



COUNTY FACILITIES STRATEGY – 2023 – 2032



FOREWORD

The game's national strategy, Inspiring Generations, challenges cricketing organisations like Lincolnshire Cricket to think about how to create environments where the next generation see our sport as a “game for me”. The national strategy also places considerable weight on supporting the existing cricketing infrastructure whilst recognising the opportunity for growth in areas where demand may exceed the current supply. This challenge presents a need to clearly understand the unique nature and balance of existing resources within its sporting landscape and how to service the future needs of the people that live within the counties' boundaries when seeking to access the sport.

Nationally, insight suggests that despite efforts to improve this situation over many years, an inequality of access to cricket facilities still exist. This is particularly apparent in urban areas, amongst women and girls, diverse communities, people from lower socio-economic groups and amongst people living in remote/rural areas. The publication of the ICEC report refers to this and it is crucial that any future plans carefully and transparently consider how to address this inequality of access to the game. This challenge applies to the space to play (quality and quantity), access to the sport at times people want it and making adaptations to existing facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide a welcoming, inclusive environment for all.

Over the coming years I look forward to my team working with you and keenly anticipate the new confidence in the direction of travel this plan will lead you to.

Tony McArdle, Chair, Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd.



CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Facilities Strategy VMOST
3. Our Approach
4. Climate Change
5. Traditional Clubs (inc W&Gs, Disability)
6. Non-traditional Cricket Facilities
7. School Facilities
8. Performance Cricket
9. Executive Summary
10. Appendices



Who Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd are:

Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd act as the National Governing Body for the game of cricket in Lincolnshire. As the local delivery arm of the ECB (England & Wales Cricket Board) our ambition is to make cricket the most inclusive sport in the county by providing every household with an opportunity to connect with our game. Following the merger between Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd and Lincolnshire County Cricket Club in January 2021, Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd represents a unitary organisation responsible for supporting the whole game in the county.

What Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd do:

Our core business is split across three themes:

Recreational Cricket:

Supporting the existing cricketing network, primarily via engaging with and supporting our clubs, leagues and associations to ensure we create and foster an environment within which the game can flourish.

Performance:

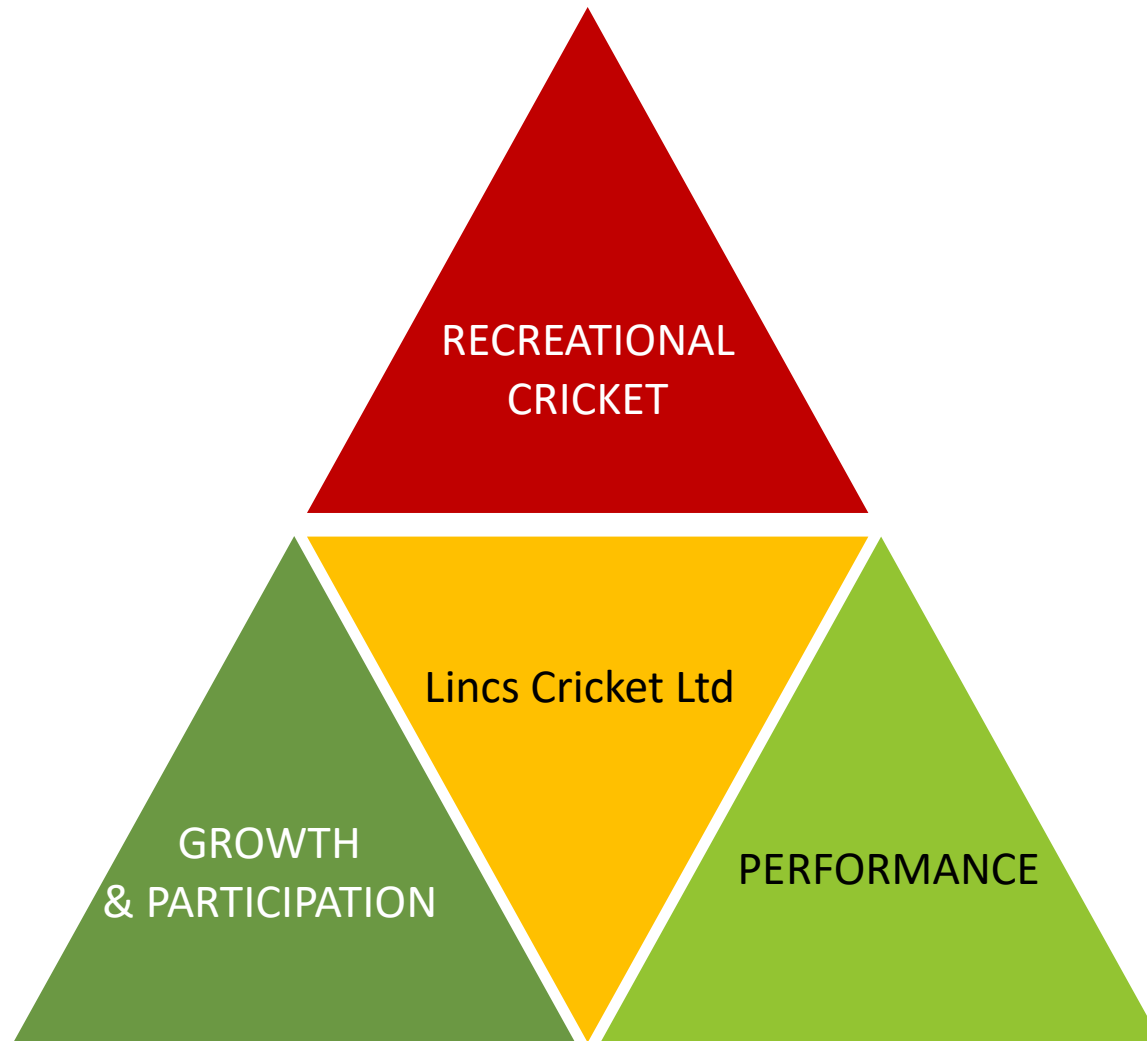
Overseeing and delivering a player pathway system that effectively identifies and develops talent to ensure players maximise their potential.

Participation and Growth:

Overseeing and developing programmes of activity that are accessible, reach new audiences and provide entry points into



the sport. Working with key stakeholders in the community, our ambition is to fundamentally grow the game here in Lincolnshire.



Our **Countywide Plan (Appendix 1)** sets out in detail how we aim to support the growth and development of the game here in our county and my team and I are committed to ensuring we do all we can to attract people to our sport, retain people within in it and create environments that allow people the opportunity to excel.

Recreational Cricket Objectives (2020 – 2024):

O

- Establish a countywide network of quality facilities
- Have in place a cohesive league infrastructure
- Create a safe environment for people to play
- Deliver a compelling offer from the age of 5 upwards
- Ensure a vibrant Women and Girls game exists in Lincolnshire

Performance Cricket Objectives (2020 – 2024)

O

- Establish a single performance pathway
- Strong partnership with neighbouring FCC
- High quality County Premier league
- Robust talent scouting system in place
- Countywide network of skilled coaches
- Regular throughput of local talent in pro game

Participation & Growth Objectives (2020 – 2024)

- Vibrant County network of supported volunteers in place
- Varied, countywide W&G offer in place
- Identifiable disability offer in place
- Evidence growth via a range of quality introductory programmes
- Flagship programmes established that contribute toward wider social agenda



The creation of our new Facilities Strategy 2023-2032 is an important development for cricket in Lincolnshire. We see facilities as a key enabler of the work we do and our ambition to be Lincolnshire's most inclusive sport. We must build a network of facilities which are fit-for-purpose, well maintained and accessible to all. Facilities have been highlighted as one of the barriers to participation here in Lincolnshire. As a county we have a relatively evenly distributed, but sparsely populated, population spread across a large area, serviced by a relatively poor transport network. Our facility strategy will identify where there are challenges around provision and identify opportunities to address some of these barriers.

As this is a 10-year strategy and the investments we make will serve cricket in Lincolnshire beyond this timeframe, it is important that we consider how and where the game will be played in the future. Whilst our network of traditional cricket clubs will remain a key focus for us, we must ensure we think creatively and positively about the opportunities to grow the game in other ways and in other places.

We have undertaken a significant amount of work to engage with our clubs, communities, and other key stakeholders in developing this piece of work. Through conducting surveys, club engagement events, meetings and data analysis, we have gathered valuable insight to guide our decision making.

Furthermore, we have for several years seen evidence of the significant impact high-quality facilities have, or the lack thereof, on the satisfaction levels of participants and their likelihood to continue playing the game. For example, the annual results of each ECB National Playing Survey and our ongoing engagement with the cricket community within Lincolnshire, strongly supports this view.

Martyn Dobson, Chief Executive, Lincolnshire Cricket Ltd.



