine Grammar School	2
Coleraine University	8
Limavady High School (2 x grass)	6
Our Lady of Lourdes School	4
St Mary’s High School	1
Coleraine Rugby Club	2
Limavady Rugby Club	2
Total	38 x 1-hour slots
AstroTurf – Floodlit (3 sites)	
Quay Road Playing Fields (shared 25% with hockey and gaelic)	18 ⁽²³⁾
Rugby Avenue (shared 25% with hockey)	18
Riada Playing Fields (shared 25% with hockey)	18
Total	54 x 1-hour slots
Shale (Burnfoot Playing Fields)	
	2 x 1-hour slots

⁽²²⁾ Demand for association football training is predominantly Monday to Thursday evening 6pm to 9pm.

⁽²³⁾ Here is assumed that the pitch is big enough to be split into two training areas therefore doubling the number of one-hour training slots to 24, however these are shared with other sports (gaelic, hockey, rugby), reducing the available number of 1-hour slots to 18.

3G outdoor – Floodlit (7 sites)	
Dungiven Sports Complex (shared 25% with gaelic)	18
Scroggy Road Pitch 1 (shared 25% with gaelic)	18
Scroggy Road Pitch 2 (shared 25% with gaelic)	18
Vale Centre (shared 25% with gaelic)	12
Riada Playing Fields	24
Ulster University (shared 25% with gaelic)	18
John O’Neills, Glenullin (shared 75% with gaelic)	4
Total	116 x 1-hour slots
Total Current Supply of 1-hour slots	210 x 1-hour slots

- 4.48** In summary, there are 210 x 1-hour training slots available at 22 floodlit sites across the Council area in a mix of grass, 3G, AstroTurf and shale surfaces.

Training Facility Demand

- 4.49** An assessment of association football training needs/demand is presented in Table 4.10. Here the total number and breakdown of association football teams by age and training needs is presented using survey information and employing the following assumptions:-

- ❖ Four U7 to U10 SSG teams have the same pitch size requirements as one adult team i.e. equivalent to 1 adult team.
- ❖ Two U11/U12 SSG teams have the same pitch size requirements as one adult team i.e. equivalent to 1 adult team.
- ❖ One youth team training is equivalent to one adult team.
- ❖ U7 to U10 SSG teams train once a week.
- ❖ U11/U12 SSG and Youth teams train on average 1.5 times a week.
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average 1.75 times a week.

- 4.50** Based on these assumptions, the total number of one-hour training slots required to satisfy association football training needs in the Council area is 216 slots as detailed in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 –Association Football Training Needs

	No. of Male Teams	No. of Female Teams	All teams	Adult team equivalents ⁽²⁴⁾	Average no of 1-hour training sessions per week per team	Total No. of 1-hour training slots needed (rounded up)
Small Sided Games (U7, U8)	28	2	30	7.5	1	8
Small Sided Games (U9, U10)	36	1	37	9.25	1	10
Small Sided Games (U11, U12)	37	7	44	22	1.5	33
Youth (U13 to U18)	37	8	45	45	1.5	68
Adult (Excl Veterans)	52	3	55	55	1.75	97
Total Teams	190	21	211	138.75		216 x 1-hour slots

- 4.51** As calculated, the 211 association football teams in the Council area require at least 216 one hour training slots. Currently there are 210 slots available, that is an undersupply of 6 slots. On balance, this does not appear to be a large undersupply, however it is pertinent to further look at training facility surface types available; these are summarised as follows:-

Floodlit training facility type	Total no. of 1-hour slots	% of total
3G	116	55%
AstroTurf	54	26%
Grass	38	18%
Shale	2	1%
Totals	210	100%

- 4.52** Over half of training provision is 3G surfaces, now widely accepted for association football training, however 26% of training currently takes place on AstroTurf surfaces. *Removing AstroTurf and shale surfaces increases the under-supply to 62 one hour training slots.* AstroTurf surfaces are rapidly becoming less desirable for association football due to the availability of 3G surfaces, the need for specialist AstroTurf footwear (as recommended by the English FA) and the difference in play characteristics when compared to grass or 3G. In the online club survey, it is noted that just 23% of clubs were ‘favourable’ to the use of AstroTurf surfaces for training. At Riada Playing Fields bookings for association football on the AstroTurf pitch have been declining in recent years – a 3G training pitch opened to community use in 2010 at Dalriada School. Now, with a 3G pitch having opened at Riada Playing Fields

⁽²⁴⁾ The following is assumed: 4 x U7 to U10 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 2 x U11, U12 SSG teams require the same size training pitch as one adult team, 1 x U13 to U18 teams requires the same size training pitch as one adult team.

(August 2017) the AstroTurf pitch has 2 hours of association football bookings on weekday evenings against 14.5 hours of bookings on the new 3G pitch.

- 4.53** In addition, whilst the majority of association football matches take place on grass pitches, just 18% of training in the Council area is available on grass; this may lead to poorer match performance outcomes when compared to teams who train predominantly on grass. There is anecdotal evidence for the need and desire for floodlit grass training surfaces in the Council area. Given the oversupply of grass match pitches some of these may be considered for re-designation to training only, with the addition of floodlights.
- 4.54** Rapidly developing technologies for hybrid/sand-fibre grass pitches which allow for increased capacity, an example of which is currently being developed at Ulster University, may also be a viable consideration. Hybrid/sand-fibre grass pitches reportedly increase training capacity to around 20 hours per week for a single pitch and are especially suitable for winter sports such as association football. Examples also include, Croke Park Stadium, Aviva Stadium and Abbotstown GAA Centre of Excellence, Dublin.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

- 4.55** In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities. Results are (clubs were able to select more than one response) as follows:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	8%	28%
Hire cost too expensive for club	43%	63%
Finding venues of suitable condition	10%	28%
Availability of floodlit venues	8%	45%
Can't get booking slot	40%	35%
None	8%	20%

Comments

- ❖ Hire cost for both training (63% of clubs) and match (43% of clubs) facilities is the most prevalent barrier noted by the respondent clubs.

- ❖ 45% of clubs record 'availability of floodlit venues' as a significant barrier to accessing training facilities.

Playing Surface

4.56 Association football matches are increasingly being played on artificial surfaces. 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IFA and over the last number of years the provision of 3G pitches has increased both in the Council area and across Northern Ireland. The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to a range of artificial surfaces, including 3G surfaces, for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 4.11: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training			Matches		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	51	33	16	70	19	11
AstroTurf	51	28	23	75	16	9
3G	7	28	65	16	37	47

4.57 As presented in Table 4.11, 65% of respondents indicated a favourable response to the use of 3G surfaces for training but this falls to 47% in relation to matches⁽²⁵⁾. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁽²⁶⁾. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit however anecdotal evidence would suggest that grass surfaces are still in demand for midweek training. Most grass pitches are unsuited to training use in addition to competitive play as over-use will result in deterioration of the surface. A typical grass pitch has capacity for up to two matches weekly. The following three typical comments from survey returns reflect the general attitude to grass and 3G:-

- ❖ 'Prefer grass – 3G for winter and bad weather'
- ❖ 'We will play on anything'
- ❖ 'Prefer grass but if have to use 3G will do'

⁽²⁵⁾ In the same survey in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area (48 clubs) 97% of respondents indicated willingness to use 3G surfaces for training and 75% for matches.

⁽²⁶⁾ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

4.58 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Pre-Junior Male	14	1	7
Pre-Junior Female	6	0	2
Junior Male	11	2	5
Junior Female	6	0	0
Adult Male	15	5	12
Adult Female	7	0	0

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase.
- ❖ On balance, more clubs expect male membership to increase compared to female membership.
- ❖ Seven clubs expect adult female membership to increase – currently just three clubs have adult female teams.
- ❖ Clubs listed the following reasons as to why they expect their membership to increase:-

- *Club is better organised.*
- *Growing numbers, coaching education and having to find resources outside the local area (as provision is not sufficient currently).*
- *We plan to introduce a reserve side and a ladies side in the coming years.*
- *New Club Facilities and New Housing Facilities*
- *New junior team*
- *More young players coming through*
- *Club and Academy further developing its youth strategy and more children getting involved.*
- *Plans to expand the club to include an adult reserve team and also to start up youth football.*
- *Don't know at this stage what the future holds. It depends on adult help and availability.*
- *Club being better organised.*
- *We will continue to increase participation of females and disabled, but also try to make the sport more accessible for everyone. We are working hard to improve our training structure and coaching capacity.*

- *We have plans in the future to try and set up a youth team to get the young boys in the heights to keep active and play football for their local team. We want to continue attracting junior males to give us a future and progress as a club.*
- *Club is better organised, plan to develop the club more.*
- *Potentially for additional age groups if we can bring on more coaches.*
- *Better developed facilities*
- *Better organised*
- *More youth players are coming through and they need a well-run club like Portrush to support and help them play and enjoy football.*
- *Club is expected still to have two teams. May be a prospect of introducing a female team.*
- *Club facilities training and matches.*
- *Planned development of football club to strive to play at a higher standard.*
- *Re-organising and re-branding of club.*

4.59 Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are three main strands: *match pitch needs*; *training facility needs*; and *maintenance needs* - see Table 4.12 for the clubs making comments under these three strands. The comments are presented in full in Table 6.12 together with remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 4.12: Summary of emerging strands in relation to future plans and needs			
Club	Match Pitch	Training Facilities	Maintenance
Aghadowey	✓		✓
Ballybogey FC	✓		
Ballycastle FC	✓	✓	✓
Ballymoney Utd FC		✓	✓
Bertie Peacock's FC	✓		
Bushmills			✓
Cloughmills Thistle FC	✓		
Coleraine FC		✓	
Dervock FC			✓
Dunaghy FC			✓
Dungiven FC		✓	
Dunloy FC		✓	
Garvagh		✓	
Coleraine FC Academy		✓	
Heights FC		✓	✓

Kilrea FC		✓	
Limavady Ladies/Roe Girls WFC		✓	
Limavady Youth FC		✓	
Macosquin FC		✓	
Newtowne FC	✓		
North Coast FC	✓		
Portrush FC		✓	✓
Portstewart FC		✓	
Roe Valley FC		✓	
Tullans FC	✓		
West Bann Athletic FC			✓
Portrush Youth FC		✓	
Total Number	8	16	8

Comments

- ❖ 16 clubs made comments in relation to additional, better and cheaper training facilities. The clubs with a high number of youth teams feel constrained by lack of appropriate floodlit training pitches.
- ❖ 8 clubs made comments on match pitch development, 3 of these with aspirations for a match pitch more local to their membership base (Cloughmills Thistle FC; Bertie Peacock's Youth FC; and Ballybogey).
- ❖ 2 clubs made comment on the need for another Intermediate level match pitch in the Council area.
- ❖ 8 clubs made comment on pitch maintenance; the majority of these feel it could improve.

Table 4.13: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Aghadowey FC	As a club we have been looking at the availability of getting a pitch back in our townland of Aghadowey, we have a few places we could use but we aren't sure on what we would need to have in place to be able to use this at our home venue.	Changing and wash facilities are very good throughout all the local pitches, the grass pitches however that are outside of Coleraine town itself do not get the same maintenance and are at a poorer standard throughout the year.
Ballybogey FC	We have been trying for years to get a pitch in Ballybogey town.	Not too bad but things are going on between Council and teams which are completely illegal.

Ballycastle United Academy Football Club	We are currently growing exponentially in numbers of players. However, we cannot play home games next season for all the age 13+ teams and will need to disband some teams as a consequence. The problem is 2-fold; availability of the 2x grass pitches for so many teams and the availability of the pitches due to poor drainage.	
Ballymoney United Football Club + Academy	We would be keen to develop our own training facility although recognise the quality of provision at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	Facilities are of high standard, it would be great to have more access to stadium pitch and this be reflected in the price of hire. We are priced out of using facility and it is frustrating that local children do not get access to the pitch. Pitches are of a high standard but would benefit from being rolled occasionally. The grass training pitch was of poor quality this season but we know it was a temporary measure.
Balnamore FC		Balnamore FC are very happy with their local community pitch at Fulton park Balnamore.
Bertie Peacock's Youth FC	Would love our own pitch and club house	Pitches are very good at present bar the cost
Burnfoot Utd FC	Was to be 3G pitch and new changing rooms installed but it's gone quiet. No feedback at all now	
Bushmills United FC		We would welcome a maintenance programme. Also first home game in pitch last season not until 31st October due to unrepaired bonfire damage. This needs to be discussed with all parties asap.

Cloughmills Thistle FC	Looking for a local pitch - we have spoken to the Council a number of times over the last 10 years about developing a pitch in Cloughmills we used to have a section but found it too difficult to maintain as match and training facilities too distant - would like to develop the club for young girls and boys.	Really need a local facility for matches and training. The club has been going for 17 years - be good for the village - for the whole community - the club is well run and supported and desires to do more for the young in the village and for surrounding areas like Loughgiel and Glenravel.
Coleraine FC		Consideration of additional 3G floodlit facilities would assist with training facilities and no doubt would be utilised over the course of the year.
Dervock FC	Currently with only the one adult team, but with another reserve side starting next season. We did want to go to intermediate football but after the costly redevelopment the pitch was made too small.	All in all, many aspects are well carried out. Though things I think need looked are 1) maintenance 2) group booking system 3) pitches not being closed at 10am on a Friday morning.
Dunaghy FC		In my opinion, the facility's around at the moment are of a high standard better than they have ever been in my lifetime there is one issue with games being called off. Some have been called off needlessly but I realise whoever is doing so is acting in the best interests of the pitches going forward. ALSO A common question amongst the local football teams is the procedure by which pitches are closed I think everybody including myself feels that there should be a more transparent process in place. When is the pitch last inspected and by what time should a match

		be called off. It's a difficult one but one which keeps coming up.
Dungiven Celtic FC	Modern dressing room facility required at Ballyguddin for all our teams	There was no pitch availability in Dungiven, due to Council ineptitude, and nowhere to train locally. The club had to travel to Claudy to train and many of the home games were played in Limavady. Hopefully the new facility in Dungiven will be of help.
Dunloy FC	In the future, we would like to start a reserve team and possibly a junior team however our problem has always been the cost of training facilities. In the future, we would like to look into securing our own training facility.	Pitch provision in Causeway Coast & Glens Council is and has always been first class. The pitch in Dunloy is one of the best around.
Garvagh FC	We would like to start a reserves side but the all round cost of playing a home match is too much with it being over a 100 pound every home match	
Harry Gregg Foundation - Coleraine FC Academy	We really need floodlight facilities for training and preferable of a multi-use surface. As we continue to grow our numbers both within the Academy and the teams we attract to the SSGC we will need additional training and match facilities. Only our 11 aside teams use the changing facilities but they need to be secure and maintained as we are inviting teams from across the whole of Northern Ireland. It would also be worth considering having facilities for tea, coffee particularly for visiting teams who make have travelled quite a distance.	We really need additional floodlight facilities, as the number of children joining our club continues to grow on a weekly basis and we are hindered in the time we have to train these kids. As the largest provider of football in the CC&G area both to our own members and other club through our league and SSGC our allocation of facilities particularly by CC&G is nowhere near sufficient. It should also be noted

that our senior club Coleraine FC also need to make use of the University 3G and grass pitches for training over the winter. None of the responses above include the facilities required for our two disability squads who need to use an indoor facility are currently training in Ulster University sports hall once a week, one of our teams travels to Belfast once a month to participate in an IFA run tournament. We also run a weekly soccer school for kids of primary school age, boys and girls for approx. 20 weeks per year with currently in the region of 80 children attending each week.

Heights FC

Currently we are the only junior football club in Coleraine, we aim to be the best junior team in the north west within the next season and push on from there. We are attracting young players from all over the town working closely with Bertie Peacocks. Our membership is well up and the support for the club is increasing. Our changing facilities are great at the Rope Walk, we have a great relationship with the caretaker, Bryce. He helps us out as much as he can. The condition of the pitch at the Rope Walk has rapidly deteriorated the last couple of seasons, long grass, lines not marked and pitch not being rolled. We have been very disappointed in this and have already expressed our concerns with the Council. In the clubs opinion, the Rope Walk used to be the best pitch in the Coleraine area, it is far from that now.

We are currently looking into setting up a team but the pitch facilities in the area aren't bought up to fulfil its potential. We have a grass area around the pitch doing nothing which we feel could be turned into a decent training area if put to use with some lighting. Our changing facilities are first class

We feel the Council needs to set up a better maintenance programme for all of the pitches in the area.

Kilrea United FC	New goalposts is a must. More care taken of the pitch i.e. Grass cut a lot more often - To develop our club I believe we need better training facilities i.e. 3G training pitch located in Kilrea to suit 20 players. For training we have to travel 20 miles as the facilities in Kilrea are not big enough to accommodate our team. New goal posts are needed, badly run down. dugouts are not up to scratch. Opposition avoids them.	When our pitch is freshly cut and marked out it is one of the best in the league, but it is maintaining it is the problem. Also there is a lot of overgrown waste ground surrounding the pitch which results in a lot of lost footballs.
Limavady Ladies/Roe Valley Girls WFC	The clubs home pitch would need levelled and drained as there's an area starting to sink. The club would like new changing facilities and club house. This will be difficult as most of the clubs income goes to facility hire for training during the season.	No provision for dug outs at the various pitches in the town other than the grass pitch on Scroggy road. Very different to the number provided at other venues such as roads centre pitches which have dug outs at all pitches. Shared shower facilities not really appropriate at Roe Mill Road pitches if the facility is hired by a male and female team on the one night. Standard of small sided goals and quantity of need looked at for 3G. Some are damaged. Portable goals with wheels would be more appropriate and easier moved which may reduce damage.
Limavady Youth FC		The pitches are of a good standard in Limavady the only down side there is not enough pitches and training facilities for all the teams. There is only 1 flood lit training facility.

Macosquin FC	Primary school use pitch - help coach at school, floodlights are expected to be installed on pitch in time for use next season	Feel maintenance good pitch good - changing facility is very poor - it's just a portacabin. There is an expectation that floodlights will be installed in time for training next season. We currently train at the university but would prefer to train more locally.
Newtowne FC	Would like Scroggy upgraded so we can move up a level if possible	Newtowne FC are delighted with facilities for matches and training at affordable rates.
North Coast Utd FC	Want to keep 2 teams we started 2 to 3 years ago - getting committee help and set up	Feel that since we are a new club we are allocated the poorest pitch. Pitch 2 is very poor at Rugby Avenue - too much moss on it making it very slippery in wet weather.
Portrush FC	We are currently in discussions with the Council with regards the Parker Avenue facility and the possibility of a 3G pitch either at Parker Avenue or at some other location in Portrush. This survey is based on the 3 senior teams at Portrush. Portrush also have a set-up that currently has 9 teams ranging from 8 - 14 years of age. They are also based at Parker Avenue, Portrush	Pitches in general are good but certain pitches are covered in moss and can and will cause injury to players. Parking and facilities are generally good clean and tidy. Quality of pitch maintenance has decreased since Council's merged - Groundsman 'Danny' was great but he has now moved to Refuse collection. Council I think does pitch inspection on Thursday and may decide then that pitch will be unplayable on Saturday - we feel this is too early - we would like pitch inspection late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. (Ken Fallis)

Portstewart Football & Community Club	We have an area of ground to the rear of the clubhouse which we would wish to use for a training area of a size suitable to meet junior size football requirements suitable for Primary School use. Council had already been approached for assistance and although initially interested have not followed through. The facility would be available for use to other clubs thus easing the burden for provision of training facilities in the area and also provide a community facility for use of local primary schools to play on a pitch suitable for their age group.	1. Provision of a 3G/4G pitch in Portstewart would be highly beneficial. Likely location would be at the Warren. 2. A training pitch at Mullaghacall would be desirable. 3. Additional pitches are required in Portstewart - particularly as the Warren is closed for too long a period before and after the SuperCup NI.
Roe Valley FC	We as a club have 10 teams from youth boys and girls teams plus adult male and female teams. We are looking for any help we can get to keep our pitch and facilities up to date so all can keep playing and enjoy playing their football	I think all teams should be able to play on Council pitches - more consultation needed with clubs
Stranocum Youths FC		We are very happy with the Causeway Coast and Glenn's Council
Tullans FC	Fenced off playing surface (required for Intermediate Football) Floodlights (required to re-start Tullans Football)	Pitch provision is good. Pitches are good and standard of surface is also good.
West Bann Athletic FC		Provision for our league is good. Maintenance of pitches regards cutting of grass around goal posts and filling in of holes created through use between games needs to be better. Dog foul and glass to a lesser extent are found on pitches regularly.

Portrush Youth FC	We should have 3 extra teams next season this will bring us up to 12 teams, we use the grass area at the side of the main pitch at Parker Avenue for all age groups to train on, plus our two senior teams use the same area. Due to the large amount of use in this one area we have had to call off numerous training nights due to the state of the training surface. We have been asking Council for a number of years for an appropriate surface i.e. 3G as we feel things for us are going to get worse in the future.	We currently play our home games at Seaview Park in Portrush a pitch that is owned by Royal Portrush GC, we have to ask volunteers to cut and maintain this area. We cannot train at this facility as it has no lighting. As I mentioned before we are in desperate need of a 3G type facility as we are now starting to lose kids because we are constantly postponing training in the winter due to the state of the training area. We have tried to book rugby Ave for some age groups but we can never get a slot.

Community Impact – Summary Points

4.60 Association football relies on the Council's provision of pitches and changing accommodation for matches and training to a much greater extent than the other 'large ball' sports. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Small Sided Games (SSG)	0 pitches	Even
Youth football	-3 pitches	Shortfall
Adult football – Saturday morning	+37 pitches	Good supply
Adult football – Saturday afternoon	+15 pitches	Good supply

The results indicate that pitches for SSG just meet demand whilst there is a shortfall in pitches for youth association football. On the adult side there is a good level of supply against demand across the Borough. The picture is of course impacted by a number of variables including pitch condition, cancellations and changing accommodation being available.

- ❖ Two thirds of the local clubs are prepared to accept 3G for training purposes with the remaining clubs mostly taking a neutral position. With regard to matches, 84% of clubs are either supportive of or neutral to the use of 3G surfaces for matches. This result helps to inform the strategic development of pitches for association football in the Causeway Coast and Glens area and whether synthetic surfaces are the future.
- ❖ There is a perception amongst clubs that pitch maintenance is an issue; nearly a third of clubs rated maintenance of their home pitch as 'poor' although other clubs comment that facilities are 'better than they have been.' Poor condition is also linked to over-use; 3G surfaces can help to reduce the use of natural grass surfaces whilst also creating additional playing capacity, so supporting projected increases in participation.
- ❖ Thinking about membership in the future, the clubs mostly aspire to membership growth although a significant number of clubs reckon their membership will fall in the coming years. Across the 46 clubs there is a total of 211 teams involving 4,096 players of which two thirds are SSG and youth players. At nearly 90% of total membership, the gender balance is heavily weighted towards males, suggesting that future facility developments should consider female needs especially in relation to changing accommodation.
- ❖ In terms of future needs the clubs emphasise the need for *training facilities*, reflecting on the need for 'more, better and cheaper' facilities that are floodlit. Whilst there are 92 pitches suitable for competition at some level across the Borough (all ownerships) there are 29 pitches suitable for training (all ownerships), the latter including 12 synthetic surfaces. It's clear that grass surfaces are used in some areas for training, however this is likely to exacerbate maintenance issues and general playability of a pitch.

Operational Costs

- 4.61** Sports pitches are expensive to operate – surface and site maintenance, changing accommodation, maintenance, floodlighting and other utilities. Generally income does not cover expenditure for grass pitches whilst synthetic pitches can potentially cover expenditure. Typical operational costs⁽²⁷⁾ for maintenance of grass, 3G and AstroTurf pitches are as follows:-

⁽²⁷⁾ Obtained from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Grass Pitch

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Grass cutting	26	112	2,912
Line marking	30	56	1,680
Vertidrain	2	170	340
Top dress	1	700	700
Under seed	1	375	375
Weed spray	1	175	175
Re-turf goal mouths	1	600	600
			£6,782

By way of income the grass pitch at Balnamore had 28 bookings in the 2016/17 season, bringing in a gross income of £985, suggesting an operational subsidy of £5,797.

AstroTurf

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Brush / clean	26	112	2,912
			£2,912

In 2016/17 the AstroTurf pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre brought in a gross income of £19,124. Whilst this suggests a significant surplus, the cost of electricity (floodlighting) is estimated to be in the region of £8,000 - £12,000. Additional costs such as sand rejuvenation will also be incurred.

3G

Item	Frequency per year	Cost per event £	Total £
Brush / clean	52	112	5,824
Deep clean	2	600	1,200
Crumb rejuvenation	2	600	1,200
			£8,224

The income potential of a 3G pitch will generally result in a surplus of income over expenditure; a floodlit 3G pitch in a local school attracted a gross income of £19,860 from community use in 2016/17.

4.62 As the Council considers the strategic development of its stock of pitches it's clear that synthetic surfaces are economically more advantageous given their income potential and that they can be used for training and matches. The opportunity is for the Council to encourage and facilitate the move towards the use of 3G surfaces to realise two key benefits:-

- ❖ 3G facilities introduce the potential for increased usage/bookings. Whilst increased usage will naturally increase income, it presents an opportunity to review the cost to the customer which in itself will encourage increased usage. Typically, 3G facilities will have a surplus of income over expenditure.
- ❖ In reducing the use/over-use of grass pitches the cost of maintaining the Council's stock will reduce and the quality of grass pitches is likely to improve. Linked to this is the fact that 3G surfaces provide a much more consistent quality of playing experience.

Whilst a small percentage of clubs (16%) are uncertain about using 3G facilities for matches, with a number of Premiership clubs (eg, Crusaders and Cliftonville) having embraced 3G, this uncertainty is likely to reduce further in time. It must be noted that the synthetic carpet on 3G pitches needs to be placed periodically, usually somewhere between 10 and 15 years depending on maintenance regimes, at a cost of around £100k - £150k.

Strategic Recommendations – Association Football

Item No	Description
1.	Develop additional floodlit 3G provision where need is evidenced.
2.	Ensure existing Council facilities for association football in the Limavady area are used to their full potential; consider the potential to increase the quality, capacity and flexibility of the facilities at Scroggy Road and Roe Mill Playing Fields.
3.	Consider existing pitches across the Borough that have playability issues for remedial work to the playing surface and/or changing accommodation.
4.	Extend the existing changing accommodation at Riada Playing Fields.

5.	Consider the potential to improve grass pitches in line with evolving grass pitch technologies, such as <i>sand fibre natural grass</i> .
6.	Implement an appropriate Pitch Usage Policy and maintenance programme.

5. Gaelic Games

Introduction

5.1 This section presents consultation with the Ulster Council GAA followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for gaelic games pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership, using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are 28 gaelic games clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Ulster Council GAA
- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Ulster Council GAA

- 5.2** Gaelic games in Ulster has around 5,700 teams and about 95,000 members (not including Under 12's). In the Causeway Coast and Glens area there are 28 gaelic games clubs with 6,470 playing members, an average of 231 playing members per club. The Ulster GAA Council reckons membership across all clubs in Ulster has increased by about 5% from 2000 to today.
- 5.3** The Ulster GAA Council regards 3G pitches as better value than grass pitches given their enhanced carrying capacity, reckoning a grass sand carpet pitch will take around 360 hours usage annually⁽²⁸⁾ for gaelic games whereas a 3G pitch will take around 1,500 hours usage annually. The specification of a 3G pitch for rugby and gaelic games in terms of length of pile and impact/rebound tolerance is similar.
- 5.4** The Ulster GAA Council is prepared to share facilities with other sports and notes the development of multi-sports 3G facilities at, for example, Crumlin, Newtownabbey and Limavady. As the sport's governing body, it recognises 3G surfaces for training and competition (the 3G pitch at Queen's University Playing Fields is cited as a good

⁽²⁸⁾ The carrying capacity of a natural grass pitch is dependent on the operator's policy, specification, maintenance regime, recovery period, season of use and weather, ranging from as low as 100 hours up to 360 hours in a season.

example of a multi-sports surface that is specified to the satisfaction of gaelic games and rugby).

- 5.5** The Ulster GAA Council places great importance on its Fundamentals programme, promoting agility, balance and co-ordination (ABC) to Key Stage 1 children (4yrs – 8yrs). The programme engages children in generic skills rather than gaelic-specific skills, recognising that it's more beneficial to teach movement rather than sport to this age group. The Fundamentals programme incorporates health and wellness teaching and aspects of the education curriculum. Around 20,000 children across Ulster are engaged in the Fundamentals programme.

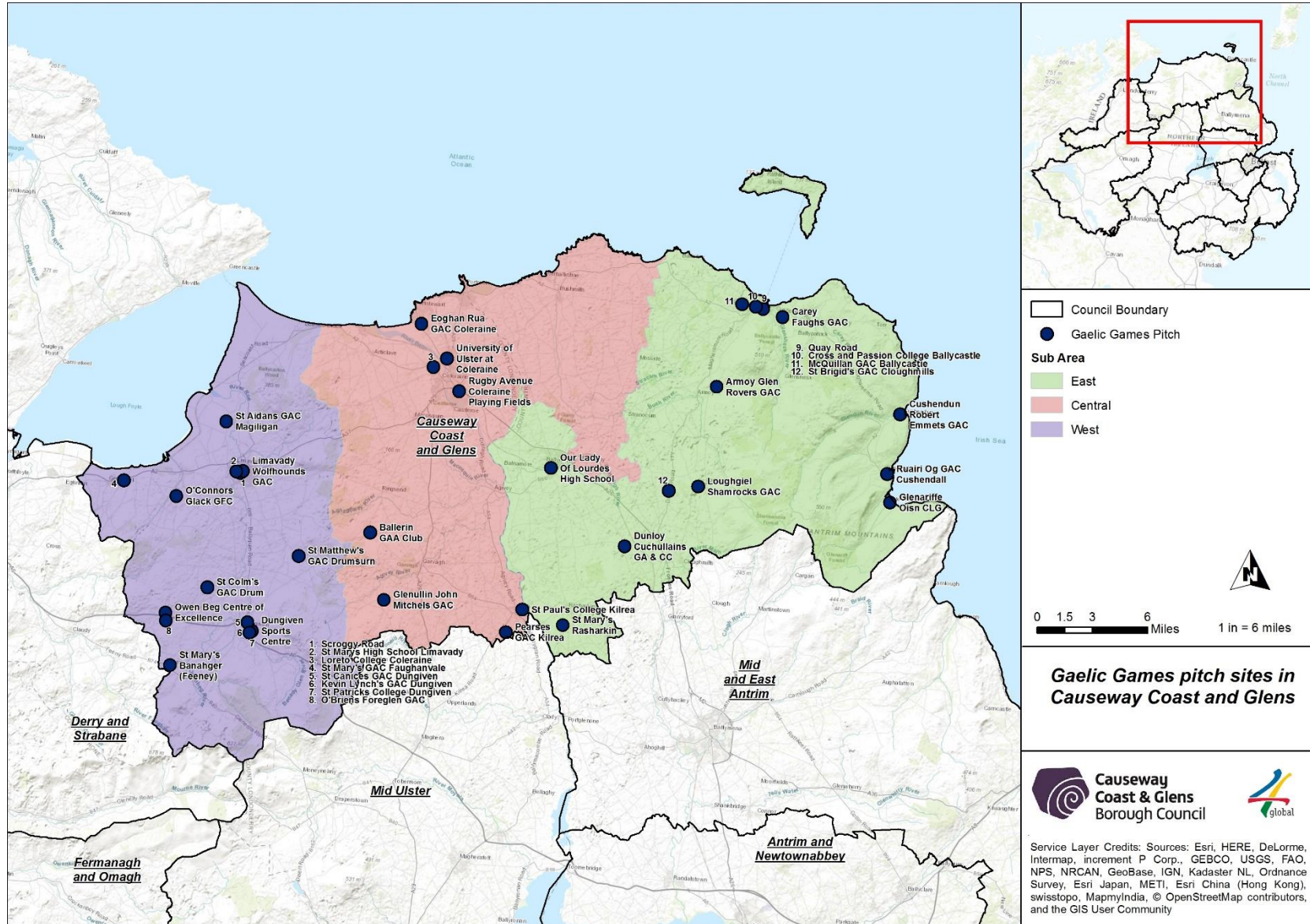
Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

- 5.6** Gaelic games are traditionally played on a grass pitch which at full regulation size is 145m x 90m. With recent developments in artificial turf pitch (ATP) technology synthetic pitches suited to gaelic games are beginning to appear although ATP's are more suited to football than to hurling or camogie. The majority of gaelic clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, however due to the large numbers of teams per club they often make use of community and Council pitch facilities both for training and occasionally for competitive matches. The inventory of gaelic pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 5.1. Three different types of pitch 'ownership' for gaelic games is recorded:-

- ❖ **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- ❖ **Club owned/leased**– pitches owned and maintained by a club.

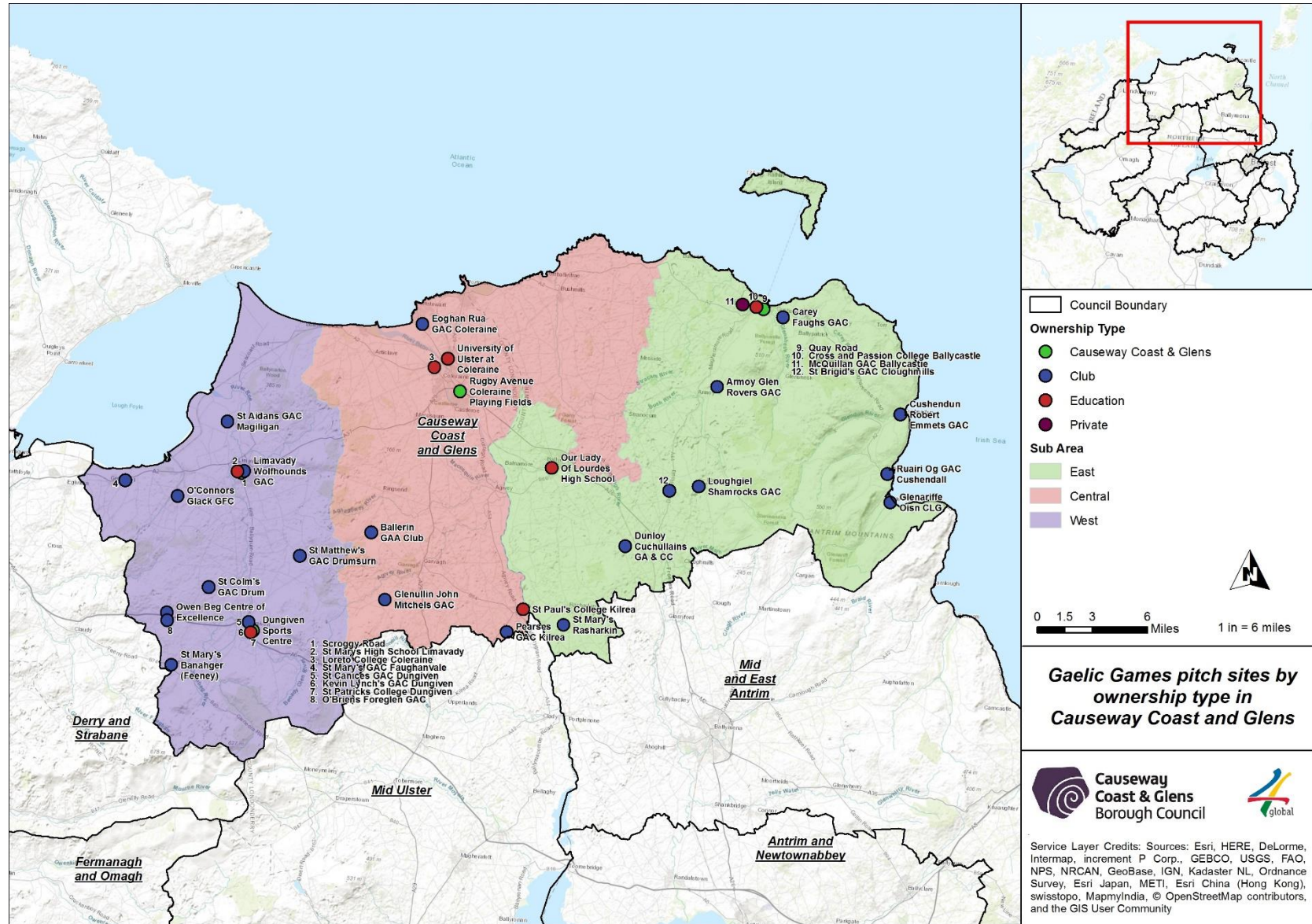
- 5.7** Table 5.1 presents a detailed inventory of gaelic games pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type*, *number*, *quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, ownership, quality⁽²⁹⁾, quantity and type respectively. Three pitch categories are noted:-

⁽²⁹⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.

