



## Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

### Executive Summary

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

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

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

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



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### Sports Clubs Engagement

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

**Table 1 Summary of Status of each Club**

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



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**Table 2. Facilities**

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



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Table 3. Activities

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



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Table 4: Club Activity Plan

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



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



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	<b>Winter.</b> Season from April 1 <sup>st</sup> to March 31 <sup>st</sup> .	Weekly Junior Tennis Sessions	& District League Men's and Ladies'. <b>Winter:</b> Floodlit League Men's and Ipswich & District Ladies'	February. Monthly Committee Mtgs	vs Bildeston memorial Match. Great British Tennis Event. <b>Summer</b> BBQ. Christmas Dinner. Several Club Tournaments
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### Hadleigh Sporting Community Objectives

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

### Club's Individual Issues and Challenges

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



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### **Tennis Club**

Attracting New Members; High Court Costs; Changing Rooms and Toilet provided by HTC of a poor standard

### **Club's Individual Visions**

#### **Badminton Club**

The survival of a Badminton Club in Hadleigh; Increase Youth participation; Improve Club's relationship between SSL and High School.

#### **Bowls Club**

Improve the playing performance of the membership whilst not losing the enjoyment of the game; Maintain the high quality of the green; Improve Clubhouse facilities; Keep playing and membership fees reasonable giving good value to the membership.

#### **Cricket Club**

Complete Phase 2 of Pavilion Project; Win the Two Counties League; Continue expansion of Ladies Cricket.

#### **Cycling Club**

Encourage cyclists and young people interested in cycling; To encourage and support their members to participate in local regional and national competitive and non-competitive cycling events

#### **Football Club**

Continue the growth, development and footballing status of the Club within its sustainable means; Retain FA Charter Club accreditation.

The Club see's the potential move of the Rugby Club to a new site as a positive opportunity, to work in conjunction with the Cricket Club and the Town Council, and review the use of the Layham Road Sports Ground with a view to facilitating more football and cricket pitches for use by the Club's Youth Sections. The planned redevelopment of the Layham Road Sports Pavilion supports this vision as additional changing rooms would be required by the older youth age groups. If not provided elsewhere within the development of a new site to support Rugby, the Football Club/LRSG Area should be considered as a potential site for a MUGA. (Multi-Use Games Area).

Increase use of the Club's own Millfield Clubhouse facilities, particularly by the Club's Youth Section to enable the Club to better support the growth in demand from the expanding number of families living in Hadleigh now and in the future.

#### **Gymnastics Club**

Finding own premises; expanding classes offered; having facilities for parties and other community groups.

#### **Netball Club**

Continue to grow the membership; Expand the number of coaches; Enter a Team in local league in 2018-19; One Junior team to finish in top half of the Colchester Netball League; 2 girls selected for England Netball Academies in 2018-19.

#### **Rugby Club**

Retain England Rugby Accreditation and be recognised by our peers, governing bodies and local community for the quality of our offering. Demonstrate the quality of that offering year on year by growing both junior and senior membership, expanding the mix of our sports/fitness and well-being activities/events, creating inclusive activities and events for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities, retaining a higher percentage of members. Be recognised and considered as a multi-sport provider and a centre for excellence. Be a community rugby club that others would like to emulate. Be an amateur sports club that measures its success not by the number of games its teams win, but by the satisfaction and happiness of its membership and the strength of its position within and value to the local community. By 2025 support a full programme of rugby, rugby related activities and competitive teams/squads in each age group for men and women from U6 - adult.

#### **Running Club**

Have a proper base and safe training space; Encourage more people to be active; Attract more Run Leaders and Coaches; Develop and grow the coaching team

#### **Swimming Club**



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To teach and train children and adults up to National standard; Develop the Club with a view to retaining rather than feeding larger clubs.

### **Tennis Club**

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

The above assessments have been collated to inform and shape the Sporting objectives for the town and provide a framework for a potential sustainable solution to meeting the sporting needs of the town. These solutions include progressing proposals for a new ground for the Rugby Club (with associated facilities/benefits for other clubs). The relocation of the Rugby Club will also release land for football and cricket at Layham Road, which has been identified as an existing problem for both and limits their respective abilities to grow their membership and number of teams.