1 INTRODUCTION

The development of our County Facility Strategy presents the opportunity to stress-test current plans, assumptions of future demand and consider how “place-based” thinking can complement and combine the past, present and future facility needs.

Our robust facilities strategy will inform not just where and how a project comes to life but also evidence why the project is important and the link to long-term sustainability.

This version of the strategy represents our current thinking at this point in time (August 2023). We are about to embark on the development of a new Countywide Plan for cricket in Lincolnshire. During this process and as we confirm our new plan, we will consider its implications for this strategy.

In the shape of our objectives, identified within our VMOST, we have set out a number of priority areas within which we will focus our resource over the coming years as we strive to become the county’s most inclusive sport:



Facility Strategy 2023-2032



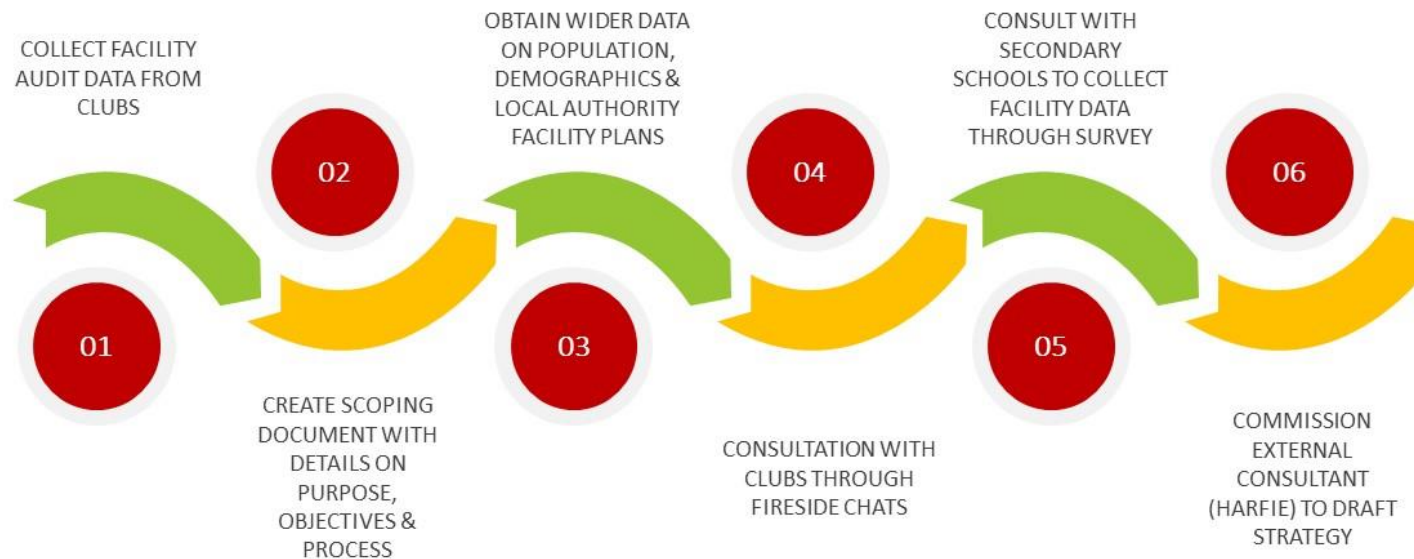
VISION
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OBJECTIVES
STRATEGY
TACTICS



3 OUR APPROACH

The diagram below shows the path we have taken to produce our Facilities Strategy. We have moved through phases of data collection, consultation, and strategy development.

FACILITY STRATEGY APPROACH



We initiated the first step in September 2022 when we compiled a Self-Assessment Facility Audit for clubs to complete. 56 of our 80 affiliated clubs (70%) completed the audit by the end of November 2022. The information we gained from this was very useful and some stand out data & trends are detailed in the Traditional Clubs section of this document. This data gives us a cricket-specific focus when it comes to setting our priorities on helping clubs with facility developments.

We put together a scoping document to ensure the purpose of the strategy, the objectives we want to achieve and the process were all clear, as well as setting out an estimated timetable for completion.

In the appendix (Appendix 2), you will find our scoping document which lays out these details in full.

We have also consulted with our partners at Active Lincolnshire, who were key in supporting us with important information around wider population data, demographics & local authority plans for the future.

To establish that accurate information was received through the club's self-assessment audit, we held 'fireside chats' up and down the county from January to March 2023, meeting our core clubs in local clusters to engage them further and ensure we understood their key priorities from a facility perspective.

Finally, a short online form was pushed out to secondary schools all over the county with the help of School Games Organisers. A limited number of responses was achieved, but some interesting data was collected as pointed out in the Schools section of this strategy. We understand that engaging more schools & facilitating partnerships with local clubs will become ever more important if participation levels continue to grow & clubs' capacities become stretched further.

Our approach has been thorough, wide-ranging & collaborative. Extensive work alongside Harfie, our external consultant, has finished things off and brought everything together.

The final step of the journey will be to meet with our Facility Strategy sub-group & then our Board of Directors for sign-off of the document.



4 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and the effect it has on local cricket in Lincolnshire is vital for the game to understand and begin to address. The impact of climate change will only increase across the lifespan of this strategy, and we must act now to ensure our facilities are ready for this challenge.

Fully understanding the challenges posed by climate change and the impact this will have on the game is a task we will work in partnership with the England & Wales Cricket Board on. The ECB are currently (August 2023) developing a Sustainability Plan for the game and we look forward to learning more about how we can future-proof the game in the medium to long-term.

In the short-term, we will focus on taking positive action to help address **flooding, drought, and energy consumption**.

We know that 40% of clubs in England & Wales are already at risk of flooding or drought and we are seeing those maintaining our grounds having to deal with increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather events. In addition, increased energy consumption and the associated costs not only impact the planet but also the finances of clubs.

Market Rasen Cricket Club's clubhouse was flooded in August 2022 after heavy rainfall. This is the only occurrence of flood damage we're aware of in the last 20 years. Lincolnshire is at greater risk of drought than flooding, due to the location of rivers and other waterways and their proximity to our clubs, as well as the natural composition of the land.

Below you will find links to the ECB's latest guidance, developed in partnership with other key organisations such as the Grounds Management Association, on each of these three areas -

Flooding

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-facility-management/flooding>



Drought Assessment

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-facility-management/drought-assessment>

Energy Saving

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/what-we-do/sustainability>

Funding support is currently available for clubs through the County Grants Fund.

Below you will find further details regarding this funding, and the project themes linked. County Grants Fund documents can be found in full as an appendix to this strategy.

3.3 Tackling Climate Change – supporting ECB affiliated Cricket Clubs

- Flood Resilience – building protection / targeted drainage* / ditch or culvert clearance
- Drought Resilience – rainwater harvesting / bore holes / irrigation**
- Energy Saving – Insulation / LED lighting / Solar PV / Solar Thermal / energy-efficient heating systems / double or triple glazing
- Water Management – Water-saving sanitaryware / greywater recycling / efficient appliances
- Electric mower or roller

*Any drainage scheme other than small, specific projects will require a full feasibility study and the support of a fine-turf consultant. Large scale drainage schemes are unlikely to be suitable for this scheme.

**Irrigation schemes will not be considered if using mains water.

5. Amount of Grant

- 5.1 Each application will be assessed on its own merit.
- 5.2 Clubs can typically apply for between £1,000 (minimum) and £10,000 (maximum) per application.
- 5.3 The grant **may not** be used to retrospectively fund projects (see Section 9.6).
- 5.4 The amount of grant offered may differ from that requested by the Club. Each CCB has a pre-determined budget so the amount of funding they allocate may vary.



We will support clubs to access funding and other resources to follow the same themes as the County Grants Fund.

This support will take the form of a multi-faceted sustainability campaign, launched annually in advance of the County Grants Fund. The campaign will seek to –

1. Highlight the challenges posed by climate change.
2. Share examples of best practice in dealing with these challenges.
3. Provide advice to clubs regarding sources of funding for sustainability projects.

In addition to this general support, we will also work closely with specific clubs which have faced acute challenges linked to climate change.



5 TRADITIONAL CLUBS (inc W&Gs & Disability)

Traditional cricket clubs have been at the core of cricket participation for generations and will be a key part of the future of our game. It is vital that we support clubs to develop and maintain their facilities in support of the great work they do for so many people and their local communities.

Lincolnshire Cricket has 80 affiliated clubs across the county. This section focuses on traditional clubs which have a home ground to base themselves from and which are affiliated to Lincolnshire Cricket, covering outdoor facilities which provide an opportunity for people to train and play.