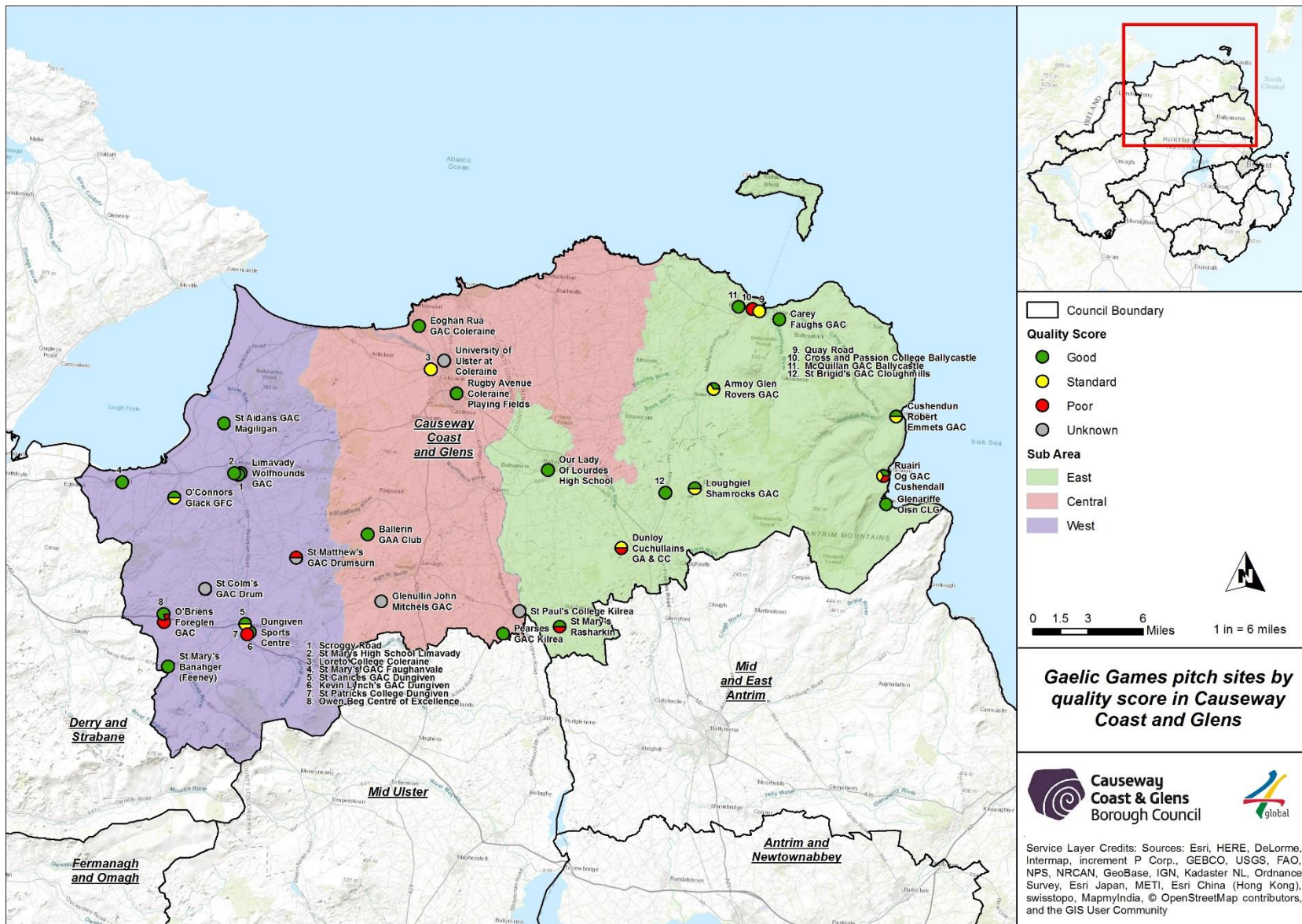


Map 5.1 Location – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

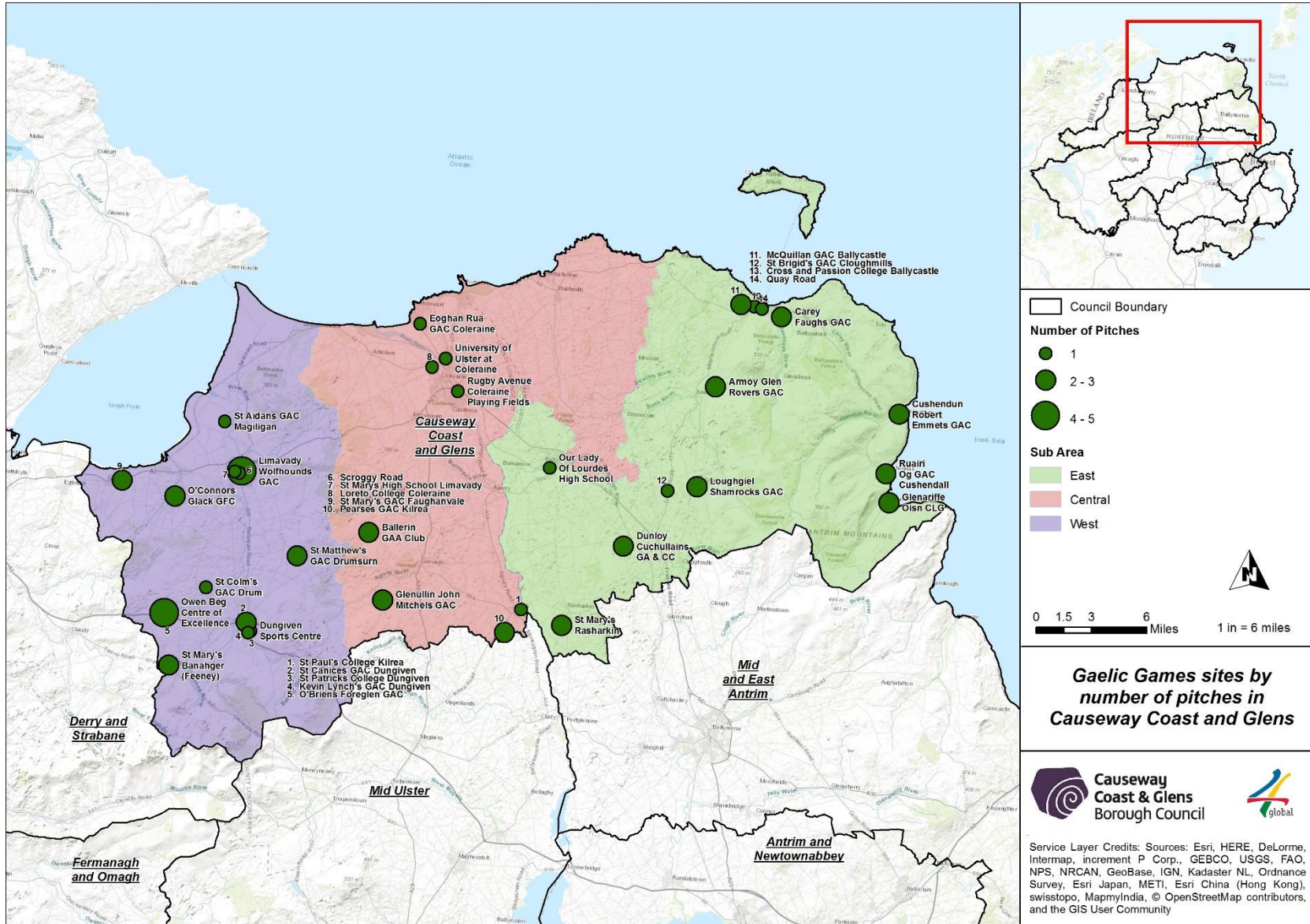
GAEIC GAMES



Map 5.2 Ownership – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

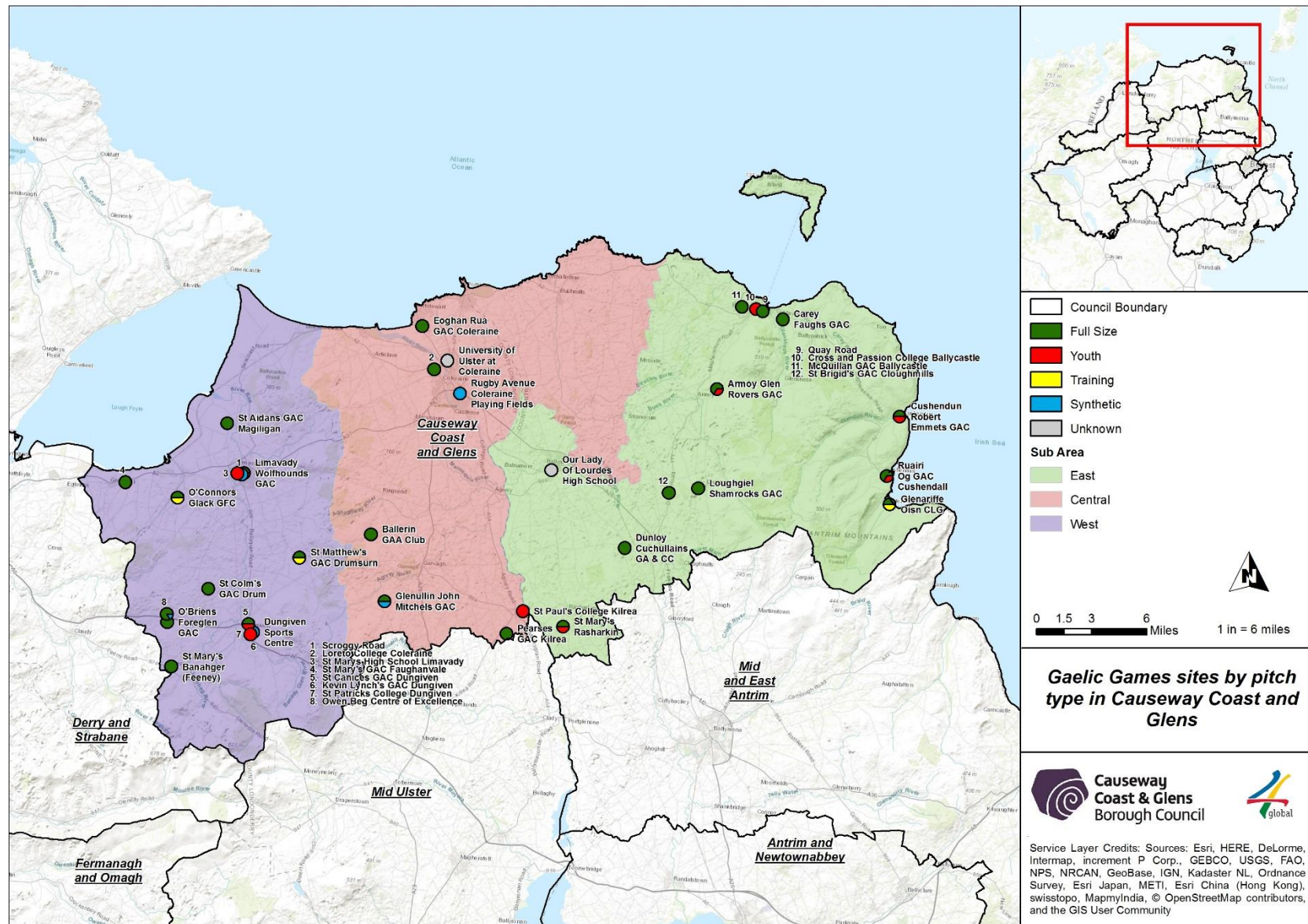


Map 5.3 Quality – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites



Map 5.4 Number of Pitches – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

GAELIC GAMES



Map 5.5 Type – Gaelic Games Pitch Sites

- ❖ **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- ❖ **Youth** – pitches used for youth only matches and training of all ages.
- ❖ **Training** – pitches that can only be used for training and do not have goalposts and are not used for matches.

Table 5.1: Gaelic Games – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

<u>Clubs and Derry County Board</u>				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Ballerin GAC	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Large club with over 30 teams – the club is keen to provide indoor 3G facilities for all year round club and community activities.
Carey Faughs GAC	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	2 x Good	The club have aspirations to develop their site with lighting, outdoor gym, trim trail etc for use by wider community.
Cushendun Robert Emmets GAC	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Pitches are leased from National Trust on a 25 year lease. Pitches are unplayable during winter.
Dunloy Cuchullains GA & CC	East	2 x Full Grass	1 x Standard 1 x Poor	Large club in need of a third match/training pitch. The club has an indoor 3G hall and gym used extensively by the wider community.
Armoy Glen Rovers GAC	East	2 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good 2 x Standard	Well appointed facility – club notes the need for additional changing accommodation.
Glenullin John Mitchel's GAC	Central	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth 3G	2 x Unknown	The 3G pitch used extensively by all sports and wider community – reports an upgrade to changing accommodation needed and extra storage.
Kevin Lynch's GAC Dungiven	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Large club with just one pitch – feels very constrained by the lack of grass match and training facilities in Dungiven.
Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	West	2 x Full Grass 2 x Youth Grass	4 x Good	One full pitch and the two youth pitches are on a 5-year lease from the Parish. Club has bought

				land to develop pitches when lease is finished.
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	East	2 x Full Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	Large club - looking to develop a third pitch to accommodate growing juvenile section.
McQuillan GAC Ballycastle	East	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	High standard facility – club notes need for additional training facilities for the club and Ballycastle town.
O'Connor's Glack GAC	West	1 x Full 1 x Training	1 x Standard 1 x Good	Needs some work carried out to pitch fencing as part of the club's 4-year plan.
Glenariffe Oisn GAC	East	1 x Full 1 x Training	2 x Good	Changing accommodation is fairly basic – due to be replaced with a Community Centre.
Owen Beg Centre of Excellence	West	5 x Full Grass 1 x Full 3G	5 x Good 1 x Poor	Pitches reserved mainly for use by County teams youth and adult, male and female. The pitches are generally not available for club use.
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Large club struggling to cope with demand from all teams with just one pitch – match pitch is over-used. The club feels access to more training facilities is critical for club sustainability and growth.
Pearses GAC Kilrea	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Provide for disability games – would like to improve disability access to clubhouse and car park.
Ruairi Og GAC Cushendall	East	2 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard 1 x Poor	Large club in the Glens – no local training facilities in winter.
St Aidan's GAC Magilligan	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Keen to install floodlights both for games and walking around the pitch site for fitness.
St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Very poor changing accommodation.
St Canice's GAC Dungiven	West	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good 1 x Standard	The youth pitch is leased from the Council and is floodlit – used extensively by many local clubs for winter training – difficult to maintain pitch quality due to

GAEILIC GAMES

				overuse. Main pitch has drainage issues.
St Colm's, Drum	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Keen to develop a grass training pitch – struggles to field all teams with just one pitch.
St Mary's Banagher Feeny	West	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	
St Mary's GAC Faughanvale	West	2 x Full Grass	2 x Good	Changing accommodation in need of upgrade – use the Vale Centre for larger club functions.
St Mary's GAC Rasharkin	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good 1 x Poor	Changing accommodation and clubhouse basic and in need of upgrade – youth pitch prone to drainage problems in wet weather.
St Matthew's GAC Drumsurn	West	1 x Full Grass 1 x Training	1 x Poor 1 x Unknown	Recently purchased land to develop second full pitch - funding not confirmed.
O'Brien's Foreglen GAC	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Poor	Keen to add floodlights and develop trim trail for club and community use. Notes the need for training pitch.
Totals 39 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches 8 x Youth Grass Gaelic Pitches 3 x Training Pitches 1 x Full 3G Pitch 1 x Youth 3G Pitch				
<u>Council</u>				
Dungiven Sports Centre	West	1 x Youth 3G	1 x Good	Recently opened – used by local youth hurling, camogie and gaelic football teams
Quay Road	East	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Used extensively by Ballycastle Camogie Club
Scroggy Road Limavady	West	1 x Full 3G	1 x Good	Multi-sports size pitch suitable for gaelic, association football and rugby
Totals 1 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitch 1 x Full 3G Multi-Sports Gaelic Pitch 1 x Youth 3G Multi-Sports Pitch				

Education				
Pitch Site	Area	Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Cross and Passion College Ballycastle	East	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Poor	New school site to be formed with Cross and Passion and Ballycastle Integrated – at Economic Appraisal stage.
Loreto College, Coleraine	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Standard	Not currently used by community teams
Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good	Used by Ballymoney Utd Youth for training
St Marys High School Limavady	West	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	1 x Good	Has a Community Use Policy, used by Limavady Wolfhounds GAC and Eoghan Rua GAC
St Patricks College, Dungiven	West	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Poor	School describes the pitch condition as ‘terrible’ and can’t be used in winter. Used by Dungiven hurling and camogie teams for some training in better weather – no access to changing and toilets outside school hours
St Paul's College, Kilrea	Central	1 x Youth Grass	1 x Unknown	Community use not known
Ulster University Coleraine Campus	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x unknown	Used by Eoghan Rua GAC for training
Totals 3 x Full Grass Gaelic Pitches 5 x Youth Gaelic Pitches				

5.8 The majority of gaelic training takes place at the clubs’ own facility – clubs with a large number of youth teams have to make use of other facilities for training. Training facilities in *addition* to those presented in Table 5.1 are:-

Table 5.2: Gaelic Games – Inventory of training facilities in addition to those in Table 5.1			
Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Remarks
Gaelscoil Neachtain, Dungiven	West	1 x training tarmac	Tarmac playground used by St Patrick’s Camogie Club
Quay Road AstroTurf Council Pitch	East	1 x Full AstroTurf	Ballycastle Camogie and Hurling teams

St Malachys Primary School, Coleraine	Central	1 x Youth Grass	Eoghan Rua GAC - some under-age training
Totals 1 x Full AstroTurf 1 x Youth Grass 1 x Tarmac Playground			

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 5.9** Unlike association football, gaelic clubs typically train and play matches on the same pitch; often a pitch is used every evening of the week and during the weekend. A summary and breakdown of current gaelic pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Here all matches and the majority of training takes place on club owned sites.

Gaelic Games Pitches used for matches and training				
Ownership	Grass Full	3G Full/Youth	Youth Grass	Training (grass AstroTurf, tarmac)
Clubs/County Board	39	1 x youth 1 x full	9	3 x training
Education	3	0	5	1 x Tarmac Playground
CC&G	1	1 x Full 1 x Youth	0	1 x AstroTurf
Leased from CC&G	0	0	1	0
Total	43	4	15	5

Summary of Quality of Pitches

- 5.10** A summary and breakdown of current full and youth match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Gaelic Pitches (Grass and 3G)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs/Community	33	9	6	3	51
Education	3	1	2	2	8
CC&G	2	1	0	0	3
Total	38	11	8	5	62

Comments

- ❖ Over half of the pitches are rated as 'Good' i.e. 33 out of 62 pitches.
- ❖ Seven pitches are rated as 'Poor'; 5 of these are in club/community ownership, 3 of these are full size pitches at the following clubs: Dunloy Cuchullains GA & CC, St Matthew's GAC Drumsurn, O'Brien's Foreglen GAC – all three rate their pitches poor due to drainage problems.
- ❖ Of the 11 'unknowns' quality 5 are at Owen Beg Centre of Excellence for which information was not available.

Clubs, Teams and Players

5.11 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There is a total of 28 recognised gaelic games clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area providing a mix of gaelic football (male), hurling (male), ladies football (female) and camogie (female). Although the four sports do not share the same governing body they do share pitch and club facilities either as a totally integrated club in terms of finance and administration or having a working partnership in place between the sports. Twenty four of the clubs own their premises, a further one club is an amalgamated youth club drawing members from four adult clubs. An additional three women's clubs again do not own premises but use male club facilities. For the purposes of this audit it was deemed important to account for every club, obtaining completed questionnaires where possible to produce an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations.

5.12 Information from the Council along with desktop research identified a total of 28 clubs satisfying at least one of the following three criteria:-

- i. Home match pitch is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- ii. Use pitches within Causeway Coast and Glens area for training.
- iii. Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

All 28 gaelic games clubs completed the online questionnaire giving a completion rate of 100%.

5.13 The 28 clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of male and female teams across three age categories.

Table 5.3: Gaelic Clubs Team Profile

Club	Go Games (U7 to U10)		Youth (U11 to U18)		Adult		Total No of Teams
	Male	Female	Boys	Girls	Male	Female	All
Ballerin GAC	11	5	8	8	2	2	36
Ballycastle Camogie Club	0	6	0	4	0	2	12
Carey Faughs GAC	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Cuchullains Dunloy GA&CC	4	2	8	4	6	2	26
Kevin Lynch Hurling GAC	15	0	6	0	3	0	24
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	6	4	8	8	5	3	34
Glen Rovers GAC	2	0	3	0	2	1	8
Glenariffe Oisin GAC	0	0	2	0	2	1	5
Glenullin GAC	5	5	6	5	2	1	24
Pearses Kilrea GAC	3	3	4	4	2	1	17
Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	5	5	4	4	2	1	21
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	3	3	4	4	4	3	21
McQuillan GAC Ballycastle	4	0	8	0	4	0	16
Naomh Pdraig GAC	3	0	3	0	1	0	7
O Connors Glack GAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
O'Brien's Foreglen GAC	4	0	5	0	3	0	12
Robert Emmets Cushendun GAC	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Ruairi Og CLG	3	3	4	3	3	1	17
St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
St Canice's Ladies GAC Dungiven	0	3	0	4	0	0	7
St Colm's Drum GAC	4	4	1	1	2	1	13
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	4	0	4	1	1	1	11
St Marys GAA Banagher	6	4	4	4	4	1	23
St Mary's Rasharkin GAC	6	3	7	5	4	1	26
St Mathew's GAC	2	2	4	4	2	1	15
St Patrick's Camogie Club, Dungiven	0	4	0	3	0	1	8
St. Aydan's GAC Magilligan	4	0	8	0	2	0	14
St. Canice's GAC Dungiven	21	0	7	0	4	0	32
Totals	115	56	108	66	66	24	435

5.14 There is a total of 435 gaelic games teams across the Council area. Typically, clubs will cater for all age groups from U7 to adult, both male and female teams. Player movement between clubs is kept to a minimum as members tend to play for the same club throughout their lifetime, only moving club if they move place of residence. The average number of teams per club is 15. There is a high female participation rate in gaelic games compared to other field sports such as association football, rugby and cricket. In common with most other field sports gaelic games provides for small sided games through the Go Games initiative. Here, matches are played on varying pitch sizes and with varying team numbers depending on age group (U6, U8 and U10). Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the addition of portable goal posts and cones. Go Game 'Blitzes' (tournaments) rotate around host clubs – on average a club hosts one or two Go Game Blitzes each month.

5.15 The profile of teams and player numbers in the 28 identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 5.4: Gaelic Games Clubs – Profile of Membership and Teams based in CC&G

	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	1315	945	2260
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	1400	596	1996
Adult	1528	686	2214
Total Players	4,243	2,227	6,470
<u>Teams</u>			
Go Games (U7 to U10)	115	56	171
Youth (U11 to U18)	108	66	174
Adult	66	24	90
Total Teams	289	146	435

Adequacy of Provision

5.16 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

5.17 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for gaelic games pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of gaelic games it is assumed that all adult, youth and Go Games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used in the delivery of competitive games.

5.18 It is noted that the same stock of pitches is used both for matches and training. Training needs are accommodated in the model using 'Team Equivalents'. Here information on the number of teams, age group of teams and number of training times a week is used to calculate Team Equivalents. The following assumptions based on the club survey are made in regard to training:-

- ❖ 8 Go Game teams can train on an adult pitch at the same time
- ❖ Go Game teams train once a week
- ❖ Two youth teams train at the same time and on average train twice a week
- ❖ Adult teams require one full pitch for training and train on average 1.5 times a week.

So, for example, from the club survey there is a total of 174 Go Game teams – on average one full size adult pitch could accommodate 8 Go Game teams per training session, therefore a total of 22 pitches is required.

Reference	Description	No. of full size grass and 3G pitches	No. of Youth grass and 3G pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	44	15
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	36	10
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	1	1

5.19 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass pitches have been excluded for the reasons listed below:-

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	3	Generally not available for matches
Owen Beg Centre of Excellence	4	Not available for club games – reserved for County teams
Total	7	

5.20 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and small sided games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
	Full Grass + 3G	Youth Grass + 3G	Full Grass + 3G	Youth Grass + 3G	Full Grass + 3G	Youth Grass + 3G
Club and Community	39	9	34	9	0	0
University	1	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary	2	5	0	0	0	0
CC&G	2	1	2	1	1	1
Totals	44	15	36	10	1	1

Comments

- ❖ Youth, adult and Go Game matches are played on full size pitches.

- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude three education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude four pitches at Owen Beg Centre of Excellence on the basis that community use is generally not available.

Scenario 1

5.21 The picture of *gaelic total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 5.5: Gaelic Games – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

	Matches		Training	Comments
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Results	
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Go Games (U6 to U10)	171	22 ⁽³⁰⁾	Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	174	174 ⁽³¹⁾	
	Adult	90	180 ⁽³²⁾	
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	0.5	1.0	Based on a home game/blitz every other week Based on training every week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	1.0	
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	86	22	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up. NB – total youth and adult team equivalents for training is 174 + 180 = 354
	Youth (U13 to U16)	87	174	
	Adult	45	180	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training	Go Games (U6 to U10) – Sun AM	100%	NA	This is the demand given the % of matches ⁽³³⁾ and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training takes place across the week – e.g. 23% of Youth games and 12% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 20% of all teams training takes place on Wednesday PM.
	Youth / Adult – Monday PM	23% / 12%	13%	
	Youth / Adult – Tuesday PM	10% / 11%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Wednesday PM	14% / 21%	20%	
	Youth / Adult – Thursday PM	9% / 8%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Friday PM	20% / 10%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday AM	17% / 2%	6%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday PM	8% / 0%	1%	
	Youth / Adult – Sunday PM	0% / 33%	12%	
	Go Games Sun AM (U6 to U10)	5	N/A	

⁽³⁰⁾ 8 teams per pitch once a week

⁽³¹⁾ 2 youth teams per pitch twice a week

⁽³²⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average 1.5 times a week

⁽³³⁾ Matches are assumed to require a 2-hour slot, training is assumed to require a 1-hour slot

5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth + Adult Total - Mon PM	$20 + 5 = 25$	46	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity is 16 teams ⁽³⁴⁾ for Go Games per week Capacity for full size grass pitch is 4 games a week Training capacity is 16 x 1-hour training slots ⁽³⁵⁾ It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each week day evening and weekend mornings and afternoons.
	Youth + Adult Total - Tues PM	$9 + 5 = 14$	57	
	Youth + Adult Total - Wed PM	$12 + 9 = 21$	71	
	Youth + Adult Total - Thurs PM	$8 + 3 = 11$	57	
	Youth + Adult Total - Fri PM	$17 + 5 = 22$	57	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat AM	$15 + 2 = 17$	21	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat PM	$7 + 0 = 7$	3	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sun PM	$0 + 15 = 15$	42	
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	$132 / 4 = 33$ pitches	$354/16 = 23$ pitches	
	Number of total weekly pitches needed is	$33 + 23 = 56$		
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Game Youth and Adult	44 adult + 15 youth = 59 pitches		All full and youth grass pitches in all ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽³⁶⁾	Go Game - matches	$59 - 5 = +53$ pitches		Supply is meeting demand
	Youth and adult matches and training	$59 - 56 = +3$ pitches		Supply is meeting demand

5.22 The results for Scenario 1 where all pitches are available including those under education ownership, shows good level of supply for Go Game matches but supply is just meeting demand with a surplus of three pitches when considering youth and adult match and training needs.

Scenario 2

5.23 The picture for Scenario 2 for gaelic games in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where post primary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for club matches. Also excluded are the four pitches at Owen Beg Centre of Excellence as they are generally not available to clubs so reducing the total available to 36 adult and 10 youth pitches:-

⁽³⁴⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 2-hour blitz on Sunday morning capacity is $2 \times 8 = 16$ teams.

⁽³⁵⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

⁽³⁶⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Table 5.6: Gaelic Games – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Only Community Pitches

	Matches		Training	Comments
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Results	<i>Gaelic pitches are used for both training and matches</i>
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents (training)	Go Games (U6 to U10)	171	22 ⁽³⁷⁾	Complete picture of teams and team equivalents from survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	174	174 ⁽³⁸⁾	
	Adult	90	180 ⁽³⁹⁾	
2. Calculating home games and training ratio per team per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	0.5	1.0	Based on a home game/blitz every other week Based on training every week
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	1.0	
	Adult	0.5	1.0	
3. Assessing total home games and 1-hour training slots per week	Go Games (U6 to U10)	86	22	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U16)	87	174	
	Adult	45	180	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games and training across the week	Go Games (U6 to U10) – Sun AM	100%	NA	This is the demand given the % of matches ⁽⁴⁰⁾ and training each day of the week as assessed from club surveys for youth and adult. Typically, games and training takes place across the week – e.g. 23% of Youth games and 12% of adult games are played Monday PM e.g. 20% of all teams training takes place on Wednesday PM.
	Youth / Adult – Monday PM	23% / 12%	13%	
	Youth / Adult – Tuesday PM	10% / 11%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Wednesday PM	14% / 21%	20%	
	Youth / Adult – Thursday PM	9% / 8%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Friday PM	20% / 10%	16%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday AM	17% / 2%	6%	
	Youth / Adult – Saturday PM	8% / 0%	1%	
5. Defining pitches/1-hour training slots required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth / Adult – Sunday PM	0% / 33%	12%	
	Go Games Sun AM (U6 to U10)	5	N/A	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up taking into match and training capacity. Capacity is 16 teams ⁽⁴¹⁾ for Go Games per week Capacity for full size grass pitch is 5 games a week Training capacity is 16 x 1-hour training slots ⁽⁴²⁾
	Youth + Adult Total - Mon PM	20 + 5 = 25	46	
	Youth + Adult Total - Tues PM	9 + 5 = 14	57	
	Youth + Adult Total – Wed PM	12 + 9 = 21	71	
	Youth + Adult Total – Thurs PM	8 + 3 = 11	57	
	Youth + Adult Total - Fri PM	17 + 5 = 22	57	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat AM	15 + 2 = 17	21	
	Youth + Adult Total - Sat PM	7 + 0 = 7	3	

⁽³⁷⁾ 8 teams per pitch once a week

⁽³⁸⁾ 2 youth teams per pitch twice a week

⁽³⁹⁾ 1 adult team per pitch on average 1.5 times a week

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Matches are assumed to require a 2-hour slot, training is assumed to require a 1-hour slot

⁽⁴¹⁾ Assumption – each pitch can accommodate 4 x Go Game pitches and therefore 8 teams per hour – for a 2-hour blitz on Sunday morning capacity is 2 x 8 = 16 teams.

⁽⁴²⁾ Based on club survey returns on weekly pitch usage for games and training.

GAEILIC GAMES

	Youth + Adult Total - Sun PM	0 + 15 = 15	42	It is assumed there are 3 x 1-hour training slots each week day evening and weekend mornings and afternoons.
	Total weekly pitches needed for adult and youth	132 / 4 = 33 pitches	354/16 =23 pitches	
	Total weekly pitches needed is	33 + 23 = 56 pitches		
6. Establishing pitches available	Go Games, Youth and Adult	36 adult + 10 youth = 46 pitches		All full and youth grass pitches in community ownership.
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁴³⁾	Go Games - matches	46-5 =+39 pitches		Pitch supply not meeting demand
	Youth and adult matches and training	46-56 = -8 pitches		Supply is not meeting demand

5.24 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for Go Games matches but there is a short fall of eight pitches when considering youth and adult matches and training needs for all teams.

5.25 It is important to note the following comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Based on the club survey, Scenario 2 assumes that gaelic pitch capacity is 4 games per week PLUS 16 x 1-hour training slots, that is, total usage of 24 hours per week – this is dependent on weather and pitch maintenance.
- ❖ Scenario 2 includes the use of 3G facilities for matches and training.
- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is not meeting demand for training and match needs. This suggests that clubs are delivering matches and training ‘under pressure’ which is likely to impact on current participation rates and future growth. The pressure on current pitch supply may become more of an issue as the large number of youth (male and female) teams filter through to adult levels - present provision would struggle to support any projected growth.

5.26 A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are used. However as there is just one grass Council pitch suitable for gaelic games demand could clearly not be met, therefore this scenario is not modelled.

⁽⁴³⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

5.27 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week:–

Club	Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)
St Mathew's GAC	25	25	50			
St. Canice's GAC Dungiven	8	20	28	20	8	28
Cuchullains Dun Lathai GA&CC	25	15	40	25	15	40
Glenariffe Oisin CLG	25	12	37			0
Glenullin GAC	12	12	24	12	12	24
Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	25	10	35	10	3	13
Ruairí Og CLG	20	10	30	14	0	14
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	4	9	13			
Kevin Lynch Hurling Club	21	8	29			
St Colm's Drum GAC	25	8	33			
Ballerina GAC	12	7	19	12	8	20
O'Brien's Foreglen GAC	15	7	22			
Cushendun	12	6	18	10	4	14
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	10	6	16	25	4	29
O Connors Glack GAA	8	6	14	22	0	22
St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills	15	6	21			0

Gaelic Games

St Marys GAA Banagher	16	6	22	10	3	13
St Mary's Rasharkin GAC	25	6	31	15	2	17
Carey Faughs GAC	12	5	17	12	0	12
Glen Rovers GAC	10	4	14	5	2	7
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	15	3	18	15	3	18
St. Aidan's GAC Magilligan	16	3	19			
McQuillan GAC Ballycastle	18	2	20	18	2	20
Averages	16 hours per week	8 hours per week	24 hours per week	14 hours per week	4 hours per week	12 hours per week

Comments

- ❖ Six clubs report using their pitches over 30 hours a week – one club with 50 hours per week combined for training and matches.
- ❖ The average weekly pitch use across all clubs is 24 hours per week for Pitch 1 and 12 hours per week for Pitch 2 (if a club has one).
- ❖ Given the carrying capacity of a grass pitch is 2 matches per week for 30 weeks of the year as recommended by Sport England, the majority of gaelic pitches are heavily overused. This may to some degree be mitigated through careful pitch maintenance and it is recognised that the season for gaelic games avoids the worst of the winter months. However, over-use of grass pitches continues to be a challenge for clubs; the use of 3G pitches would help to address the problem by reducing the use of clubs' grass pitches for training.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

- 5.28** In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities; results are:-

Barrier type	Match Facilities % of clubs	Training Facilities % of clubs
Location too distant from club base	25	32
Hire cost too expensive for club	21	56
Finding venues of suitable condition	43	44
Availability of floodlit venues	-	68
Can't get booking slot	54	56
Condition of pitches	32	60
None	18	8

Comments

- ❖ 56 % of clubs find 'Hire cost' of training facilities a barrier.
- ❖ The most significant barrier as noted from the survey is the availability of floodlit venues for training (68% of clubs). Many clubs are looking to provide training during the winter months in preparation for the season.
- ❖ A significant 60% of respondents noted that 'Condition of pitches' for training is a barrier. The following the comments are also recorded:-
 - *Winter All Weather Training Facilities i.e. October to March. 4G Surface or Suitable Indoor Sports Hall, local post primary school hall is hard to get a free slot at for all our teams as there are lots of different clubs also using it. We use church halls but they are not suitable for sports i.e. slippery floors, radiators on walls etc H & Safety issues.*
 - *lot of teams - clash with changing rooms*
 - *In the winter and early spring the pitches can be wet and access is limited, an indoor facility would be a massive benefit*
 - *Currently we use the school facilities but as this is in the evening the schools are closed and we do not have access to changing/toilet facilities. In the winter time we used indoor facilities at Kevin Lynch Hurling Club, however as we have increased our numbers this year, this will not be an option this coming winter.*
 - *No Council provision for outdoor training facilities for GAA Clubs, the clubs rely on their own facilities and they do not have the capacity to cater for the needs of the GAA Community in the area.*
 - *Many of the grass pitches are used a lot more that the average 4-6 hours a week of use that Sport England recommend, and this figure was relayed to us by a Council official during previous consultations."*
 - *Only use if wet - no other outdoor - Glenullin 3G*
 - *Availability of pitches in the area is always a major problem. All grass pitches that are available within the area are privately owned by other sports clubs. These clubs use their grounds to the maximum with their own teams but are willing to provide their facilities to us when available at many times not taking the pitch condition into consideration. Due to the*

congestion on these pitches many of our volunteer coaches have to work their training around the time facilities are available. This results in many coaches having to take unusual training times which mightn't work for parents, players or the coaches them self. We have found this to be a reason why we are losing members/coaches/volunteers.

- *Lack of female specific facilities*
- *Availability of facilities*
- *As we depend on our local GAA Clubs for the use of their facilities, it is hard to get slotted in as they have a lot of teams to cater for within their clubs. Sometimes we have to give up our home fixture as we are unable to get a pitch.*
- *Other than utilizing our own facilities, there is no provision for Gaelic Games in the Dungiven area.*
- *The Council do not provide any full size GAA grass pitches needed for competitive Gaelic games. Synthetic surfaces are of no good for matches and non-full size GAA pitches are of no use. Other non public pitches are not available to local clubs due to availability when needed. Owenbeg cannot be accessed by local clubs as it is used for County GAA teams all year round and serves the full county of Derry and not just Dungiven area.*
- *Often have to go outside the Council area to get suitable facilities*
- *The Council does not provide any grass facilities to host outdoor GAA matches as required to play for gaelic games. Synthetic surfaces are not fit for Gaelic matches or non GAA size pitches are no good.*
- *The Council do not provide any outdoor gaelic games facilities in the Coleraine area for our club to avail of for training or games.*
- *We have our own pitch. We have no option to use Council facilities. We would like to have this option in the same way as sports clubs from other Council areas have access to many sporting facilities.*

Playing Surface

5.29 The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to use artificial surfaces including 3G surfaces for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 5.7: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces – Gaelic Games						
	Training			Matches		
Surface	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Polymeric	46	29	18	68	21	0
AstroTurf	32	25	36	57	29	0
3G	4	21	71	43	29	21

5.30 As presented in Table 5.7, 71% of respondents indicated a favourable attitude to the use of 3G surfaces for training but significantly less at 21% are favourable to using 3G for matches. Investment in 3G surfaces is an attractive option for local authorities as 3G pitches are reckoned to have the carrying capacity of at least 4 grass pitches⁽⁴⁴⁾. This would go some way to addressing any pitch deficit however anecdotal evidence would suggest that grass surfaces are strongly preferred for matches whilst 3G is acceptable only for winter pre-season training sessions.

5.31 An analysis of 'Attitude to 3G surfaces' for Dual⁽⁴⁵⁾ clubs and Hurling/Camogie only clubs is presented below:-

Code	Attitude to 3G for Training			Attitude to 3G for Matches		
	Favourable	Neutral	No Favourable	Favourable	Neutral	Not Favourable
Dual	65%	24%	6%	12%	29%	59%
Hurling/Camogie	82%	18%	0%	18%	18%	18%

Comment

- ❖ Not all clubs completed the question on 'Attitude to 3G Surfaces'
- ❖ A significantly higher percentage of Hurling/Camogie only clubs (82%) are 'Favourable' to 3G surfaces for training when compared to Dual clubs (65%).
- ❖ Significantly higher percentage of Dual clubs (59%) responded 'Not Favourable' to 3G surfaces for matches compared to Hurling/Camogie only clubs (18%).

Membership Growth and Future Plans

5.32 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Pre-Junior Male	17	3	6
Pre-Junior Female	16	3	9
Junior Male	14	4	8
Junior Female	13	4	11
Adult Male	15	5	12
Adult Female	7	0	0

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Bridging the Gap Active Places Research Report 2009 – Sport NI.

⁽⁴⁵⁾ Dual club provides both gaelic football and hurling/camogie.

Comments

- ❖ Overall, the majority of clubs expect their membership to increase.
- ❖ On balance both male and female membership is expected to increase for pre-junior and junior age groups.
- ❖ Twice as many clubs expect adult male membership to grow compared to female membership.
- ❖ Only a handful of clubs expect their membership to decrease.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:-
 - *New facilities, in the ability to train longer and in winter months.*
 - *Widen our membership base to more than just competitive sport, include recreational, mothers football, legends, other initiatives like this once our new indoor hall is built*
 - *We have increased the youth in the club and hope to keep promoting the game and bringing these girls through all age groups.*
 - *We anticipate that the membership of our club will increase by 10% in the next 3 years. This change will be driven by the Club's current 2 year sports development plan which not only includes plans for improving our facilities, but increasing and educating our volunteer base. The management committee hope to use the development plan which includes ensuring correct governance, PR and marketing and running the correct programmes and services which attract members of the community which have been identified in the Everybody Active 2020 plan, specifically children and young people, disabled members and over 50's. We have developed this plan through engaging stakeholders from the outside in various forms of consultation.*
 - *"The Club has recently introduced a new underage structure along with a 10-year plan. In this plan we have a target of creating 1 new team to compete in 2 years, 2 new teams in three years and 3 new teams in five years.*
 - *The club plans to provide activities for the disabled in the form of indoor hurling along with a hurling team for the over 35s.*
 - *We also expect the development of a few new housing developments in Dungiven after a long period of no building, two developments have started already. Now that the bypass is to commence soon we expect Dungiven to attract new residents in commuters who might work in Derry/Belfast. "*
 - *Work, University, young professionals, new families. attracting new members to increase our members, we are interacting with all sides of the community so hope to attract through these means and also by developing our facilities*

- *More families living in the parish, new facilities being developed, club is better organised.*

5.33 Emerging from future plans/need responses in the club survey are three main strands: *match pitch needs*, *training facility needs* and *ancillary needs* - see Table 5.9 for the number of clubs making comments under these three strands. The comments are presented in full in Table 5.10 together with remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 5.8: Summary of emerging strands in relation to future plans and needs			
Club	Additional Match Pitch	Training Facilities	Ancillary facilities
Ballerin GAC		✓	✓
Carey Faughs GAC			✓
Cuchullains Dun Lathai GA&CC	✓		
Kevin Lynch Hurling Club	✓	✓	✓
Eoghan Rua GAC Coleraine	✓	✓	✓
Glen Rovers GAC			✓
Glenariffe Oisin CLG			✓
Glenullin GAC			✓
Kilrea GAC			✓
Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	✓		
Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC	✓		
McQuillan GAC Ballycastle		✓	
Naomh Pdraig North Antrim		✓	
O Connors Glack GAA			✓
O'Brien's Foreglen GAC			
Ruairí Og CLG		✓	
St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills			✓
St Canice's Ladies GFC, Dungiven	✓	✓	✓
St Colm's Drum GAC		✓	
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC			✓
St Mary's Rasharkin GAC			✓
St Mathew's GAC	✓		
St Patrick's Camogie Club, Dungiven	✓	✓	✓
St. Aidan's GAC Magilligan			✓
St. Canice's GAC Dungiven		✓	
Total Number	8	10	15

Comments

- ❖ 10 clubs made comments in relation to the need for additional, winter all-weather (3G) and grass training facilities.
- ❖ 8 clubs made comment on the need for match pitch development.
- ❖ 15 clubs noted the need for upgrade/improvement to ancillary facilities including floodlights.

Table 5.9: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballerin GAC	We intend to build a new hall containing an indoor 3G pitch, changing rooms, community areas, kitchen, café, gym, multipurpose hall. We need the indoor facilities to widen our member base and get our full community to use the facilities, it will also give us a pitch which can be used all year round by our underage players which will develop them massively.	The majority of the pitch provision for GAA is provided for by clubs and members with minimal input from Council.
Carey Faughs GAC	We would like to have a 'Ball Wall' with lights for training purposes. We would like to have floodlights on our training pitch. We would like to have street lights around the main pitch. We would like to have better surface around the perimeter of the pitches for better access for other groups to use eg Fitclub, Walking Group, etc. We would like to have fixed gym equipment in the park for other groups to use, as above. All and any of the above would enhance our facilities for the club and also for other groups within the parish & beyond to use.	
Cuchullains Dun Lathai GA&CC	3rd pitch would be great, not enough hours in evenings for all teams to train and matches.	

**Kevin Lynch
Hurling Club**

It was detailed in the 10-year plan what facilities are required to meet our targets in team development and volunteer recruitment. To meet the club's Strategic plan the following facilities are needed: 1. Full size grass GAA pitch with floodlighting. 2. Fix parking facilities on the club grounds. 3. Full size/juvenile GAA pitch for training. Desirable Goals 1. Indoor facility able to hold a Senior hurling training. 2. Full size GAA hybrid grass pitch for training. These plans are unassailable club goals due to the financial restraints on the club to play and maintain the current facilities. The need for more pitches is immediate and is costing the club volunteers and players. The need is also immediate as the club's pitch is overused and means the closure and further financial investment trying to keep the pitch in a playable condition. The club lets 3 other clubs in the area use the pitch when needed. This has been challenging due to the traffic already on the pitch from the clubs own teams which is well over the 3-6 hours recommended by official government standards set by Sport England.