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

These new facilities will compliment and allow for better use of the existing facilities offered at Layham Road Sports Ground, Hadleigh Leisure Centre and local schools. It is not the intention of these new facilities to act as competition for or as a replacement for our over-utilised facilities; rather they will help further fulfil the pent up sports and leisure needs identified through the above Audit.

It is recognised that South Suffolk Leisure have the primary responsibility to manage sporting facilities owned by Babergh District Council used by several Hadleigh Sports Clubs who participated in this initiative. There is therefore some logic to considering that SSL manages the proposed any new MUGA.

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

#### **Current Plans**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

### Emerging Plans

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

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

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

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

- The Local Authorities will *"...support sustainable facility developments that are evidence based on needs of the local community."* The very essence of the HSC Plan.



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- The Local Authorities will “...encourage shared use of sports facilities and infrastructure to support sustainability of local sports clubs.” The proposed new site and facility to primarily support Rugby would go beyond rugby provision and will help support and directly provide for the needs of other local recreational clubs and activities. See Appendix 1.
- The Local Authorities future role will include supporting and enabling “...the voluntary sector, sports clubs, schools, Town and Parish Councils to support behaviour changes in the community.” This Plan through its holistic approach to looking to develop a joined up approach to the existing and future sport and recreational needs in Hadleigh is the starting point to facilitating and building on the already vibrant sporting community in the town.

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

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

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

As a result of our learning of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) we have met David Bass the BDC lead contracted to produce the PPS and he is aware of the work being done to produce this plan.

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



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### **Delivery**

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

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

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

There is strong logic for the Rugby Club to vacate the Layham Road site and move to a new site with security of tenure and in doing so access major grant funding (currently not available to them) for a new purpose built multi-sport facility. These facilities will compliment and allow for better use of the existing facilities offered at the Hadleigh Leisure Centre and local schools and is not to be seen as replacing these already over-utilised facilities; moreover they will help further fulfil the pent up sports and leisure needs of the local community.

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

The Football Club sees the relocation of the Rugby Club as an opportunity to work with the Cricket Club and the Town Council to review the use of Layham Road Sports Ground with a view to facilitating more football and cricket pitches for use by the Clubs Youth Sections. They also see the positive benefits that would come from the planned re-build of the Layham Road Sports Pavilion which would provide improved changing room facilities for users compared to the current old and inadequate facilities.

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

#### **Group 2. Clubs dependant on facilities provided by South Suffolk Leisure. Swimming, Badminton and Gymnastics**

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



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

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

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

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

### **Group 4. Clubs who need dedicated playing facilities. Bowling**

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

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

The Tennis Club hire court time at Layham Road Sports Ground from the Town Council. Members of the public routinely use the Courts without paying a booking fee. It is very difficult for the Town Council to control the situation and force a pay for use policy. Consequently the Tennis Club finds it hard to attract fee paying members and the Town Council finds it difficult to finance court maintenance. There is an opportunity to collaborate with other clubs and grow the number of people playing Tennis in Hadleigh. The proposed redevelopment of the Layham Road Sports Pavilion could also be used to improve facilities for the tennis club, working in collaboration with the football and cricket clubs and the Town Council.



## Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

### Conclusions and key messages

This initiative represents the first phase of activity from the Sporting Community where ideas for better use of existing facilities have emerged. There is a possibility of this leading to setting up a more formal organisation representing the Sporting Community in Hadleigh. The next phase is the delivery of the core element of the plan and this depends on gaining the support of the Town Council (Re Layham Road), Babergh District Council and the associated development plans that can lead to the necessary land acquisition for new facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

The inclusion within a new site of a new all-weather MUGA will help meet the identified needs of several clubs (which have current issues with a shortage of affordable courts to train on or use for games). This includes the Rugby club, The Football club (which has insufficient pitches/facilities for training) and several other clubs in the surrounding area would jump at the opportunity to utilise a new MUGA in Hadleigh. A cross-country running/cycling path will help meet the needs of the running club (which has a lack of safe training spaces and track facilities) and cycling club. A new site with a Clubhouse, including indoor fitness, studio and storage space, could assist meeting the needs of the cycling club (i.e. by meeting its need for storage space), gymnastics club (i.e. by creating an additional/alternative venue and/or storage space), netball club (i.e. by providing storage space); swimming club (which has no current clubhouse for meetings and fundraising activities) and potentially other sports and leisure clubs and local schools.



## Hadleigh Sporting Community Status and Plan

### Appendix 1 Potential Benefits Flow Chart