The future health and potential of clubs and their future growth is well represented by youth participation numbers. Whilst the number of junior sections has fallen from 44 in 2019 to 39 since 2022, the number of matches and participants registered on Play-Cricket has grown in the same period. Fixtures have increased from 607 to 640 whilst participants have increased from 1,225 to 1,345.

In addition, 1,800 under 11s played cricket in the 72 All Stars or Dynamos centres in Lincolnshire in 2022.

However, there is only one club with a girl's section and one club with a disability section in Lincolnshire. This provision is clearly insufficient for the one million people we serve across the county, and we must strive to improve these numbers significantly. For both groups, facilities have an important role to play in this work.

Within our club network we have facilities which are not fully accessible to people with a disability. Many are also not the welcoming environments women and girls would expect and which they value. These two issues hamper the growth of cricket for these groups.

For these reasons, plus the fact we are significantly behind the national average percentage of girl's sections at clubs compared to other counties, we are prioritising female friendly facilities within our VMOST and overall strategy.



It is also why we are considering welcoming environments & facilities fully accessible for all as essential criteria in our 'Good model', and why we will work over the lifetime of this strategy to ensure all affiliated clubs meet this.

Through the collation of our club survey (conducted specifically for the development of this strategy), we now have a clear picture of the current position of our clubs. In addition, we held 11 'Fireside Chat' events across 11 venues with a total of 34 clubs in attendance in the first 10 weeks of 2023.

These events gave those attending the opportunity to add context to the survey results, raise key challenges and identify their future priorities directly with the Lincolnshire Cricket team.

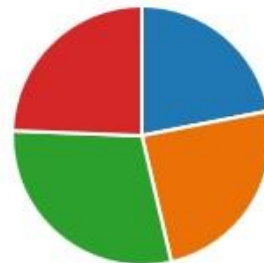
Several reoccurring themes presented themselves across the 11 events. Below you will find the key themes identified and results from our survey which evidence the current position –

- 22 out of 41 outdoor practice facilities are now old and not fit for purpose.

11. How would you rate the quality of your NTP Practice facilities?

[More Details](#)

Very good	9
Good	10
Fair	12
Poor	10



- The quality of club outfields is often only 'fair' or 'poor'.

13. How would you rate the quality of your outfield?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Excellent	4
 Good	26
 Fair	25
 Poor	4



- Only 14 grounds volunteers have official qualifications.

17. Does your club Grounds Person have a formal grounds qualification?

[More Details](#)

 Yes	14
 No	45

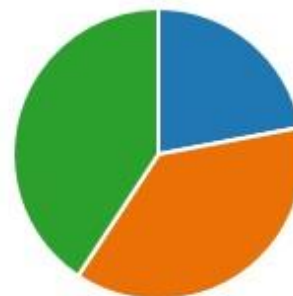


- Security of tenure is an issue for many clubs, with only 13 clubs owning their home ground.

32. What type of ground tenure do you currently have?

[More Details](#)

Freehold (Own the Ground)	13
Leasehold	22
Rental	24



It is felt that the security of tenure issues faced by a number of our clubs needs addressing & prioritising within this strategy, hence a specific objective embedded in our VMOST. It is unusual to have so many clubs leasing or renting, and this can cause barriers to necessary facility developments if not managed adequately.

Although not prioritised within this strategy, it is our role at Lincolnshire Cricket to support clubs with improving their playing facilities as well as their off-field facilities. The above data on outfielders and grounds volunteers is telling, and we will continue to work with our County Pitch Advisors, the Grounds Management Association and our leagues to monitor the standard of pitches and outfielders in the recreational game and offer the appropriate support to those clubs that need it.

The GMA is currently developing the ‘Pitch Power’ digital tool for cricket, which will help clubs self-assess and flag up issues that need addressing to improve surfaces. The adoption of Pitch Power will help us and our Pitch Advisors prioritise the support required, using a joined-up, uniform approach.

In turn, playing surfaces should improve and we will have a wider network of clubs in Lincolnshire with minimum standard pitches & outfield, meaning there are no barriers for them in reaching Premier League or ‘feeder league’ level if they have a playing squad good enough to get there on merit & meet the ‘Good model’ described below.

‘To ensure all clubs have ‘good’ facilities which attract and retain club members.’

We have created the following model of what ‘good’ looks like for club facilities which we will map existing provision against.

The good model covers accessibility requirements and the need to create a welcoming environment for all users. It also reflects the challenges highlighted by our survey and consultation events with clubs.

Along with the local intelligence of our team, this will guide our decisions around facility investment moving forward.

‘Good model’ – Essential Criteria
Pavilions (see below*) – Creating a welcoming environment
Flexible changing and shower facilities
Appropriate size boundary available (see ECB technical specifications for minimum requirements)



All facilities to be fully accessible to all
Equipment available to maintain all areas of the ground (square and outfield)
‘Good model’ – Desirable Criteria
Secure storage facility for grounds maintenance equipment
Use of solar power and energy efficiency measures
Sustainable water sources (where possible)
Artificial net facility (off main pitch)
NTP on the square

The model reflects the priorities identified via our research and our existing understanding of good practice.

Good **cricket pavilions*** sit at the heart of traditional clubs, allowing them to provide a welcoming environment for all. With clubs often positioned at the heart of their local community, pavilions become far more than simply a place to change and shelter in order to play the game. When well-managed they become a focal point for the club and local community, offering the many benefits that come from social interactions, local identity, and life-long friendships.

However, many facilities have catered simply for the game being played by male participants with social activity afterwards centred around a club bar. With clubs now welcoming female participants, junior cricket (and more broadly being family friendly), and disabled people performing several roles from playing, to spectating & volunteering, many clubs must think again about what it means to be open and welcoming to all.



Our investment in traditional clubs over the lifespan of this strategy will focus on ensuring all clubs have the facilities and equipment to maintain their facilities as set out in our 'Good' model for all levels of participation (junior, senior, female participation, disability cricket).

The first step in implementing the strategy will be to work with each member club to identify their facility investment priorities based on their current provision. This will involve bringing together the results of our survey, our 'Good' model, and local intelligence.

The steps we will take are –

1. The relevant team member will map each club against our new 'Good' model.
2. We will then work in partnership with clubs to assess this and prioritise the investment priorities for each club over the lifespan of the strategy.
3. Lincolnshire Cricket will provide guidance and support to clubs regarding how to fundraise for their facility priorities.

We will prioritise clubs for investment based on –

1. Their current position
 - a. Those clubs which open their doors widely to all in their local community across the 6 areas listed below.
2. Growth trend
 - a. Those making significant progress towards being open to all.
3. Population/ population density
 - a. Clubs which have the potential to do more based on their catchment area.
4. Indices of Multiple Deprivation measure
 - a. Clubs in deprived areas will be prioritised for investment.



Senior Cricket (male and female)	Junior Cricket (male and female)*	Delivery of National Programmes	Disability Cricket Centre**	Performance Cricket Host venue	School/ Club link (activity and facility partnership)***
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** The development of parallel opportunities to play in boys or girls teams should be the aim for all clubs. In partnership with their club/coach, girls may choose to play in boys cricket where they wish to do so.*

*** Not all clubs will need to run a specific disability section. However, all clubs must be open to supporting people with a disability to make their way in the game – The Lincolnshire Cricket team are available to support with this.*

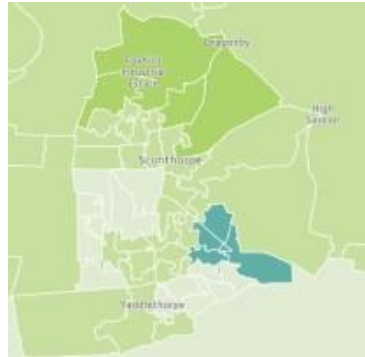
**** Clubs should play an active role in promoting the game to their local Primary Schools. Developing a facility link (where required) with a local Secondary School which benefits both the club and school should also be a priority.*

For prioritisation points 3 & 4 above, we have some data in the form of maps to help us identify the clubs with the most potential to do more based on population & those that are in deprived areas.

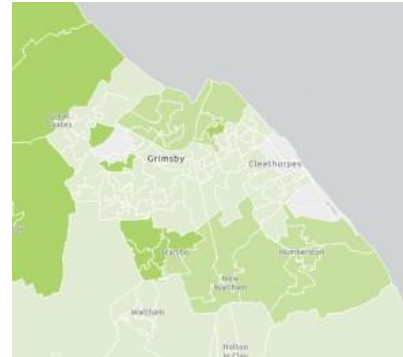


Overall Population - Lincolnshire

Overall population is mapped using Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's), as an LSOA is designed to be a comparable measure, each one will comprise of between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons . The geographic size of each LSOA shows the density of the comparable population. Data is from the ONS Census 2021.