I refer to the letter sent to the Council and Venturei during the last consultation dated 19th July 2015 in which we asked was included in any consultation or business case drawn up for the development of sport facilities in the Dungiven area. Some points we made in the letter still apply and are detailed below. We welcomed the grant aid of approx. £2.5m from DCAL to develop sports facilities within the town but were extremely disappointed that our local Council would not contribute grant aid in support of this much overdue project. We stated our need at the time which remains very much relevant now: The GAA community is large in Dungiven and surrounding areas. Of all who participate in sport in Dungiven approx. 70% of these participants are in the GAA. We have 637 members, are a non-profit organisation and all our members are volunteers. Currently we play our sport on 1 no. grass pitch. We have added figures to this survey which justify the next point: As a result the pitch is overused. The effect, apart from the physical damage to the pitch, is that the club find it hard to timetable all age groups playing time on the pitch. We are in desperate Need of a second full sized GAA pitch to ease this problem to facilitate matches and training requirements and create an environment for more participation. To compound this problem two other local sporting clubs, the camogie and ladies football clubs, request the use of our pitch because they do not have pitches of their own. We facilitate these clubs when we can but the situation is not ideal. Do we threaten to further effect the condition of our pitch or do we turn away another sporting club because they do not have their own facilities? The latter would not be in the spirit and ethos of sporting participation. At the time we were asked to review the proposed preferred option for the New Build Sports

Centre and Synthetic Pitch and raised the following points: Although we could use the synthetic pitch for training purposes the synthetic pitch is not a full size GAA pitch, therefore, we will not be able to play matches which does not fulfil our Need for a second full size GAA pitch to facilitate matches. This point has been proven in reality now. We welcome the larger hall but expressed disappointed that it is again not large enough for indoor GAA games. This point again was proven in reality. We raised concerns regard Future Funding for the area for GAA facilities being effected by the project. This point has still to be tested and would like to take this opportunity to remind the Council that it invested no Council money into Dungiven during this project for a provision of new sporting facilities. It is a great shame, as the largest sporting organisation with the largest sporting participation within the community, that our Need for additional sporting facilities (such as a full sized GAA pitch) was not accommodated within the new sports facilities. We regret that the local sporting clubs opinions and concerns were not taken seriously during planning and development. In hindsight if the local clubs had been given the £2.5m of funding to develop sports facilities we believe the area would have received something more beneficial to the community which better fitted its needs. In review of all Council provisions for GAA facilities versus other sporting facilities we would regard the lack of GAA facilities to be an equality of provisions issue for this Council. Dungiven has a historical problem in under investment in sporting facilities which lead to the replacement of the outdated facilities but did not address the core needs of the sporting community in the area. It is imperative that this report clearly identifies the provisions for GAA that the Council provide. It must not

fudge the fact that it has not invested in GAA sports by including privately owned GAA grounds, small school pitches and other facilities not fit to host GAA matches as adequate provisions. Dungiven has a strong sporting tradition and boast of many proud achievements. These achievements and the existence of sport in Dungiven thus far has been on the backs of the amateur sports clubs providing facilities with little or no support from Council. Unfortunately the facilities we provide are still not adequate to fulfil the needs of the community and amateurs clubs without facilities like the Ladies Gaelic football and Camogie suffer. All teams of all sports are left to use facilities that have no toilet provisions or changing areas. We have children changing behind bushes or leaving training early to go to a toilet. This is a Council legacy that needs to change!

**Eoghan Rua
GAC
Coleraine**

We have a 4 stage development plan. Stages 1 and 2 are complete, the provision of a full size grass pitch and changing rooms. Stage 3 is the provision of a 2nd full size grass pitch and Stage 4 is the provision of an indoor training/events hall. We have upwards of 26 teams across 4 codes competing for playing/training time on one grass pitch. We use the pitch for playing competitive games only but due to the number of teams we have this can be 6/7 times a week during the main part of the playing season, in the summer months during the longer daylight days. Training is only allowed sparingly on the pitch, as excessive use will lead to quick deterioration of the surface rendering it unusable for everyone. We only allow training ahead of important championship games once or twice per adult team.

The CC&G BC have made no gaelic games provision in our club catchment area. There are over 20 soccer pitches along with rugby, hockey and cricket provision provided by the Council. We feel the Council have not carried out their public duty in regard to the provision of leisure facilities with respect to gaelic games provision. The Council have not been proactive in their approach to the provision of gaelic games facilities. Millions of pounds of our money, we are ratepayers too, has been spent on numerous leisure facilities including soccer, rugby, hockey and cricket pitches etc (which we have no problem with as they are required for these groups in the sporting community) but little or nothing on gaelic games provision. This imbalance must be addressed urgently and our need for pitch facilities recognised and acted upon without delay. Our club makes a huge contribution to the local sporting community for boys and girls, men and women with over 500 people

		involved. This is all done by totally unpaid volunteers across the board. We feel this contribution to the local community needs to be recognised and the Council need to be more proactive in its dealings with the GAA community here. It seems we have to make all the running towards the Council while there is little or no reciprocal approaches from Council towards the GAA community, indeed there has been little or no unsolicited approaches from Council towards the GAA community in this area. Additional GAA pitch provision in our area is a priority need that must be addressed urgently.
Glen Rovers GAC	Plans for additional changing rooms with dedicated spectator toilets and modern changing facilities for girls /disabled persons, 1st aid room and gym.	A full size 3G/4G GAA pitch with floodlighting would be beneficial to local clubs who now train all year round.
Glenariffe Oisin CLG	Club house due for demolition and community centre to be built - club will be charged to use previously free facilities. No plans for playing facilities as club cannot afford development.	Too far away from community. Logistics involved are prohibitive in terms of distance and cost.
Glenullin GAC	We believe we need a full upgrade of our changing rooms in order to modernise them and make them more environmentally friendly regarding water usage. Need much more storage space also.	
Kilrea GAC	We would like to additional storage facilities onto the club house to enable us to house our equipment securely and safely. We currently have small storage space, but need more to accommodate the number of users we have at the facilities. We would also like to improve our disability access. We currently make the facilities available to GAA for all - all county special needs team. They use hall on a Tuesday evening every other week. We know there are small changes that we could make to building that would enhance their experience. We would like to	

improve the surface of our car park which is uneven and difficult for people with reduced mobility to access the playing pitches to watch games.

**Limavady
Wolfhounds
GAC**

Bought land - develop pitch grass with floodlight - grass or 3G - full size - no funding at moment - £30,000 owed for land.

We don't have facilities for winter training - difficult to get 3G slots at Scroggy road - not enough 3G facilities in the town - next door to Limavady Utd FC and do some partner work - we are open to doing more.

**Loughgiel
Shamrocks
GAC**

The club has applied for a grant through the Council to develop a third pitch with floodlights. We feel that with numbers, particularly at underage level, increasing year on year and with the hurling and Camogie clubs merging as "One Club", the level of usage on our two current pitches has significantly increased.

**McQuillan
GAC
Ballycastle**

We require further pitch facilities in the future whether it is grass or 3G. Also the need for an indoor facility.

**Naomh
Padraig
North Antrim**

Naomh Padraig cater for boys and girls from age 3 to 18 years. We have good access to outdoor grass facilities provided by our parent clubs Armoy, Carey & Cushendun from March to October. We feel we must cater for children throughout the winter to grow our club and retain membership and requires suitable indoor Astro Turf/4G pitch/sports hall facilities. There are an abundance of church halls but these are not suitable and many have major health and safety issues for sports use. As we don't actually own facilities we use our parent club facilities of Armoy, Carey & Cushendun GAA Clubs (these are the pitches referred to in this questionnaire) we have no plans for development. We use Cross & passion College sports hall facility in Ballycastle from Oct. to March but we could triple our booking slot if there were free slots available. It is used by lots of local clubs and is in big demand. It

A major part of our development plan (Naomh Padraig) is to have activities for children age 3 to 18 years for 10 months of the year. The biggest obstacle to this is access to suitable indoor and outdoor halls/pitches (not grass based) during the winter months October to March.

also has repair issues, leaking roof and bookings are regularly cancelled during heavy rain once again due to health and safety issues.

O Connors Glack GAA Currently the fence around the pitch needs replaced for health and safety reasons. Due to the increase in underage number the fence is not adequate. This is part of the clubs 4 year development plan.

O'Brien's Foreglen GAC Would like to develop floodlights and a running / jogging trail around the club grounds incorporating an outdoor fitness station Long term would like to develop another pitch (training/ juvenile size).

Ruairí Og CLG	We are looking at an all-weather, floodlight, multipurpose 3G pitch for the soccer club, GAA club, other GAA clubs the Glens Youth club and other community groups	We have no all-weather floodlight pitches in the Glens area.

St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills	We need a new clubhouse of basic type with showers and toilets with meeting room - nothing big fancy! We expect to continue fielding at least 2 adult teams and provide for juvenile hurling through Naomh Padraig Juvenile Hurling club. Our pitch is used a lot by neighbouring clubs (Loughgiel and Dunloy) and Antrim County Camogie Development squad teams twice a week. We have architects plans for proposed new clubrooms on the site. We are also carrying out work to the entrance lane.	The club met with the Council in November to request help with improving the changing accommodation. At that time we said we only need something basic ie 2 changing rooms, showers, officials room spectator toilets etc. We do not need a function room or indoor hall. Our clubrooms are in big need of modernisation - they are portacabins of some age now. We are carrying out remedial to the outside and inside - all this by club volunteers but this will only be a short-term fix. Laneway needs concrete – potholes.

St Canice's Ladies GFC, Dungiven	Please see attached notes at Public Consultation	Please see attached notes at Public Consultation

St Colm's Drum GAC	Sand based grass training facility. 80m * 40m. Floodlights Ball wall Full ball catchers Full perimeter fencing	some grant aid would be very welcome, but with the Dungiven facilities the criteria cannot be met. Sporting clubs are the centre of small, rural communities and asking members to travel to other training facilities is not acceptable. We want to have our own small, but quality facilities where the members can train and play matches in their community. This is a social and economic benefit to this keeping everyone mentally and physically healthy. This should be put beyond, "Displacement".
St Mary's Faughanvale GAC	New club rooms with 4 changing rooms and kitchen - we make use of the Vale Centre for functions etc but would like to be able to run smaller events and course at the pitch.	The club plays a hugely important role in provision of sporting opportunities for young people in the area - we have over 300 young people - our pitches are great but our changing rooms are inadequate and embarrassing for traveling teams to see and use them - we have 2 pitches but only 2 changing rooms - it's really difficult when we have 2 home games on the same night. We have nowhere decent to hold club meetings and no proper kitchen to cater for blitz, camps and bigger matches.
St Mary's Rasharkin GAC	Development plans for new indoor facility - hall with 3G - met David Jackson - before Council merged - have applied for PEACE IV funding.	The Club is passionate about the health and well-being of the local community - we are in a rural setting with limited services, no local transport rural. We are very much a cross-community club. We are a main provider of sporting opportunities in the area and could do so much more do more with better facilities. We would like to cater for the whole family. We have a sports development plan and business - both of which entailed extensive community survey and consultations. We presented our development plans to David Jackson just before the Councils merged.

St Mathew's GAC	We have purchased ground within the last few years to enable us to build a second pitch...our main pitch suffers with over use and a second is badly needed, unfortunately we do not have the funds at the minute	
St Patrick's Camogie Club, Dungiven	We have increased our numbers this year, and have competing really well in all competitions, we are promoting our club and giving our young girls a great opportunity to be part of a team and club and taking them off the streets. As Dungiven is a under deprived area our club offers a safe and friendly environment to help develop our girls both physically and mentally.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council do not provide any pitches that are suitable to play our matches, the only facility is the new sports centre but as a struggling club, it is not always viable to use these facilities for training. Without the support of our local GAA Clubs and our local school's our club would not survive. We are in great need of support from Council to provide facilities for our home games and training which have changing and toilet facilities.
St. Aidan's GAC Magilligan	we would need match playing flood lights this would also let older people in our club come for walks at night time	
St. Canice's GAC Dungiven	To successfully sustain and attract new members to our Club, we must upgrade the facilities on site to include a new 3G training pitch and changing facilities. Our current pitch is not capable of hosting all youth and senior training sessions and matches, therefore limiting the amount of time local people are getting the participate in sport. We have to hire other venues which are often outside of Dungiven. These facilities are at capacity, hindering the delivery of sports services we aim to roll out to underrepresented groups. Changing facilities are necessary to ensure that different user groups feel comfortable and safe, especially in relation to female and disabled provision.	

5.34 All but three of the gaelic games clubs in the Council area operate their own pitches and changing accommodation. The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following matches:-

Go Games	+37 pitches	Good supply
Youth and Adult	+2 pitches	Supply is just ahead of demand

Whilst the Go Games age category has a good supply of pitches for matches, demand from the combined youth and adult category for matches is just ahead of supply. However, training needs result in additional use of pitches which leads to over-use. With the 28 clubs fielding 435 teams each club has an average of 15 teams. Whilst gaelic games generally is thought of as operating during the summer months in practice the season commences with pre-season training from January to March with competitions running through to October. Each week during the competition season a total of 264 youth/adult matches are played; with 35 pitches available this points to 7 matches taking place on each pitch. Training needs will add significantly to the use of pitches as will Go Games. Survey results show that the average weekly use (matches and training) of each clubs' main pitch is 24 hours.

- ❖ Most gaelic games clubs have at least 2 grass pitches, a mix of full size and youth size, whilst three clubs have 3 pitches, again a mix of sizes. Six clubs have 1 pitch putting a considerable strain on the clubs' ability to facilitate pitch time across all teams. Council facilities are used by some gaelic games clubs for training sessions, eg, Eoghan Rua GAC has bookings on the 3G pitch at Rugby Avenue, Coleraine, camogie and hurling teams book the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle and camogie teams book the recently opened 3G pitch at Dungiven Sport Centre.
- ❖ When asked about synthetic surfaces especially thinking of 3G and AstroTurf, the clubs responded as follows:-

	Training			Matches		
	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
AstroTurf	32	25	36	57	29	0
3G	4	21	71	43	29	21

The result shows 3G is generally accepted for training and much preferred to AstroTurf, whilst only 21% of respondents accept 3G for matches. It is also noted that the acceptance of 3G pitches for training may relate largely to the pre-season period (January to March) when clubs' grass pitches are less able to accommodate demand due to weather conditions and dark evenings.

- ❖ Three camogie clubs (Ballycastle Camogie Club, St Canice's Ladies GAC, Dungiven, St Patrick's Camogie Club, Dungiven) have no club facilities, relying on Council and other club facilities. Between them they field 27 teams mostly under age but with 3 adult teams. These clubs feel their development potential is particularly constrained.

Strategic Recommendations – Gaelic Games

Item No	Description
7.	Develop additional grass pitch facilities in the Dungiven area.
8.	Identify Council sites surplus to requirements and consider their future use.

6. Rugby

Introduction

6.1 This section presents consultation with the Irish Rugby Football Union's Ulster Branch followed by an overview of supply of and demand for rugby pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM). There are four rugby clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and junior rugby. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch
- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch

6.2 The Ulster Branch focuses a good deal of its attention and efforts on domestic growth with a 3-5 year strategic plan in place to attract more players to the game in schools and clubs. Rugby is structured as mini (U12's), youth (U19's) and adult. Mini rugby is played across the Province in clubs and primary schools, mostly in the controlled sector but also in the maintained sector. Mini rugby is often compromised when there is a demand for pitches from youth rugby so there is a need for more availability of pitches through improved or additional facilities.

6.3 It's generally recognised that the '24/7' society has had a detrimental effect on rugby wherein the traditional Saturday afternoon club fixture is increasingly difficult to sustain. The Ulster Branch recognises the need to have more flexibility in match scheduling, looking to mid-week evening fixtures which, given that rugby has an autumn/winter season, requires floodlights.

6.4 The Ulster Branch deploys a team of development staff across the Province working in the top third of areas of deprivation. The intention is to establish community sections within existing clubs focusing on under-age participation. Community rugby could also be established within an existing community organisation, with parents encouraged to become administrators and coaches. The Ulster Branch also employs two development officers dedicated to the promotion of female participation and a disability inclusion officer with a focus on learning disability.

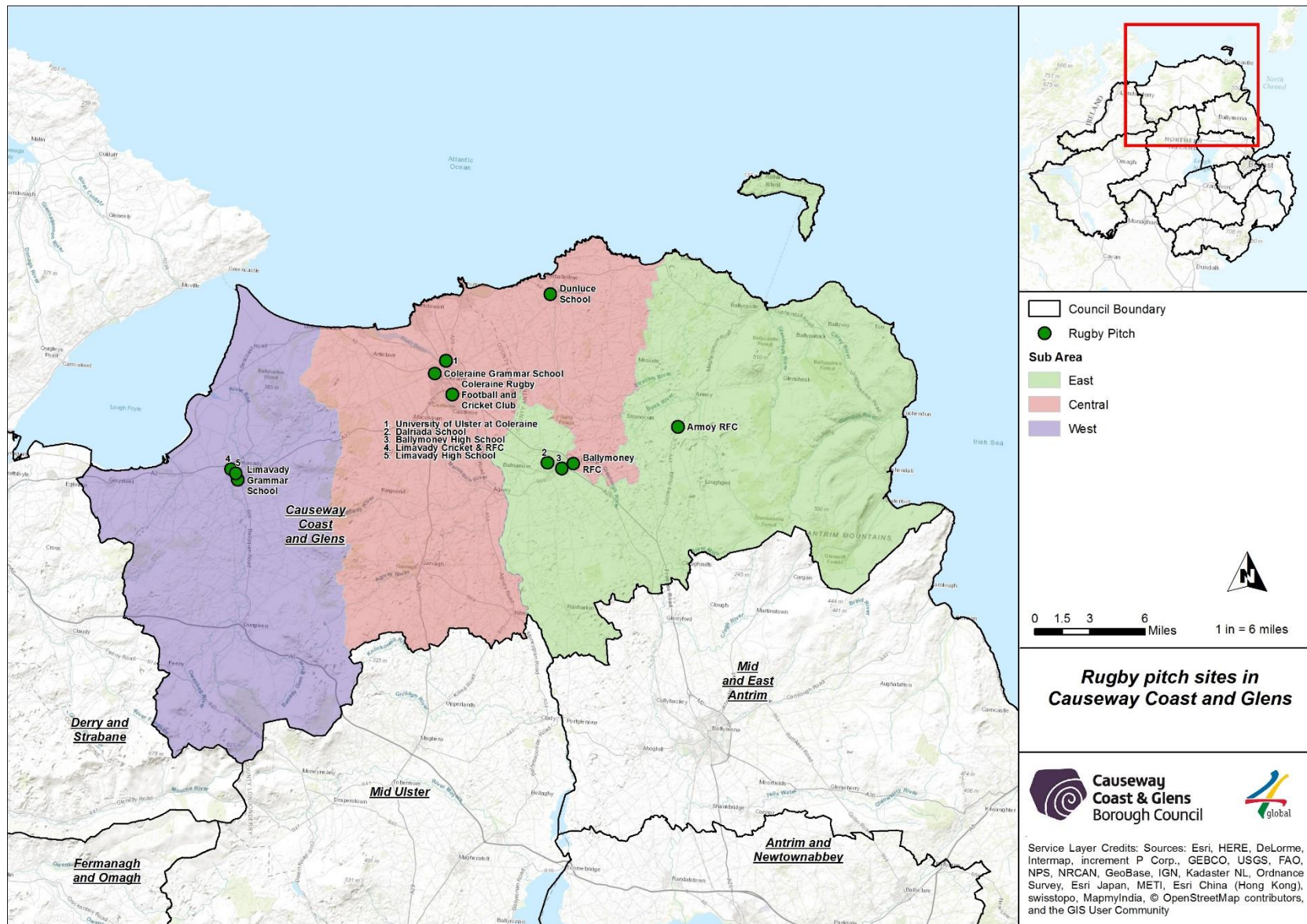
- 6.5 Adult participation has fallen in recent years, eg, a club with 7 teams twenty years ago might only have 3 teams today. However, participation in youth and mini rugby is growing due to the work of development officers. Mini rugby in particular has seen huge increases in participation, driven by the profile at regional and international levels. With more clubs developing mini-rugby there has been growth each year over the past eight years. Women's rugby tends to be either 'boom or bust' in most clubs. It's presently growing due to the high profile of rugby generally. Targets set for women's participation for 2015 were achieved very early on and numbers could double by 2023. However, facilities are an issue especially changing accommodation. If revenue funding for development staff is sustained the Ulster Branch anticipates a doubling of rugby participation over the next 10 years.
- 6.6 The Ulster Branch reports there is a good deal of pressure on pitches in some areas. Clubs have often looked to use schools' rugby pitches, however getting permission is often down to personalities – community use policies are rarely in place in schools. Location of 3G pitches is important to rugby. It's felt that clubs would travel to 3G pitches close to the club's ground. The point is made that rugby clubs are operated as a business and they really need to have matches at club grounds.
- 6.7 The Ulster Branch notes that should the IRFU's bid to host the Rugby World Cup in 2023 be successful (decision due early November 2017) there will be a need for training bases to support the match venues proposed for Belfast and Londonderry.

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

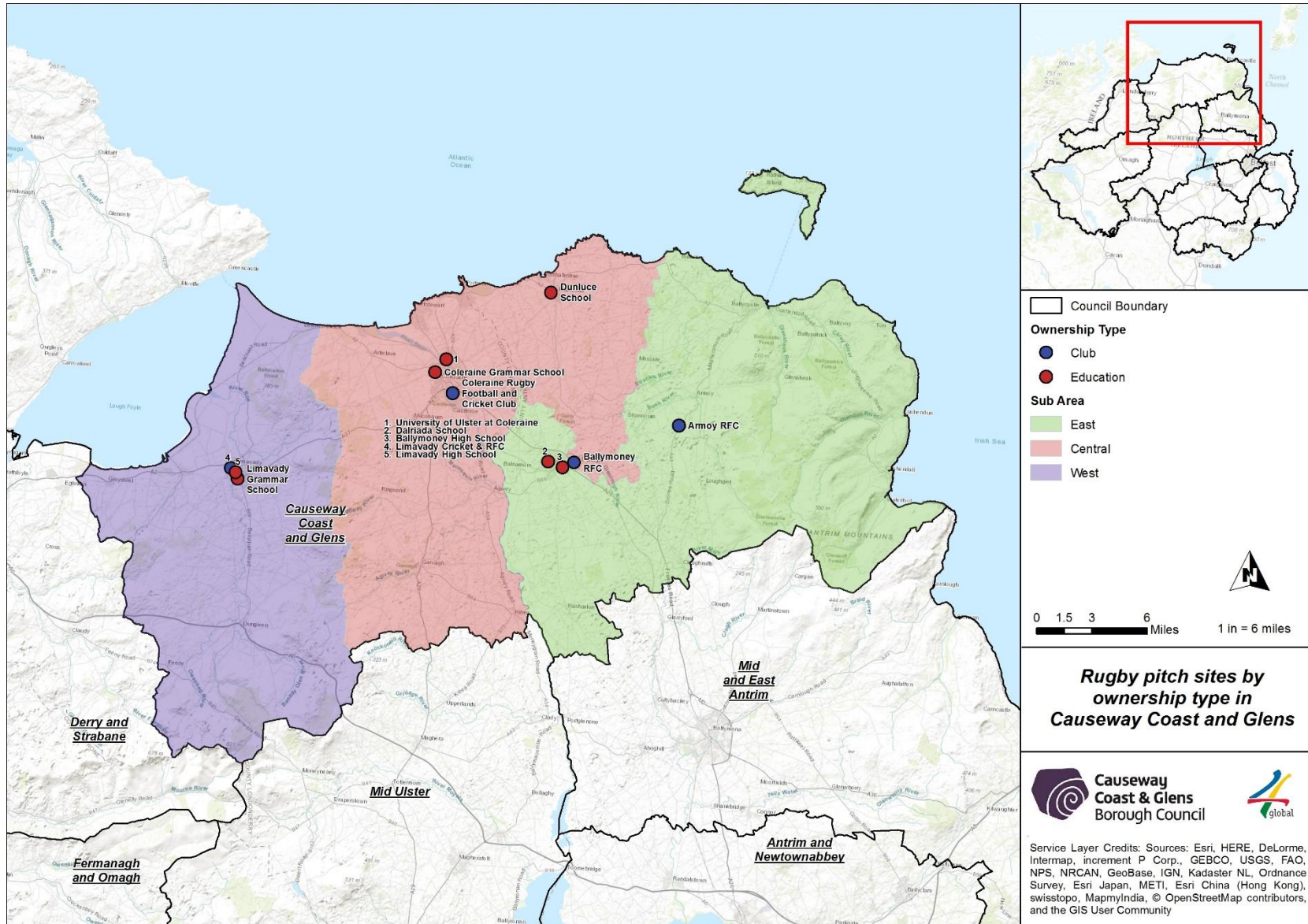
- 6.8 Rugby Union is traditionally played on a grass pitch where the field of play does not exceed 100 metres in length and the in-goal does not exceed 22 metres giving an overall maximum length of 144 metres. Whilst there appears to be no minimum width, the maximum width must not exceed 70 metres. The majority of rugby clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, but may also make use of Council and school facilities for training. The inventory of rugby pitches in the Council area is presented in Table 6.1. Three different types of pitch 'ownership' are recorded:-
- **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council leased** – pitches leased from the Council for dedicated use by one rugby club.
 - **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments
 - **Club owned/leased** – pitches owned and maintained by a rugby club.
- 6.9 Table 6.1 presents a detailed inventory of rugby pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch site, *type*, *number*, *quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4 accompany the inventory showing pitch location,

ownership, quality⁽⁴⁶⁾ and quantity respectively. Three pitch categories are noted:-

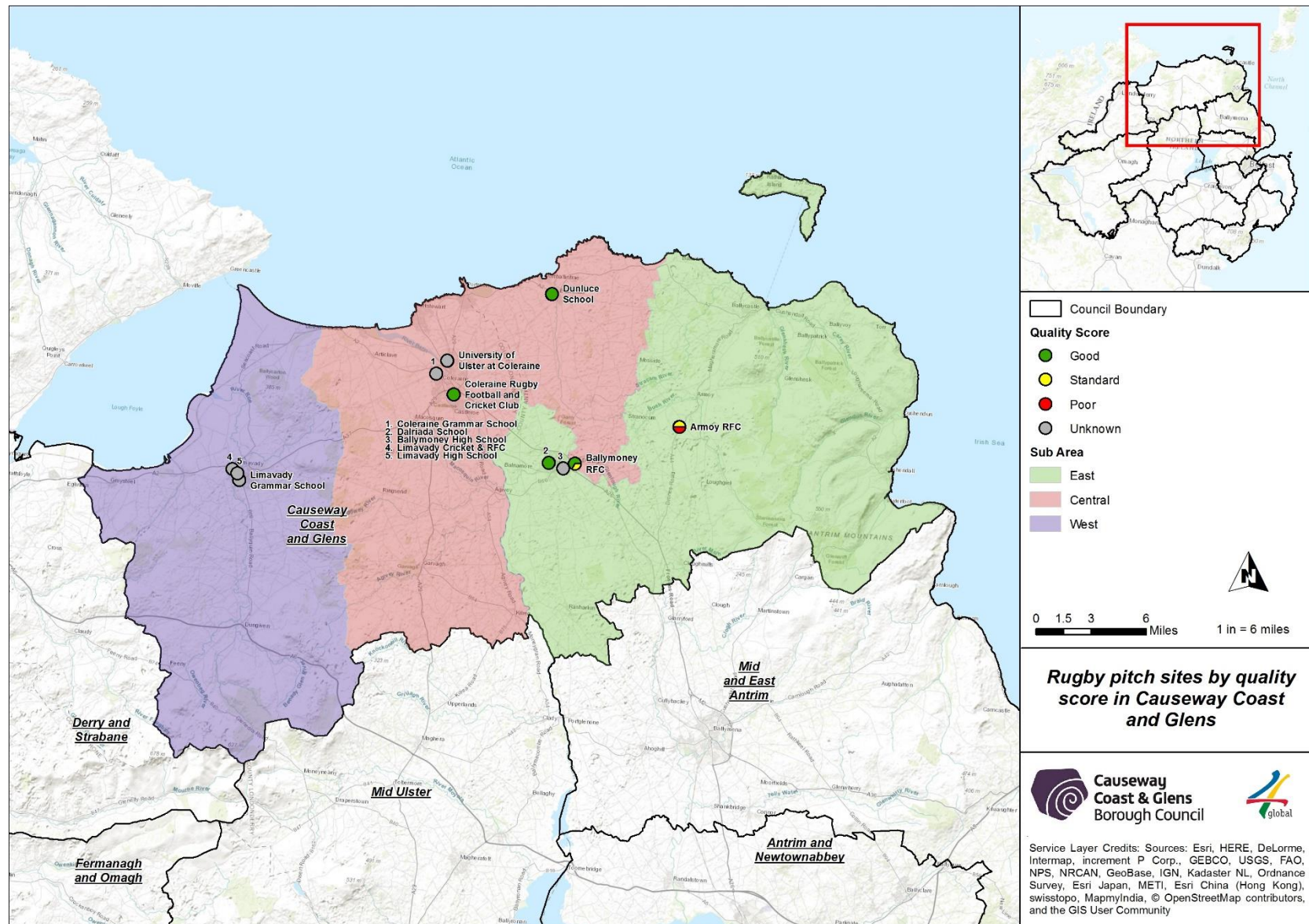
⁽⁴⁶⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.



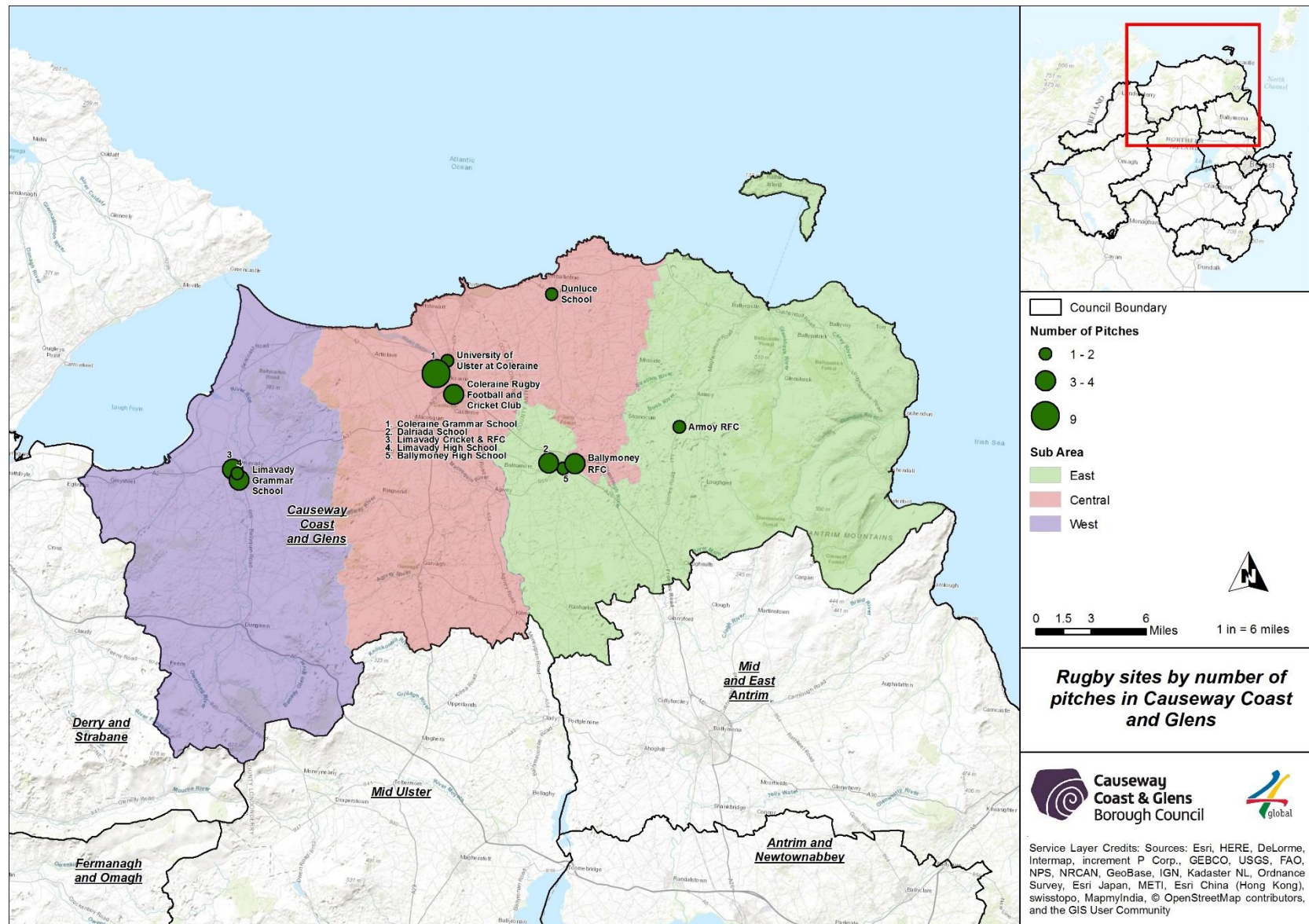
Map 6.1 Location – Rugby Pitch Sites



Map 6.2 Ownership – Rugby Pitch Sites



Map 6.3 Quality – Rugby Pitch Sites



Map 6.4 Number of Pitches – Rugby Pitch Sites

- **Full** – pitches used for matches of all ages and training.
- **Youth** – pitches used for youth only matches and training of all ages.
- **Training** – pitches that can only be used for training and do not have posts and are not used for matches.

Table 6.1: Rugby – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches

<u>Clubs</u>				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Ballymoney RFC	East	3 x Full Grass	2 x Good 1 x Standard	
Coleraine RFC and CC	Central	3 x Full Grass	3 x Good	Pitches used for cricket in summer months
Limavady RFC and CC	West	2 x Full Grass 1 x Youth	3 x Unknown	
Totals 8 x Full Grass Rugby Pitches 1 x Youth Rugby Pitch				
<u>Leased from Council</u>				
Armoy RFC	East	2 x Full Grass	1 x Standard 1 x Poor	Pitches are on lease from the Council. One pitch currently undergoing drainage works – will be unusable for at least 2 years. Clubhouse and changing accommodation sub-standard and badly in need of upgrade.
<u>Education</u>				
Ballymoney High School	East	1 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	2 x Unknown	No community use
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	7 x Full Grass 2 x Youth	9 x Unknown	Community use of many of its pitches except rugby
Dalriada School	East	2 x Full Grass 1 x Youth Grass	3 x Good	Community use in place for 3G pitch but not rugby
Dunluce School	Central	1 x Full Grass	1 x Good	Not used by the community
Limavady Grammar School	West	4 x Youth Grass	4 x Unknown	Rugby pitches not used by community

Limavady High School	West	1 x Full Grass	1 x Unknown	Rugby pitch not used by community – the school has a community use policy
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	2 x Full Grass	2 x Unknown	One pitch has floodlights – this pitch is planned to be converted to a 3G multi-sports pitch in 2019/20 should the project be approved.
Totals 14 Full Grass Rugby Pitches 9 x Youth Grass Rugby Pitches				

- 6.10** The majority of rugby training takes place at clubs' own facilities – clubs with a large number of youth teams do make use of other facilities for training. Training facilities in *addition* to those presented in Table 6.1 are:-

Table 6.2: Rugby – Inventory of training facilities in addition to those in Table 6.1			
Pitch Site	Area	No pitches	Remarks
Rugby Avenue, Coleraine	Central	1 x 3G 1 x AstroTurf	Both the AstroTurf and 3G synthetic pitches are used for training by Coleraine RFC & CC
Totals 1 x Full AstroTurf 1 x Full 3G			

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 6.11** Typically, rugby clubs train and play matches on the same pitch. Careful pitch maintenance is required to ensure pitch quality throughout the season. A summary and breakdown of current rugby pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Here, all matches and the majority of training takes place on club owned sites.

Rugby Pitches used for matches and training			
Ownership	Full Grass	Youth Grass	Training (AstroTurf, 3G)
Clubs	8	1	0
Education	14	8	0
Leased from CC&G	2	0	1 x AstroTurf, 1 x 3G
Total	24	9	

Summary of Quality of Pitches

6.12 A summary and breakdown of current full and youth match pitch provision by quality is:-

Summary of Quality Rating for Grass Rugby Pitches (Full and Youth)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown	Total number of pitches
Clubs	5	1	0	3	9
Education	4	0	0	18	22
Leased from CC&G	0	1	1	0	2
Total	9	2	1	21	33

Comments

- ❖ The quality of the 18 education pitches is unknown – this section of the questionnaire was not completed by the schools.
- ❖ Just one of the pitches is rated as 'poor' (Armoy RFC).

Clubs, Teams and Players

6.13 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. This was done by surveying the clubs. There are four rugby clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. All four clubs completed questionnaires to produce an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference and any development plans and aspirations. The four clubs satisfied the following criteria:

- d) Home match pitch is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- e) Use pitches within Causeway Coast and Glens area for training.
- f) Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

6.14 The 4 clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing the number of adult and youth teams.

Table 6.3: Rugby Club Team Profile				
Club	Mini (U7 to U12)	Youth (U13 to U18)	Adult	Total No of Teams
	Male	Boys/Girls	Male	All
Armoy RFC	6	0	1	7
Ballymoney RFC	6	3	1	10
Coleraine RFC & CC	11	3	3	17
Limavady RFC & CC	10	2	2	14
Totals	33	8	7	48

6.15 There is a total of 48 male rugby teams across the four clubs – from U7 to adult. Female participation is low for rugby; Coleraine RFC reports good numbers of girls in their primary school age group and the club hopes to be able to field women's teams at youth and senior. As in common with most other field sports rugby provides for small sided games through Rugby Mini. Here matches are played on varying pitch sizes and with varying team numbers depending on age group. Small pitches are created on full-size pitches with the aid of cones.

6.16 The profile of teams and player numbers in the four identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 6.4: Rugby – Profile of Rugby Membership and Teams based in CC&G			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	450	28	478
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	180	0	180
Adult	198	0	198
Total Players	828	28	856
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U7 to U12)	33	0	33
Youth (U13 to U18)	8	0	8
Adult	7	0	7
Total Teams	48	0	48

Adequacy of Provision

6.17 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management. Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public. Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

6.18 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for rugby pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of rugby it is assumed that all adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – youth pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are generally not used for competitive games.

Reference	Description	No of full size grass pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	22
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	10
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	2

6.19 There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The

number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following full size grass pitches have been excluded:-

Pitch site	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	14	Generally not available for club matches.

6.20 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for full and youth grass match pitches available for adult, youth and mini games is:-

Pitch Site	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Full Grass	Full Grass	Full Grass
<u>Clubs</u>			
All	8	8	0
<u>Education</u>			
University	2	0	0
Secondary	12	0	0
<u>Council</u>			
Leased to club	2	2	2
Totals	22	10	2

Comments

- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude 14 education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Full size 3G pitches are not included in any of the scenarios as they appear not to be generally used for competitive matches – the preference is for grass surfaces.

Scenario 1

6.21 The picture of ***rugby total demand and total supply for Scenario 1***, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 6.5: Rugby – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12)	4*	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. It is estimated that eight mini teams are equivalent to 1 adult team. *The identified 33 mini-teams are equivalent to 4 adult teams.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	8	
	Adult	7	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12)	0.5	Based on a home game/blitz every other week
	Youth (U13 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	4	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	4	
	Adult – Sat PM	4	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat 12 - 2	100%	
	Adult – Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	4	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	4	
	Adult – Sat PM	4	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Rugby	22	All club, education and Council owned pitches
	Youth	22	
	Adult	2	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁴⁷⁾	Mini Rugby	22-4 = +18	Good level of Supply
	Youth + Adult	22- 4 = +18	Good level of Supply

6.22 The results for Scenario 1 show that the supply of rugby facilities meets demand with 18 pitches surplus for both junior and senior rugby demand. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming on pitch can support mini rugby, a junior and senior match as calculated from the club survey.

⁽⁴⁷⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Scenario 2

6.23 The picture for Scenario 2 for rugby in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where education sector pitches are not included as they are generally not available for club matches:-

Table 6.6: Rugby – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – Only Community Pitches

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12)	4*	Mini- games are played on adult pitches. It is estimated that eight mini teams are equivalent to 1 adult team. *The identified 33 mini-teams are equivalent to 4 adult teams.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	8	
	Adult	7	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12)	0.5	Based on a home game/blitz every other week
	Youth (U13 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	4	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	4	
	Adult – Sat PM	4	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat 12 - 2	100%	
	Adult – Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Rugby (U7 to U12) – Sat AM	4	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat AM	4	
	Adult – Sat PM	4	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Rugby	10	All club owned pitches and Council pitches leased to club.
	Youth (U13 to U18)	10	
	Adult	10	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁴⁸⁾	Mini & Youth Rugby	10 - 8 = +2	Good level of Supply
	Adult	10 - 4 = +6	Good level of Supply

⁽⁴⁸⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

6.24 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for competitive games for all age groups for all age groups. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is comfortably meeting demand for matches with a surplus of 6 pitches.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that rugby pitch capacity is 2 games on a Saturday. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.
- ❖ Scenario 2 does not include use of 3G facilities for adult or youth matches as these were not recorded as used in the club survey. 3G pitches are not widely accepted by rugby for matches.
- ❖ Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most rugby pitches in addition to matches. Any pitch surplus identified will be available to satisfy training demand. Coleraine RFC is one of two clubs which report use of additional training facilities beyond their own premises. From the club survey Ballymoney RFC records a desire for additional training facilities.

6.25 A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are used. The Council's two grass rugby pitches are leased to Armoy RFC and clearly would not meet overall demand for pitches.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

6.26 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their two main pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week –

Club	Pitch 1			Pitch 2		
	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total match and training hours (hrs)
Coleraine RFC	4	4	8	12	4	16
Ballymoney RFC	2	6	8	12	6	18
Limavady RFC	6	6	12	0	6	6
Armoy RFC	4	4	9	-	-	-
Averages	<i>4 hours per week</i>	<i>5 hours per week</i>	<i>8 hours per week</i>	<i>12 hours per week</i>	<i>4.6 hours per week</i>	<i>13 hours per week</i>

Comments

- ❖ In general, clubs with more than 2 pitches make differential use of each. One of the pitches may receive less training use in order to maintain surface quality for matches. For example, Pitch 1 at Coleraine Rugby Club is used 8 hours a week whilst Pitch 2 is used 16 hours.
- ❖ The average number of hours per week that pitches are used for both matches and training ranges from 9 to 13 hours.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

6.27 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	1	1
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	0
Availability of floodlit venues	-	0
Can't get booking slot	1	1
Condition of pitches	1	1
None	2	2

Comments

- ❖ Two of the four clubs find no barriers to accessing match or training facilities.
- ❖ Hire cost, booking slots and condition of pitches are barriers for the other two clubs.

Playing Surface

6.28 Competitive sport is increasingly being played on artificial surfaces. 3G surfaces are officially sanctioned by the IRFU and over the last number of years the provision of 3G pitches has increased both in Causeway Coast and Glens area and across Northern Ireland. The survey respondents were asked to indicate their attitude to the use of artificial surfaces including 3G surfaces for matches and training. The results are:-

Table 6.7: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Polymeric	1	3	0	2	2	0
AstroTurf	0	3	1	2	2	
3G	0	1	3	1	2	1

Comment

- ❖ Three clubs are favourable to the use of 3G surfaces for training.
- ❖ Only one club is favourable to using 3G surfaces for matches although a further two clubs adopted a neutral stance.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

6.29 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next five years is recorded below for the four rugby clubs.

Age/Gender	No of clubs Increase	No of clubs Decrease	No of clubs Stay the same
Pre-Junior Male	3	0	1
Pre-Junior Female	3	0	1
Junior Male	3	0	1
Junior Female	3	0	1
Adult Male	3	0	1
Adult Female	0	0	4

Comments

- ❖ Overall, three of clubs expect their membership to increase, with one expecting to remain the same.
- ❖ On balance both male and female membership is expected to increase for pre-junior and junior age groups.
- ❖ None of the clubs expect adult female membership to increase in the next five years – it is likely to take a longer period of time before female growth at younger age groups filters through.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:-
 - *Better organisation, training, School programme and current success of the club will help increase numbers.*
 - *Dedicated coaching team.*

- *Further development of Mini rugby section. Introduction of youth rugby over the next two seasons. Further development with playing surfaces which Armoy has endeavoured to carry out and changing facilities would hopefully attract more players to the senior ranks.*

6.30 Table 6.8 presents the four rugby clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 6.8: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Coleraine RF&CC	With the loss of 2 pitches to facilitate the AstroTurf pitch and 3G pitch, our grass pitches are under strain in the bad weather, it would be hoped that future development would see pitch 3 become a 4g pitch, but this would be some years from now due to financial restraints.	With the numbers training and playing matches at Coleraine, the grounds are under serious strain, especially in bad weather. Block booking of the 3G at Rugby Ave has been difficult due to block bookings well in advance by other clubs. There would appear to be favouritism given to soccer (youth and Adult) over Rugby. Also the 3G pitch at Rugby Avenue does not have lines marked or posts for Rugby whereas others in other areas do, therefore it is unsuitable for matches.
Ballymoney RFC	Additional pitch desired (3G/4G)	
Limavady RFC & CC	We are looking into the feasibility of converting one of our grass pitches into an artificial floodlit pitch that could accommodate playing hockey and soccer on and use for training purposes as well.	
Armoy RFC	Outline planning in place. Previous development plan is currently being reworked. This included refurbishment of training and playing pitch with floodlight provision. Also artificial pitch along with the building of new changing facilities. Included a walkway around the grounds and areas for camping.	

6.31 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Rugby clubs tend to train and play matches on club pitches where changing accommodation and social facilities are also available. A total of 48 teams are fielded across the four clubs involving 856 players from 6 years of age through to adult; only 28 players are female and these in the 6-11 years junior category. As with association football the under representation of female players presents an opportunity for future sports development programmes.
- ❖ The clubs mostly rate the quality of their pitches as 'good'. However the pitch at Armoy RFC (owned by the Council and leased to the club) is 'standard' as is the changing accommodation at Armoy. In addition to matches, rugby clubs use their pitches for training. Combining matches and training sessions, the clubs report club pitches being used for anything from 8 hours to 18 hours on a weekly basis. The clubs rate five out of eight pitches as 'good' despite this extensive use (governing body guidance – Rugby Football Union – suggests a 'good' grass rugby pitch has a weekly carrying capacity of 3 *match equivalent sessions* which would equate to around 5 hours). Three of the clubs are prepared to train on 3G pitches; Limavady RFC trains at the Council's Scroggy Road 3G pitch and Coleraine RFC&CC trains on both the AstroTurf and 3G pitches at the Council's Rugby Avenue site.
- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Mini's	+ 6 pitches	Good supply
Youth & adult	+ 6 pitches	Good supply

Training needs are additional and with the growing acceptance of 3G for training (and possibly matches) the clubs each aspire to having a club-based 3G pitch for training.

- ❖ Three of the four clubs see membership growing over the next five years with the fourth club reckoning membership will stay the same. Interestingly, all four clubs see neither a decrease or an increase in female membership which presently accounts for just over 3% of total membership across the clubs. This would appear to be at odds with the Ulster Branch's vision of growing female participation.

Strategic Recommendations – Rugby

Item No	Description
9.	Depending on the long term future of the club there is a need to replace the changing accommodation at Armoy Rugby Club and complete drainage work on the pitches. Council to explore construction options for changing accommodation, including modular options.

7. Hockey

Introduction

7.1 This section presents consultation with Ulster Hockey followed by an overview of supply of and demand for hockey pitches; an assessment of adequacy of provision is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM); the PPM is also used to assess the condition of facilities in the Council's ownership using the 'Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment' tool. There are four hockey clubs in the Council area; three ladies clubs, one men's club. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Ulster Hockey
- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Ulster Hockey Union

Participation and Growth

- 7.2** The Ulster Hockey Union represents men's and women's hockey (from May 2009). In 2010 it was the first sports governing body to have its governance assessed by Sport NI, achieving the highest level – 'substantial'. Ulster Hockey is held up as a model of good practice in its governance. Participation is on the increase with around 16,000 players registered in Ulster with players in the greater Belfast area (clubs and post primary schools) accounting for approximately 20% of participation across Ulster. With an increase by four in the number of teams at the World Cup Finals in 2018, Ireland's women and men have a chance to compete on the world stage. This could have a knock-on effect on participation.
- 7.3** It is estimated by the world governing body, the Federation Internationale Hockey that hockey has 44,000 participants throughout Ireland. Both the men's and women's teams are in the top twenty in the world, maintaining a steady position over a number of years. Ulster is well represented on national teams.
- 7.4** The Causeway area, with four hockey clubs and many hockey-playing schools at both primary and secondary levels is seen as being strong in hockey development. Ulster Hockey promotes the relationship between clubs and schools and its 'Active Clubs' initiative encourages clubs to develop 'under-age' participation. Hockey

participation in the Causeway area is largely female both in schools and clubs. The only male club is Portrush Men's Hockey Club which plays its home matches at the Quay Road AstroTurf pitch in Ballycastle. The Ulster Hockey Union is keen to promote boy's and men's hockey in the Causeway area.

Facilities

- 7.5** The artificial turf pitches (ATP's) which began to appear in the 1970's prioritised hockey activity – they are also known as 'AstroTurf'. They came to be regarded (incorrectly) as multi-sport in the absence of alternative ATP surfaces and were widely used. In the mid to late 1990's the introduction of the new 3G technology suited to large ball sports meant a gradual shift from AstroTurf (which was never designed to accommodate association football) to 3G by association football clubs/groups and an increasing demand for 3G, now popular with association football and gaelic games and increasingly, rugby. 3G has taken over from AstroTurf as the surface of choice for all but hockey. Given that hockey has fewer participants than any one of the 'big three', in recent years AstroTurf carpets have been replaced by 3G carpets in several locations across Ulster. It is also the case that new ATP's currently being developed outside of hockey clubs and hockey playing schools are almost exclusively 3G as these provide the best potential for use and income.
- 7.6** Whilst some hockey clubs and schools have their own AstroTurf facilities (sand dressed or water based) many still rely on local authority facilities. With the loss of AstroTurf pitches in some areas coupled with the fact that fewer AstroTurf pitches are being constructed, the Ulster Hockey Union clearly faces a significant challenge as it seeks to continue to build on recent successes in grassroots participation. The removal of the AstroTurf pitch at the Ulster University (replaced by 3G) has been mitigated by the Council's new AstroTurf pitch at its Rugby Avenue complex.

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

- 7.7** Club hockey is played exclusively on artificial turf pitches (ATP's), either sand or water 'AstroTurf' – 3G surfaces cannot accommodate hockey. It is the case that school's hockey often uses the shale pitches still found on many school sites, however the Ulster Hockey Union stipulates all games should be played on ATP's. Shale pitches in schools and elsewhere are noted in this study as they have the potential to be upgraded to ATP surfaces. Three different types of pitch 'ownership' for hockey are recorded:-

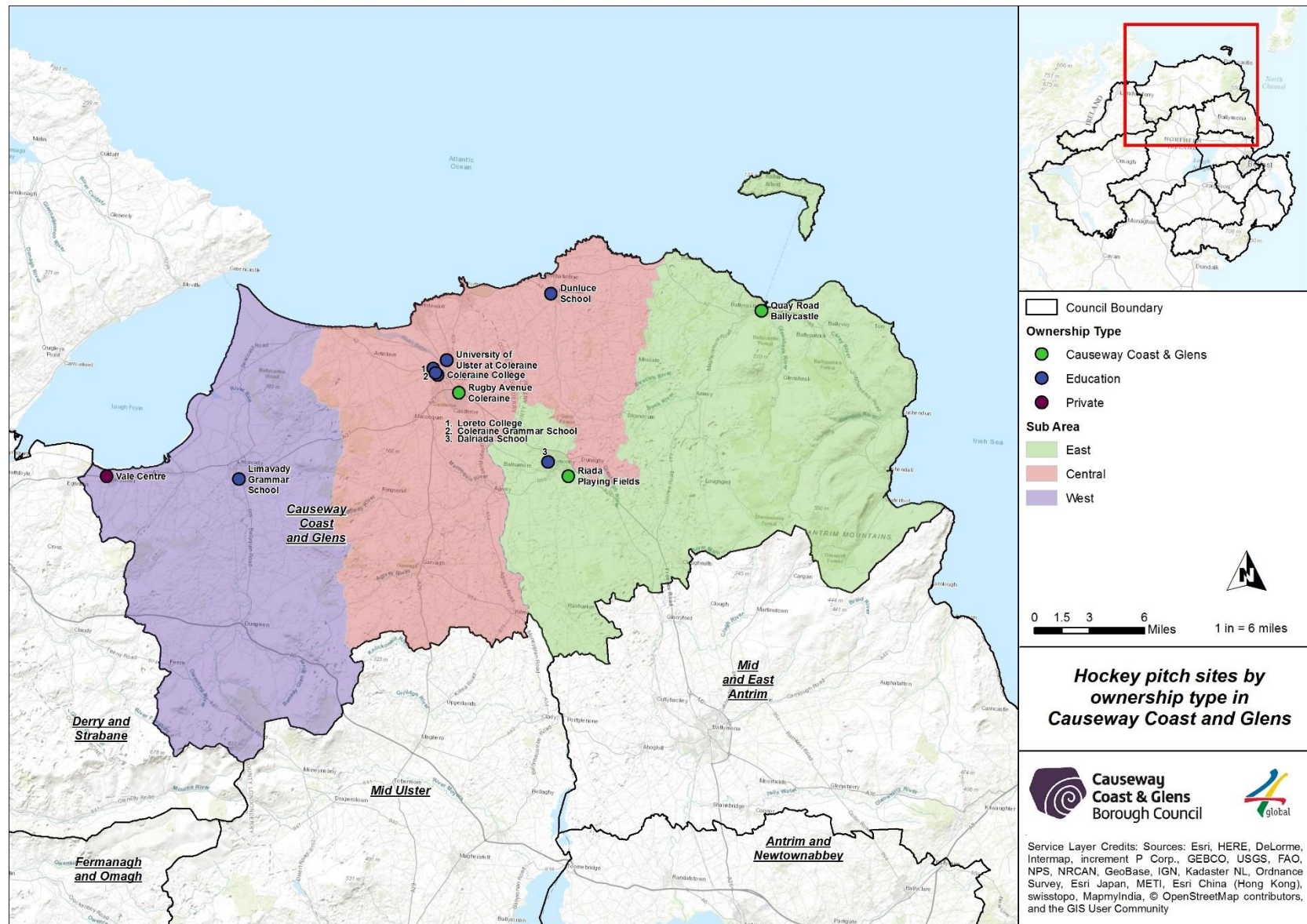
- **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council** – these pitches are maintained, operated and booked through the Council.
- **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.
- **Community** – these pitches are owned by a community group.

7.8 Table 7.1 presents a detailed inventory of hockey pitches suitable for competitive matches. For each pitch *site, type, number, quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.5 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, ownership, quality, quantity⁽⁴⁹⁾ and type respectively. Two pitch categories are noted:-

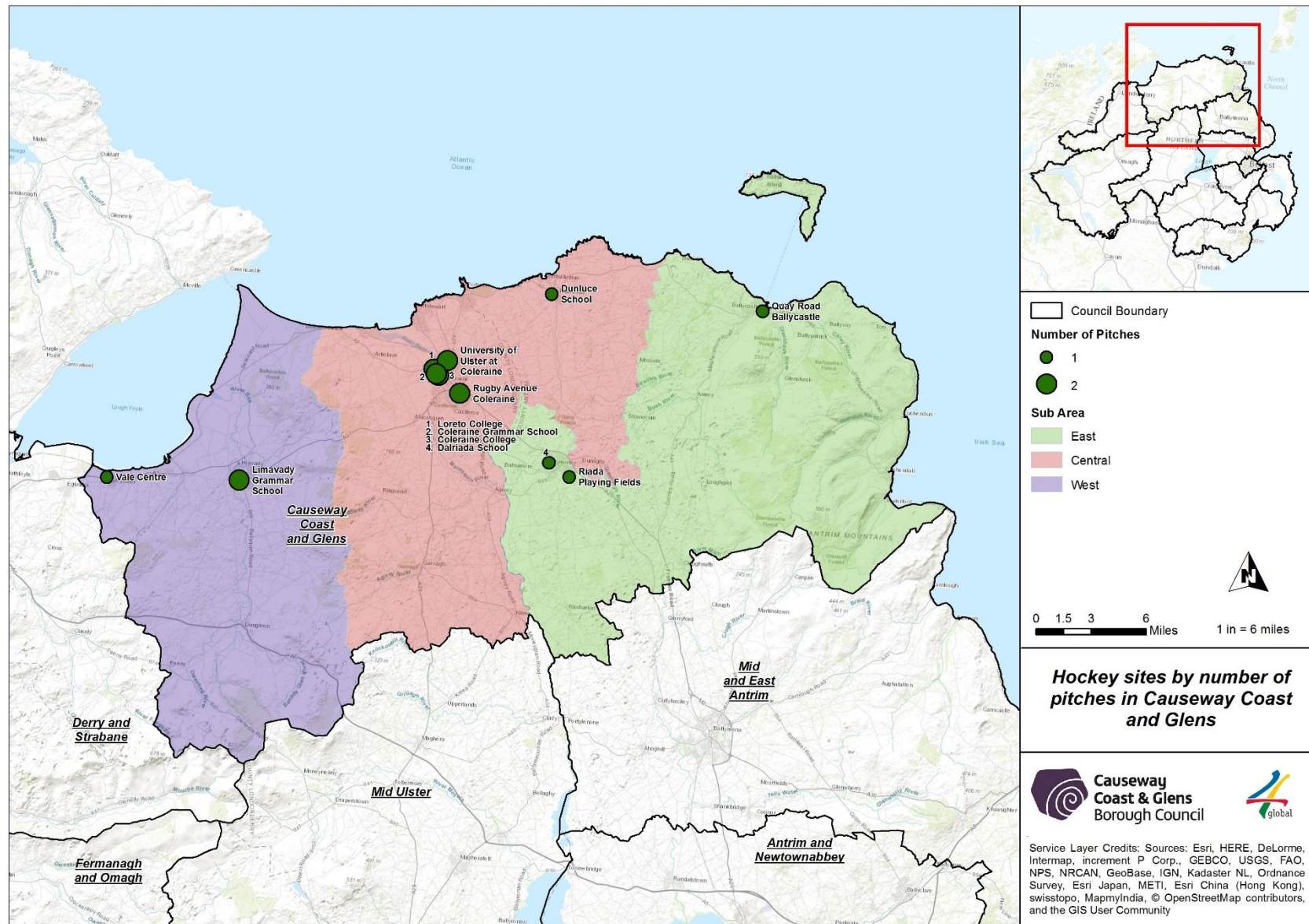
- ❖ **Sand AstroTurf** (also training AstroTurf) – pitches used for matches and training.
- ❖ **Shale (full or youth)** – shale pitches continue to be used in some schools out of necessity.

It's noted there are no water-based synthetic pitches in the Borough.

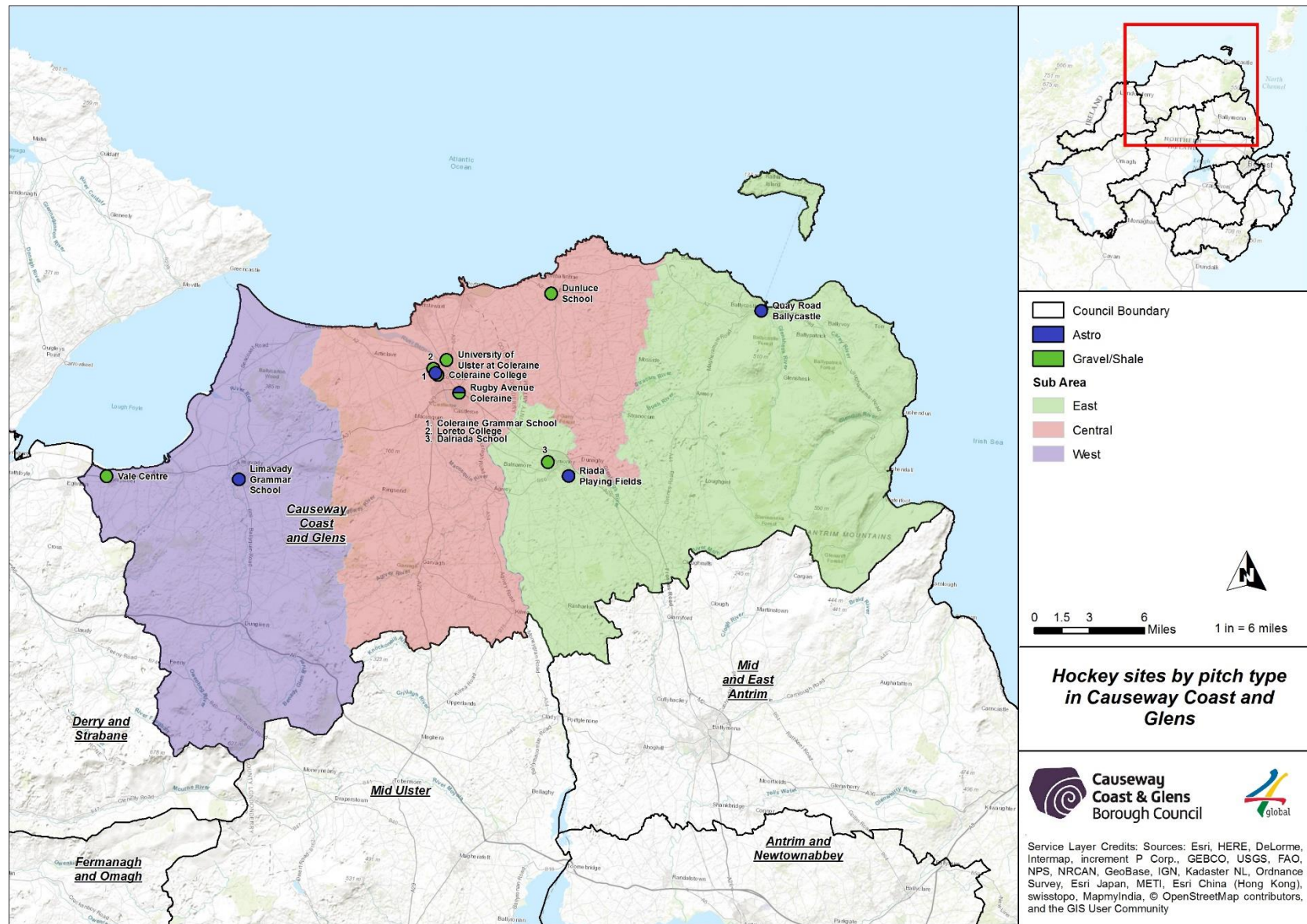
⁽⁴⁹⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.



Map 7.2 Ownership – Hockey Pitch Sites



Map 7.4 Number of Pitches – Hockey Pitch Sites



Map 7.5 Type – Hockey Pitch Sites

Table 7.1: Hockey –Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

<u>Council</u>				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Rugby Avenue, Coleraine	Central	1 x Sand AstroTurf 1 x Shale	1 x Good 1 x Unknown	Home venue for Coleraine Hockey Ladies Club (leased from the Council) – also used for training by association football teams. Used for training and matches by Portrush Men's Hockey Club (in addition to Quay Road). Shale pitch not used by clubs for hockey activities.
Riada Playing Fields, Ballymoney	East	1 x Sand AstroTurf	1 x Good	Home venue for Ballymoney Ladies Hockey Club – used also for association football training.
Quay Road, Ballycastle	East	1 x Sand AstroTurf	1 x Good	Home venue for Portrush Men's Hockey Club – also used by gaelic games and association football teams for training.
Totals 3 x Full AstroTurf Pitches 1 x Shale Pitch				
<u>Education</u>				
Coleraine College	Central	2 x Full Shale	2 x Unknown	School notes lack of school sports facilities on the west side of the River Bann in Coleraine – school keen for development of community sports hub including as AstroTurf pitch
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	1 x Full Shale 1 x Youth Shale	2 x Unknown	The school reports it urgently requires 1 or 2 AstroTurf pitches for school and community use. The school buses pupils to Rugby Avenue for mid-week training and fixtures – cannot get slot at Rugby Avenue on Saturday mornings for matches.

Dalriada School	East	1 x Full Shale	1 x Poor	The school reports hockey development is frustrated by the lack of on-site facilities at home base.
Dunluce School	Central	1 x Full Shale	1 x Good	Not used by the community.
Limavady Grammar School	West	1 x Sand AstroTurf 1 x training AstroTurf	2 x Unknown	One pitch is home venue for Limavady Ladies Hockey Club. It is understood a recently constructed second pitch is a training size.
Loreto College	Central	2 x Full Shale	2 x Unknown	No community use – pitches used by school hockey teams.
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	2 x Full Shale	2 x Unknown	Redundant shale hockey pitches adjacent to the Cromore Road North Entrance are 'earmarked' for development as a 400m x 6 lane 'Tartan' running track.
Totals 1 x AstroTurf Pitch (full) 1 x AstroTurf Pitch (training) 9 x Full Shale Hockey Pitches 1 x Youth Shale				
<u>Community</u>				
Vale Centre	West	1 x Full Shale	1 x Unknown	Not known to be used for hockey currently.

Summary of Quantity of Pitches

- 7.9** A summary and breakdown of current hockey pitches used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Shale pitches are included for sake of completeness, however these are only used for schools hockey, not club hockey.

Hockey Pitches used for matches and training		
Ownership	AstroTurf pitch	Shale
CC&G	3	1
Education	1 (+1 training)	9
Community	0	1
Total	5	11

Summary of Quality of Pitches

7.10 A summary and breakdown of hockey pitch provision by quality, as inspected for this audit, is presented. Shale pitches are also included here for completeness.

Summary of Quality Rating for Hockey Pitches (AstroTurf and Shale)					
Ownership	Good	Standard	Poor (Shale)	Unknown	Total number of pitches
CC&G	3	0	1	0	4
Education	0	0	0	11	11
Community	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3	0	1	12	16

Comments

- ❖ The quality of the 12 education pitches (AstroTurf and Shale) and 1 community shale pitch is unknown.
- ❖ All three Council pitches are rated as 'Good'.

7.11 The four hockey clubs were asked to rate the quality of their home match venue; results are:-

Club	Home match venue	Quality Rating by Club	Quality Rating for Audit
Ballymoney Ladies Hockey Club	Riada Playing Fields AstroTurf	Standard	Good
Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club	Rugby Avenue AstroTurf	Good	Good
Limavady Hockey Club	Limavady Grammar School	Standard	Not Surveyed
Portrush Men's Hockey Club	Quay Road Playing Fields	Poor	Good

Comment

- ❖ There appears be disconnect between the perceived quality of pitches by the clubs and the quality rating carried out as part of this project.

Clubs, Teams and Players

7.12 In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are four hockey clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. All four clubs completed questionnaires, producing

an accurate picture of membership, pitch use, pitch preference, development plans and aspirations. The four clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- a) Home match pitch is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use pitches within Causeway Coast and Glens area.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

7.13 The four hockey clubs are listed below detailing the number of adult, and youth teams.

Table 7.2: Hockey Club Team Profile				
Club	Mini (U7 to U11)	Youth (U12 to U18)	Adult	Total No of Teams
Ballymoney Ladies Hockey Club	1	3	4	8
Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club	3	5	3	11
Limavady Ladies Hockey Club	2	2	1	5
Portrush Men's Hockey Club	2	3	3	8
Totals	8	13	11	32

7.14 There is a total of 32 hockey teams in the Council – from U7 to adult. Hockey participation is predominantly female with just one male club, Portrush Men's HC.

7.15 The profile of teams and player numbers in the four identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 7.3: Hockey – Profile of Membership and Teams based in CC&G			
	Male	Female	Total Male And Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	59	294	353
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	31	187	218
Adult	24	159	183
Total Players	114	640	754
<u>Teams</u>			
Mini (U7 to U11)	2	6	8
Youth (U12 to U18)	3	10	13
Adult	3	8	11
Total Teams	8	24	32

Adequacy of Provision

7.16 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management. Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public. Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
Used by community but not secured	Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

7.17 These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for hockey pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of hockey it is assumed that all adult, youth and mini games are played on full size pitches – shale pitches are not considered in this modelling as they are not used for club matches.

Reference	Description	No of full size AstroTurf pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	4
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	4
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	3

7.18 All four full AstroTurf pitches are available for community use therefore the number of pitches considered in Scenario 1 (all pitches) and Scenario 2 (all community accessible pitches) is the same. Scenario 3 differs as it excludes the full AstroTurf pitch at Limavady Grammar School in consideration of 'Council only' pitches.

7.19 The pitch breakdown for each scenario for AstroTurf pitches available for adult, youth and mini competitive hockey games is:

<u>Pitch Site</u>	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	AstroTurf	AstroTurf	AstroTurf
Council	3	3	3
Education	1	1	0
Totals	4	4	3

Comments

- ❖ Youth, adult and mini matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenario 3 excludes 1 education sector pitch as it considers only Council pitches.

Scenarios 1 and 2

7.20 Given that Scenarios 1 and 2 consider the same number of pitches there is no difference in their assessment or result.

Table 7.4: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenarios 1 & 2 - All pitches available for community use

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11)	8	Based on club survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	13	
	Adult	11	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11)	0.25	Based on a home game every other week for youth and adult and mini tournament once every 4 weeks
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11) – Sun AM/PM	2	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM / Mid-week	7	
	Adult – Sat PM	6	

HOCKEY

4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11) – Sun AM/PM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played Sat AM, Sun AM and mid-week. Adult games played Sat PM and some mid-week
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat 10 – 12 AM	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U7 to U12) – Sun AM/PM	2	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity is assumed to be 3 games per Saturday afternoon if facility has floodlights ⁽⁵⁰⁾ Capacity for Sat AM is set at one
	Youth (U13 to U18) – Sat 10 – 12 AM	4 / 1 = 4	
	Adult – Sat PM	5 / 3 = 2	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	4	All Council and community use education owned pitches
	Youth	4	
	Adult	4	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁵¹⁾	Mini Hockey	4-2 = +2	Good level of Supply
	Youth	4-4 = 0	Supply just meeting demand
	Adult	4-2=+2	Supply meeting demand

7.21 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results show that supply is meeting demand for mini-hockey but only meeting demand for youth hockey with no surplus. There is a surplus of 2 pitches for adult hockey. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results 2:-

- ❖ The scenario is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is just meeting demand for youth with a small surplus for adult.
- ❖ The scenario assumes that hockey pitch capacity is 3 games on a Saturday afternoon and that 80% of games are played then. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.

⁽⁵⁰⁾ With demand for games concentrated on Saturday afternoons the carrying capacity of an ATP pitch is assumed to be 3 games, 1.00pm-2.30pm; 2.30pm – 4.00pm; 4.00pm – 5.30pm, although the 4.00-5.30pm slot needs to have floodlight provision.

⁽⁵¹⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

Scenario 3

7.22 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council pitches are considered:-

Table 7.5: Hockey – Demand and Supply Scenario 3- All Council pitches			
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11)	8	Based on club survey
	Youth (U12 to U18)	13	
	Adult	11	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11)	0.25	Based on a home game every other week for youth and adult and mini tournament once every 4 weeks
	Youth (U12 to U18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11) – Sun AM/PM	2	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat AM / Mid-week	7	
	Adult – Sat PM	6	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11) – Sun AM/PM	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey. Youth Hockey played Sat AM, Sun AM and mid-week. Adult games played Sat PM and some mid-week
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat 10 – 12 AM	50%	
	Adult – Sat PM	80%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Mini Hockey (U7 to U11) – Sun AM/PM	2	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up accounting for pitch capacity. Pitch capacity is assumed to be 3 games per Saturday afternoon if facility has floodlights ⁽⁵²⁾ Capacity for Sat AM is set at one
	Youth (U12 to U18) – Sat 10 – 12 AM	4 / 1 = 4	
	Adult – Sat PM	5 / 3 = 2	
6. Establishing pitches available	Mini Hockey	3	All Council and community use education owned pitches
	Youth	3	
	Adult	3	

⁽⁵²⁾ With demand for games concentrated on Saturday afternoons the carrying capacity of an ATP pitch is assumed to be 3 games, 1.00pm-2.30pm; 2.30pm – 4.00pm; 4.00pm – 5.30pm, although the 4.00-5.30pm slot needs to have floodlight provision.

7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁵³⁾	Mini Hockey	3-2 = +1	Supply meeting demand
	Youth	3- 4 = -1	Supply not meeting demand
	Adult	3-2=+1	Supply meeting demand

7.23 The results of Scenario 3 where only Council owned pitches are considered shows an undersupply for youth games and a small surplus for mini and adult hockey.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

7.24 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	1	2
Finding venues of suitable training surface	1	1
Availability of floodlit venues	-	2
Can't get booking slot	1	1
Condition of pitches	1	1
None	2	2

Comments

- ❖ Two of the four clubs find no barriers to accessing match or training facilities.
- ❖ Hire cost, booking slots and condition of pitches are barriers for the other two clubs.
- ❖ Portrush Men's Hockey Club notes the following in regard to match and training facilities:-
 - "At present hockey can only be played on AstroTurf, which means we can only play in Ballycastle, Coleraine or Ballymoney. We currently play in Ballycastle as we could not get slots in the other two in previous years.

⁽⁵³⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

However, we have agreed with Coleraine to have a working group on this as it's is a far superior surface."

Playing Surface

- 7.25** As stipulated by the Ulster Hockey Union, all club competitive games are played on AstroTurf surfaces, either water or sand based. As part of the online survey, clubs were asked to record their attitude to the AstroTurf water based, AstroTurf sand based and polymeric surfaces for training and for matches. The results are:

Table 7.6: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces

Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Polymeric	4	0	0	4	0	0
AstroTurf- Sand Based	0	0	4	0	0	4
AstroTurf- Water Based	0	0	4	0	0	4

Comment

- ❖ All four clubs are not in favour of the use of polymeric surfaces for either training or matches.
- ❖ All four clubs are in favour of using water based or sand based AstroTurf pitches for matches and training. The clubs have noted equal preferences for both types of AstroTurf. There are however no water based AstroTurf pitches in the Borough.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

- 7.26** Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next five years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of clubs Increase	No of clubs Decrease	No of clubs Stay the same
Pre-Junior Male	2	0	2
Pre-Junior Female	3	0	1
Junior Male	2	0	2
Junior Female	2	0	2
Adult Male	1	0	3
Adult Female	2	0	4

Comments

- ❖ Ballymoney Hockey Ladies Club is looking to grow junior male membership and Portrush Men's Hockey Club is looking to grow Junior female membership.
- ❖ Three of the clubs expect to grow adult membership over the next five years.
- ❖ None of the clubs expect a decrease in membership.
- ❖ Reasons noted by the clubs for expected change in membership are:
 - *Introduce junior male team*
 - *The current growth and structures in the club, plus the numbers of juniors in the club 220 plus at present*
 - *I expect it to stay the same or possibly decrease due to lack of facilities and coaching expertise for senior sections. We should be aiming for another team to recruit the underage teams and keep them at the club but don't have the money or numbers at senior level to coach them*
 - *The main reason for this change are that the club is investing money and time in our youth section. We have and are training coaches and volunteers to allow us to take on more players. We are hoping that moving to the better facilities and playing surface in Coleraine will increase our senior membership through returning players (who have left due to the surface) and a reduction*
 - *in injuries.*

7.27 Table 7.7 presents the four hockey clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 7.7: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballymoney Hockey Club	Changing facilities & toilets are not accessible from pitch. We have only access to changing rooms in Riada football stadium which need to be booked separately from the pitch hire facility and are quite some distance from the pitch. With our thriving mini/junior club we aim to introduce a pre junior male team. It is necessary to use the toilets in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, which is too far away for juniors to go to on their own & have to accompanied by an adult to supervise crossing the car park. The entrance to the pitch enters directly onto a road which is so dangerous particularly with our young members.	Please consider lack of toilets & changing accommodation for female participants using the AstroTurf hockey facility at the JDLC. Changing accommodation & toilets are quite a distance from the pitch. Pitch entrance is a direct pathway onto a road which poses as a danger. Maintenance & upkeep of the pitch is poor. Ballymoney Hockey Club would like to explore the opportunity of a shared pitch facility at Dalriada

		School to improve links with school hockey provision to increase numbers of participants.
Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club	The Coleraine Club is currently thriving 3 senior teams and over 220 junior members. The Club has a 5 year development plan and well on course for achieving their targets. The new pitch has been the main catalyst for the growth along with a forward thinking committee. Spectator accommodation is needed at the AstroTurf pitch - some form of shelter for spectators on match days from the elements and also for all the parents of children that attend junior hockey on Saturday mornings and also Tuesday night Development Hockey training for the U13 and U15's.	Rugby Avenue facility for hockey is top class - well planned and designed and has been a major reason for the growth of hockey at Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club.
Limavady Ladies Hockey Club	Grow the club - getting a second 11 next season – we have a 4-year target to develop a hockey pitch at the John Hunter grounds - finance difficult currently We are caught between a rock and a hard place - find school expensive - school send their players to Ballymoney Hockey club - we would like to provide a community hockey facility at the John Hunter grounds.	
Portrush Men's Hockey Club	We are currently writing our development plan at present, as our previous has come to an end. Our key focus is to develop the structures and systems so that we can develop fully our fledgling youth section(s) for the future. To further develop our club we need to have a suitable playing surface, so we can develop the fundamentals and advanced skills that are required in hockey. We also require a quality surface to reduce injuries to our senior teams, as we have had over the past number of years, from playing on a in adequate surface. In the next three years are looking to develop both the Under 11 and 13s that we currently have, in two hubs (Coleraine & Ballycastle), whilst increasing the number of under 9s and under 15s that we have. This will then lead onto us developing more senior teams.	At present, we understand that the surface in Ballycastle is reaching, or has reached, its natural lifespan and is needing to be replaced. However, we find that it could be maintained better through brushing, as per the Joey Dunlop in Ballymoney...which was laid at the same time....and is still quality. We have raised a number of times about the state that the changing rooms are left in prior to us using them. They are generally cold, dirty and most often cluttered with rubbish/equipment.

Summary

7.28 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points at this audit stage:-

❖ *Adequacy of provision* shows the following result for matches:-

Mini-hockey	+ 2 pitches
Youth	0
Adult	+ 2 pitches

Each of the four clubs plays 'home' matches at one of the four pitches in the Council area. Training needs are accommodated at each pitch.

- ❖ In terms of level of satisfaction Portrush Men's Hockey Club, based at the Quay Road AstroTurf pitch, are of the opinion that the pitch is in poor condition and that the carpet/surface is nearing the end of its lifespan. Ballymoney Hockey Club is of the opinion that maintenance of the AstroTurf pitch at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre is poor and comment on the lack of female changing accommodation. Limavady Ladies Hockey Club has an aspiration to develop a 'community hockey pitch' at the John Hunter grounds in the town. Coleraine Ladies Hockey Club took the opportunity to compliment the new AstroTurf pitch at Rugby Avenue stating it has been 'well planned and designed and has been a major reason for the growth of hockey at the club.' This is an important point as it demonstrates the link between high quality facilities and the development of sport.
- ❖ Between them the four hockey clubs field 32 teams and a total of 754 players of which 85% are female. In this regard club hockey in the Causeway Coast and Glens area is perhaps one of the few sports where the majority of participants are female. This presents two opportunities in relation to hockey sports development and the development of hockey facilities; (i) consolidate and further develop female participation, and (ii) grow male participation.
- ❖ Schools hockey is an important factor in the development of club hockey. Each of the four clubs has a link with a local hockey playing post primary school from which it draws players. This school-club link in hockey is found elsewhere throughout the Province. This link alongside the unsuitability of shale pitches for hockey training or matches has led increasingly to hockey playing post primary schools looking to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches, at least one and, in some cases, two pitches. Through consultation it's noted that both Coleraine Grammar School and Dalriada School aspire to develop on-site AstroTurf pitches.

- ❖ As the Council thinks about future facility provision for hockey, the growth in the popularity of 3G pitches for large ball sports (mostly for training) needs to be considered. AstroTurf pitches came to be regarded as multi-sport, however the advent of 3G technology for ATP's has resulted in AstroTurf pitches being replaced by 3G pitches which are more suited to large ball sports.

Strategic Recommendations – Hockey

Item No	Description
10.	Consider the development of a changing pavilion in Riada Playing Fields adjacent to the AstroTurf pitch, especially suited to the requirements of female hockey players.
11.	Replace the ageing surface on the AstroTurf pitch at Quay Road, Ballycastle.

8. Tennis

Introduction

- 8.1** This section presents consultation with Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for tennis; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using the principles of Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM). The principles of the PPM are also used to assess the condition of tennis facilities in the Council's ownership. There are five tennis clubs in the Council area with a mix of adult and youth membership and playing on a range of surfaces. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland
- ❖ Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Summary

Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland (UBTI)

- 8.2** UBTI's key strategic objective through to 2021 is to increase total participation, from 7,000 in 2010 to 20,000 by 2021. Within this participation target, club membership is projected to increase to 5,000 by 2021. Its tactics are (i) collaborative working; (ii) encourage clubs and others to implement the Tennis Ireland 'Participation and Club Development Plan'. Club membership in Ulster is low when compared to Leinster (45,000) and Munster (10,000); UBTI sees this as an opportunity to grow membership.
- 8.3** 'Parks Tennis NI' was introduced in 2010, involving clubs in outreach coaching programmes. Around a quarter of Ulster's tennis clubs took part and by 2015 5,000 children were involved. UBTI plans to further develop Parks Tennis, encouraging clubs to develop links with local communities. It is hoped this will help to attract and retain girls in the sport – at junior levels the balance is very much towards boys.
- 8.4** The UBTI's view is that, with a large number of older people playing tennis (figures not available) there is a need for artificial grass surfaces which are easier on legs and knees. Tennis coaches on the other hand prefer clay or acrylic courts. The natural grass courts at Ballycastle continue to attract the summer tournaments and in UBTI's view, should be retained. The Council operates 39 courts at 9 sites across the Borough with surfaces a mix of bitmac, natural grass, polymeric and

AstroTurf/artificial grass. Twenty-three of the Council's courts are bitmac which, according to Sport England, are suitable for 'training and for some competition'. The local clubs feel that bitmac courts are not acceptable for competitive play, pointing to AstroTurf/artificial grass as a minimum standard. The Council's tennis courts are generally outdated and of unsatisfactory quality.

Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

8.5 Tennis can be played on a variety of court surfaces including bitmac⁽⁵⁴⁾, polymeric⁽⁵⁵⁾, AstroTurf⁽⁵⁶⁾ and natural grass. Each offers a different playing experience and differing costs, care and maintenance regimes. Bitmac surfaces can be rejuvenated by the addition of acrylic paint sprayed onto the surface to provide a safer system and improved play characteristics. All four tennis surfaces types are found across the Borough. The inventory of tennis courts in the Council area as presented in Table 8.1. shows three different types of court 'ownership':-

- ❖ **Club owned** – courts are owned and maintained by a tennis club.
- ❖ **Council** – courts are owned and maintained by the Council.
- ❖ **Education** – courts are owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.