Scunthorpe



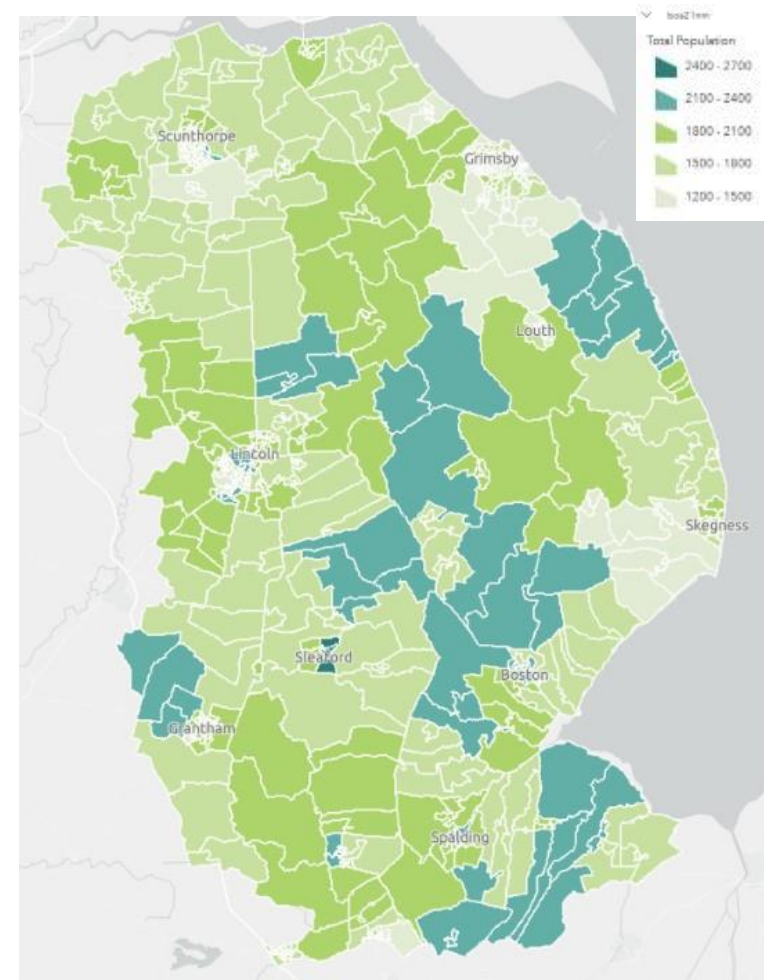
Grimsby & Cleethorpes



Skegness



Boston



Overall Population - Lincolnshire

Overall population is mapped using Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's), as an LSOA is designed to be a comparable measure, each one will comprise of between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. The geographic size of each LSOA shows the density of the comparable population. Data is from the ONS Census 202



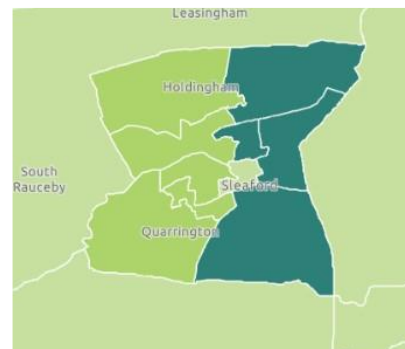
Spalding



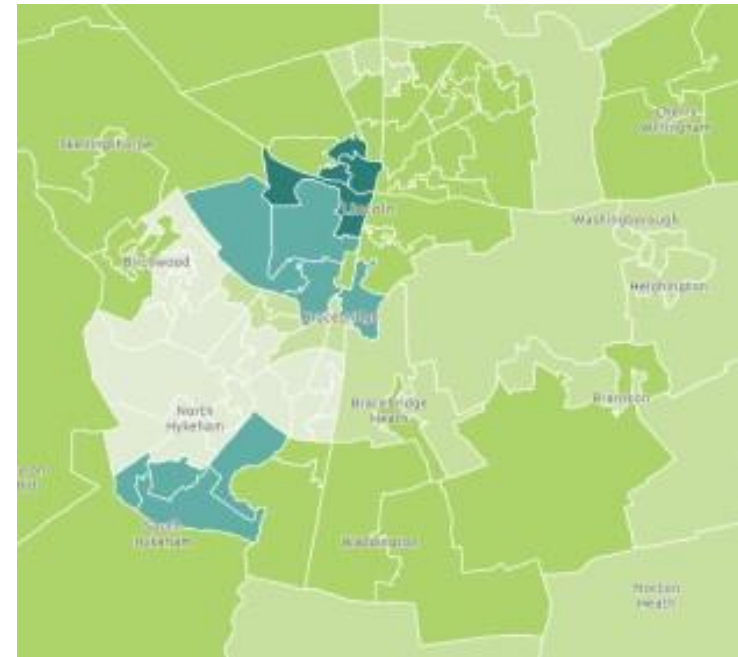
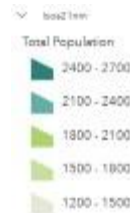
Grantham



Gainsborough



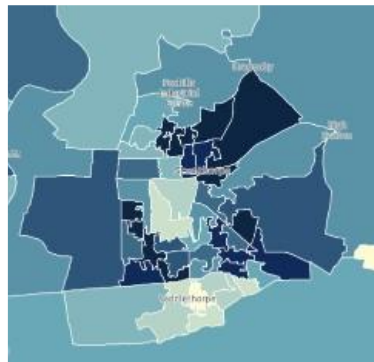
Sleaford



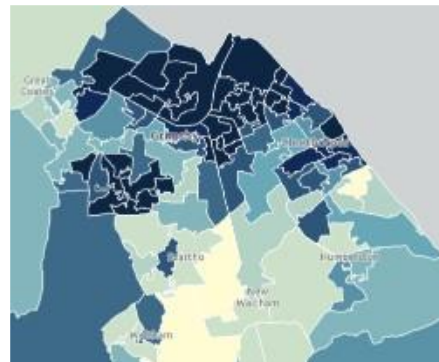
Lincoln

Overall Deprivation

Greater Lincolnshire is a divided region, with deprivation highest through the rural and coastal communities, with some towns e.g. Gainsborough displaying high levels of overall deprivation. Deprivation means reduced access to services including housing, health, education and skills as well as lower incomes. Populations typically have less access to their own transport.



Scunthorpe



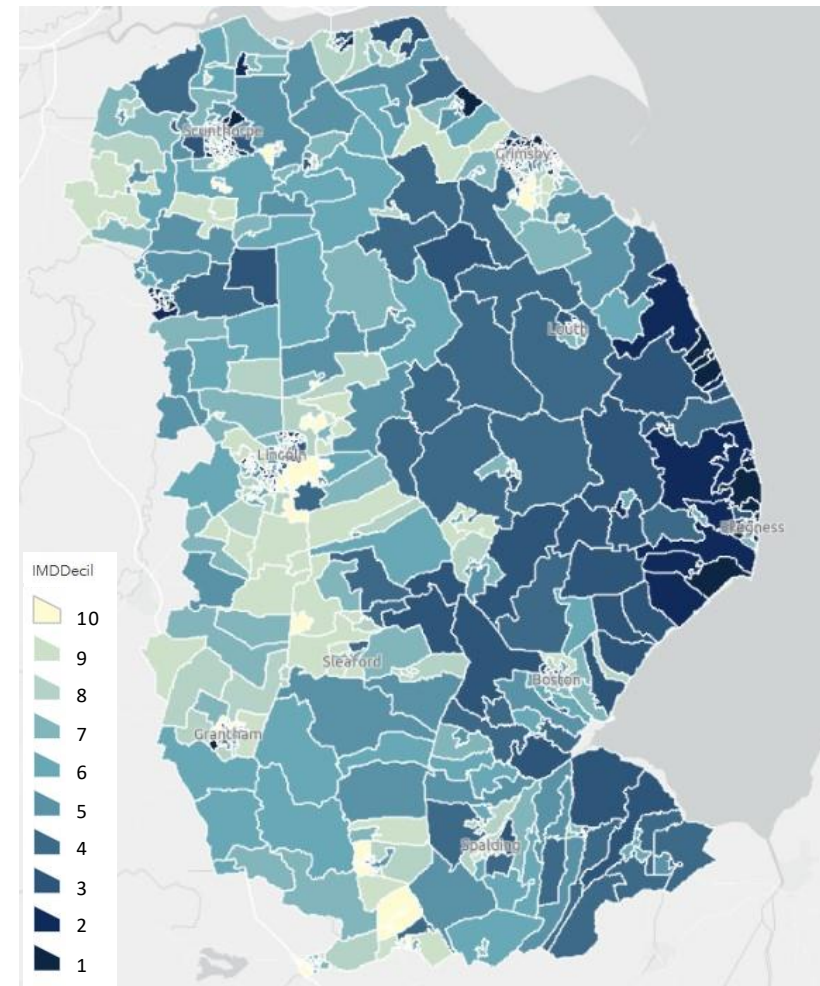
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6 NON-TRADITIONAL CRICKET FACILITIES

With the notable exception of Lincoln, which, as of the 2021 census, is the fourth most densely populated of the East Midlands' 35 local authority areas, Lincolnshire contains small market towns, large rural areas and towns and villages along its east coast.