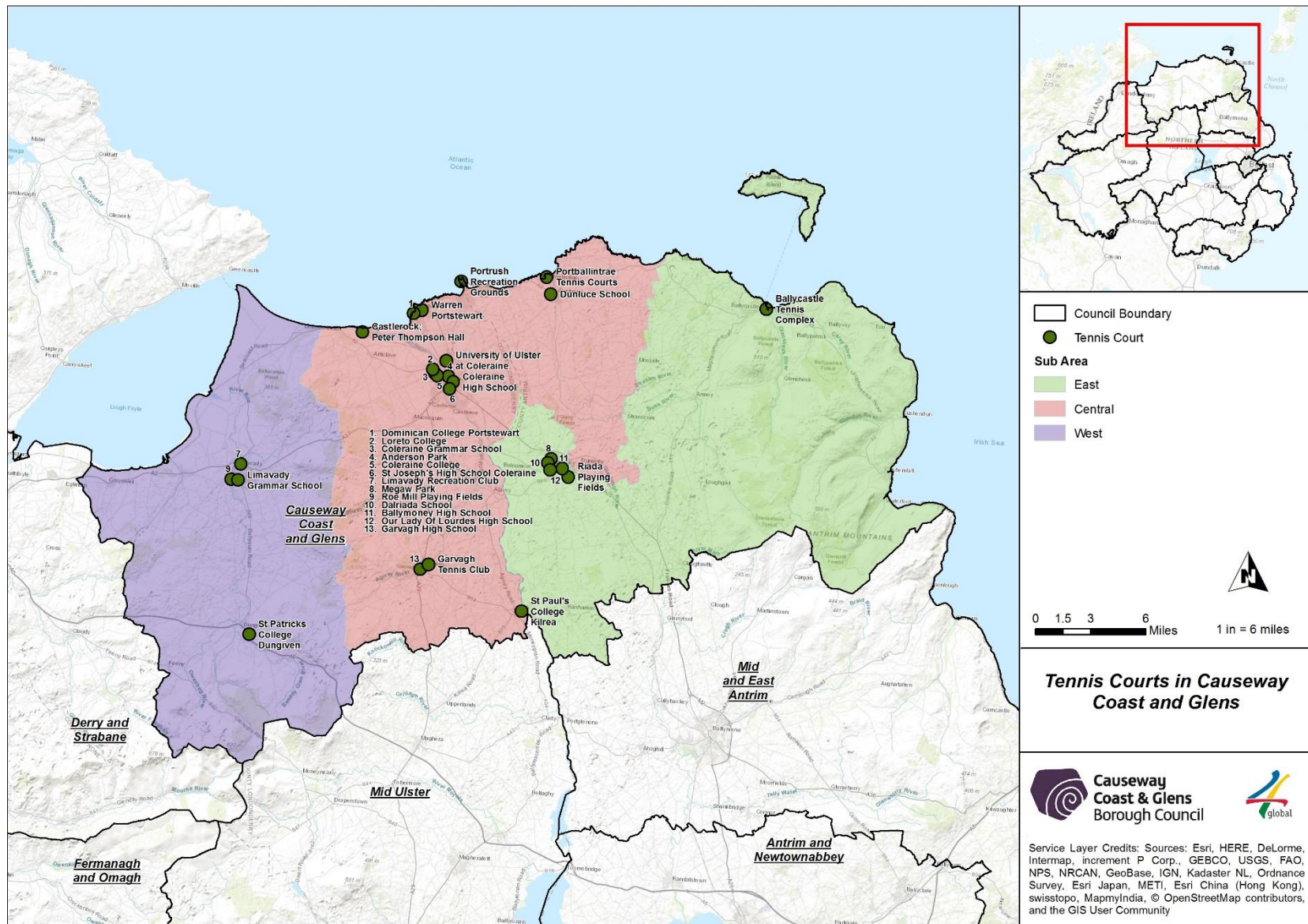
Maps 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 accompany the inventory showing location, ownership and quality⁽⁵⁷⁾ respectively.

⁽⁵⁴⁾ Tarmacadam based surface offering good lifespan, easy maintenance and economical to construct.

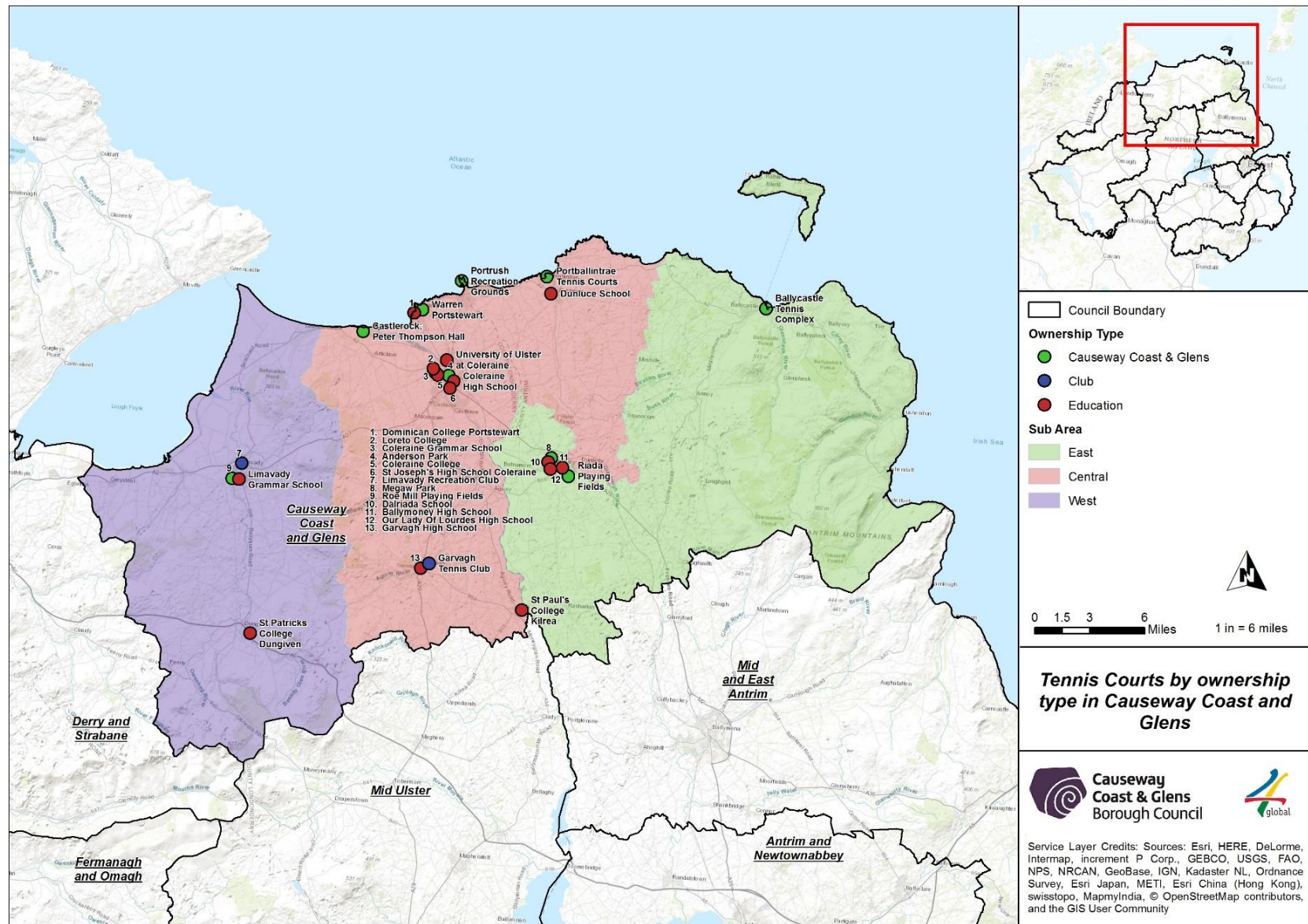
⁽⁵⁵⁾ A polymeric surface comprises a layer of bound rubber laid onto a tarmac base. Surface offers good grip and reasonable ball bounce.

⁽⁵⁶⁾ Synthetic grass system designed for hockey but which offers good play characteristics for tennis.

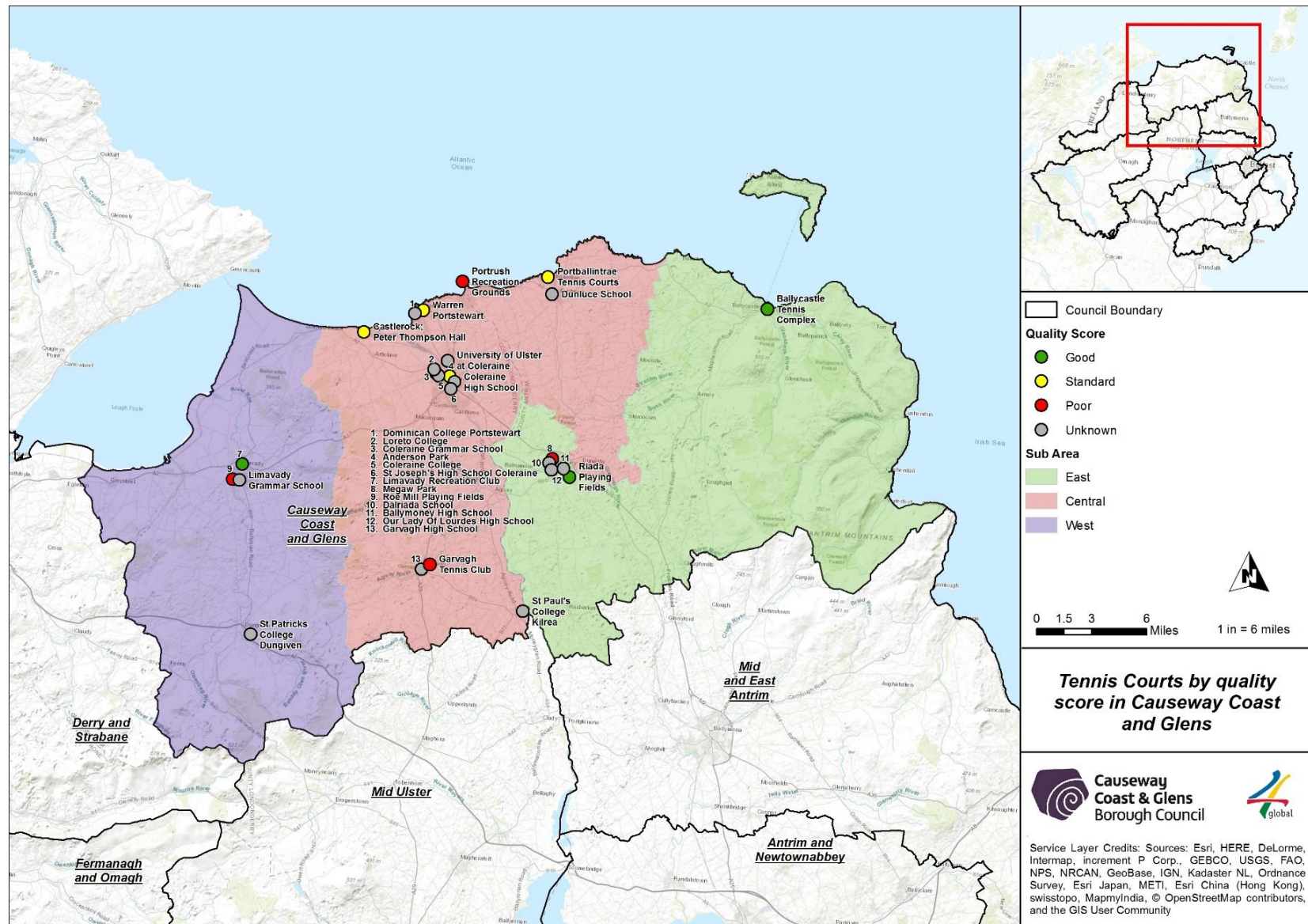
⁽⁵⁷⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.



Map 8.1 Location – Tennis Courts



Map 8.2 Ownership – Tennis Courts



Map 8.3 Quality – Tennis Courts

Table 8.1: Tennis – Location, Quantity and Quality of Courts by Ownership

<u>Council</u>				
Location		Quantity/Type	Quality	Remarks
Site	Area			
Anderson Park, Coleraine	Central	4 x Bitmac Acrylic paint (blue)	4 x Standard	Used regularly by the public and home to Coleraine Tennis Club and Causeway Community Tennis Club.
Ballycastle Tennis Complex	East	6 x Grass 5 x Polymeric	6 x Good 5 x Good	Home base for Ballycastle Tennis Club - hosts the Irish National Grass Tennis Championship.
Castlerock; Peter Thompson Hall	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Standard	Fencing in need of repair – not linked to a club.
Megaw Park, Ballymoney	East	3 x Polymeric	3 x Good	New courts now available for community use – not linked to a club
Portballintrae Tennis Courts	Central	1 x Bitmac	1 x Good	Not linked to a club.
Portrush Recreation Grounds	Central	12 x Bitmac	12 x Poor	Unappealing site – 4 courts completely unused – 8 used during the summer – no club linked to facility. Portrush Bowling Club also located at the facility.
Riada Playing Fields, Ballymoney	East	2 x AstroTurf	2 x Good	Not linked to a club.
Roe Mill Playing Fields, Limavady	West	2 x Bitmac	2 x Poor	Not linked to a club.
The Warren, Portstewart	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Standard	Courts open to public use – not linked to a club.
Totals 23 x Bitmac 8 x Polymeric 2 x AstroTurf 6 x Grass				
<u>Club</u>				
Garvagh Tennis Club	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Poor	Open to club and community use
Limavady Recreation Club	West	3 x AstroTurf	3 x Good	Open to club and community use
Totals 2 x Bitmac 3 x AstroTurf				

<u>Education</u>				
Ballymoney High School	East	1 x Bitmac	1 x Poor	No community use
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	4 x Bitmac	4 x Poor	The courts are closed as deemed unsafe – the school buses children to Anderson Park tennis courts for after-school coaching on Mondays and Thursdays
Coleraine College	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Unknown	No community use
Dalriada School, Ballymoney	East	4 x AstroTurf	4 x Standard	No community use
Dominican College Portstewart	Central	3 x AstroTurf	3 x Standard	No community use
Dunluce School	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Standard	No community use
Garvagh High School	Central	closed		No community use
Limavady Grammar School	West	4 x bitmac	4 x Unknown	No community use
Loreto College	Central	2 x Bitmac	2 x Poor	No community use
Our Lady of Lourdes High School	East	2 x Bitmac	2 x Poor	No community use
St Joseph's High School Coleraine	Central	Unknown	Unknown	No community use
St Patrick's College Dungiven	West	Unknown	Unknown	
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	4 x AstroTurf	4 x Unknown	
Totals 17 x Bitmac 11 x AstroTurf				

Summary of Quantity and Quality of Pitches

Tennis Court Quality					
Ownership	No of Courts	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	5	3	0	2	0
Council	39	16	9	14	0
Education	28	-	9	9	10
Total No	72	19	18	25	10
Total %	100%	26%	25%	35%	14%

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of seventy-two tennis courts under Council, club and education ownership.
- ❖ Nineteen out of the seventy-two tennis courts are rated 'Good' (26%).
- ❖ Eighteen courts are rated 'Standard' (25%).
- ❖ Twenty-five courts (35%) are rated poor and of these 14 are in Council ownership.

Clubs, Teams and Players

8.6 In order to assess the impact of tennis provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are five tennis clubs in Causeway Coast and Glens area. All five clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate picture of tennis club playing membership, court use, club development plans and needs. The five clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- a) Home base is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use courts within Causeway Coast and Glens area for training.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

8.7 A number of Council owned tennis courts do not have an associated club; usage information for these facilities was not available at the time of this report.

8.8 The five clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing playing membership for junior, youth and adult, both male and female.

Table 8.2: Tennis Club Playing Membership							
Club	Pre-Junior		Junior		Adult		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	All
Ballycastle Tennis Club	15	6	35	8	41	39	144
Causeway Community Tennis Club	15	13	10	8	32	35	113
Coleraine Tennis Club	11	13	20	10	17	23	94
Garvagh Tennis Club	11	9	4	6	13	5	48
Limavady Recreation Club	8	5	9	11	33	16	82
Totals	60	46	78	43	136	118	481

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of 481 tennis playing members across the five clubs.
- ❖ Ballycastle Tennis Club has the largest membership with a total of 144.
- ❖ The sport has a large female participation rate at 43% of total members.

Adequacy of Provision

- 8.9** Given that tennis court usage figures by non-club members⁽⁵⁸⁾ is not available an assessment of adequacy of court provision is presented here for the identified club membership total for the following 3 scenarios based on the Sport England Playing Pitch Model:

Secured Community Courts	Courts in local authority or other public ownership or management. Courts in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public. Courts at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.
Used by community but not secured	Courts not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.
Not open for community use	Courts at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

- 8.10** These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision for tennis courts, described here along with the number of courts in each scenario.

Reference	Description	Grass	Synthetic ⁽⁵⁹⁾
Scenario 1	All courts	6	66
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use and pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	6	24
Scenario 3	Council courts only	6	19

⁽⁵⁸⁾ That is, a member of public not affiliated to a club making use of open Council tennis courts either by booking or play as arrive.

⁽⁵⁹⁾ Synthetic courts include: Bitmac, AstroTurf and Polymeric.

- 8.11** There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which courts to include in Scenario 2 as community access to courts is allowed but also restricted. The number of courts in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following courts have been excluded from Scenarios 2 and 3 for the reasons listed below:

Pitch site	No of Courts	Rationale
Education courts	28	Not available for community use.
Portrush Recreation Grounds	12	4 completely unused; remaining 8 receives some public use but no club use.
Roe Mill Playing Fields	2	Rated as Poor
Total	42	

- 8.12** Tennis breakdown for each scenario for courts available for all age groups is:-

<u>Court Site</u>	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
<u>Clubs</u>	Grass	Synthetic	Grass	Synthetic	Grass	Synthetic
All	0	5	0	5	0	0
<u>Education</u>						
University + Secondary	0	28	0	0	0	0
<u>Council</u>						
	6	33	6	19	6	19
Totals	6	66	6	24	6	19

Comments

- ❖ The above table records the number of courts used in each scenario.
- ❖ Youth, adult and junior matches and training are carried out on full courts.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude the education sector courts on the basis that community use is generally not available.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude courts rated as poor and unused as detailed above.

Scenario 1

- 8.13** The picture of ***tennis total demand and total supply for Scenario 1***, that is all clubs and all courts, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 8.3: Tennis– Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All courts

Model Stage	Player categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying tennis players	Youth (6 to 11)	106	Based on club survey – total number of active members
	Junior (12 to 18)	121	
	Adult	254	
2. Calculating total court hours per 2 players assuming playing singles matches or training in pairs	Youth (6 to 11)	0.5	Based on two players per court
	Junior (12 to 18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total court hours per playing couple	Youth (6 to 11)	53	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (12 to 18)	61	
	Adult	127	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth – Mid-week	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games/training based on the survey
	Junior – Midweek or Sat AM	100%	
	Adult- Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining court hours required each week taking into account court capacity	Youth - 2 x 1 hour sessions per week	53 x 2 = 106	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type. Court capacity based on use during daylight hours from April to September– different for synthetic and grass. ⁽⁶⁰⁾
	Junior - 2 x 1 hour sessions per + 1 match of 2 hours	61 x 4 = 240	
	Adult – 3 x 1.5 hour sessions plus one match of 2 hours = 5.5 hours	127 x 5.5 = 699	
	Total - Youth, Junior, Adult	1045 court hrs per week	
6. Establishing court hours available	Grass	6 x 12 = 72	All club and education owned courts multiplied by capacity Synthetic = 67 hours per week Grass = 12 hours per week
	Synthetic	66 x 67 = 4,422	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶¹⁾	Youth+ Junior+ Adult	(4,422 + 72)- 1045 = 3,449 hrs	Good level of Supply

8.14 The results for Scenario 1 show that the supply of courts (i.e. court hours) meets demand with a good level of supply for youth, junior and adult.

⁽⁶⁰⁾ Synthetic court 7 hours per day at weekend and 3 hours weekday evening – that is a total of 69 hours per week. Grass is 3.5 per day and 1 per evening – 12 hours per week – during the summer.

⁽⁶¹⁾ The number of courts available minus the number of courts needed.

Scenario 2

8.15 The picture for Scenario 2 for tennis is as follows where the twenty-eight post primary school courts are not included as they are generally not available for community use. Also excluded are the seventeen Council courts currently not in use or rated 'poor', reducing the total number of courts to 24.

Table 8.4: Tennis – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 – All community available courts

Model Stage	Player categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying tennis players	Youth (6 to 11)	106	Based on club survey – total number of active members
	Junior (12 and 18)	121	
	Adult	254	
2. Calculating total court hours per 2 players assuming playing singles matches or training in pairs	Youth (6 to 11)	0.5	Based on two players per court
	Junior (12 and 18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total court hours per playing couple	Youth (6 to 11)	53	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (12 to 18)	61	
	Adult	127	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth – Mid-week	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games/training based on the survey
	Junior – Midweek or Sat AM	100%	
	Adult- Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining court hours required each week taking into account court capacity	Youth – 2 x 1 hour sessions per week	53 x 2 = 106	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each court type. Court capacity based on use during daylight hours from April to September– different for synthetic and grass. ⁽⁶²⁾
	Junior – 2 x 1 hour sessions per + 1 match of 2 hours	61 x 4 = 240	
	Adult – 3 x 1.5 hour sessions plus one match of 2 hours = 5.5 hours	127 x 5.5 = 699	
	Total – Youth, Junior, Adult	1045 hrs per week	
6. Establishing court hours available	Grass	6 x 12 = 72	All club and education owned courts multiplied by capacity Synthetic = 67 hours per week Grass = 12 hours per week
	Synthetic	24 x 67 = 1,608	

⁽⁶²⁾ Synthetic court 10 hours per day Monday to Saturday and 7 hours on Sundays – that is a total of 67 hours per week. Grass is 3.5 per day and 1 per evening – 12 hours per week – during the summer.

7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶³⁾	Youth+ Junior+ Adult	(1608 + 72)- 1045 = +635 hrs	Good level of Supply

8.16 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for tennis court hours for youth, junior and adult with a surplus of 635 court hours which is equivalent to twenty-six 1-hour slots per court. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* court supply and demand from April to September. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is comfortably meeting demand from the playing membership as assessed from the club survey.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that tennis courts are available 6 days a week Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm and on Sundays from 10am to 5pm, that is a total of 67 hours per week.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that club members use the courts in the form of 'singles matches' i.e. in pairs. Large group training sessions and doubles etc will reduce the number courts needed.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes club members use courts as follows:
 - youth member – has two 1-hour training session per week
 - junior member – has two x 1.5-hour training session plus 1 match of 2 hours per week
 - adult member – has three 1.5-hour slots and one match of 2 hours per week
- ❖ The demand by members of the public not linked to a club is not modelled here as this information is currently unavailable. The analysis from Scenario 2 suggests there is enough surplus court-hours to meet public demand assuming it is not larger than that for all current club members.
- ❖ The capacity of the 6 grass courts is set low.

8.17 A third scenario can be modelled where only Council courts are used; a total of 19 courts are available to tennis club members. The results are:-

⁽⁶³⁾ The number of courts available minus the number of courts needed.

Table 8.5: Tennis – Demand and Supply Scenario 3 - All Council owned courts

Model Stage	Player Categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying tennis players	Youth (6 to 11)	106	Based on club survey – total number of active members
	Junior (12 to 18)	121	
	Adult	254	
2. Calculating total court hours per 2 players assuming playing singles matches or training in pairs	Youth (6 to 11)	0.5	Based on two players per court
	Junior (12 to 18)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total court hours per playing couple	Youth (6 to 11)	53	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (12 to 18)	61	
	Adult	127	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth - Mid-week	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games/training based on the survey
	Junior – Midweek or Sat AM	100%	
	Adult- Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining court hours required each week taking into account court capacity	Youth – 2 x 1 hour sessions per week	53 x 2 = 106	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each court type. Court capacity based on use during daylight hours from April to September– different for synthetic and grass. ⁽⁶⁴⁾
	Junior– 2 x 1 hour sessions per + 1 match of 2 hours	61 x 4 = 240	
	Adult – 3 x 1.5 hour sessions plus one match of 2 hours = 5.5 hours	127 x 5.5 = 699	
	Total - Youth, Junior, Adult	1045 hrs per week	
6. Establishing court hours available	Grass	6 x 12 = 72	All club and education owned courts multiplied by capacity Synthetic = 67 hours per week Grass = 12 hours per week
	Synthetic	19 x 67 = 1,273	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁵⁾	Youth+ Junior+ Adult	(1,273 + 72)- 1,045 = +300 hrs	Supply meeting demand

8.18 The results for Scenario 3, for Council tennis courts only, demonstrates that demand is still met but with a reduced surplus of 300 hours per week equivalent to approximately sixteen 1-hour slots per court per week available for public use.

⁽⁶⁴⁾ Synthetic court 10 hours per day Monday to Saturday and 7 hours on Sundays – that is a total of 67 hours per week. Grass is 3.5 per day and 1 per evening – 12 hours per week – during the summer.

⁽⁶⁵⁾ The number of courts available minus the number of courts needed.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

- 8.19** In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:-

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	0
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	1
Can't get booking slot	2	1
Condition of courts	2	1
None	3	2

Comments

- ❖ Two tennis clubs noted difficulties with 'booking slots' and 'condition of courts' in accessing both match and training facilities.
- ❖ Comments recorded under 'Other' are:-
 - "Legacy issues within Council, we cannot access any Saturday time. When the timetable was completed - one club was offered slots before another club. Tennis review - unfortunately Council, and other club haven't stuck to this. Different payment terms and conditions Season tickets - we do not use these, however other club can use these to book out facility whenever they want, it's not a fair process - if clubs were to both pay for what they used it would stop courts being out of use, and available to the public and other groups. Conflicts of interest within staff."
 - "There are no other suitable facilities in the area. i.e. with good surface and flood lighting."

Membership Growth and Future Plans

- 8.20** Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next five years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Pre-Junior Male	5	0	0
Pre-Junior Female	5	0	0
Junior Male	5	0	0
Junior Female	5	0	0
Adult Male	5	0	0
Adult Female	5	0	0

Comments

- ❖ All five clubs report they expect their playing membership to increase at all levels for both male and female over the next five years.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:-
 - *The town's population continues to grow and with the promotion of tennis throughout the borough, particularly in schools, I am optimistic that the sport will become more popular.*
 - *Club is better organised. Getting grant support for coaching getting junior club organised*
 - *Awareness of club. Promotion of club - at present we do not promote the community tennis club, as we are severely restricted by Council as to when the club can operate from the venue. A lot of committee time is put into resolving issues with Council, over use of facilities, and not being spent doing the work the community tennis club was set up to do.*
 - *Club better organised, more training activities for members and non-members.*
 - *Reasons for increase: Better organisation in the club and active advertising of the club in the area. Provision of coaching for adults and u10s. More league teams. Reasons for decrease: The problem with increasing membership numbers has been and currently is caused by the surface (old and deteriorating) which is very hard on knee and other joints. This has often caused new members to leave the club. The inadequate lighting at the courts also makes playing through the winter difficult and prevents the club entering floodlit leagues. It will be difficult to enter too many more teams due to the contention for court time due to a second club.*

8.21 Table 8.6 presents the four tennis clubs' future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 8.6: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballycastle Tennis Club	Our club facilities are owned by the Council so we have no development plan for the courts or pavilion. The amount of toilets are insufficient for members and visiting teams (only one women's toilet) and the shower and changing accommodation are very dated and in need of a facelift. Lighting in these areas is also insufficient. Hand dryers need to be replaced and some of the drinking water fountains are not working. Ventilation is not good in the pavilion and if the doors and windows are not opened regularly it smells bad.	The outdoor tennis facilities are very good, we have plenty of courts. Our main problem is playing over the winter months. Tennis players in the Causeway Coast and Glens area are at a disadvantage because of a lack of indoor training facilities. The rain and particularly the wind means training sessions and matches are often cancelled / postponed from the months November to March. Most clubs we compete against have a bubble or indoor facilities. An indoor facility would enable us to have more comprehensive coaching schedules and attract more year-round playing members.
Causeway Community Tennis Club	Causeway Community Tennis Club was established to make tennis available to everyone in the community - and remove the often elitism tag associated with tennis, through funding we make tennis accessible to everyone. The community club is developing all aspects of tennis in the local area, engaging with often disadvantages areas, working within areas of social need, working with children, young people and adults with disabilities. As well as this we are developing a pathway of progression of tennis for everyone - to allow those players the opportunity to develop and compete at whatever level they want to achieve. We also are developing the health and wellbeing of the community offering a safe and inviting space - where families can come together play and enjoy sport, and benefit both their physical and mental wellbeing. We have fantastic relationships with organisations like Disability	Unfortunately, Council do not engage with groups, to see how provision of sports in the area can be developed. I note from the recreation programme there is no tennis provision for summer in Portrush this year. We are a registered charity - wanting to promote tennis, and Council won't engage with us over provision of tennis within the area, it's a shame Council are unable to move away from historical legacies and move forward in the promotion of sport independently. Conflicts of interest regarding sports clubs etc should not be allowed to hinder the development of sport - in other organisations, this would have been dealt with and moved on from - however it remains an issue within the new Council. Groups are trying their best to provide sporting opportunities, with most people doing this on a voluntary basis - it's unfortunate that Council have been the

	Sport NI, and a number of funders - but to date we have not received any support, funding or even encouragement from Council - unfortunately despite our best efforts we continue to face an uphill battle. We have received no support from sports development. We applied to the local sports Council for funding, to be told although we are a member we are ineligible for funding - when we questioned this decision, we were told it was not their decision but a Council decision. Council say historical legacy doesn't play a part, and clubs aren't favoured through legacy, or conflicts of interest - when, groups would argue it does - our biggest issue is we spend more time trying to keep the court time we have, and deal with issues from Council, than spending our time developing the club to achieve what it was set up to do. Its unfortunate Council have not taken a new approach and seen the bigger picture - they are there to facilitate sport for all, not sport for the select few.	cause of some issues between groups, instead of a neutral organisation. Council need to engage with all groups going forward - this idea of aligning themselves with certain groups, isn't fair or open for a Council - Council should be engaging with everyone, and promoting all sport - irrespective of a particular officer's feelings.
Coleraine Tennis Club	Only 1 shower in male changing room, and 1 shower in female changing, which is not adequate. Boundary fence in bad repair. In the future, we will require larger changing areas with showers and toilet facilities. As the membership grows we will need more courts with the correct LTA standard of lighting. We also need more court time as currently we are sharing with another club and this is badly curtailing our ability to increase the number of league teams. The court surface is the worst surface of any club in NI. All other league clubs have an artificial surface, which is a standard. This is currently a problem as other clubs do not like travelling to Coleraine and then are further disgruntled when they realise the poor and out-of-date playing surface. We see this	We see the development of tennis in the area as being severely hampered by the current out-of-date facilities. To allow further development Coleraine needs a minimum of 4 artificial surfaced courts with proper LTA competition level lighting. Also, due to the frequently inclement weather there should be an indoor facility for the use of the community. As the sport develops we would see a need for further courts and so any relocation of the tennis courts in Coleraine should allow for development on the new site. The current courts are liable to flooding (causing major problems over the last 10 years+) and so a new site in Coleraine providing outdoor and indoor facilities with clubhouse, would be a preferential choice rather than improving the existing site.

as something that will limit our club development in the future.

**Garvagh
Tennis Club**

Garvagh Tennis Club was formed in 1926 at its present site on Station Road and is one of the oldest surviving clubs in the town. Prior to that, tennis was played on grass courts at Limavady Road. The club has the original 1926 minute book along with subsequent minute books to present day and photographs of players in 1926. To celebrate its 90th anniversary in 2016, an exhibition of 'Tennis through the Years 1926-2016' continues and may be seen in the local community building on Main Street opposite the post office. An anniversary dinner was also held to mark the occasion in the Vines Restaurant, Garvagh. One of the club's development plans for many years was floodlighting to enable tennis to be played throughout the year. This was finally achieved in 2011 and has made a massive difference to the club and to its members. We had hoped to resurface the courts while the work was being done as parts of the courts had to be lifted at the time but, unfortunately, the club was unable to secure funding. As the surface is pitting in places and the courts have reverted back to the original black with white lines, the club would be keen to explore the possibility and, indeed, necessity of resurfacing. Toilet facilities are adequate but have to be accessed through the changing rooms so visitors to the club have to go through them to use the toilet. The pavilion was built in 1962 and is one room separated by curtains for changing rooms with the kitchen area along one wall at the other end of the building.

Limavady Recreation Club	Need to organise junior club and coaching. Have received some grant aid from Dunmore Community Benefit Fund to help this. Need to run Open Day to attract more members. Boundary fencing needs repair and painting. Security and fire protection systems need to be renewed. Significant refurbishment of clubhouse is required.	Very disappointed in the organisation of Causeway Coast & Glens Council with regard to sport since its formation. There seems to be a total lack of informed leadership. In particular, the old Limavady Borough region appears to be ignored. Words like incompetence, poor communication, disorganisation, all come to mind. Ask anyone on the Executive Committee of the Limavady Sports Council (yes still functioning as the proposed composite new Sports Council is not functioning yet!) and the opinion is likely to be consistent.

Summary

8.22 The foregoing assessment of supply and demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ There are five tennis clubs with a total of 481 members comprising 254 adults and 227 juniors; female members make up 43% of total membership. Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only courts that are available for community use. It shows the following:-

Youth, junior, adult + 568 court hours Good level of supply

This is equivalent to twenty five *1 hour slots* per court. Whilst the assessment of adequacy of provision demonstrates supply comfortably meets demand, this is across several sites, club and Council. The particular challenge for tennis is that clubs base themselves at one site where multiple courts and a pavilion allow inter-club competition. Club tennis only takes place at four sites.

- ❖ There are four different surfaces found in tennis courts across the Council area.

TENNIS

	Council (9 sites)	Club (2 sites)	Education (12 sites)	Totals
Bitmac	23	2	16	41
Natural grass	6	-	-	6
Polymeric	8	-	-	8
AstroTurf/Artificial grass	2	3	8	13
Totals	39	5	24	68

Most club matches are played either on bitmac surfaces (2 courts at Garvagh Tennis Club, 4 courts at Anderson Park), AstroTurf/artificial grass surfaces (3 courts at Limavady Recreation Club), natural grass or polymeric surfaces (11 courts at Ballycastle Tennis Complex). Sport England guidance advises that bitmac (porous macadam) courts are suitable for 'training and for some competition' whilst polymeric courts are suitable for 'training/recreational use.' The local clubs feel that the bitmac courts are not acceptable for matches, pointing to AstroTurf/artificial grass as a minimum standard. They also compare their situation to clubs in the greater Belfast area where 'bubbles' in some clubs facilitate indoor training and matches during the winter months.

- ❖ The most substantial provision for tennis is the Council's facility at Portrush Recreation Grounds which has twelve bitmac tennis courts, a pavilion and two bowling greens. There is no club based at this site and its general presentation is 'poor'; colouring on the courts is faded and the pavilion building is in need of upgrading. Four of the courts are reportedly not used and the remaining eight courts are mostly used during the summer months for recreational tennis and sports development programmes.

Strategic Recommendations – Tennis

Item No	Description
12.	Consider the development of improved tennis provision in the Coleraine area in respect of scale of provision and playing surfaces.
13.	Consider the value of a continuing tennis presence in Portrush in view of the proposed re-development of Portrush Recreation Grounds.
14.	Carry out upgrade to the tennis pavilion in Ballycastle, including toilet provision and maintenance issues.

9. Cricket

Introduction

- 9.1 This section presents consultation with Cricket Ireland followed by an overview of supply of and demand for cricket pitches; an assessment of *adequacy of provision* is made using Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM). There are five cricket clubs in the Council area operating a mix of adult and youth teams. Having established the supply and demand situation the section considers how it impacts on the community. The section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Cricket Ireland
- ❖ Pitch Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Summary

Cricket Ireland

- 9.2 Cricket Ireland is the all-island governing body acting on behalf of 5 provincial/regional unions:-

- ❖ Northern Cricket Union
- ❖ North West Cricket Union
- ❖ Leinster Cricket Union
- ❖ Munster Cricket Union
- ❖ Connacht Cricket Union

- 9.3 There are 118 registered cricket clubs in Ireland. Northern Ireland/Ulster is covered by the Northern Cricket Union which takes in the eastern region up to Ballymena and the North West Cricket Union which covers the rest of the Province and some border regions. These two Unions are reportedly the strongest of the 5 provincial/regional Unions, having 64 of the 118 clubs. Whilst the Council has no cricket pitches in its ownership it does provide cricket practice nets at Coleraine Leisure Centre. The North West Cricket Union's Centre of Excellence is at Bready Cricket Club in the village of Magheramason, approximately 58 kilometres (22 miles) from Limavady in the neighbouring local authority area of Derry City & Strabane District Council. As well as a cricket pitch, Bready has a sports hall, with 4 sets of practice nets, a fitness suite and a pavilion building.

Development of Irish Cricket

- 9.4** Irish Cricket continues to experience a surge in interest and participation since a win over Pakistan in the World Cup in 2007 and a win over England in 2011. The sport claims to be the fastest growing sport in Ireland presently with young players at registered clubs soaring from 11,900 in 2011 to 25,000 in 2013, while an ICC – commissioned survey revealed 40,414 total registered players in 2015 up from 25,170 in 2011. Cricket Ireland’s ‘*Strategic Plan 2016-2020 – Making Cricket Mainstream*’ recognises facilities as one of the key issues that constrains development, identifying an ‘under-developed standard of facilities’ and ‘minimal investment in facilities due to constrained club budgets and the difficult economic environment’. One of the 4 strategic pillars is growing the game sustainably by strengthening grass roots participation in clubs and schools.
- 9.5** On 22 June 2017 Cricket Ireland received the news that its application to the International Cricket Council (ICC) for Full Membership and Test status was successful. Both Ireland and Afghanistan were confirmed as the 11th and 12th Full Member countries in the top echelons of world cricket. Clearly this will bring benefits to Irish cricket, not least in an anticipated doubling of funding from the ICC (currently \$3.3million) but also in a heightened awareness of and interest in the game and probable increased participation. The governing body is already talking about the need to invest in facilities and improve pitches.

North West Cricket Union (NWCU)

- 9.6** The NWCU jurisdiction covers counties Londonderry, Fermanagh and part of Tyrone and Donegal. All of the five cricket clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area fall within the NWCU. In total the NWCU has 32 affiliated clubs for which it delivers six adult leagues, two at senior level and four at intermediate level. Its affiliated organisation, the Derry Midweek Cricket League organises cricket for adults, women and boys. Cricket Ireland now has a clear female development pathway, however it acknowledges there is still huge potential for more female participation.
- 9.7** Under-age cricket is played at U17’s, U15’s, U13’s and U11’s. Youth cricket has contributed significantly to growth in participation through initiatives delivered by the Council’s sports development team and Cricket Ireland’s development officers both in the NWCU and the Northern Cricket Union. Up to 11 years of age Kwik Cricket is the introductory game, capable of being played on any surface with a softer ball. The NWCU development officer reports the interest and uptake of an adapted Super 8s developmental game suitable for girls and school tournaments cricket as exciting. Here teams are 8 aside with a composite ball and limited overs – typically matches last 45 mins maximising player interest and skill development. Matches can be played on AstroTurf-type surfaces with 2 games to a pitch allowing for delivery of

tournaments in the school setting. The NWCU is currently exploring provision of Super 8s matches/tournaments aimed at increasing retention rates of 16 to 24 years old players.

Facilities

- 9.8** Clubs that have their own cricket field generally have only one. A cricket field requires an area about the size of 2 association football pitches although there is no dimension specified for a cricket field; the wicket is 20m with about 40m available beyond each end of the wicket. Ideally a club will have a number of natural grass wickets (side-by-side) and a synthetic wicket. Wickets are often marked between association football or rugby pitches given that cricket is a summer season sport when grass pitches for winter sports are normally 'rested'. The governing body sees a particular need for indoor accommodation for winter training both for club and regional squads. The Ulster University at Coleraine, now with a Cricket Development Officer in place (covering Jordanstown, Coleraine and Magee) is considering how it can support cricket development at grassroots and club level with outdoor and indoor accommodation.

Pitch Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

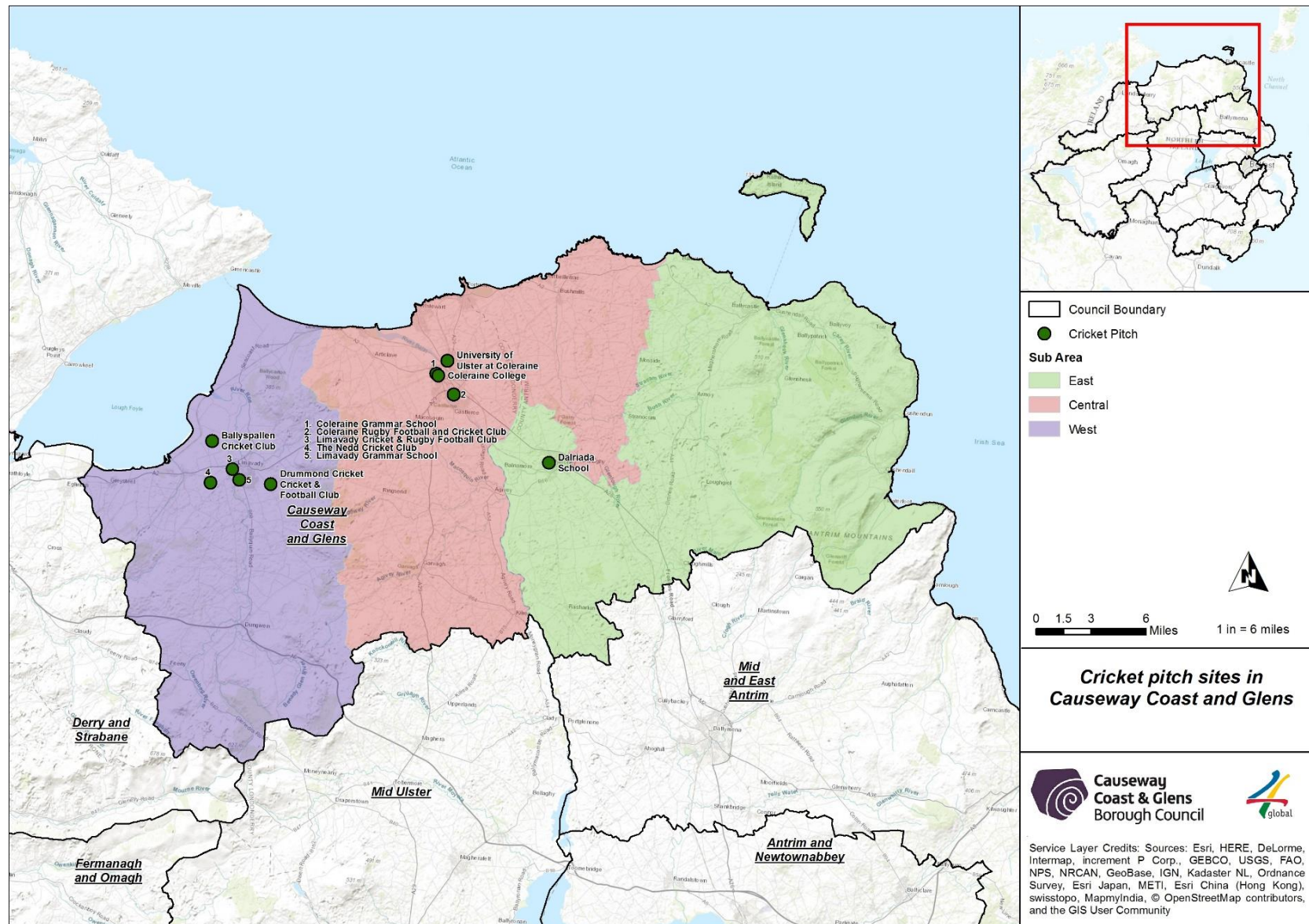
- 9.9** As it is a summer sport, cricket often shares facilities with rugby pitches. Cricket wickets can be either natural grass or synthetic. Training normally takes place in a purpose-built 'nets' facility, either indoor or outdoor. Post primary schools often place at least one cricket wicket between rugby pitches, however for cricket clubs the ideal number of wickets in a cricket 'square' is 8 to 10, including a synthetic wicket. The majority of cricket clubs own their pitch/pitches and premises, but may make use of Council and school facilities for training. The inventory of cricket pitches in the Council area as presented in Table 9.1. shows three different types of pitch 'ownership':-

- ❖ **Club owned** – pitches owned and maintained by a cricket club.
- ❖ **Club leased** – pitches leased and maintained by a cricket club.
- ❖ **Education** – pitches owned by primary, secondary or tertiary level educational establishments.