Through the development of our next Countywide Plan, which will be in place from January 2025, we will seek to gain further understanding of the needs of those who currently fall between the cracks – either because they can't access a local traditional cricket offer or they do not want to.

In particular, the east coast of Lincolnshire is poorly served by traditional cricket offers and many of these areas are highly deprived (as shown on the previous page). An alternative participation pathway offer would not only give people an opportunity to play but also have the potential to deliver significant and important social impact outcomes.

Whilst the detail of this needs to be worked through fully, we can envisage a participation pathway leading from All Stars Cricket through to Walking Cricket. An example of what this pathway may look like is shown below –

Activity	Target age group	Description
All Stars Cricket Centres	5-8 year-olds	Based in the community at parks, leisure centres, schools and delivered in the summer on grass or multi-use games areas (MUGAs)
Dynamos Cricket	8-11 year-olds	Based in the community at parks, leisure centres, schools and delivered in the summer on grass or multi-use games areas (MUGAs)



Junior Leagues (alternative formats)	Under 11s to Under 15s	Develop local junior leagues playing a modified game format both indoors (winter) and outdoors (summer) for both boys and girls.
Chance to Shine Street & Lord's Taverners Wicketz programmes	11 -18 year-olds	Partner with Chance to Shine and Lord's Taverners to expand our delivery of these two key programmes.
Open Age cricket (alternative formats)	Under 13 – no limit	Develop local open age leagues playing a modified game format both indoors (winter) and outdoors (summer) for both men and women.
Disability Cricket Programme	From age 5 upwards	Junior and adult offer playing a modified game format both indoors (winter) and outdoors (summer) for both male and female participants.
Walking Cricket	Open to adults who feel this is the right offer for them	Adult offer playing a modified game format both indoors (winter) and outdoors (summer) for both male and female participants.

The sites and facilities we would require, both in summer and winter, would in many cases be the same for all 7 offers within the participation pathway. Local parks, leisure centres, schools and MUGAs would provide ideal bases for these activities.



We have some data on the following pages which will be useful for us in pinpointing which aspects of the Participation Pathway are prioritised in certain areas of the county. The below maps show the areas which fall below the minimum standard on green space, where the most 65+ demographic exists and where there is a high & low density of children across the different age brackets.

As well as this information being carefully considered to ensure meaningful & successful projects, the geographical challenges of the county must also come at the top of our thoughts.

We live in an extremely rural county, with a below standard road network and poor public transport services. There is approximately only 40 miles of dual carriageway roads in Lincolnshire, and most of that is east to west & heading out of the region to Yorkshire or Nottinghamshire.

This means we must work collaboratively with local authorities & other key partners to foster relationships and minimise the distance between good, quality facilities at which non-traditional cricket offers can take place so that more people can access the sport despite the barriers that exist.

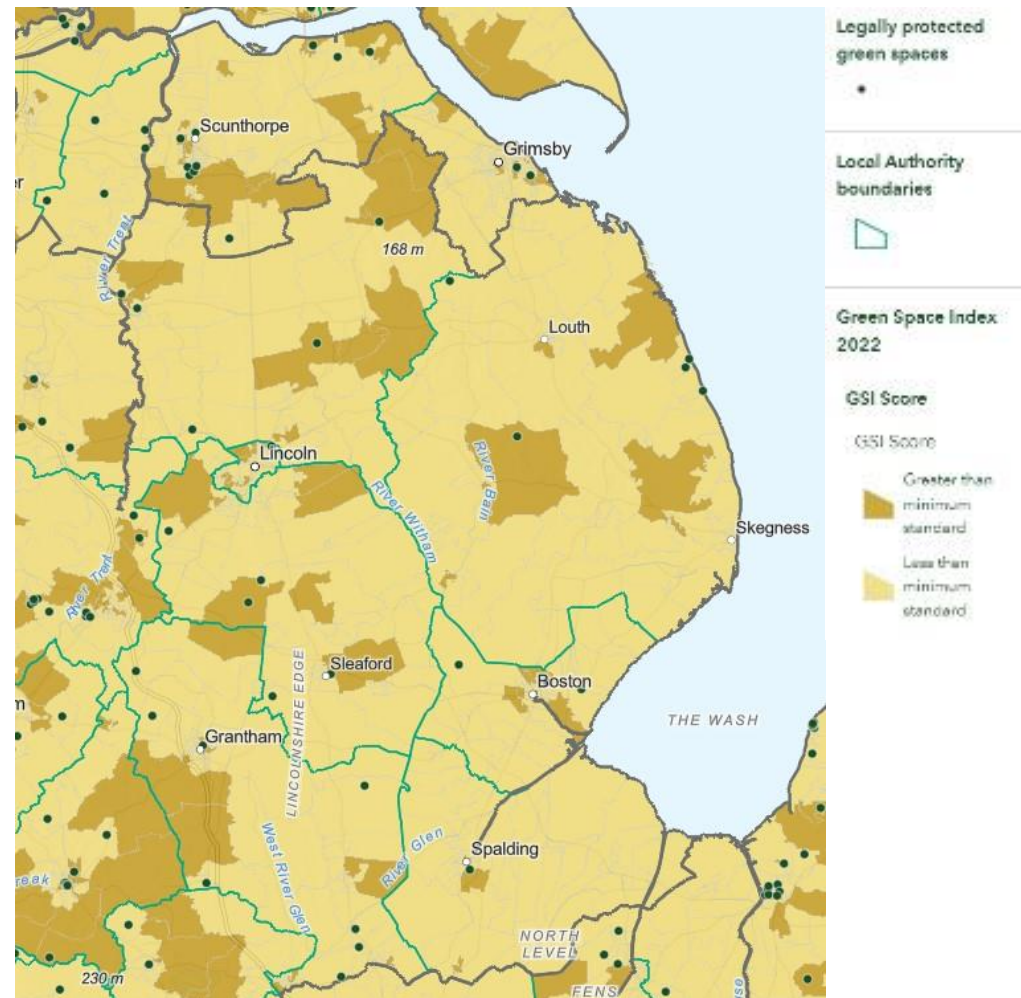


Access to Green Space

Fields in Trust produce the [Green Space Index\(GSI\)](#) annually. It shows whether an area meets a minimum level of park and green space provision. Where 1 demonstrated a minimum standard of provision. It uses the 2021 Census population data and the greenspace data from Ordnance Survey mapped to Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs).

Publicly accessible local green space refers to parks and green spaces that are open to the public for recreational use including parks and gardens, informal recreation spaces, playgrounds, formal sports areas such as multi-use games areas (MUGAs), tennis courts and playing fields. It does not include national parks, common land, cemeteries and golf courses. It eliminates overlaps in data to prevent double counting.

The GSI score is an analysis of the parks and play per 1000 people and provision of outdoor sport facilities per 1000 people against benchmark guidelines to provide a score where 1 indicates a minimum level of provision is being met.



65+ Population distribution of Lincolnshire

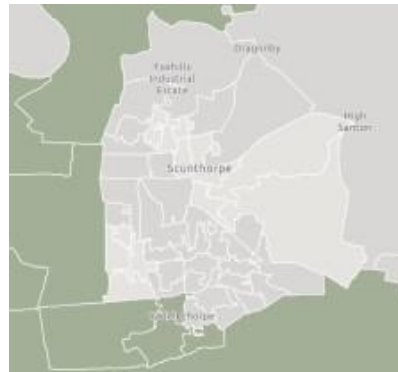
Using the 2021 Census data, Greater Lincolnshire's population shows a trend for higher populations along the coast and more rural areas.

According to a [2019 Housing Stock review in Greater Lincolnshire](#), Lincolnshire has high numbers of older people, higher than the national average. Circa 48 per cent of the overall population is 65+. The number of older people (aged 65 and over) is predicted to increase by 44,286 to 221,067 by 2030 (25 per cent growth from 2018).

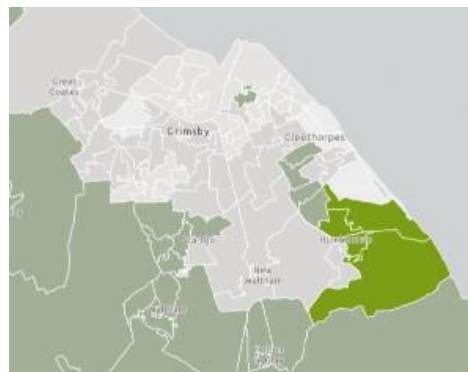
In North Lincolnshire there is estimated to be an increase in the 55 and over population of 21 per cent by 2030, and an increase in the 65 and over population of 31 per cent by 2030.