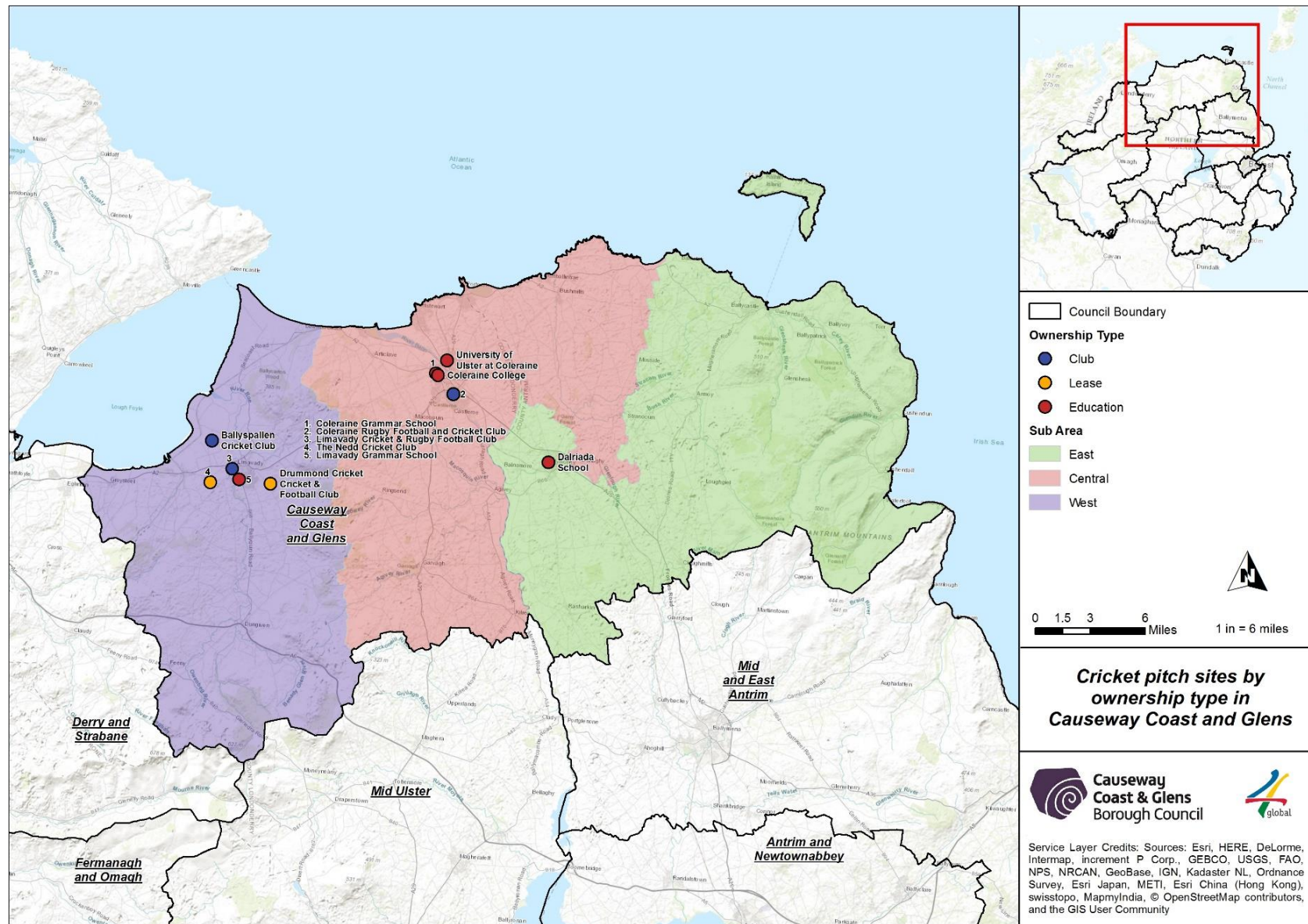
- 9.10** The inventory shows cricket pitches suitable for matches, the majority of which are located in two main areas of the Council; Limavady and Coleraine. For each pitch site: *location, type, number, quality* and *additional remarks* are presented. Maps 9.1,

11.2, 9.3 and 9.4 accompany the inventory showing pitch location, ownership, quality⁽⁶⁶⁾ and type respectively.

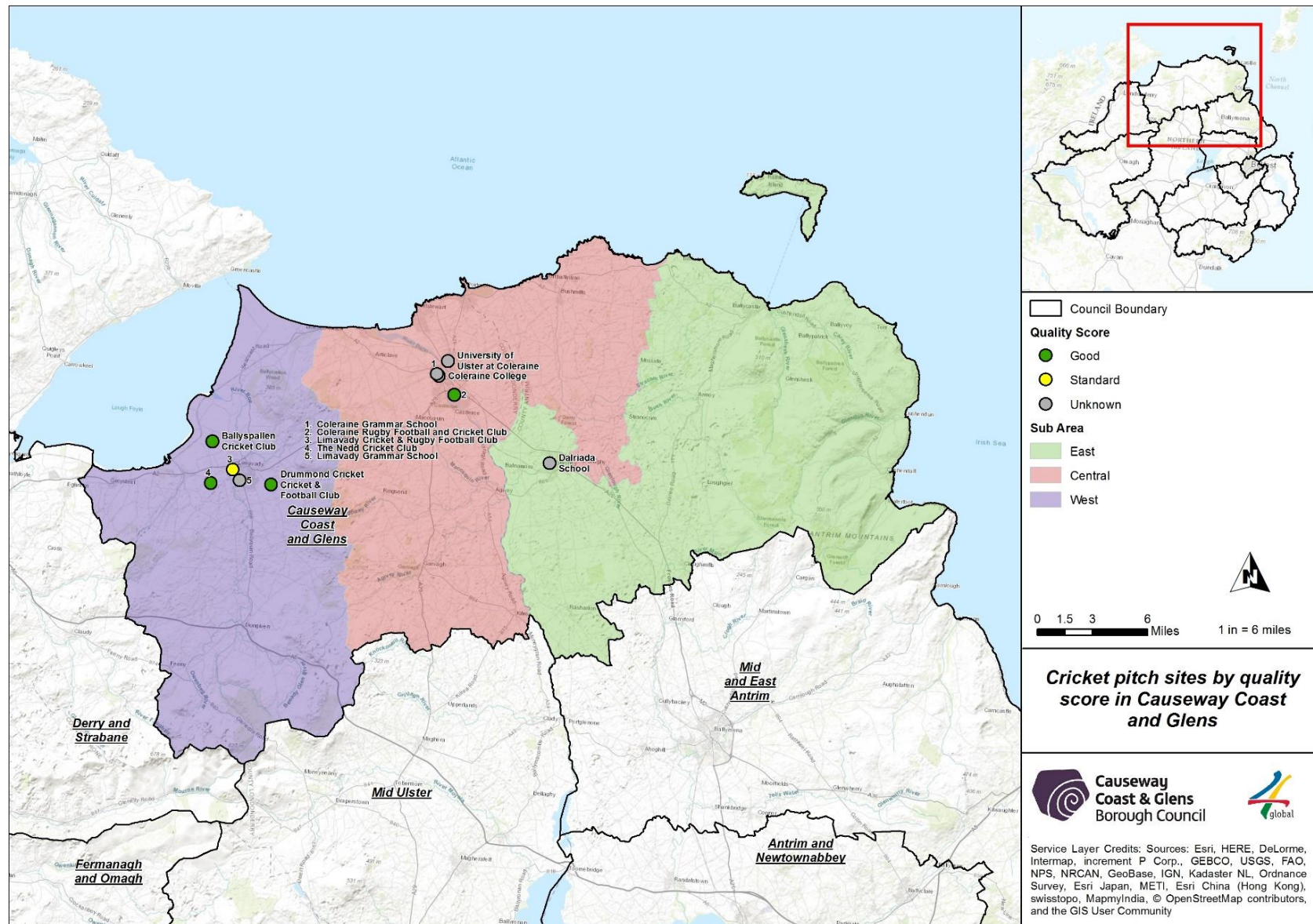
⁽⁶⁶⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.



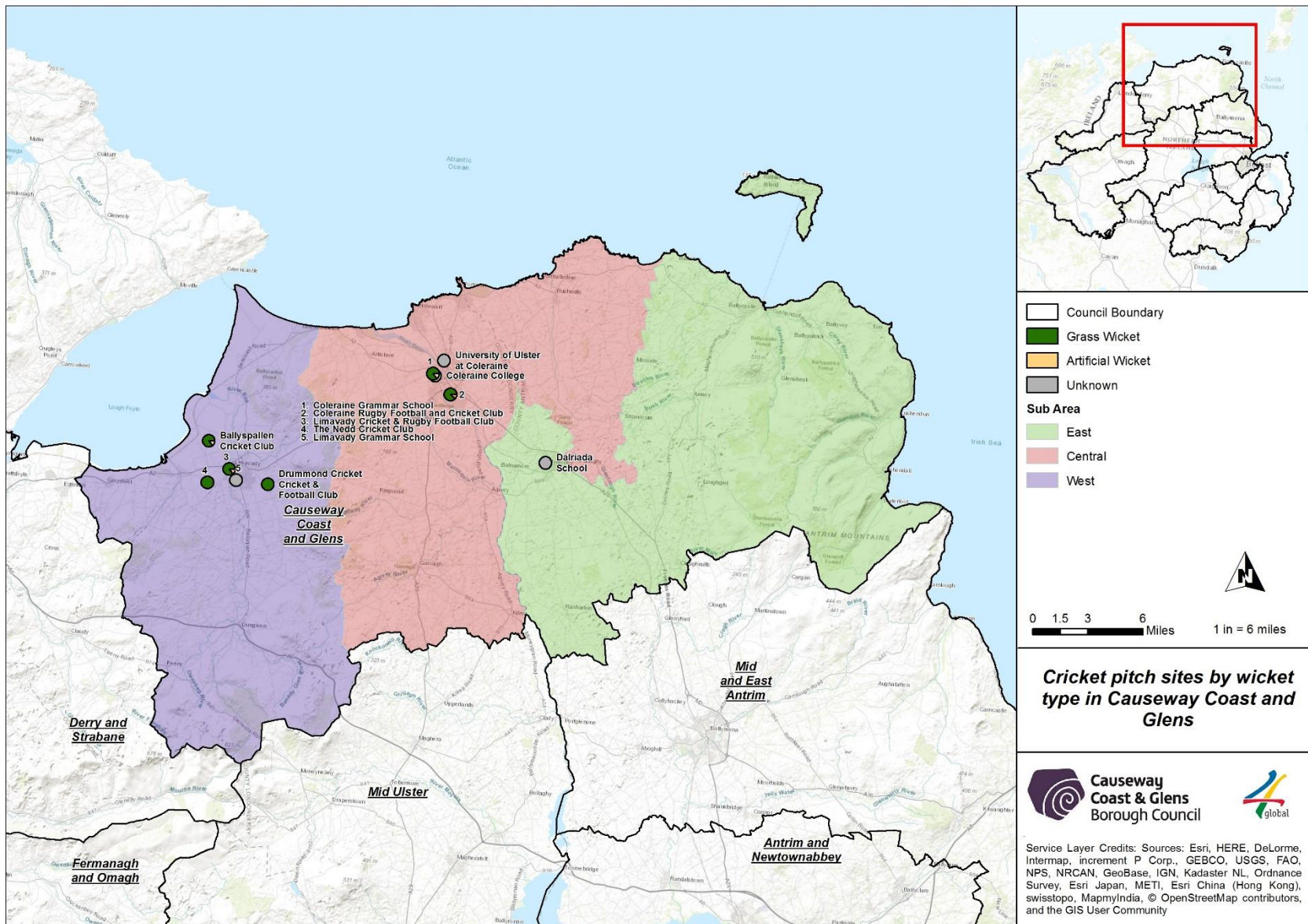
Map 9.1 Location – Cricket Pitch Sites



Map 9.2 Ownership – Cricket Pitch Sites



Map 9.3 Quality – Cricket Pitch Sites



Map 9.4 Type – Cricket Pitch Sites

Table 9.1: Cricket – Location, Quantity and Quality of Pitches by Ownership

<u>Club Owned and Leased</u>				
Location		Quantity	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Ballyspallen Cricket Club	West	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Good	Has developed a strong youth section in the last 5 years with good club school links. Keen to develop a dedicated 'Nets' practice facility on club site for use by club, community, schools and governing body.
Coleraine Rugby Football and Cricket Club	Central	1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Good	Large numbers attending primary school session of Friday evenings including girls. Keen to develop Women's Cricket section
Drummond Cricket Club and Football Club	West	1 x cricket square, with 9 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket 1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets	2 x Good	Large well-appointed cricket grounds – hosts provincial and national competitions. A football pitch is also located in the grounds. Ground is leased from a local business owner with 12 years to run.
Limavady Cricket and Rugby Club	West	1 x cricket square with 6 turf wickets and 1 synthetic wicket	Standard	Located at the John Hunter Memorial Grounds – cricket square is marked on rugby pitches at the end of the rugby season. The club is also linked to Limavady Ladies Hockey Club. The rugby club reports it is looking to convert one of its grass pitches to a synthetic surface suitable for hockey and football.
The Nedd Cricket Club	West	1 x cricket square with 8 turf wickets	Good	Grounds are on a 'rolling' lease from a local land owner which is renewed annually. Club has one male adult team although in recent years has had a strong youth section.
Totals 6 x Cricket Squares				

<u>Education</u>				
Coleraine College	Central	1 x cricket square	Unknown	Grass football pitches used for cricket in the summer
Coleraine Grammar School	Central	2 x cricket squares	Unknown	Community use by Coleraine Cricket Club
Dalriada School	East	1 x cricket square	Unknown	No community use
Limavady Grammar School	West	1 x cricket square	Unknown	Rugby pitches used for cricket in summer months
Ulster University, Coleraine Campus	Central	1 x cricket square	Unknown	Pitch is earmarked to be a cricket development facility. Discussions have taken place with Cricket Ireland and the Northern Cricket Union. This would be complemented by indoor cricket nets.
Totals 5 x Cricket Squares				

Summary of Quantity and Quality of Pitches

- 9.11** A summary and breakdown of current cricket squares used for matches and training by ownership is given below. Four of the clubs carry out nets practice on club grounds with portable nets wheeled on and off the grass outfield area. Coleraine Cricket Club has permanent nets.

Cricket Squares used for matches and training					
Ownership	No of cricket squares	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	6	5	1	0	0
Education	5	-	-	-	5
Total	11	5	1	-	5

Clubs, Teams and Players

- 9.12** In order to assess the impact of training and match provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are five cricket clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. All five clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate picture of cricket playing membership, pitch use, club development plans and needs. The five clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- a) Home match pitch is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes clubs with own pitch).
- b) Use pitches within Causeway Coast and Glens area for training.
- c) Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

9.13 The five clubs are listed below detailing the number of adult, junior and youth teams.

Table 9.2: Cricket Club Team Profile

Club	Youth (U11)	Junior (U13 and U15)	Adult	Total No of Teams
	Male	Male	Male	All
Ballyspallen Cricket Club	1	2	2	5
Coleraine Rugby Football and Cricket Club	1	2	3	6
Drummond Cricket & Football Club	1	2	2	5
Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club	1	0	1	2
The Nedd Cricket Club	0	0	1	1
Totals	4	6	9	19

9.14 There is a total of 19 male cricket teams across the five clubs – from U11 to adult. There are no female teams at any age group, however three of the clubs are keen to promote and developed cricketing opportunities for girls and women. For example, Coleraine Cricket Club has a number of girls attending their Friday evening primary school sessions and they are included in the membership profile.

9.15 The profile of teams and player numbers in the five identified clubs is summarised as follows:-

Table 9.3: Cricket – Profile of Membership and Teams

	Male	Female	Total Male and Female / Teams
<u>Membership</u>			
Pre-Junior (6 -11 yrs)	142	26	168
Junior (12 -18 Yrs)	106	5	111
Adult	85	0	85
Total Players	333	31	364
<u>Teams</u>			
Youth (U11)	4	0	4
Junior (U12 to U18)	6	0	6
Adult	9	0	9
Total Teams	19	0	19

Adequacy of Provision

9.16 The Sport England model identifies three pitch usage categories:-

Secured Community Pitches

Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management.

Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public.

Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use agreements.

Used by community but not secured

Pitches not included above that are nevertheless available for community use, eg, school/college pitches without formal user agreements.

Not open for community use

Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public.

- 9.17** These categories inform three scenarios used in the quantitative assessment of adequacy of provision of cricket pitches, described here along with the number of pitches in each scenario. Given the profile of cricket it is assumed that all adult, youth and junior games are played on full size pitches for competitive games.

Reference	Description	No of full size grass pitches
Scenario 1	All pitches	11
Scenario 2	Pitches with secured community use <i>and</i> pitches used by the community, but not secured (excludes pitches not available to community use).	6
Scenario 3	Council pitches only	0

- 9.18** There is a degree of subjectivity in determining which adult pitches to include in Scenario 2 as community access to some pitches is allowed but also restricted. The number of pitches in Scenario 2 has purposely been estimated on the low side in order to remain prudent. The following cricket pitches have been excluded:-

Ownership	No of Pitches	Rationale
Education	5	Generally not available for matches

- 9.19** The breakdown for each scenario for cricket pitches available for all age groups is:-

<u>Pitch Site</u>	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
<u>Clubs</u>	Full Grass	Full Grass	Full Grass
All	6	6	0
<u>Education</u>			
University	1	0	0
Secondary	4	0	0
Totals	11	6	0

Comments

- ❖ Youth, adult and junior matches are played on full size pitches.
- ❖ Scenarios 2 and 3 exclude 5 education sector pitches on the basis that community use is generally not available.

Scenario 1

9.20 The picture of *cricket total demand and total supply for Scenario 1*, that is all clubs and all pitches, in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows:-

Table 9.4: Cricket – Demand and Supply Scenario 1 - All pitches			
Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/team equivalents	Youth (U11)	4	Based on club survey
	Junior (U13 and U15)	6	
	Adult	9	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth (U11)	0.5	Based on a home game every other week
	Junior (U13 and U15)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Youth (U11)	2	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (U13 and U15)	3	
	Adult	5	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth (U11) – Mid-week	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Junior (U13 and U15) – Midweek or Sat AM	100%	
	Adult- Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U11)	3	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.
	Junior (U13 and U15)	3	
	Adult	5	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth (U11)	11	All club and education owned pitches
	Junior (U13 and U15)	11	
	Adult	11	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁷⁾	Youth	11-2 = +9	Good level of Supply
	Junior	11- 3 = +7	Good level of Supply
	Adult	11 – 5 =+6	Good level of Supply

⁽⁶⁷⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

- 9.21** The results show that for Scenario 1 the supply of cricket facilities meets demand with a good surplus of pitches for all age groups.

Scenario 2

- 9.22** The picture for Scenario 2 for cricket in accordance with the Sport England model is as follows where post primary school education pitches are not included as they are generally not available for competitive matches:-

Table 9.5: Cricket – Demand and Supply Scenario 2 - All pitches available for community use

Model Stage	Team categories	Results	Comments
1. Identifying teams/ <i>team equivalents</i>	Youth (U11)	4	Based on club survey
	Junior (U13 and U15)	6	
	Adult	9	
2. Calculating home games per team per week	Youth (U11)	0.5	Based on a home game every other week
	Junior (U13 and U15)	0.5	
	Adult	0.5	
3. Assessing total home games per week	Youth (U11)	2	Stage 1 x Stage 2, rounded up.
	Junior (U13 and U15)	3	
	Adult	5	
4. Establishing temporal demand for games	Youth (U11) – Mid-week	100%	This is the peak demand period and is the % of games played then based on the survey
	Junior (U13 and U15) – Midweek or Sat AM	100%	
	Adult- Sat PM	100%	
5. Defining pitches required each day taking into account pitch capacity	Youth (U11)	3	Stage 3 x Stage 4 rounded up and divided by capacity for each pitch type.
	Junior (U13 and U15)	3	
	Adult	5	
6. Establishing pitches available	Youth (U11)	6	All club and education owned pitches
	Junior (U13 and U15)	6	
	Adult	6	
7. Adequacy of Provision ⁽⁶⁸⁾	Youth	6-2 = +4	Good level of Supply
	Junior	6-3 = +3	Good level of Supply
	Adult	6-5 = +1	Supply just meeting demand

⁽⁶⁸⁾ The number of pitches available minus the number of pitches needed.

9.23 Based on PPM quantitative analysis, the results for Scenario 2 show that supply is meeting demand for competitive games for youth and junior with a surplus of four and three pitches respectively. The supply is only just meeting demand for adult games with an over-supply of one pitch. It is important to note the following additional comments when considering the results for Scenario 2:-

- ❖ Scenario 2 is set to model *current* pitch supply and demand. The adequacy of provision results indicate supply is comfortably meeting demand for matches at youth and junior age groups but just a surplus of one pitch at adult level.
- ❖ Scenario 2 assumes that cricket pitch capacity is 2 games on a Saturday, one youth game in the morning, one adult game in the afternoon. A lower pitch capacity will reduce the modelled surplus.
- ❖ Scheduling of adult games mid-week would allow for an increased number of matches to be accommodated, however given that adult matches can last more than 4 hours this may not always be an option.

9.24 Scenario 2 as presented does not account for training which also takes place on most cricket pitches in addition to matches. Any pitch surplus identified will be available to satisfy training demand. From the club survey all five clubs train at their own grounds during the summer months. Winter and pre-season training takes place indoor in sports halls in the form of fitness training and nets practice.

9.25 A third scenario could be modelled where only Council pitches are used, however there are no Council owned cricket pitches.

Pitch Use and Capacity – Online Survey

9.26 From the online survey the following clubs recorded the number of hours their cricket pitches, on average, are used for training and matches each week –

Club	Total Training for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Matches for ALL teams (hrs)	Total Used (hrs)
Ballyspallen Cricket Club	10	12	22
Coleraine Rugby Football and Cricket Club	12	8	20
Drummond Cricket & Football Club	No response	No response	-
Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club	5	9	14
The Nedd Cricket Club	4	7	11

Comments

- ❖ Cricket training pitch needs range from 4 to 12 hours per week, dependent on the number of club teams.
- ❖ Likewise, cricket match needs ranges from 7 to 12 hours per week, dependent on number of club teams.

Community Impact

Club Needs – Current and Future

Match and Training Facility Barriers

9.27 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities; results are:

Barrier type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	0
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	0
Can't get booking slot	0	0
Condition of pitches	1	1
None	4	4

Comments

- ❖ The only recorded barrier to accessing training and match facilities is 'Condition of Pitches' – cricket is an outdoor game played on grass and is therefore weather dependent. Most clubs have rain covers for the wicket however it takes considerable time and careful management to ensure the wicket is dry enough to allow games to go ahead.

Membership Growth and Future Plans

9.28 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next five years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Pre-Junior Male	1	0	2
Pre-Junior Female	2	0	1
Junior Male	1	0	2
Junior Female	1	0	2
Adult Male	1	0	3
Adult Female	0	0	3

Comments

- ❖ Two clubs expect their female membership to increase as reflected in numbers attending their primary school sessions.
- ❖ One club expects to increase their male adult membership.
- ❖ No club expects their adult female membership to increase in the next five years.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:
 - *Ballyspallen is an accredited club through Sport NI Clubmark and the only fully accredited club in the Northwest Cricket Union. The club is better organised with a development strategy and caters for all age groups. We have a team of qualified coaches who also provide coaching in local schools. There are 5 clubs within a 5 miles radius in the Limavady area, but Ballyspallen CC is the only club to provide youth cricket at all age groups. Cricket Ireland has full-time Development coaches who are introducing cricket to schools in the area who have never played the sport before. The Northwest Cricket Union holds inter-school cricket days also introducing cricket to schools who have never played it before.*
 - *Run primary school blitzes with Cricket Ireland - have dedicated coaches going into all local schools.*
 - *Club development plan in place.*

9.29 Table 9.6 presents the cricket clubs' future plans/needs and any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 9.6 – Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and ‘Any Other Comments’.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballyspallen Cricket Club	Cricket in the area is on the increase as more schools are being introduced to the sport and more coaches/volunteers are helping to promote the game. Ballyspallen has invested heavily in its youth programme and in providing equipment. Unfortunately there are no permanent net practice facilities in the local area so practice takes place on our pitch which restricts the number of nights for games and teams, that’s why females drift out of cricket as we don’t have any free nights to accommodate a ladies team. A new practice facility is needed to cater for the numbers because on any given night there is not enough time for every young person to bat.	There are no Council pitches within the Limavady area but that is understandable as all the clubs within the area have their own ground. Unfortunately, only Limavady Grammar School has cricket pitches so other schools are hindered in their provision of cricket and hence one of the reasons schools use Ballyspallen. A cricket pitch is needed that all schools can use, and there is a great need for practice facilities to keep the young people interested and to meet their needs.
Coleraine Rugby Football and Cricket Club	Would like to provide girls and women’s cricket - we have a good number of girls in the primary school U11 section on Friday evenings	
Drummond Cricket & Football Club	The Club has developed its facilities to a high level but require assistance with the provision of new covers and drainage.	
Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club	The club started U11s – we want to get girls involved - we have 2 dedicated coaches do schools coaching - the second year of blitz run in conjunction with Cricket Ireland - the club would like to continue to develop juvenile teams.	The club is in need of a new roller - motorised which costs £5000 - £7000. Our old one over 30 years old and in need of repair. The club would like help with buying grass maintenance equipment - outlay for new equipment is a big strain for the club

The Nedd Cricket Club We are a cross-community club that is struggling financially - we feel we play an important part in community cohesion, providing a valuable outlet both for cricket participation and community well-being.

Summary

9.30 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* Scenario 2 is viewed as the most realistic picture given it includes only pitches that are available for community use. It shows the following for matches:-

Youth	+ 4	Good level of supply
Junior	+ 3	Good level of supply
Adults	+ 1	Supply just meeting demand

- ❖ These results do not account for training needs which, during the summer months take place outside on cricket pitches; the surplus supply here is available to facilitate training needs and all five clubs indicate they train at their own grounds during the summer months. However, Ballyspallen Cricket Club makes the point that more practice facilities are needed to facilitate the development of female participation and to accommodate its growing youth programme.
- ❖ Participation in cricket is exclusively male with the exception of a group of girls – mostly primary school age – involved at Coleraine Cricket Club. Cricket Ireland, whilst having a clear female development pathway acknowledges there is a huge potential for more female participation. The local clubs mostly do not see adult female participation growing over the next five years although two clubs anticipate an increase in pre-junior female participation.

Strategic Recommendations – Cricket

Item No	Description
15.	Consider supporting cricket clubs with specialist equipment to assist the delivery of training sessions and in maintenance of grass surfaces. This could be achieved through the capital grants programme.
16.	Consider the design of future indoor facility developments regards their suitability for indoor cricket practice.

10. Athletics

Introduction

10.1 This section presents consultation with Athletics NI followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for athletics facilities. The minimum standard for an athletics facility is a 400m 'Tartan' track with in-field facilities for throwing and jumping disciplines. Participation in athletics, which includes running clubs, has mushroomed over the past number of years. An estimate for Northern Ireland is around 70,000 to 80,000 people across the Province which is comparable with association football. Undoubtedly runners make up most of the participation statistics. This section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Athletics NI
- ❖ Supply and Demand
- ❖ Community Impact
- ❖ Training Facility Constraints

Athletics NI

10.2 Athletics NI is the governing body for all disciplines in athletics; track & field; cross-country; rad running; fell running. There are currently 82 clubs affiliated to Athletics NI across Northern Ireland. Athletics NI's '*Strategic Plan 2017-2021*' recognises the growth in participation in athletics in recent years, most notably in road running and the need to better support volunteers in operating clubs. It is estimated that athletics participation (track & field and road running) involves around 70,000 – 80,000 people across Northern Ireland⁽⁶⁹⁾ which is comparable with association football at 95,000.

10.3 There are 6 athletics clubs in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area. The largest club in terms of membership is Springwell Running Club which has over 300 runners registered with Athletics NI. Springwell Running Club caters for elite and recreational athletes offering a range of track & field disciplines, road running training and competition opportunities. The other clubs are Ballycastle Runners AC, Glens Runners, Pegasus Coleraine AC, Rasharkin Runners and Valley Running Club AC. Growth in local clubs' membership in recent years has been assisted by initiatives such as 'Couch to 5k' and 'Park Runs'. A typical 10k road race will attract upwards of 1,000 runners whilst the annual Belfast Marathon event now attracts around 15,000 entrants. The governing body advises that running clubs are keen to access running tracks to facilitate more advanced training methods and regimes.

⁽⁶⁹⁾ Estimate based on pro-rata comparison with survey carried out in England by Sport England.

- 10.4** An assessment of demand and unmet demand for the use of athletics tracks in Northern Ireland was carried out by Edinburgh University on behalf of Sport NI⁽⁷⁰⁾. The results are summarised as follows:-

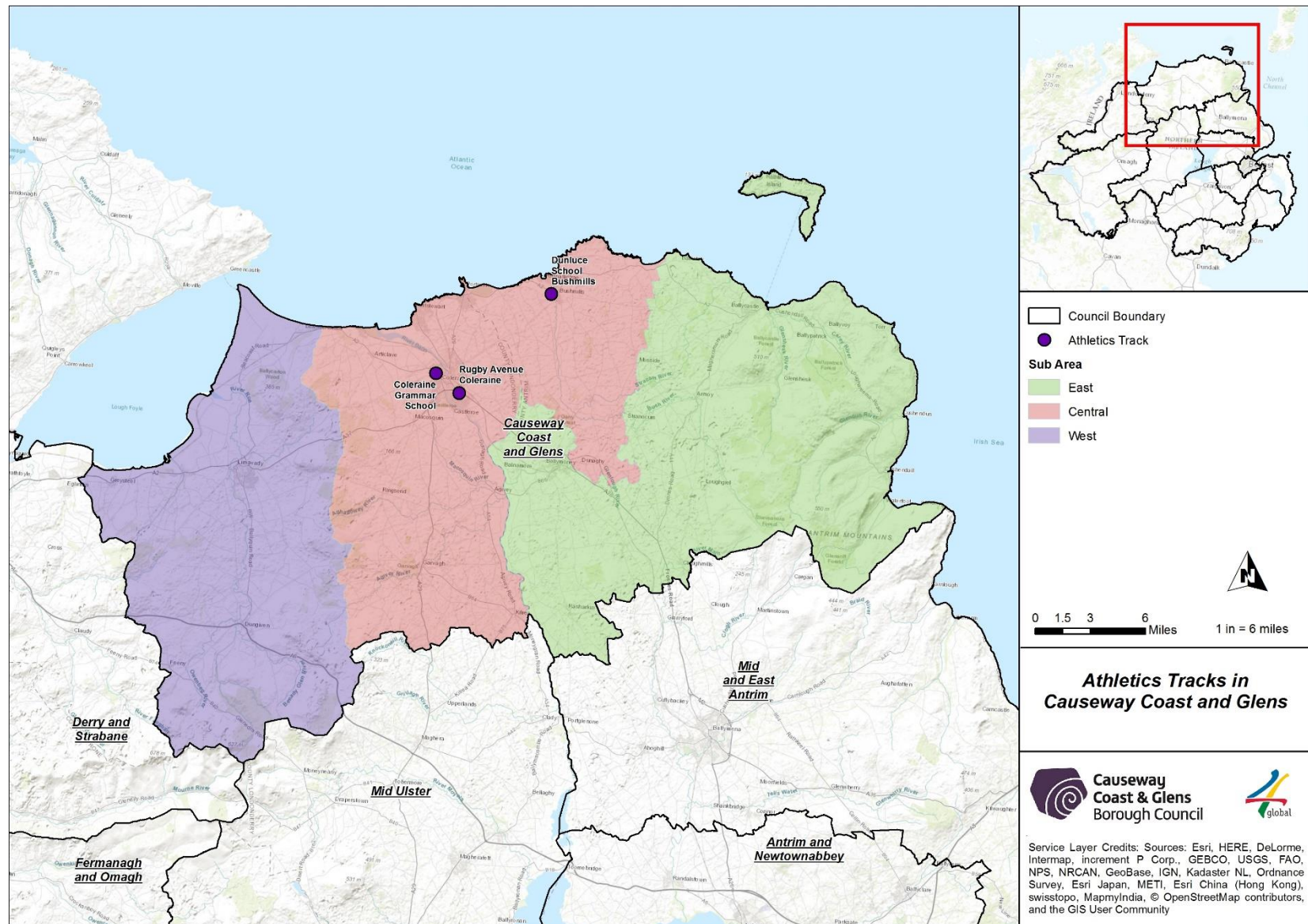
Present demand	29,908	visits per week at peak periods
Unmet demand	<u>14,618</u>	visits per week at peak periods
Potential Total Demand	<u>44,526</u>	visits per week at peak periods

From this 2008 research Sport NI estimated that, pro rate, Northern Ireland had 5 fewer athletics tracks than England and 6 fewer than Wales. Since this 2008 assessment tracks have been developed in Newry (St Colman's College) and at the Boys Model School in Belfast and at the Girls Model School also in Belfast. Against this increase in facilities, participation has grown, perhaps doubling in the last 10-year period. The governing body sees a need for a 400m x 6 lane athletics track in the Causeway Coast and Glens area to support the training needs of local clubs and schools.

Supply and Demand

- 10.5** Athletics combines a range of disciplines that involve running, jumping and throwing. The most common disciplines are road running, cross country running and track & field. Whilst it is the track & field disciplines that have a particular need for purpose built facilities, as running clubs look to coach their members they need to access running tracks for advanced training methods and regimes. There are no modern dedicated athletics tracks in the Borough, however the Council has a 400m shale track at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields and Coleraine Grammar School has a 300m shale track; other schools may mark tracks on shale or grass surfaces during the summer term. Map 10.1 and Table 10.1 show the location and size of these tracks.

⁽⁷⁰⁾ This research was carried out in preparation for a major capital funding programme in 2008.



Map 10.1 Location – Shale Athletics Tracks

Table 10.1: Athletics – Location, Size and Quality

Location		Size/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Coleraine Grammar School (Education)	Central	1 x 300m Shale track	Unknown	Track is partially floodlit and used approximately 10 hours per week by Springwell Running Club.



Shale Running track at Coleraine Grammar School

Rugby Avenue Coleraine (Council)	Central	1 x 400m Shale track	1 x Poor	400m shale running track located at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields – an association football pitch is placed inside the track. The site also has a jump pit and an area big enough for throwing cages. The track has been used up until recently by Coleraine Pegasus Running Club.



Shale Running track at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields

Community Impact

Clubs, Teams and Players

10.6 There are five athletics clubs identified in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. All five clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate assessment of athletic club membership, training facilities, club development plans and needs. All five clubs are affiliated to Athletics Northern Ireland and the majority of their members live within the Council boundary⁽⁷¹⁾.

10.7 A summary of club membership is:-

Table 10.2: Athletic Club Membership Profile							
	Pre-Junior (6 to 11)		Junior (12 to 18)		Adult		Total
Club	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	All
Ballycastle Runners AC	0	0	0	0	14	21	35
Glens Runners AC	0	0	0	0	20	35	55
Pegasus AC Coleraine	10	8	12	9	4	0	43
Rasharkin Runners AC	0	0	0	0	35	40	75
Springwell Running Club	40	40	30	40	90	80	320
Totals	50	48	42	49	163	176	528

Comments

- ❖ Across the five clubs there is a total of 528 members including both female and male and all ages.
- ❖ Just over half of the total membership is female i.e. 273 members. Total male membership is 255.
- ❖ Two of the clubs have a youth section (Springwell Running Club and Pegasus AC Coleraine).
- ❖ Rasharkin Runners AC, Glens Runners AC and Ballycastle Runners AC currently cater for adult members only.

Training Facility Constraints

10.8 The five athletics club use a variety of training facilities as presented below with some remarks on training facility constraints.

⁽⁷¹⁾ Athletics NI advise of a sixth club, Valley Running Club AC based in Limavady however no runners have registered this year. Efforts to contact the club (email, Facebook) proved fruitless.

Club	Training Facilities	Facility Constraint
Ballycastle Runners AC	April to Oct – on roads around the Ballycastle and occasionally Ballypatrick Forest and Ballycastle forest. Oct to April – all in Ballycastle streets due to lighting.	Winter running is difficult – hazardous for runners with poor street lighting on uneven pavement. Need for marked lit loops for high intensity interval training.
Glens Runners AC	Runs start from car park in Cushendall or Glenariffe Forest Park. Runs are a mix of road, beach, trail and open fields.	Parking at Glenariffe is difficult as gates closed in evenings and charge during day at weekend – often park on road which can be hazardous.
Pegasus AC Coleraine	Running track at Rugby Avenue.	Track surface unsuitable and not lined, it is prone to water logging after heavy rain The track is accessible to public at all times - no fences or barriers, members of the public wander across training areas while in progress No throwing cages at facility
Rasharkin Runners AC	Run on roads around Rasharkin. Small community centre park in winter.	Roads are dangerous and in view of all which can be very off-putting for new unfit members. Running in winter is particularly difficult.
Springwell Running Club	Use a number of facilities: Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Roe Valley Leisure Centre, Coleraine Grammar School and roads beaches and forest parks.	We are constrained by poor track facilities.

Future Plans and Needs

Table 10.3 presents comments from the five clubs on future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final 'Any Other Comments' question of the survey.

Table 10.3: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballycastle Runners AC	Parkrun has become a huge success in the past few years and there is a high demand to host one in Ballycastle however we believe there is no area in Ballycastle that is currently suitable due to the requirements for being off road etc. The provision of the requested running tracks would also allow us to open up the Running Club to younger runners as we would have a safe, controlled area for training sessions.	Unlike most sports there is no provision for safe running in Ballycastle and the surrounding areas. We can run off road through the forest and on the beach however this is far from ideal and is only an option in the summertime. Places like Ballymoney and Coleraine have series of trails in Parks and university grounds that are suitable for traffic free safe running, especially in winter. There are a large number of runners in the Ballycastle area and we believe strongly that something should be done to help build on the popularity of running and to address this gap in athletics provision in the area.
Glens Runners	We have no plans for facilities of our own however would be keen to support indoor or all-weather facilities in the Cushendall area. For instance, a gym, sports hall or 3G pitch would be useful for winter training. Cushendall/Cushendun/Glenariffe is very under resourced in this area. There is scope for several different sports and clubs to come together to provide an all-weather outdoor pitch along with an indoor sports hall and gym/spin studio/yoga/Pilates space. The former St Aloysius School site in Cushendall would be ideal for this.	I am not aware of any athletics provision in Causeway Coast and Glens Council. I am not aware of Causeway Coast and Glens Council providing ANY sports facilities in the middle glens area - for example playing fields, leisure centres, gyms etc. The only sports facilities in this area have been provided by local clubs who have had very limited Council support in the past. I am an active member of several other local clubs and I have found both the old Moyle District Council and the new Council to be lacking when it comes to sports provision and financial support for facilities in this area. Maybe there is an opportunity for this to change in the future?
Pegasus AC Coleraine	None- with current facilities there is little point	The area is particularly badly served with lack of a proper enclosed all-weather track, throwing areas and changing facilities; the nearest tracks are Antrim to the South East, Londonderry to the west and Magherafelt to the south west, all of them at least 40 minutes travelling time away from Coleraine the whole Council area has not one proper facility for track and field events and without this athletics will never take off in the area.

Rasharkin Runners AC	If we had facilities to use or better lighting we could take on a lot of young runners but until this happens we are restricted to who can join our club which is very disappointing as we are asked every week about taking young runners from both sides of the community. We feel we can provide the coaching team to support them but urgently need facilities.	We have a great community centre in the middle of the village but need help to update these we know it takes money to do these things but if you had to run around the village yourself you would see that the footpaths on the Main Street are unsafe to run on and as for dog faeces it's a disgrace.
Springwell Running Club		Where we are concerned there does not appear to be any proper track facilities in the Council.

Summary Remarks

- 10.9** The overall view is one of clubs making do with a severe lack of fit for purpose training facilities. Pegasus AC Coleraine state that the lack of good facilities is the major reason club membership has stagnated and beginning to drop. The club is ambitious to provide quality athletics training and competitive opportunities for youth and adults but feels constrained by facilities. Springwell Running Club is the largest of the five clubs with over 300 members splitting training over a number of different sites. Their continued use of a shale track is likely to limit the long term potential competitive performance of its members. Ballycastle Running Club would like to provide opportunities for youth members but clearly cannot do that without safe well-lit facilities. Rasharkin and Glens clubs again are dependent on roads and public areas for training.
- 10.10** It's clear that athletics clubs in the Borough are constrained in their development and in delivery of training sessions by not have modern fit for purpose facilities. However given the nature of running (clubs train in a variety of landscapes and topographies from urban to rural) it's not clear what the actual demand for a running track may be. Focused research and feasibility work with clubs and schools would be needed to demonstrate the extent of need. In the meantime Athletics NI is of the opinion that given the interest in running clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, a running track is needed to help promote and develop the sport.

Strategic Recommendations – Athletics

Item No	Description
17.	Develop perimeter walking/jogging paths (with lights) at a range of club and Council facilities. Also consider Quay Road Playing Fields and a section of the proposed Ballymoney-Ballycastle Greenway, Riada Playing Fields and Roe Mill Playing Fields.

11. Lawn Bowls

Introduction

11.1 This section presents consultation with the Irish Bowling Association followed by an overview of the supply of and demand for lawn bowls. An assessment of provision is made by reviewing demand for 'green time' for training and matches and setting this against the total hours available for play. The principles of Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Model' (PPM) are used to assess the condition of the Council's lawn bowl facilities. There are eleven lawn bowls clubs in the Council area with a mix of male and female membership playing exclusively on natural grass greens. This section is structured as follows:-

- ❖ Irish Bowling Association
- ❖ Supply – Location Quantity, Quality
- ❖ Clubs, Teams and Players
- ❖ Adequacy of Provision
- ❖ Community Impact

Irish Bowling Association

11.2 The sport of bowls is governed in Northern Ireland (and Ireland) by the *Irish Bowling Association* which has three member associations, namely:-

- ❖ The Northern Ireland Provincial Bowling Association
- ❖ The Northern Ireland Bowling Association
- ❖ The Northern Ireland Private Greens League

Each member association operates its own league and cup competitions. The Irish Bowling Association has over 100 registered clubs across its three member associations. The clubs are mostly located in the east of the country, from Londonderry to as far down as Dublin.

11.3 The Irish Bowling Association is represented, along with three other member associations, by the *Irish Bowls Federation*, a federated organisation for Northern Ireland's bowling governing bodies, namely:-

- ❖ The Irish Bowling Association
- ❖ The Association of Irish Indoor Bowling
- ❖ The Irish Women's Bowling Association
- ❖ The Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association

The Irish Bowls Federation was set up in 2013 with the primary aim of developing all disciplines of the sport of bowls in Northern Ireland.

11.4 Participation in lawn bowls in Northern Ireland has, according to the Irish Bowling Association, fallen in recent years. Many clubs have an ageing membership and find it difficult to attract and retain new and younger players. Clubs tend to focus on the playing of bowls and most clubs are not pro-active in outreach programmes or membership development. However, the sport of bowls in Northern Ireland has achieved considerable success on the international scene and it is reckoned to 'punch above its weight' in competitions including the Commonwealth Games. Many international bowlers have come up through a lawn Bowling Club, including clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. In 2015, with funding support from Sport NI the Irish Bowls Federation appointed two Talent Development Officers in recognition of the sport's potential to achieve podium positions at an international level. Funded until the end of March 2017⁽⁷²⁾ the work of these officers has included club development.

11.5 The 'standard' capital cost for building a bowling green has been obtained from Sport England and from local contractor Tony Patterson Sports Grounds:-

Sport England: Natural Turf Green – 40m x 40m
£140,000 (2nd quarter 2016)
(no cost estimate for synthetic green)

Tony Patterson Sports Grounds: Natural Turf Green – 40m x 40m
£60,000 (budget cost)
Synthetic Green – 40m x 40m
£118,000 (budget cost)

The budget cost provided by Tony Patterson Sports Grounds includes the following:-

Natural Turf

- Drainage
- 2.5m fence
- Trench around perimeter
- Soil build up
- Liner
- Nominal lighting
- Ramp for maintenance

Synthetic

- Drainage
- 2.5m fence
- Trench around perimeter
- Soil build up
- Liner
- Synthetic turf
- Nominal lighting
- Ramp for maintenance

⁽⁷²⁾ Funding for these posts beyond March 2017 is not confirmed at time of writing.

11.6 The maintenance regime for natural turf bowling greens is labour intensive with frequent grass cutting (even daily), weed control, fertilising, aerating and scarifying with specialist machinery and equipment used by qualified greenkeepers. Synthetic greens are less labour intensive yet still require maintenance inputs. For the purposes of this report cost estimates for maintenance of a natural turf bowling green by a local authority have been taken from a recent feasibility study⁽⁷³⁾.

• Cutting – 12 hours per week x £21.00 x 24 weeks	£6,048
• Maintenance around the green @ 8 hours per week x £21.00 x 24 weeks	£4,032
Total	£10,080

These costs only deal with labour/wages. Additional costs will be incurred for equipment, fuel and materials (chemicals, sand, etc).

11.7 It's of interest to consider the cost of 'converting' a natural turf bowling green to a synthetic surface and on-going maintenance. Dales Sports (www.dalesports.co.uk) installs a range of sports surfaces including synthetic lawn bowls; in 2015/16 Dales Sports installed the synthetic bowls surface at CI Knock to World Bowls standard. A 'private' club, Knock Bowling Club moved to CIYMS's sports complex in Belfast in 2016 constructing a new synthetic green and re-naming as CI Knock Bowling Club. Richard White of Dales Sports advises as follows:-

- ❖ Converting an existing 6 rink natural grass bowling green to a synthetic surface costs in the region of £110,000 to £120,000. The work involves removing the existing surface and sub strata, installing a drainage system, build up sub strata with Tye 1 stone, prepare level surface and install bowls carpet to World Bowls tolerances.
- ❖ Dales Sports offers a needle punch synthetic carpet system for outdoor greens, either 'Master Green' or 'Pro Green Plus'. Both systems have a 12-14 second run time which is slightly faster than natural grass. Unlike other synthetic greens, such as Allen Park Bowling Green (Antrim) these carpets do not require sand infill, helping to reduce maintenance requirements and costs.
- ❖ Maintenance involves a weekly vacuum (2/3 hours) with a wet/dry machine and spray for moss prevention on one or two occasions annually. Maintenance does not require any particular skills and can be carried out by club members. Debris such as twigs and leaves should be swept away with a medium hard brush. A suitable vacuum will cost around £2,000 to purchase.

⁽⁷³⁾ Feasibility Study for a Bowling Green in Ballyclare; February 2017. Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council.

- ❖ A replacement carpet will be required after 10-12 years at a cost of around £30,000 - £35,000. As with other synthetic sports surfaces, regular maintenance will prolong the carpets lifespan.

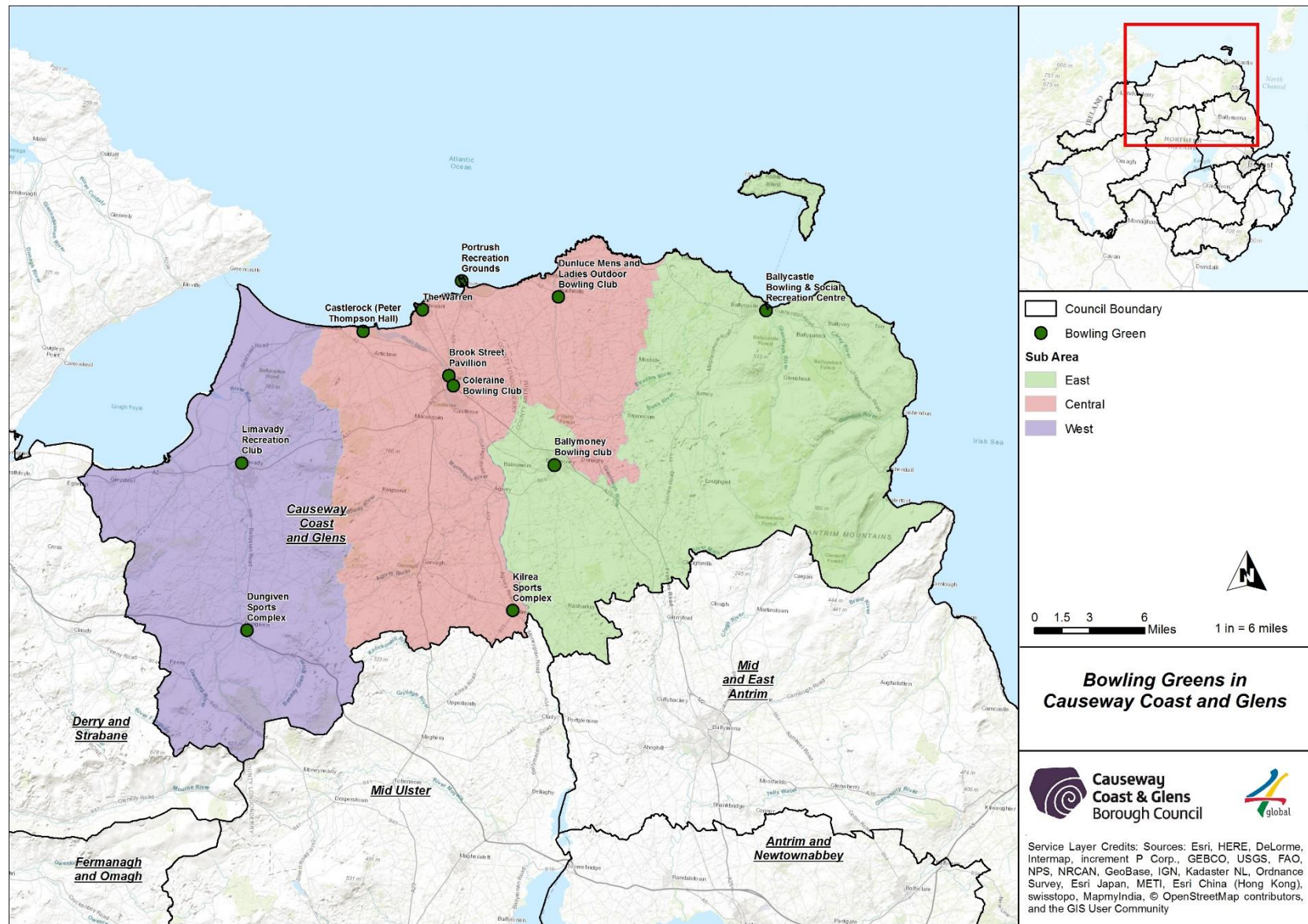
Supply – Location, Quantity, Quality

11.8 Lawn Bowls is usually played on a finely-laid, close-mown and rolled stretch of natural turf which requires considerable care and maintenance to maintain to a high standard. Although there is none in the Council, in recent years synthetic bowling green surfaces have become more common allowing for use all year round and reduced maintenance regimes and costs. An inventory of bowling greens in the Council area is presented in Table 11.1, here two types of green 'ownership' are identified:-

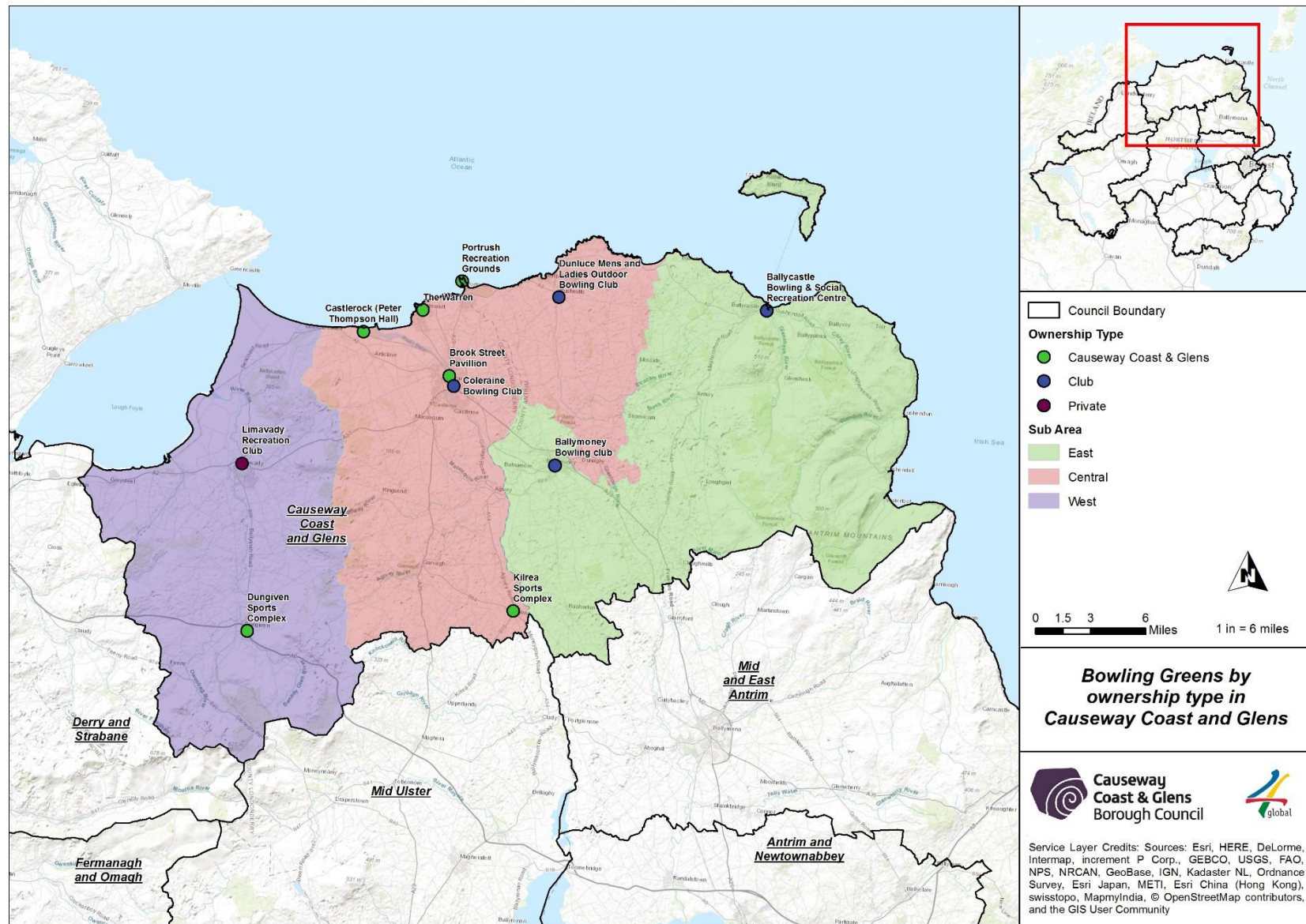
- ❖ **Club owned** – greens are owned and maintained by a club.
- ❖ **Council** – greens are owned and maintained by the Council.

11.9 Table 11.1 presents a detailed inventory of bowling greens across the identified two types of ownership. Maps 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 accompany the inventory showing location, ownership, and quality⁽⁷⁴⁾ respectively.

⁽⁷⁴⁾ All Council owned pitches were inspected and rated using the Sport England non-technical pitch inspection method. The quality rating here is 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor'. Club, community and education sites were asked to rate their own pitch/es via the online survey using the same rating scale.

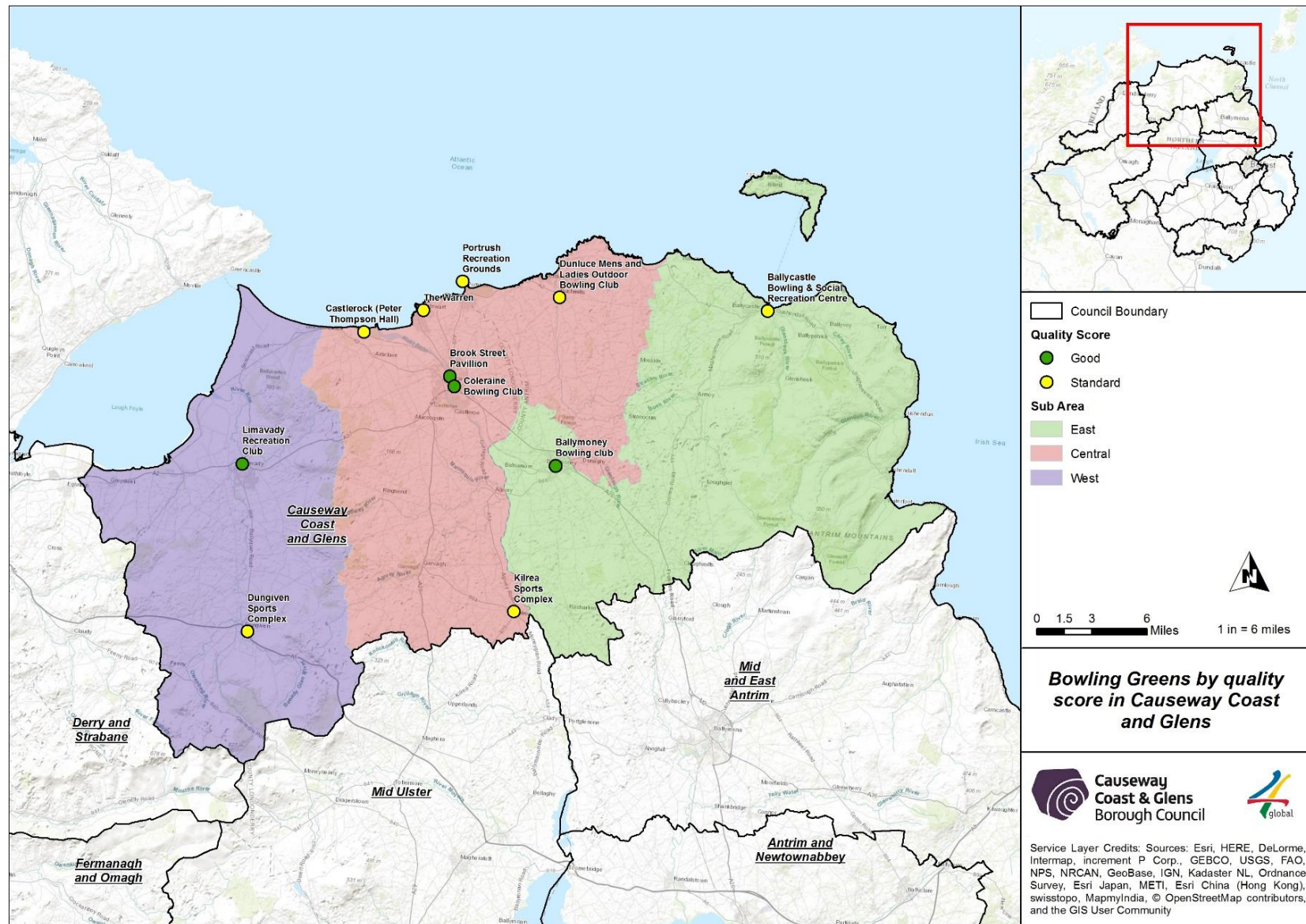


Map 11.1 Location – Lawn Greens



Map 11.2 Ownership – Lawn Greens

LAWN BOWLS



Map 11.3 Quality – Lawn Greens

Table 11.1: Lawn Bowls –Location, Quantity and Quality of Bowling Greens

<u>Council</u>				
Location		Quantity/Type	Quality	Remarks
Pitch Site	Area			
Brook Street Pavilion	Central	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Good	Home to Brookgreen Bowling – one adult male team playing in the Junior League 2. Has floodlights.
Castlerock Peter Thompson Hall	Central	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Home to Castlerock Bowling Club – has both adult male and female team. Has floodlights
Dungiven Sports Centre	West	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Hone to Dungiven Outdoor Bowls Club and located the old sports centre in Dungiven. Has one adult male team. Does not have floodlights. With closure of the sports centre the club has no changing or toilet facilities
Kilrea Sports Complex	Central	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Home to Kilrea Outdoor Bowling Club which has one male and one female team. The facility has floodlights.
Portrush Recreation Grounds	Central	2 x Grass Bowling Green - 12 rinks	1 x Standard 1 x Standard	Home to Portrush Bowling Club which has 2 men's teams. The club has a strong history of representing NI and Ireland at Commonwealth Games and World Championships. The pavilion is in a poor state of repair – sections has been closed off. One green is floodlit, one green is available for public use
The Warren	Central	2 x Grass Bowling Greens - 12 rinks	1 x Standard 1 x Poor	Home to Portstewart Bowling Club with two adult men's teams. The club is keen to replace grass surface with synthetic.
Totals 8 x Grass Bowling Greens				

LAWN BOWLS

<u>Club</u>				
Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre	East	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Home to Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre which has three men's teams and one women's team. The green is not floodlit. Looking to refurbish changing facilities – feels the lack of floodlights is constraining club development.
Ballymoney Bowling Club	East	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Good	Ballymoney Bowling Club has 3 men's and one women's team. Has floodlights and long history of playing bowls in the town to a high level. Keen to develop wheelchair access. Recently refurbished the pavilion and kitchen with Lottery funding.
Coleraine Bowling Club	Central	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Good	The club has 3 men's teams and one women's team. The club reports it needs an upgrade to the floodlighting.
Dunluce Men's and Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club	Central	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Standard	Club has 2 men's teams and one women's team – the women's section struggles to recruit and retain players. The green is floodlit.
Limavady Recreation Club	West	1 x Grass Bowling Green - 6 rinks	1 x Good	The club has three men's teams and one women's teams. The club's changing accommodation is need of extending and upgrade. With the addition of a second green the club reckons it could host international matches.
Totals 5 x Grass Bowling Greens				

Summary of Quantity and Quality of Pitches

11.10 A summary and breakdown of current bowling greens used for matches and training by ownership is given below.

Bowling Greens – Number and Quality					
Ownership	No of Greens	Good	Standard	Poor	Unknown
Clubs	5	3	2	0	0
Council	8	1	6	1	0
Totals	13	4	8	1	0

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of 13 bowling greens under Council and club ownership.
- ❖ Just one of the Council's bowling green is rated 'Good' whilst 3 out of 5 Club bowling greens are rated 'Good'.
- ❖ On balance club owned bowling greens appear to be rated higher quality than Council owned bowling greens.

Clubs, Teams and Players

11.11 To assess the impact of bowling green provision it is necessary to assess the current and future demand and need. There are eleven lawn Bowling Clubs in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. All eleven clubs completed an online questionnaire allowing for an accurate picture of club membership, use of greens, club development plans and needs. The eleven clubs satisfied the following criteria:-

- Home green is located within Causeway Coast and Glens area (includes 'private' clubs).
- Over 50% of team members live within Causeway Coast and Glens area.

11.12 All Council owned bowling greens have at least one rink available for public use. It is assumed that the clubs account for the majority of use, therefore public use of bowling greens is not considered.

11.13 The eleven clubs included in this audit are listed below detailing playing membership for junior, youth, adult, both male and female.

Table 11.2: Bowls Playing Membership					
Club	Junior		Adult		Totals
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre(Private)	0	0	44	26	70
Ballymoney Bowling Club (Private)	2	1	56	19	78
Brookgreen Bowling Club		0	31	0	31
Castlerock Bowling Club	2	0	26	12	40
Coleraine Bowling Club (Private)	4		45	14	63
Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club	1		23	0	24
Dunluce Men's and Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club (Private)	5		60	18	83
Kilrea Outdoor Bowling Club	3	0	19	15	37
Limavady Recreation Club (Private)	8	7	75	40	130
Portrush Bowling Club	1		42	6	49
Portstewart Bowling Club	1		24	0	25
Totals	27	8	445	150	630

Comments

- ❖ There is a total of 630 lawn bowls members across all age groups and both genders.
- ❖ Female members account for 25% of total membership.
- ❖ As might be expected the number of junior members is low.
- ❖ There are 29 teams across the 11 clubs; 22 men's teams, 7 women's teams.

11.14 The Council's 8 grass bowling greens facilitate 6 clubs, with a total membership of 206. The total annual cost of labour in maintaining these greens is in the region of £80,000 representing a *per member* cost of around £390.

Adequacy of Provision

11.15 The following assessment of need and demand for bowling greens is presented, where the total training and match time is compared to total hours available for bowling green club activities. The total training and match needs are a combination of team and individual practice that takes place throughout the day at most facilities. The total hours available for training and matches is based on bowling green opening

hours⁽⁷⁵⁾ and the total number of greens at each facility. The total demand is based on the club survey.

Club	Total training hours per week (hrs)	Total match hours per week (hrs)	Total demand per week (hrs)	Supply minus Demand (hrs)
Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre	25	16	41	+19
Ballymoney Bowling Club	25	25	50	+22
Brookgreen Bowling Club	25	12	37	+35
Castlerock Bowling Club	9	6	15	+57
Coleraine Bowling Club	25	16	41	+31
Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club	12	3	15	+45
Dunluce Men's and Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club	25	12	37	+35
Kilrea Outdoor Bowling Club	10	10	20	+52
Limavady Recreation Club	4	12	16	+56
Portrush Bowling Club	25	25	50	+94
Portstewart Bowling Club	25	16	41	+103

11.16 From the quantitative analysis of demand for training and match green-time at each facility compared to supply as measured in available green-hours it is clear that supply comfortably meets demand. Most greens appear to be well used by members.

Community Impact

11.17 In the online club survey, respondent clubs were asked to indicate what barriers, if any, they experienced in accessing outdoor match and training facilities, results are:

Barrier Type	Match Facilities No of Clubs	Training Facilities No of Clubs
Location too distant from club base	0	0
Hire cost too expensive for club	0	0
Finding venues of suitable condition	0	0
Can't get booking slot	0	0
Condition of bowling greens	5	5
None	6	6

⁽⁷⁵⁾ If green has floodlights – total available hours is 6 days x 12 hours =72 hours – assumed it is closed on Sundays.
If no floodlights – total available hours is 6 days x 10 hours =60 hours.

Comments

- ❖ Five clubs note that the condition of bowling greens is a barrier to training and matches. It is unclear if the condition of bowling green is related to poor weather events or that the bowling greens drain slowly therefore delaying access to bowling greens for club activities.

Playing Surface

11.18 The increasing use of synthetic surfaces for the delivery of many sports including lawn bowls is an attractive option allowing increased use and reduction in maintenance. Bowling Clubs attitude to training and match surfaces is presented in Table 11.3.

Table 11.3: Attitude to Training / Match Surfaces						
Surface	Training - Number of clubs			Matches – Number of clubs		
	Not Favourable	Neutral	Favourable	Not favourable	Neutral	Favourable
Grass	1	1	8	1	1	8
Synthetic	8	1	1	8	1	1

11.19 It would appear that grass is the preferred surface for both training and matches for the majority of clubs. Just one club is in favour using synthetic surfaces for bowling activities and another club neutral to the use of grass or synthetic surfaces.

Maintenance of Greens

11.20 In response to three questions relating to maintenance of club bowling greens the following is recorded:-

Responses to three questions related to bowling green maintenance			
Club	Q1. Who is responsible for maintenance of your green?	Q2. How would you rate maintenance of your green?	Q3. Would your club be interested in taking over your club bowling green maintenance?
Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre	Club	Good	N/A
Ballymoney Bowling Club	Club	Good	N/A
Brookgreen Bowling Club	Council	Good	No
Castlerock Bowling Club	Council	Good	No

LAWN BOWLS

Coleraine Bowling Club	Club	Good	N/A
Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club	Council	Poor	No
Dunluce Men's and Ladies Outdoor Bowling Club	Club	Standard	N/A
Kilrea Outdoor Bowling Club	Council	Poor	Not sure
Limavady Recreation Club	Club	Good	N/A
Portrush Bowling Club	Council	Poor	Not sure
Portstewart Bowling Club	Council	Poor	No

Comments

- ❖ All five private clubs are responsible for maintenance of their bowling greens – all five rate their maintenance as 'Good'.
- ❖ Of the six Council owned bowling green facilities, four clubs rate bowling green maintenance as 'Poor'.
- ❖ Four of the clubs who do not own their facility responded they are **not** interested in taking over maintenance of their bowling green – two clubs replied, 'Not sure' to taking over maintenance. The following related comment was recorded by Portrush Bowling Club;
- ❖ "We may be interested in partnership type solution however as a club we are constrained by our financial resources unfortunately."

Membership Growth and Future Plans

11.21 Club membership growth is an important factor when considering facility development and investment. Expected club membership growth over the next 5 years is recorded below for those clubs who completed this question in the online survey.

Age/Gender	No of Clubs Increase	No of Clubs Decrease	No of Clubs Stay the Same
Junior Male (12 to 18 yrs old)	4	0	7
Junior Female (12 to 18 yrs old)	2	0	9
Adult Male (12 to 18 yrs old)	5	0	6
Adult Female (12 to 18 yrs old)	3	0	8

Comments

- ❖ A number of clubs expect junior male and female membership to increase in the next five years.
- ❖ Five clubs expect adult male membership to increase and three expect to see an increase in adult female membership.
- ❖ Examples of the reasons recorded by clubs for membership change:

- *If funding could be secured for refurbishment and floodlighting there would be a marked increase in membership and usage by tourists.*
- *Through club development and trying push forward as we have introduced new floodlighting and this should help. Personally, if you don't try to go forward you will go backward.*
- *Less people interested in playing bowls especially young people*
- *Better club organisation and more coaching for beginners.*
- *To answer the above question depends on the product we have in terms of improved facilities. If our facilities are not improved to at least match other bowling venues within the Borough then I would expect further decreases in membership.*
- *Continue with this form of outreach and new members, especially the 2 young lads who are seeking company of their own age. Word of mouth us the best way to bring in new members.*
- *If we had a synthetic green membership would definitely increase otherwise it will be difficult*

Additional comments in relation to maintenance

11.22 The following two comments were recorded in relation to green maintenance:-

- ❖ *“Standard of our greens have deteriorated over the last number of years due to a number of reasons in our view, e.g., appropriate resources, specific green- keeping knowledge and expertise, time constraints are the key reasons. As a club with a strong history of representing NI and Ireland at Commonwealth games and World Championships, it is essential that we maintain a grass surface.”*
- ❖ *“The Council men who cut grass at The Warren tell us that they have not the time & equipment to make repairs to divots made by young footballers who occasionally break in via holes in the fencing and holes made by birds pecking for worms. Worms and worm casts can make a mess especially when the grass is cut without cleaning the greens with sweepers.”*

11.23 Table 11.4 presents comments from seven Bowling Clubs on future plans/needs and also any remarks from the final ‘Any Other Comments’ question of the survey, four clubs did not make any comments.

Table 11.4: Full comments from the online survey in relation to future plans/needs and 'Any Other Comments'.

	Future Plans	Any Other Comment
Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre	Currently have full planning as situated in AONB for refurbishing changing rooms with inclusion of disabled facilities. We are presently finding great difficulty in securing grant funding for approx £150k. We are only one of two Bowling Clubs within the CC&G Council with no floodlighting. This is a great disadvantage to home teams playing evening league matches and practice. Refurbishment, disabled facilities and flood lighting would result in a modern sports centre catering for may living in isolated rural areas to socialise and compete in a cross-community environment.	
Brookgreen Bowling Club	Club would wish to attract younger members in order to create a second team. Club would also be keen to bring in lady members however to do this additional facility would need to be provided Green is also used on occasions by Age Concern	
Coleraine Bowling Club	Our floodlights needed upgrade to new ones - current ones are not bright enough	Would like improvements to lighting system - not bright enough - need new mower - borrowing from Castlerock golf course - sounding out mowers from golf courses - cost in the region £2000
Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club	We have no suitable changing area no suitable toilets and need flood lights	
Limavady Recreation Club	The changing facilities need modernised and made bigger, a second green would mean the club would be able to host international matches	
Portrush Bowling Club	As we approach our 100th year anniversary in 2023 and as one of the most prominent and successful Bowling Clubs in Ireland with a long history of representative honours including Commonwealth Games gold medallists and World Champions we are strongly committed to developing our club and engaging further with our local community. However, our plans are constrained by the poor and embarrassing state of our facility. It really is an eyesore as is the entire recreation	Our clubhouse is in a sad state of repair which really disadvantages our club in terms of attracting and retaining new and existing members.

	grounds in Portrush. Therefore, our ambitions to attain Club mark accreditation are on hold until plans are confirmed regarding our greens and facilities. We are keen to promote our club a community hub and demonstrate that bowls is a sport for all, for example, children, women, men and those persons with a disability. Bowls is played from 8 to 80! We have previously hosted the Ladies Home international series in 1995, bringing hundreds of bowlers and spectators into the borough. However, the evident decline in terms of facilities and green standards means this is currently no longer a realistic aspiration!	
Portstewart Bowling Club	Should the Causeway Coast & Glens Council replace our No.1 green with a Synthetic one then membership will increase and the senior players will be able to be out in the fresh air and bowl for many more years. We have excellent facilities but the No. 1 green is not up to standard and is dreaded by our visiting teams.	We have sufficient number of greens for Club members and visitors to the North Coast

11.24 The foregoing assessment of supply/demand along with consultation and survey work informs a number of key points at this audit stage:-

- ❖ Looking at *adequacy of provision* the demand for bowls (by clubs) is comfortably met by the provision of 14 natural grass bowling greens across the Council area which serve the needs of the 11 clubs. Five of the clubs are identified as 'private', that is, they operate their own facilities. Each of the remaining six clubs is linked to a Council facility; there are no greens not in use. Average membership across all clubs is 57, however three clubs – Brookgreen Bowling Club, Dungiven Outdoor Bowling Club, Portstewart Bowling Club – have low numbers (31, 24 and 25 respectively) which poses a risk to their ability to field teams and perhaps their sustainability in the long term⁽⁷⁶⁾. The private clubs have significantly higher membership than those linked to a Council facility.
- ❖ All of the greens are natural grass, requiring a good deal of maintenance throughout the season. 'Private' greens tend to engage greenkeepers whilst Council greens are maintained by Council staff. The Clubs were asked to assess the overall quality of their facilities. The five 'private' clubs assessed their facilities as either 'good' (3) or 'standard' (2), whilst the six clubs based

⁽⁷⁶⁾ A feasibility report on bowling facilities by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council concluded that an ideal number of members in a healthy club is 60.

at Council facilities assessed their facilities as 'good' (1), 'standard' (6) and 'poor' (1). Audit inspection of the Council facilities, using the principles of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model rates the eight greens and changing accommodation at the Councils' six sites as:-

Good	2
Standard	3
Poor	3
Total	8

Survey returns and consultation confirm the clubs' concerns with the quality of facilities. 'Private' clubs have concerns about pavilion accommodation and lighting whilst Council-linked clubs also have concerns about pavilion accommodation and the maintenance of greens, suggesting the standard of greens has fallen in recent years.

- ❖ Clubs were asked to consider their attitude to types of surface – synthetic and grass; 10 of the 11 clubs gave a response. For matches and training 8 of the 10 clubs are not in favour of a synthetic surface, 1 club is neutral and 1 club has a favourable attitude to synthetic surfaces. It's useful to note that Allen Park Bowling Club, when the Council moved it from a natural grass to a synthetic green were initially sceptical but after a period of time now prefer synthetic to grass.
- ❖ Clubs linked to Council facilities were also asked 'would your club be interested in taking over your club bowling green maintenance'? Four of the six clubs replied, 'no'. The remaining two clubs replied 'not sure', with Portrush Bowling Club adding, 'we may be interested in a partnership type solution, however as a club we are constrained by our financial resources.'

Strategic Recommendations – Lawn Bowls

Item No	Description
18.	Consider a new approach to supporting lawn bowls including the provision of synthetic greens.

12. Multi Use Games Areas

Introduction

- 12.1** Multi use games areas (MUGA's) are developed by local authorities to supplement play areas and complement training facilities for outdoor team sports such as association football and hockey. Depending on markings and equipment they may also facilitate basketball. There is no 'one size fits all' in terms of design (size, type of surface, lighting, fencing, markings, equipment) and accessibility. Some of the Council's MUGA's are more suited to recreational play by older children whilst others are also capable of use for sports training. Some are located alongside play areas and sports pitches whilst others are unconnected to any other play or sports facilities.
- 12.2** For the purposes of the audit each MUGA was visited and inspected – Appendix 3 presents a record of the visits with photographs. Also, an online survey was conducted via the Council's website, attracting 70 responses.
- 12.3** The Council's 'Discussion Paper 7: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation; April 2016' states:-

'MUGA's provide a multi play area targeted at older children. They are a relatively new concept, therefore it is reasonable to assume their provision is presently limited. The benchmark guideline promoted by Fields in Trust is 0.3 hectares per thousand population.'

For the Borough's population of 140,877⁽⁷⁷⁾ the Fields in Trust's benchmark suggests there should be just over 42 hectares of MUGA provision, however Discussion Paper 7 states that existing provision is 1.37 hectares across the Borough as a whole. In other words to meet the Fields in Trust benchmark a thirty-fold increase in provision would be required. There are 19 MUGA's provided and maintained by the Council.

Location, Quantity, Quality

- 12.4** A total of seven inspection elements were devised in order to inform the condition assessment – good, standard, poor; they are:-
- Size
 - Access
 - Issues/hazards
 - Markings/sports
 - Lighting
 - Surface
 - Fencing

⁽⁷⁷⁾ 2011 Census.

Whilst Appendix 3 presents the complete inspection report summary points for each element help to create the overall picture.

Size

12.5 Size varies considerably, both in terms of dimensions and total footprint.

	High	Low	Average
Length	48m Ballysally	20m Ballintoy	33.4m
Width	32m Megaw Park	12m Ballintoy	18.8m
Square metres	1,408m ² Megaw Park	240m ² Ballintoy	658m ²
Length:Width Ratio	2.4:1 Garvagh	1.4:1 Megaw Park	1.8:1

In looking at size the question arises ‘*what is the ideal size for a MUGA?*’ Sport England’s recommendation is 37m x 18.5m as an ideal size for a ‘Type 1-5 MUGA’⁽⁷⁸⁾ giving a total footprint of 684m² and a length to width ratio of 2:1. Of the Council’s 19 MUGA’s, ten fall below 684m² and thirteen fall below the length:width ratio of 2:1. Here’s a summary of dimensions:-

MUGA	Council’s Operational Area	Dimension (metres)	Area (m ²)	L x W Ratio	Does MUGA meet Sport England m ² guidance?
1. Articlave	Central	28 x 16	448	1.75:1	No
2. Ballintoy	East	20 x 12	240	1.66:1	No
3. Ballybogey	Central	36 x 20	720	1.80:1	Yes
4. Ballysally	Central	48 x 22	1,056	2.18:1	Yes
5. Coleraine West	Central	35 x 25	875	1.40:1	Yes
6. Drumbolcan Park	East	23 x 14	322	1.64:1	No
7. Dungiven	West	26 x 13	338	2.00:1	No
8. Garron Road	East	30 x 15	450	2.00:1	No
9. Garvagh	Central	34 x 14	476	2.43:1	No
10. Glebeside	East	36 x 24	864	1.50:1	Yes
11. Glentaisie	East	25 x 16	400	1.56:1	No
12. Kilrea	Central	45 x 20	900	2.25:1	Yes
13. Macfin	East	26 x 16	416	1.62:1	No
14. Macosquin	Central	38 x 20	760	1.90:1	Yes
15. McCamphill Park	East	38 x 18	684	2.11:1	Yes
16. Megaw Park	East	44 x 32	1,408	1.37:1	Yes
17. Millburn	Central	30 x 18	540	1.66:1	No
18. Stranocum	East	28 x 16	448	1.75:1	No
19. Windyhall	Central	40 x 24	960	1.66:1	Yes

⁽⁷⁸⁾ ‘Design Guidance Note: Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport; Updated Guidance for 2013.’ Sport England 2013.

Access

- 12.6** For most of the MUGA's access is freely available with gates unlocked. The exceptions to this are the MUGA's at Kilrea and Megaw Park. The Kilrea MUGA is located close to Kilrea Sports Centre and users book it through the centre. The Megaw Park MUGA is within an enclosed public park which also has an association football pitch, play facilities and outdoor fitness equipment; the MUGA is booked through the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and access is controlled by the Site Warden.

Fencing

- 12.7** All MUGA's have surround fencing. Height varies with higher fencing at sites where it's necessary to prevent stray balls; a 'standard' height appears to be between 3 to 4 metres. Some fences are angled inwards at the top section, perhaps as an extra precaution against stray balls. The highest fence is at Garvagh MUGA where the fence rises to approximately 6 metres along one side that is adjacent to a mature wooded area. The MUGA's at Ballintoy, Glentaisie and Millburn have a roof net system; the most substantial of these roof nets is at Millburn MUGA which appears to be designed as an integral part of the surround fencing. All fences are constructed of steel mesh bars, providing a substantial rebound surface for large and small balls. Whilst gates remain open at most sites they are designed to be lockable when required.

Surface

- 12.8** There are three surface types in use:-

- ❖ Artificial grass, sand dressed/filled (Ballintoy, Dungiven, Garvagh, Glentaisie, Kilrea).
- ❖ Open textured porous macadam (Coleraine West, Garron Road).
- ❖ Polymeric rubber crumb over macadam base, orange/red or green (all others).