In North-East Lincolnshire there is estimated to be an increase in the 55 and over population of 15 per cent by 2030, and an increase in the 65 and over population of 23 per cent by 2030.

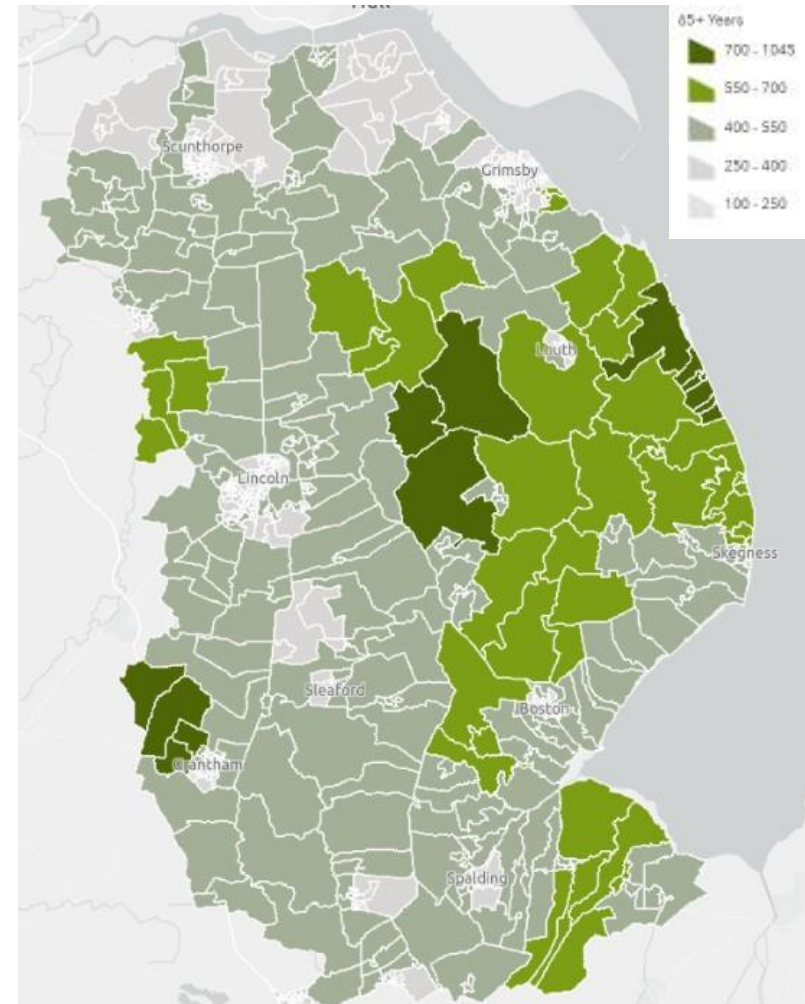
The greatest growth across Greater Lincolnshire is in the older, older population of people aged 80+



Scunthorpe



Grimsby and Cleethorpes



65+ Population distribution of Lincolnshire



Skegness



Boston



Gainsborough



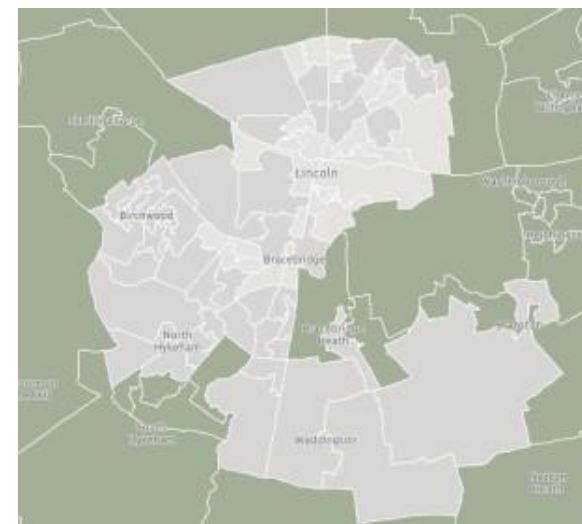
Sleaford



Spalding

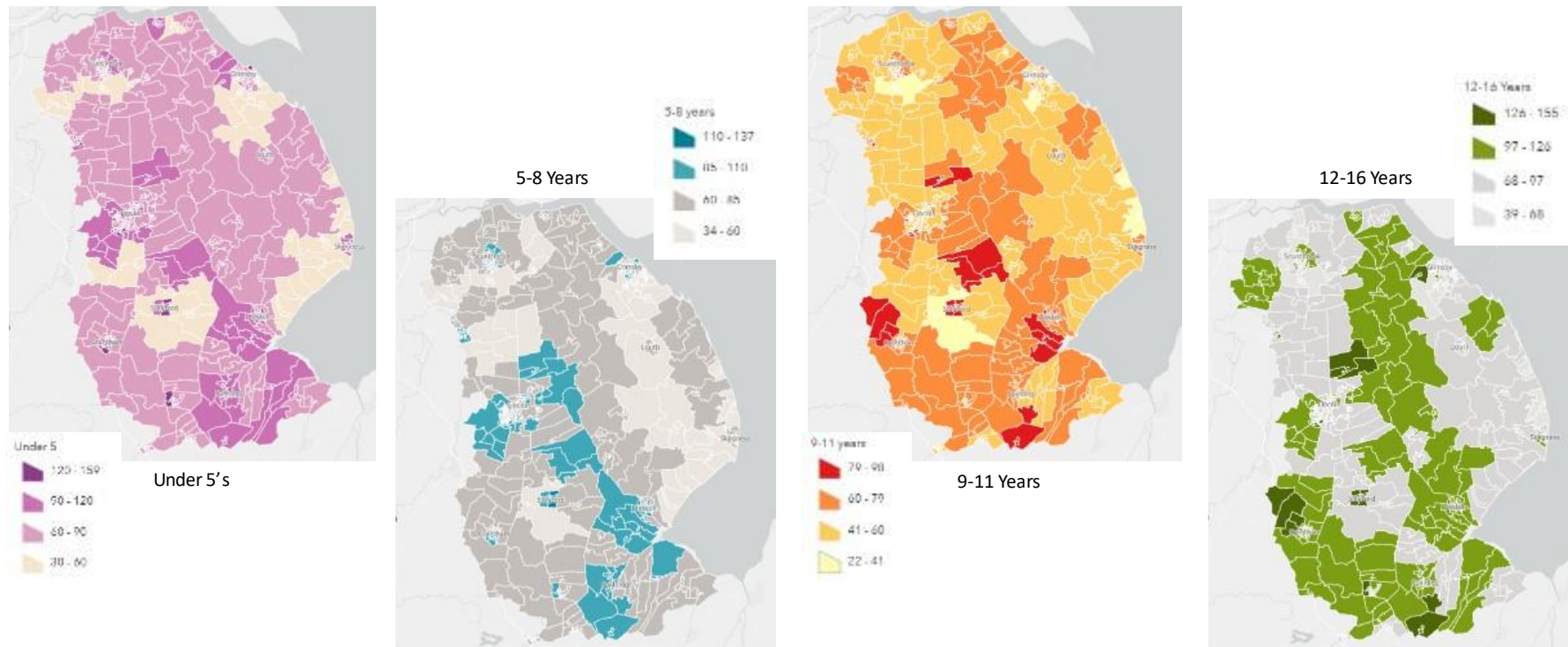


Grantham



Lincoln

Under 16's grouped by Cricket Age.



Each age group has a slightly different key – this is to show colour contrasts on each map more clearly.

Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's), are comparable measures, each one will comprise of between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons. The geographic size of each LSOA shows the density of the comparable population. Data is from the ONS Census 2021.

We will now investigate the Participation Pathway options identified above in each of the seven districts to assess the best option in each area.

The following areas will be prioritised and fast-tracked to help us reach those in greatest need -

Grimsby/Cleethorpes

Skegness

Gainsborough

We will establish relationships and find venues to host the activity set out in the Participation Pathway as pilot activities in these three areas. Through these pilots we will assess the facility requirements for successful projects and use participant views gained through surveys to inform future work.

The facilities will be identified in 2023 with activity commencing from April 2024. The pilots will highlight good practice and we will also draw on learning from areas where all or part of the participation pathway is already in existence.



7 SCHOOL FACILITIES

School sites across Lincolnshire present an excellent opportunity for clubs and communities to gain access to additional facilities, both indoor and outdoor.

All 41 of the Secondary Schools surveyed have indoor sports halls, with 28 of these fitted with indoor nets. This gives opportunity for cricket to be played during the winter months for training and match play offers for indoor cricket, although there are some challenges with this.

Older indoor sports halls are often not long enough for cricket. A traditional build is often 4 badminton courts in size at a length of 33 metres. However, ECB guidance for minimum size has increased to 34.5 metres to give extra length. This presents an issue for cricket use, as this length is often not long enough for cricket nets to include an adequate run up for bowlers.

Other challenges for cricket include lighting and flooring.

The recommendation is between 800 - 1000 Lux minimum lighting level for indoor sports halls (with cricket provision) and many halls do not meet this standard.

Sports halls have different types of floors including wooden, sprung flooring which becomes a challenge for cricket even after adding a specially designed mat for cricket. This type of flooring affects the bounce of the ball making it a challenge for hard ball cricket nets or indoor games to take place. Of those surveyed, 22 replied to the question “What type of flooring do you have in your indoor sports facility?” with 12 of these stating they have a wooden, sprung floor in place.



In our survey, 21 schools responded to the question “Is your school planning to redevelop and/or expand its sports provision and would welcome support from Lincs Cricket/ECB?” with 11 replying ‘Yes’, 11 replying ‘Maybe’, and just 2 replying ‘No’.

12. Is your school planning to redevelop and/or expand its sports provision and would welcome support from Lincs Cricket/ECB?

[More Details](#)



Access to the sports halls is also more of an issue now than in previous years. Our recent schools survey shows a 50/50 split between those offering their facilities for public hire and those not.

9. We currently allow external bookings of our facilities?

[More Details](#)



This has increased in recent years due to the Covid-19 pandemic and increased energy costs meaning some schools with facilities previously available have opted against external lettings.

When it comes to outdoor facilities, state school cricket facilities, particularly grass squares, have reduced significantly in number in recent decades. In our survey we found just 5 schools have access to a grass pitch, whilst 19 of 41 have access to a non-turf pitch (NTP).

However, there are good examples around the country of strong partnership working producing benefits for both the school and local cricket. Sharing facilities, knowledge, resources and providing a school to club link can be the foundation of a mutually beneficial partnership.

Building new or improving existing relationships between schools, both state and independent, and their local communities is a huge opportunity for growth in provision. As our survey results show, schools often have the indoor cricket facilities, NTPs and grass pitches that community cricket needs. Whilst in turn, local cricket has the knowledge and passion to maintain facilities and provide opportunities for pupils in community sport.

It is also critical that Lincolnshire Cricket ensures cricket is involved in the discussions around any new school facility developments or refurbishments at an early stage. Discussions are needed for each new development with Sport England and Local Authorities to ensure the design specification is appropriate for cricket.

To bring this to life we will –

1. Contact the 11 schools which expressed a desire to work with us/ ECB.
2. Contact the 10 clubs which said they do not use indoor facilities to ascertain why.
3. Work with all affiliated clubs, and groups of clubs within close proximity of each other, to identify priority schools which they'd like to build partnerships with.



4. Revisit the school survey data for each identified school to perform a GAP analysis.

Support will be provided to each club to broker new and develop existing relationships to access both indoor and, where required, outdoor facilities.

The two data maps on the following pages give us important insight into the number of schools by key stage focus and their location, as well as plans for future housing developments.

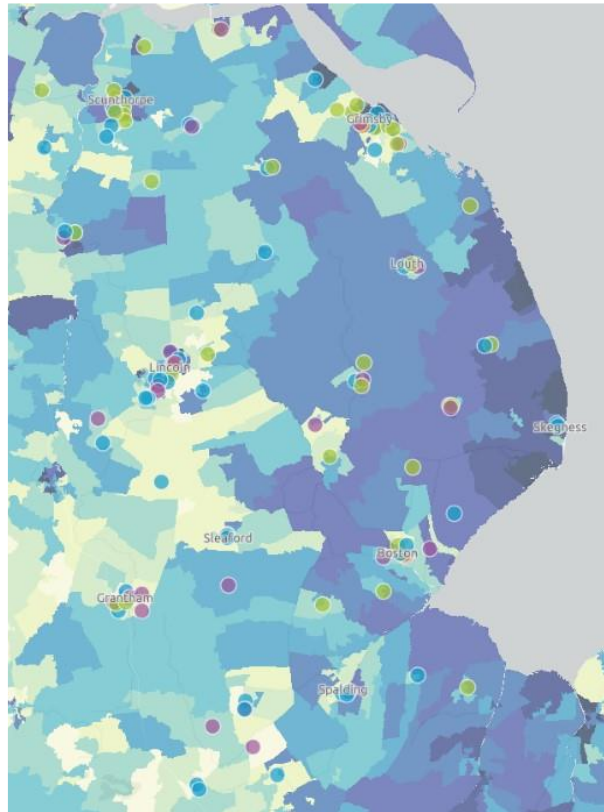
We can use this to assess the overall picture of the school facility landscape, whilst also thinking about their proximity to traditional cricket clubs and the Lincolnshire-specific challenges around geography & deprivation.

Where there are new housing developments, there is often also new education & sport/recreation facilities, so this will inform our work with key stakeholders when thinking about where and how we can help leverage new facility developments or improve existing ones to aid us in meeting our ambitions to grow and develop the game.

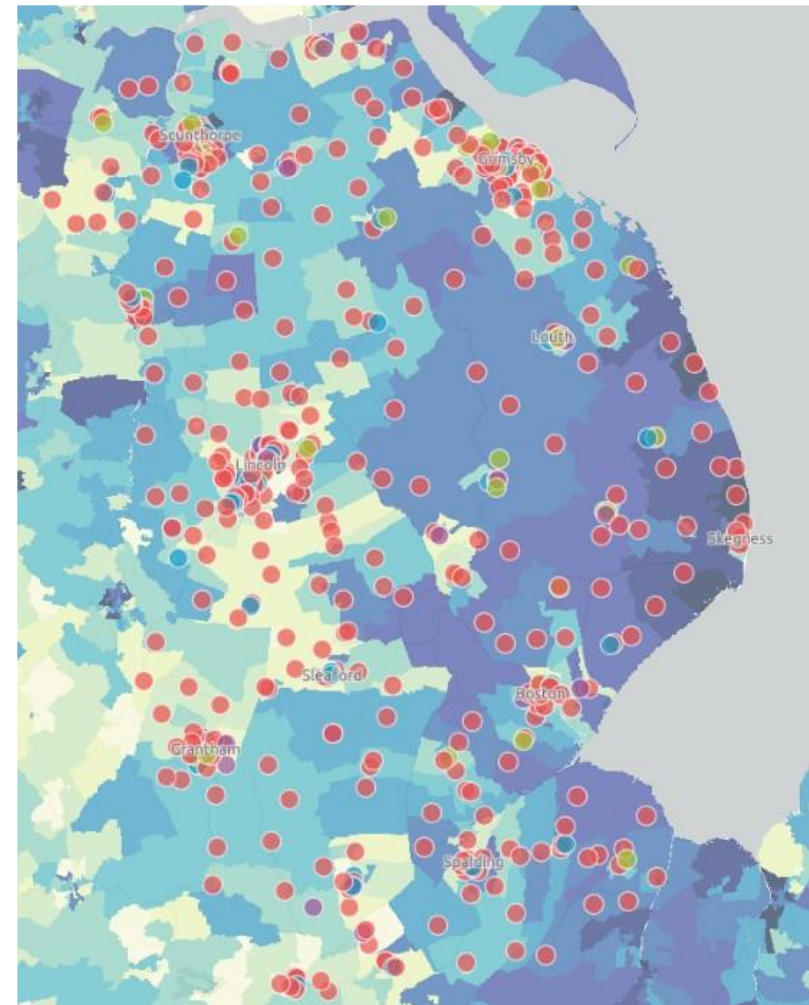


Distribution of Schools

According to the DfE, the 2022 [schools listed](#) for the Greater Lincolnshire area grouped by key stage focus and mapped over overall deprivation areas. The smaller map shows the position of the secondary and further education (including combined sites).



There is a lack of provision along the coast and rural areas. This means that young people living in these communities will often have substantially longer days travelling to and from school with this squeezing their availability to be active at the end of the school day.