Sport England guidance on surfaces covers each of the surface types in a classification system which is summarised as follows:-

Type 1&2 *Macadam surface for ball rebound prioritising tennis with secondary sports such as netball and basketball.*

Type 3&4 *Polymeric surface for ball rebound sports and/or recreational association football, basketball and general sports, recreational training and play; shock absorbency may vary.*

Type 5 *Artificial grass with a shock pad, filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb; shock absorbency may vary.*

Marking/Sports

- 12.9** Typically the MUGA's are marked to accommodate five/seven-a-side association football and basketball. Most of the MUGA's have goals and basketball boards integrated into the fencing system with association football playing end to end and basketball playing side to side. Megaw Park, the largest MUGA, is also marked for three tennis courts with nets in place. Millburn MUGA, at 30m long plays basketball end to end and it has a substantial rebound boarding system at ground level which is ideal for hockey activity and/or activities involving small balls. Some MUGA's have no court markings – Coleraine West, Ballintoy, Garron Road and Garvagh. Ballybogey MUGA has court markings for five-a-side and basketball, however there are no permanent goals or basketball boards in place.

Lighting

- 12.10** Only five MUGA's have no lighting – Ballintoy, Drumbolcan Park, Glentaisie, Macfin and McCamphill Park. The remaining thirteen MUGA's each have four floodlighting columns, some with a single lamp atop each column (eg, Garvagh), some with two lamps (eg, Ballysally) and some with three lamps (eg, Dungiven, Articlave). In the case of Articlave MUGA, two of the columns have a fourth lamp facing away from the MUGA to light a parking area and walkways. It's not clear how lights are controlled at the MUGA's or who has responsibility for switching them on and off, assuming they are not on a timing device. Lights were not tested during the inspection visits.

Issues/Hazards

- 12.11** MUGA's are designed to be safe for unsupervised use by individuals and groups. High level surround fencing reduces the risk of stray balls whilst the addition of roof netting removes the risk completely; integrated goals and basketball boards removes the risk of players colliding with posts; polymeric surfaces provide some absorbency in the event of falls. However, some issues/hazards that potentially compromise quality are noted:-

- ❖ Colouring of some of the 'older' polymeric surfaces has faded. Whilst this is not a hazard these MUGA's are somewhat unattractive and may be less appealing to users, eg, Macosquin, Ballysally.

- ❖ Weed encroachment and/or moss from surrounding grass areas through the fencing system is unsightly and may present a slip hazard in wet conditions, eg, Ballysally.
- ❖ Again with some of the older surfaces there is evidence of surface deterioration. This can be seen at Macosquin MUGA where the polymeric surface has worn away in places, revealing the underlying macadam surface. Generally however the surfaces are in good condition.
- ❖ At Ballintoy MUGA, metal fence fixings show signs of heavy rusting.
- ❖ Garron Road MUGA is the only one which has permanently fixed goals and basketball posts that are independent of the fencing system, posing a potential collision hazard.
- ❖ Ballybogey MUGA is the only one that does not have permanently fixed goals and basketball boards.

Condition Assessment

12.12 The condition assessment is summarised as follows:-

Good	12 MUGA's
Standard	5 MUGA's
Poor	2 MUGA's

The two MUGA's assessed as 'poor' are:-

- ❖ Coleraine West A lack of markings along with rusting basketball boards and fencing posts devoid of paint/covering.
- ❖ Garron Road The hazard presented by five-a-side and basketball posts.

The MUGA's assessed as 'standard' are:-

- ❖ Ballintoy The fence fixings should be examined by an expert; twig debris should be removed.

MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

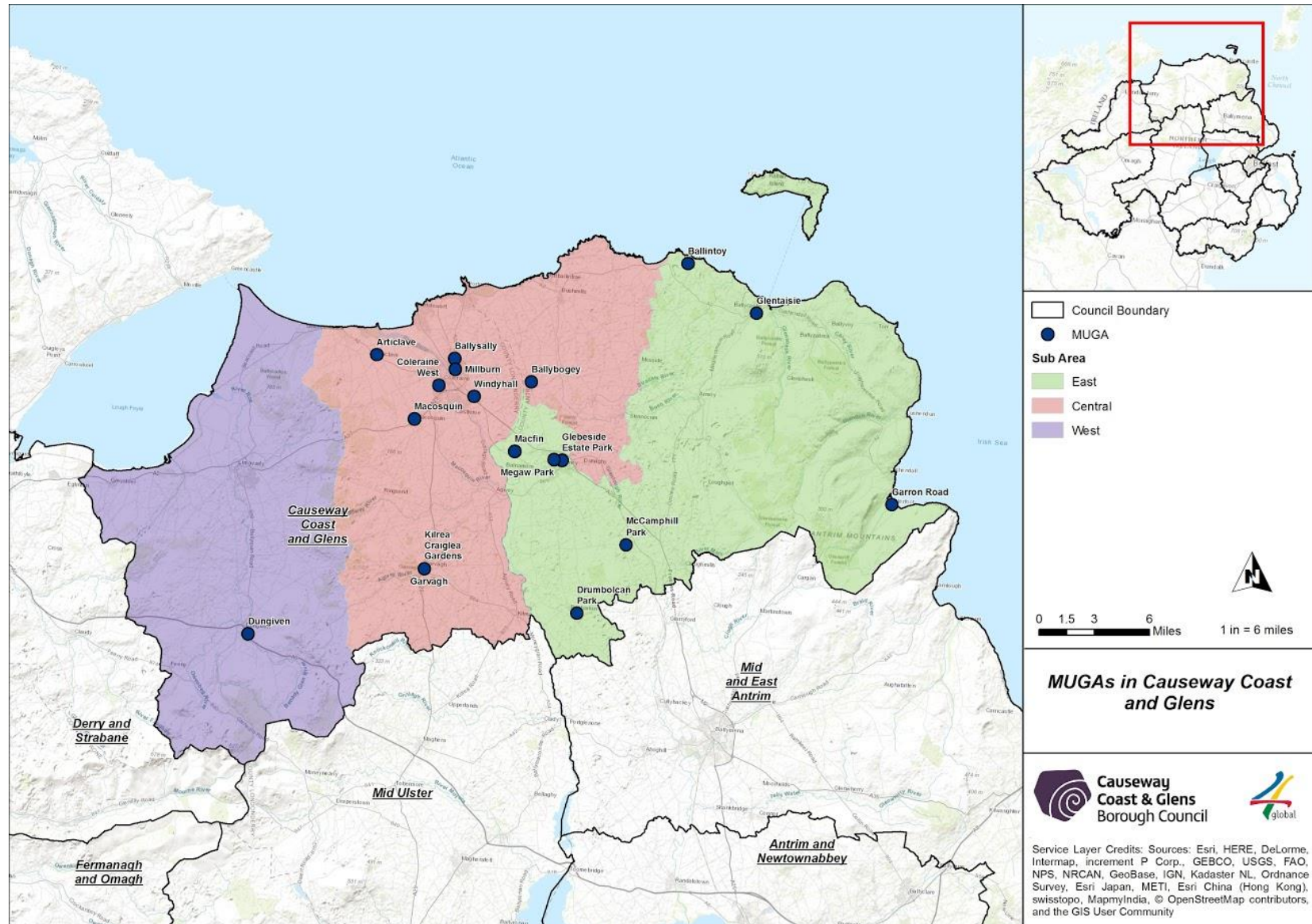
❖ Ballysally	The surface discolouring is unsightly, however it does not affect the facility's playability. Weed encroachment should be addressed.
❖ Dungiven	Small area of damage to the surface.
❖ Kilrea	Polymeric surface has come away from the macadam base in places.
❖ Macosquin	The surface should be inspected by a technical expert to assess the need for further repairs.

The following table summarises the condition assessment:-

12.13 Under 'Remedial Works/Technical Investigations' (Part 2: Section 13), it is recommended the polymeric surface at Kilrea MUGA be replaced at an estimated cost of £24,000. Work to address the remaining issues/hazards noted in the MUGA's rated 'poor' and 'standard' is estimated to be in the range £2,500 - £4,000; the most pressing issue is the hazard presented by five-a-side and basketball posts at Garron Road.

MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

MUGA	Size (metres)	m ²	Access	Surface	Markings/Sports AF – Association Football B – Basketball T - Tennis	Lighting	Issues/Hazards	Condition Assessment
1. Articlave	28 x 16	448	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	None	Good
2. Ballintoy	20 x 12	240	Open	Artificial grass	AF, B, No markings	x	Rusted metal fixings	Standard
3. Ballybogey	36 x 20	720	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Low fence on one side	Good
4. Ballysally	48 x 22	1,056	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Surface discolouration; weed encroachment	Standard
5. Coleraine West	35 x 25	875	Open	Macadam	AF, B	✓	Rusting basketball boards; bare posts	Poor
6. Drumbolcan Pk	23 x 14	322	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	x	Care needed with grass cuttings	Good
7. Dungiven	26 x 13	338	Open	Artificial grass	B	✓	Surface damage	Standard
8. Garron Road	30 x 15	450	Open	Macadam	AF, B, No markings	✓	Posts present collision hazard	Poor
9. Garvagh	34 x 14	476	Open	Polymeric	AF, B, No markings	✓	None	Good
10. Glebeside	36 x 24	864	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Low side fencing	Good
11. Glentaisie	25 x 16	400	Open	Artificial grass	AF, B	x	Roof netting patched	Good
12. Kilrea	45 x 20	900	Locked	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Surface deterioration	Standard
13. Macfin	26 x 16	416	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	x	Low side fencing	Good
14. Macosquin	38 x 20	760	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	General surface deterioration	Standard
15. McCamphill Pk	38 x 18	684	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	x	Low side fencing	Good
16. Megaw Park	44 x 32	1,408	Locked	Polymeric	AF, B, T	✓	None	Good
17. Millburn	30 x 18	540	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Small amount of litter; some moss growth	Good
18. Stranocum	28 x 16	448	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	x	None	Good
19. Windyhall	40 x 24	960	Open	Polymeric	AF, B	✓	Some moss growth	Good
		12,305m ²						



Map 12.1 MUGA Distribution

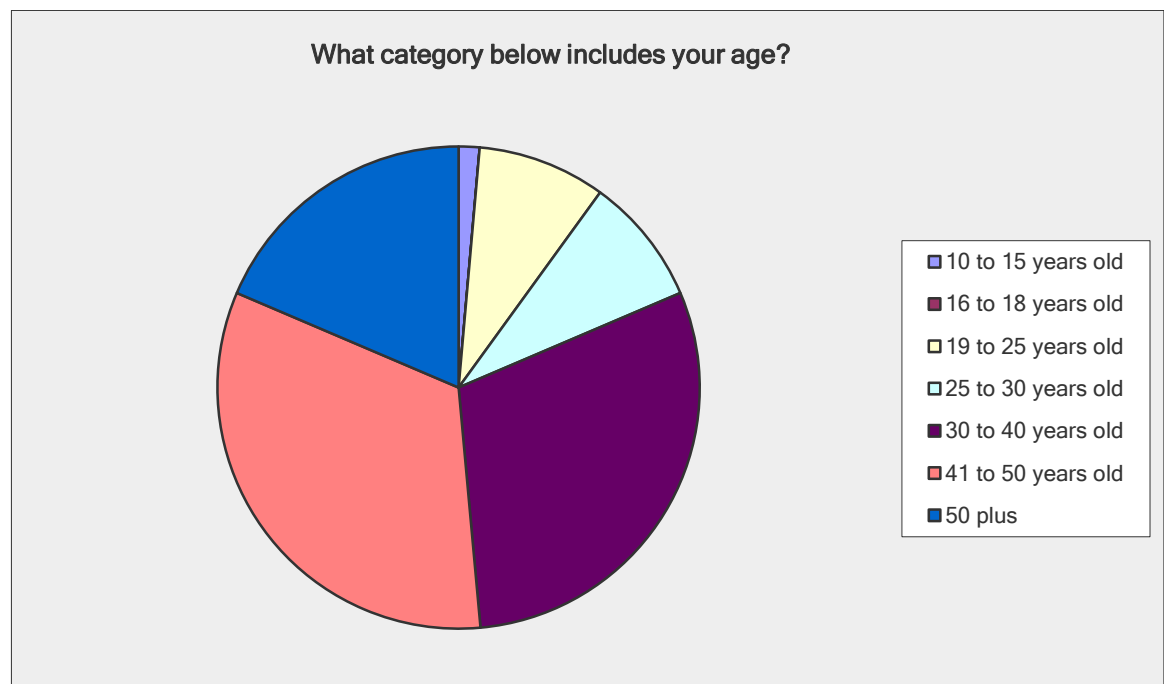
Map 12.1 shows the MUGA's are concentrated in the centre of the Borough, in and close to the towns of Coleraine and Ballymoney. There is only one in the West area, in the village of Dungiven whilst there are none in the town of Limavady. The furthest east MUGA is at Garron Road in the village of Waterfoot, however there are none in the villages of Cushendall and Cushendun.

Community Impact

12.14 In order to gauge the impact of the Council's MUGA's in the community an online survey of MUGA's and kickabout areas was conducted; it attracted 70 responses. Here's a summary of the responses:-

Respondent's Profile – Gender and Age

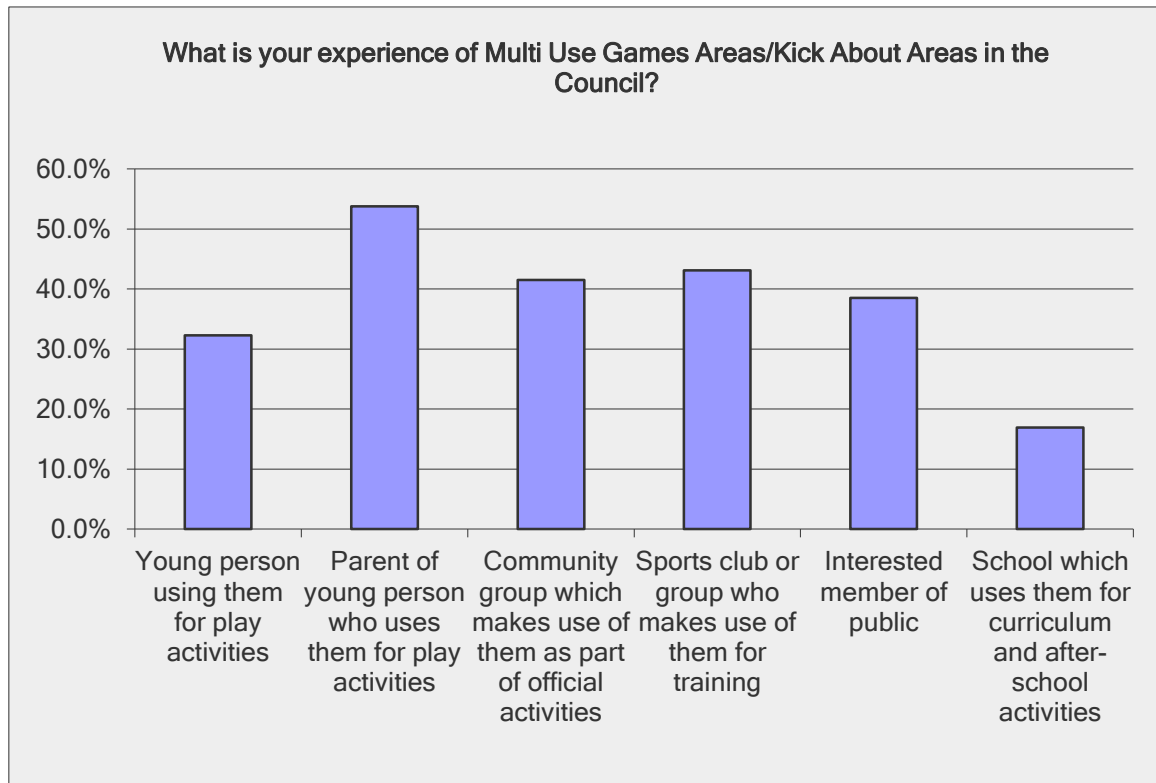
12.15 The male/female split of respondents was 41%/50%. Age categories of all respondents was as follows:-



Adults comprised the majority of respondents – 81% of respondents are at least 30 years old. Alongside the total number of responses the interest shown by adults in completing the questionnaire suggests the community is interested in the provision of MUGA's.

Experience of MUGA's

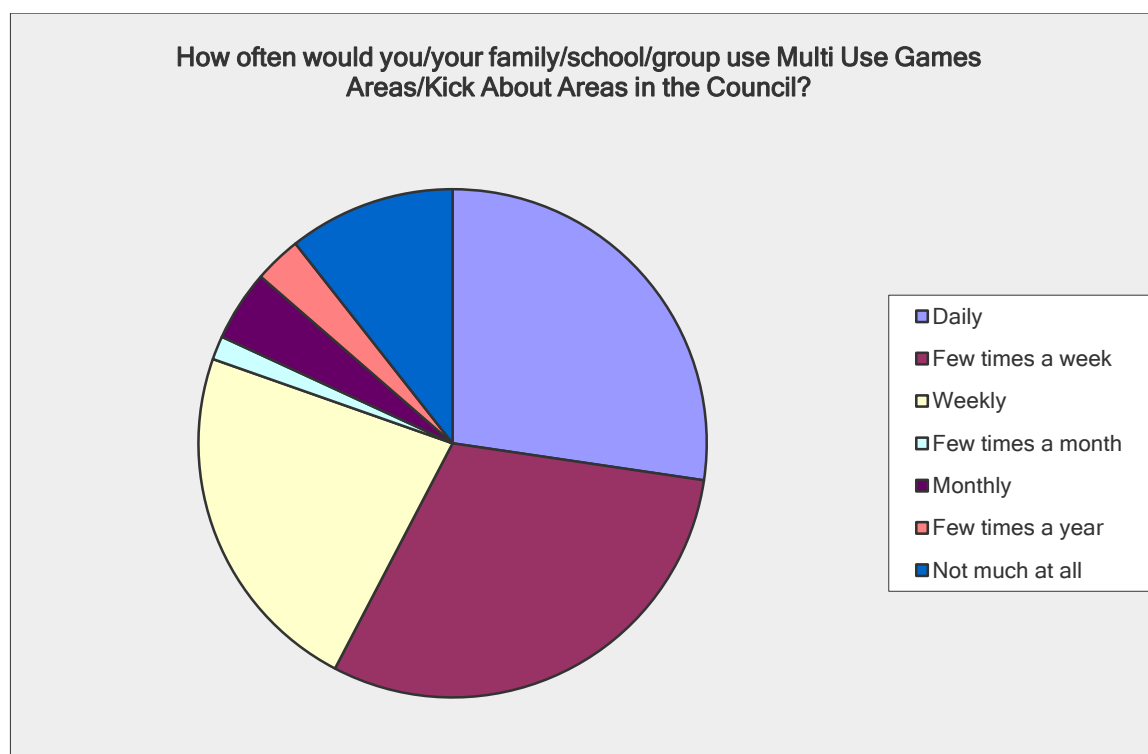
12.16 This question was asked to begin to find out how MUGA's are used given that most of them are accessed on a casual basis and usage is not recorded – the exceptions are the MUGA's at Kilrea and Megaw Park. Respondents were able to tick all the boxes that applied to them.



12.17 The table reveals that whilst a significant number of respondents represent young users that is, young people themselves and parents of young users, groups (community, sports club, school) account for over 40% of all responses. This result suggests that MUGA's are viewed by the community not only as facilities for casual recreational activity by individuals but also as somewhere that organised group activity can take place. 'Other' comments included; *'there isn't one in my village to use'*; *'we don't have any in Limavady'*; *'not aware that they exist'*; *'the 3G pitch is hard to get and is expensive to go there'*; *'kids are not allowed to enter the school ground to play football'*. Only 5 respondents skipped this question.

Frequency of Use

12.18 This question was asked to get a sense of how MUGA's fit into the lifestyles of the communities in which they are located. Are they used frequently or infrequently?



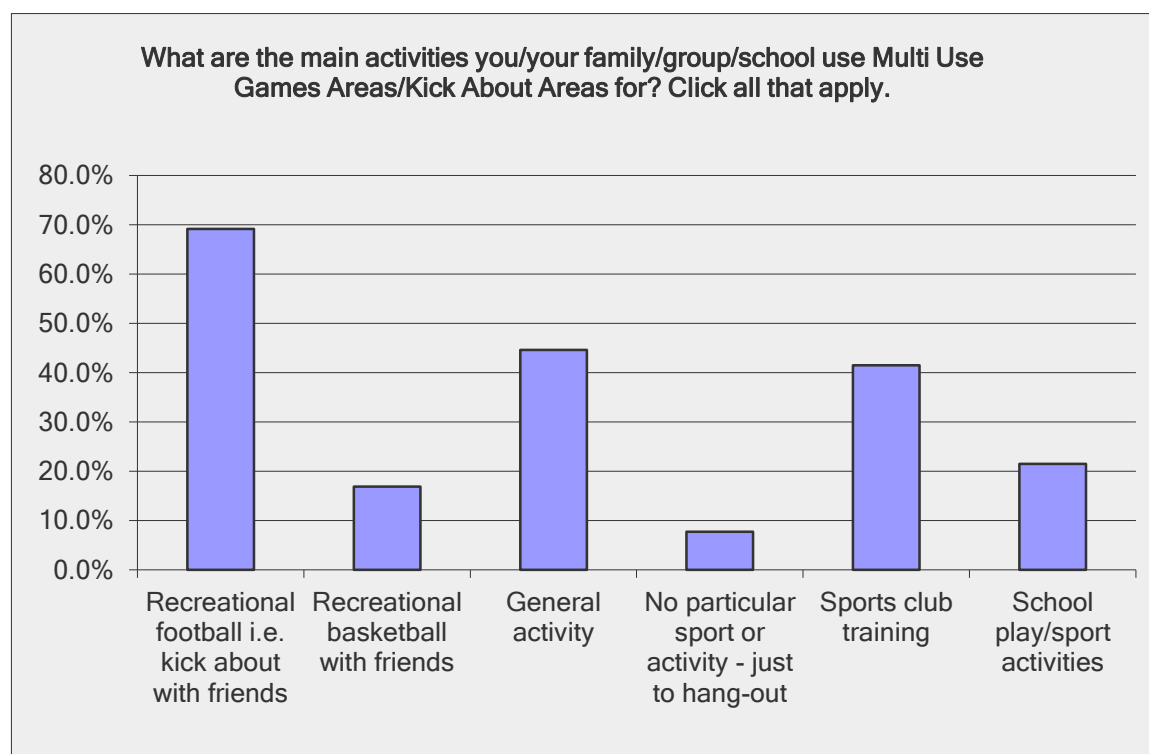
The responses indicate that MUGA's are used frequently by those individuals and groups who make use of them; 80% of respondents use them at least weekly. All of the 'other' comments noted that there is no MUGA provision in their area – Limavady and the Castlerock Road area of Coleraine were mentioned as having no provision.

Which MUGA?

12.19 This question asked respondents to note down the MUGA and/or kickabout facility that they use. Interestingly only 8 of the Council's 19 MUGA's were noted, accounting for 17 of the 56 responses. From the remaining responses it would appear that (i) open grass areas are used for casual kickabouts, eg, the grass area to the front of Flowerfield Arts Centre; (ii) public car parks are used; (iii) 3G areas are regarded as MUGA's by some people and there is uncertainty whether football pitches are MUGA's. These responses suggest there is not a clear understanding of what constitutes a multi use games area. The implication of this may be that their purpose is also not clearly understood.

What activities?

12.20 Most of the MUGA's are marked for recreational football and basketball with goals and basketball boards in place. This question was asked to get a sense of what activity users engage in.



Comparing the two main sports activities, recreational football is clearly a good deal more popular than basketball. It's of interest that 'sports club training' and 'school play/sport' has a total of 41 selections, nearly 30% of all selections. This result supports the result of *experience of MUGA's* where 40% of all responses represented

community groups, sports clubs and schools. 'Other' responses included *outdoor circuits, cycle/scooter, clubs/scouts, tennis league player, roller derby*.

Level of Satisfaction

- 12.21** How satisfied is the Causeway community with the provision of MUGA's? Respondents were asked to consider seven aspects and note their level of satisfaction as *high, average* or *low*.

Could you please record your level of satisfaction in the following aspects of Multi Use Games Areas/Kick About Areas that you have used in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area.

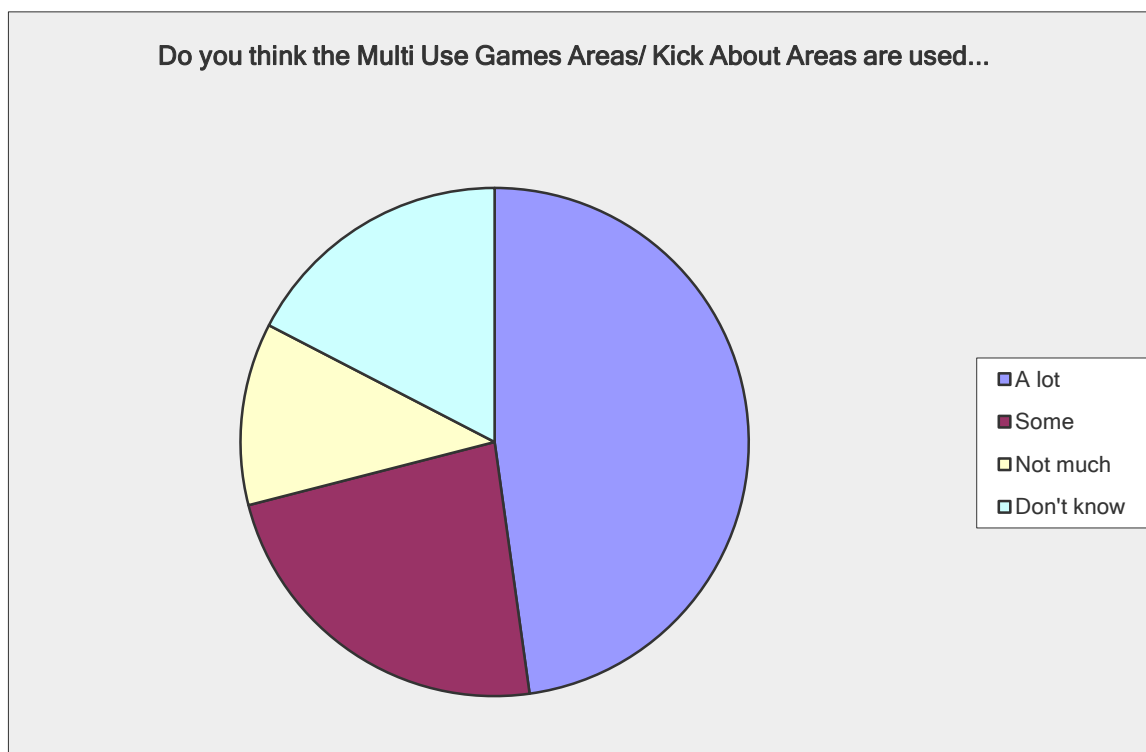
Level				
Answer Options	High	Average	Low	Response Count
Size	17	24	20	61
Surface	12	26	22	60
Equipment (e.g. nets, basketball board)	14	21	25	60
Design	12	23	26	61
Lighting	23	14	24	61
Fencing	24	21	15	60
Availability	11	25	25	61

	Question Totals
Other (please specify)	12
<i>answered question</i>	64
<i>skipped question</i>	6

Satisfaction levels are mostly *low* or *average* with the exception of fencing. Lighting records about the same number of *low* responses as *high* responses, perhaps reflecting that some of the MUGA's (6 out of 18) have no lights. Interestingly, 'availability' records mostly *low* responses even though all but two of the MUGA's are freely accessible. Once again several respondents took the opportunity to record that their area has no MUGA provision.

Frequency of Use - Perception

- 12.22** Linked to an earlier question this was asked to get a sense of how important MUGA's are viewed in local communities regardless of their use by individuals or groups.



Of the 69 respondents who addressed this question nearly half recorded 'a lot' with a further 23% stating 'some'. This suggests that local communities view MUGA's as contributing to people's lives.

Design Preferences

12.23 What should a MUGA look like? This question asked respondents to consider a range of design elements and select their preferences against each element. Here's the results:-

Element		Preferences / Responses		
Surface	Polymeric 12	Tarmac / Macadam 3	3G 32	AstroTurf 11
Rebound wall? (eg, tennis)	Yes 41	Maybe 6	No 5	
Floodlights?	Yes 47	No 10		
Fencing?	Yes 42	No 5	Not Sure 5	
Accessibility?	Open and free 40	Booking preferred 14		
Suitable for wider range of sports?	Yes 50	No 2		

The emerging picture is not dissimilar to the design of the present stock of MUGA's with *lighting, fencing and freely available access* scoring highly. The new idea of a rebound wall has been well received as has *suitability for a wider range of sports*. With regard to *surface*, whilst most of the present stock has a polymeric surface, the respondents have a preference for 3G. Respondents were given an opportunity to make other design suggestions; these include the following:-

- ❖ *'A booking system for peak times for local teams training; 6pm-9pm week nights. Other times it should be open for school kids.'*
- ❖ *'More 3G surface needed in area; more availability for lower costs; kids are being discouraged due to high pricing.'*
- ❖ *'Would love a large flat tarmac or concrete surface for skating – could also be used for basketball/netball/football, etc.'*

There appears to be a range of design preferences coming through in terms of activities and surface types. As was found in the audit of existing MUGA's there are considerable differences in design, most likely the result of differing objectives in providing them; a *play* objective is quite different from a *sports* objective. One solution in the planning of future MUGA's would be to develop a set of design options, each having a clearly stated objective in what it hoped to achieve. The options would then be used to consult with local communities to ensure new facilities have local ownership and will be used to their full potential.

Final Comments

12.24 Respondents were given an opportunity to record any final comments; a total of 38 comments were made, many of them noting the need for a MUGA in specified areas. Comments are as follows:-

1. *Why Portstewart and Portrush do not have a MUGA unlike other parts of the Council area.*
2. *There are not enough of these especially in the Waterside area of Coleraine where there are none.*
3. *It is a much needed facility in the Glens, especially in Cushendall area as a multipurpose all weather pitch would be extremely beneficial, both socially and from a fitness and well-being point of view. (This comment was made by 2 respondents)*
4. *Same comment as No 3.*

5. *Has to be appropriate size for the location and activities for the specific area. Can't be a one size fits all method for all areas.*
6. *Bring the Glens in line with other Council areas.*
7. *The village I live in has no areas large enough for the number of children and clubs in the village, as long as the Council look after the larger towns that the Councils are based in they do not care, there is not a large hall or 4/3G area with in a 20 miles radius of the village this tell it on story.*
8. *I feel that the new MUGA site should be placed in an area that is confident to all. Possibly placed near or beside the new Diversity park which would be great if it was placed in the old Gorteen field. Meaning that children could play and parents /carers have an activity to do as well. Placing it in the Gorteen means it is open to town wide and more people would have better access to it. Instead of one estate claiming ownership and general public feel uncomfortable encroaching on their estate.*
9. *Current lack of provision in Glens area.*
10. *Portstewart & Portrush are in desperate need. No 1 - Kids/Teenagers have nothing to do in the winter months as grass surfaces are unplayable. No 2 - We condemn antisocial behaviour yet we do nothing to prevent it, so something like this would be a great start. No 3 - this is a great opportunity for kids to connect with other kids in the community. No 4 - Now is the time to invest wisely. Our kids are the future and we want to promote a healthy active one at that. No 5 - It won't be long until both towns are concrete jungles at the rate houses are being built, measures need to be enforced to see there is accessibility for areas to promote sports & development.*
11. *These areas need to be designed & created for locals to use and not for attracting tourists.*
12. *Get it sorted!!!*
13. *Glens area have no access to these areas which is a disgrace. What happened with equality?*
14. *The Council does not provide any sports facilities in Cushendall. This needs to change.*
15. *Definitely need one in the Glens area. Majority of time if we need to use it for sporting activities we would have to travel to Ballycastle's which is 30 mins away. Also only the main hurling pitch has a floodlit area and there's a Tarmac area in Glenariffe but it is too small.*
16. *we need a 3/4 g full size pitch for the glens area ie, Cushendall, Cushendun and Waterfoot as there is nothing in this area of this kind.*
17. *The glens need a multi surface area. Cushendall, Glenariffe, Cushendun would greatly benefit.*
18. *We need a floodlit all weather multi use games area in Cushendall.*

19. *Much needed in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, Limavady to support young people and to deter them from other anti-social behaviour and drug/alcohol misuse.*
20. *Nowhere suitable for light or weather conditions we get year round in Portrush or Portstewart.*
21. *Need one in the Sperrin Road/ Rathbeg crescent corner (The Garages).*
22. *None in Limavady Council area for free use.*
23. *A great idea. All for them. Do they have to be booked in advance? As a youngster our "gang" had access to areas where spontaneous games of soccer, cricket, rounders etc were regularly played. Would not have happened with booking getting in the way. Several of us developed in organized sport and reached quite a high level. Sport and street games were all one - fun and spontaneous.*
24. *Would love one in this area. Kids are constantly being complained about by residents. They have nowhere provided by Council to play football.*
25. *Badly needed in the Limavady area.*
26. *Would love to see one of these available for Residents of the Hospital Lane Estates situated at Rathbeg Garages unused run down space where asb occurs presently.*
27. *Limavady is lacking in this area. Really needed somewhere in the hospital lane area. There are no green spaces or play areas at all. There is an area near the old garages on Rathbeg extension that would be perfect.*
28. *Not enough of them.*
29. *One is needed in my area in Limavady around the hospital lane estate the top of the backburn path by the old roe valley hospital would be perfect.*
30. *Let's get kids safely playing outdoors.....a lot.*
31. *There are not enough free MUGA sites within the Limavady area.*
32. *Please invest in Sport facilities for the future of our children. Thank you.*
33. *Please can Dungiven get one.*
34. *Would love an affordable inside area that's open all year round.*
35. *They should be in a range of different places including town centre and in all residential areas.*
36. *"Athletics" track, jump pits and steeplechase hurdle all in very poor state. Seemingly plenty still use these facilities for personal training but for quality facilities athletes from North Coast having to look to Antrim or Magherafelt. Shame.*
37. *With the exception of Rugby Avenue 3/4G pitches that you have to book and pay for, there are very little free to use up to date facilities for young people in the triangle area.*
38. *Ballymoney has Megaw Park even Ballintoy has a free multiuse kids park/basketball area this widely visited tourist area has very little to offer for 8-18 year olds to play a wide range of sports for free.*

Impact on Participation

12.25 A particular difficulty in assessing how the current stock of MUGA's impacts on the Council's aspiration to promote participation lies in the fact that there is no management information relating to their usage. This may be partly because their collective purpose appears to be a mix of play, recreational activity and sport; each MUGA may be viewed slightly differently depending on its design features and its location. The foregoing research and analysis informs a number of key observations relating to the MUGA's influence on participation.

- ❖ The design of the Council's MUGA's varies considerably. If it's necessary to identify each MUGA's key purpose (play or sport) then in accordance with Sport England guidance half belong to play, half to sport. For future developments it will be helpful to be clear about a MUGA's purpose and to design it accordingly. This would also assist with how a MUGA is marketed.
- ❖ Looking at Fields in Trust guidance there is a shortfall in provision. Mapping shows gaps in provision in the Glens area and in Limavady. Survey results suggest further gaps in parts of Coleraine.
- ❖ In communities where they are available, MUGA's clearly encourage participation in play and/or sport by individuals and groups. However their 'catchment' is likely to be fairly limited, generally drawing users only from within walking distance. So gaps in provision will tend to constrain participation, especially if local alternatives are not available.

Consultation with Council staff in the three operational areas informs a number of observations:-

- ❖ MUGA's are used more for association football than basketball (survey results confirm this).
- ❖ Kilrea has a 'couple of regular football bookings' (paid).
- ❖ The MUGA's at Garvagh, Articlave and Macosquin are used by local association football clubs for training, free of charge.

Equality / Rurality

12.26 There are two emerging issues in relation to equality and rurality:-

1. The stock of MUGA's falls well short of guidance issued by Fields in Trust, a thirty-fold increase in provision would be required to achieve the 0.3 hectares per 1,000 population put forward by Fields in Trust. This would suggest that many

individuals and groups, regardless of where they live, are not able to easily access a MUGA. It's noted that Fields in Trust guidance recommends a walking distance from dwellings to the nearest MUGA of 700m. The issue of equality is perhaps most stark in urban areas, where there is a sizeable population yet limited or no provision.

2. The Borough has large rural areas where access to services is a particular challenge due to topography and distance. Again looking at the Fields in Trust guidance, a population of 1,000 should be provided with 3,000 square metres of MUGA.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS – MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

Item No	Description
19.	Consider the development of MUGA's at Cushendall, Limavady, Dungiven, Castlerock, Dervock, Cloughmills and Portrush. The development of smaller MUGA's has some crossover with the work of the Council's Play Strategy.
20.	Develop a multi-sport synthetic training area at Rugby Avenue Playing Fields with a high specification synthetic surface suited to a range of sports; approximate size 140m x 90m. Ancillary accommodation (parking, pavilion) to be enhanced.
21.	Consider re-development of the Council's shale pitches where this is possible.

13. Remedial Works/Technical Investigations

Introduction

- 13.1** Inspection of the pitches and changing accommodation reveals a range of remedial works and/or technical investigations that would help to protect and improve the Council's pitches estate. R Robinson & Sons Ltd (Ballymoney) has provided indicative costs. The following list of works attempts to address operational issues such as dog fouling, repairs to fencing and safety concerns such as the faulty electrical boxes at Ballycastle Tennis Courts. It also deals with technical investigations relating to damp and/or condensation in changing accommodation where it was observed. Major items such as pitch drainage, surface replacement of a MUGA, AstroTurf carpet replacement (at Quay Road, Ballycastle) and changing room replacement (prefabricated) have been included for demonstration purposes. In addition to this list, the estimated cost for technical investigation of a grass pitch where drainage is an issue is £900⁽⁷⁹⁾. Given that site inspections were carried out during April in a particularly dry spell of weather, damp conditions were not observed, however caretakers and groundsmen reported wet areas on the grass pitches at Dunloy, Burnfoot, Quay Road (Thompson's Field), Rugby Avenue (Pitch 6) and Megaw Park (Pitch 2). The 23 items are presented in two broad categories – Priority 1 and Priority 2.

⁽⁷⁹⁾ Engineer and digger & driver; R Robinson & Sons Ltd.

Priority 1

Site	Work Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate £	Cost £
1. Bowling Greens (x6)	DDA compliant ramps	6	no.	500	3,000
2. Ballycastle Tennis Courts	- Repair electrical boxes; assume 6 no. boxes - Repair gate to tennis courts - Repair net sockets and make good surface - Install 2.4m weld mesh fence around 6 grass courts	6 1 12 400	no. sum no. metres	100 250 500 50	600 250 6,000 20,000
3. King's Lane Playing Fields	- Replace prefabricated changing rooms with 2 room unit - Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 2 full size pitches - Secure metal gate to close off site	1 720 1	Sum Metres no.	55,000 15 1,800	55,000 10,800 1,800
4. Kilrea Sports Complex	- Commission report on water damage in changing rooms - Repair broken glass in pavilion windows; assume 4 no. - Commission report on failure of floodlights - Replace light bulbs in pavilion; assume 5 no. - Resurface MUGA with new polymeric surface	1 4 1 5 800	Sum no. Sum no. m ²	1,000 50 750 25 30	1,000 200 750 125 24,000
5. Ballysally Playing Fields	Commission report on condensation in changing rooms	1	Sum	500	500
6. Quay Road Playing Fields	- Commission report on water damage in changing rooms - Replace AstroTurf carpet - Repair AstroTurf shockpad; assume 500m²	1 6,000 500	Sum m ² m ²	1,000 25 15	1,000 150,000 7,500

Priority 2

Site	Work Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate £	Cost £
7. Windyhall Community Centre	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 1 full size pitch	360	Metres	15	5,400
8. Rugby Avenue Playing Fields	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 5 full size pitches	1,800	Metres	15	27,000
9. Liscolman Playing Fields	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 2 full size pitches	720	Metres	15	10,800
10. Castlerock Rec Grounds	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 2 full size pitches	720	Metres	15	10,800
11. Roe Mill Playing Fields	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 4 full size pitches	1,440	Metres	15	21,600
12. The Crescent, Coleraine	Cleft chestnut pale fencing around 4 full size pitches	1,440	Metres	15	21,600
13. Dervock Rec Grounds	Reline pitch to create required runouts	1	Sum	250	250
14. Mosside Playing Fields	Paint goal posts x 1 pitch	2	no.	100	200
15. Liscolman Kickabout	Paint goal posts x 1 pitch	2	no.	100	200
16. Drumsurn Playing Fields	Paint goal posts x 1 pitch	2	no.	100	200
17. Feeny Kickabout	Paint goal posts x 1 pitch	2	no.	100	200
18. Portrush Recreation Grounds	▪ Repair chainlink fence to tennis courts	100	Metres	45	4,500
	▪ Commission condition report on pavilion	1	Sum	3,500	3,500
19. Castlerock Rec Grounds	Replace fencing with weld mesh fence	150	Metres	50	7,500
20. Roe Mill Tennis Courts	▪ Repair chainlink fence	50	Metres	45	2,250
	▪ Paint exterior of changing rooms	1	Sum	2,000	2,000
21. Landhead Rec Grounds	Paint exterior of changing rooms	1	Sum	1,500	1,500
22. Dundarave Playing Fields	Repair damaged fencing	2.4	Metres	50	120
23. Burnfoot Playing Fields	▪ Replace prefabricated changing rooms with 2 room unit	1	Sum	55,000	55,000
	▪ Paint goal posts x 1 pitch	2	Sum	100	200
	▪ Install drainage in pitch; assume 6,000m ²	6,00	m ²	4.50	27,000