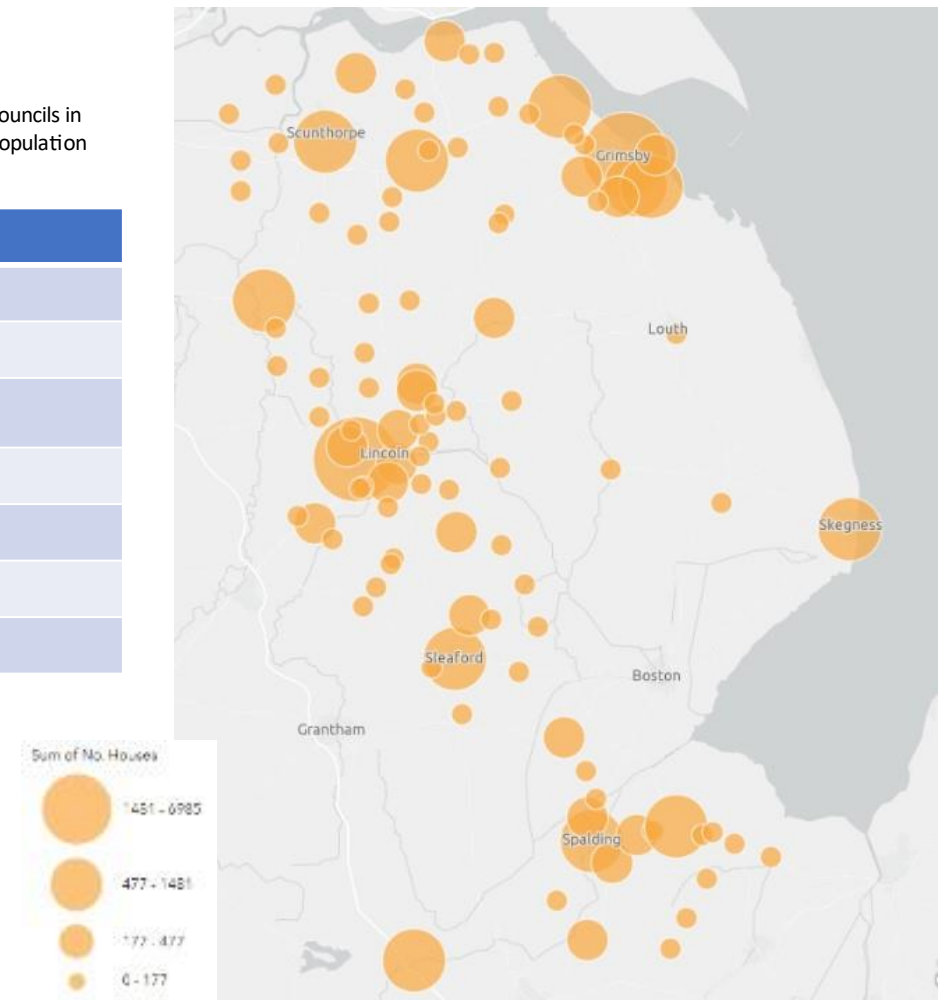


Future Housing Development

Each council area has to report it's five year housing supply plan. For the majority of the 9 councils in Greater Lincolnshire the plans cover the 2022 -2027 period and their projections to meet population demand are as follows:

Local Authority Area	No. of Dwellings
North East Lincolnshire	3084
North Lincolnshire	2011
Central Lincolnshire (West Lindsey, North Kesteven and City of Lincoln Combined)	9318
East Lindsey	2232
South Kesteven	3557
Boston	2240
South Holland	2335

With the exception of South Kesteven and East Lindsey where up to date plans are not published, and Boston where the localities are not clearly described the local authorities have published planned housing by location. These are mapped based on the number of homes being provided.



8 PERFORMANCE CRICKET

Lincolnshire Cricket's VMOST objectives demonstrate the ambition to centralise performance training and match play programmes across both the summer and winter months. We have assessed the need with regards to capacity and the detail of this is in the appendix section.

Training:

Currently (and historically), school sites are predominantly used to deliver the winter CAG (County Age Group) programme. Both sites currently used at the time of writing have 4 lanes and roll out matting. The schools used currently are Priory Ruskin (Grantham) and City Priory (Lincoln). To limit travel time & cost to parents, which can cause logistical challenges, the boys and the girls programmes rotate venues on a weekly basis.

Outdoor CAG training currently takes place sporadically around the county, ordinarily this is at a club site where a relationship can be developed between the host venue and Lincolnshire Cricket or at an alternative venue (school/leisure facility) that incurs a cost.

Developing a network of accessible, high-quality and centrally located venues to host all performance training activity would deliver the following benefits –

- Develop sustainable partnerships with owners/venue operators that deliver added value opportunities for both parties.
- Focus investment to deliver high-quality facilities for use in the winter/summer months.
- Allow all players to be assessed/observed in a consistent environment.
- Establish a base for the storage of equipment, year-round reducing centralised costs.
- Reduce travel time/cost associated with performance programmes.



At the time of writing, our relationship with venues is transactional, which has resulted in the loss of access to key venues where a 'better customer' presents itself for the venue. For example, Lincolnshire Cricket lost its main booking in 2022 at one of Lincoln's premier school sites to another sport (Judo) who block booked for a 52-week period.

As shown in the 'Tactics' section of our VMOST, we will aim to develop sustainable partnerships with both school and club sites, delivering security in access and presenting the opportunity to develop and invest in facilities over the longer term.

Summer Match Play:

Both the summer CAG match play programme and the senior county match play programme (Men's & Women's) takes place across a network of recreational cricket clubs within the county.

These clubs are identified via an expression of interest process where clubs have the opportunity to formally express their interest in hosting a county match via the submission of the 'match day hosting EOI', or via a targeted approach where Lincolnshire Cricket contacts a particular club.

<https://lincscricket.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NCCA-Game-Hosting-EOI-form-1-1.pdf>

The core priorities in identifying county match day hosts are:

- Quality of pitch & outfield
- Quality of pavilion & changing facilities
- Geographic location
- Where there is an opportunity to create a showcase event that adds value to strategically important activity



Clubs that have a desire to host NCCA (previously known as Minor Counties) county matches must meet the ground hosting eligibility criteria produced by the NCCA:

https://lincscricket.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NCCA-Ground-and-Facility-Standards-Document_.pdf

Over the next 10 years the ambition is to establish a countywide network of venues enabling the hosting of CAG and NCCA county matches at high-quality venues across the county. In particular, we aim to maximise the impact of these 'Showcase games' to add value to participation and growth activity with a focus on engaging young people and women & girls.

Hosting professional cricket matches:

Lincolnshire have had a history of hosting professional or semi-professional games of cricket. Historically this has included:

- List A/Showcase matches featuring First Class counties against NCCA opposition.
- List A matches played by a First Class County playing out of county games (both Yorkshire & Nottinghamshire have hosted 'home' fixtures within Lincolnshire historically).

Over the next 10 years the ambition is to secure more high-profile professional/semi-professional matches within Lincolnshire, including:

- Annual List A Nottinghamshire fixture
- Annual 'Showcase game' between Lincolnshire CCC (NCCA fixture) and First Class County opposition
- Annual Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy Blaze fixture



Grounds used summer 2023:

CAG (Boys/Girls):

Ground/Club	Boys game (B) / Girls game (G)
Barton	B/G
Bourne	B
Cleethorpes	B/G
Grimsby	G
Hibaldstow	B
Long Sutton	B
Nettleham	B
Outcasts	B
Skegness	B/G
Stamford School	G
Stamford Town	B
Sleaford	G
Woodhall Spa	B/G

Men's/Women's:

Ground/Club	Men's, LCCC (M), Women's (W)
Bourne	M
Woodhall Spa	M
Scunthorpe Town	M
Bracebridge Heath	M
Cleethorpes	M/W
Sleaford	M
Skegness	M/W

Professional/Semi-professional games:

Ground/Club	Game Type
Lindum	NCCA Showcase game



Women and Girls focus:

Over the next 10 years Lincolnshire will look to prioritise the hosting of female performance activity at clubs/venues where there is existing or developing female participation and growth activity.

2023 clubs where there is an existing female participation offer include:

Club/Ground	Participation Offer
Alford	Women's offer
Alkborough	Women's & Girls
Cleethorpes	Women's offer
Barton	Women's offer
Bourne	Women & Girls
Broughton	Women & Girls
Caistor	Women & Girls
Caythorpe	Women's offer
Grimoldby	Girls offer
Grimsby	Women & Girls
Hartsholme	Women & Girls
Lindum	Women & Girls
Louth	Women's offer
Market Deeping	Women's offer
Nettleham	Women & Girls
Sleaford	Women & Girls

Moulton Harrox	Women & Girls
Woodhall Spa	Women's offer
Spalding	Women & Girls
Saxilby	Women's offer
Uffington	Women's offer

9 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In pursuit of our vision to become 'Lincolnshire's most inclusive sport', we are committed to achieving the objectives contained within the VMOST on the page below. We have used the insight gathered throughout this process to inform our decision making, including how best to achieve our objectives via the identified strategies and tactics.

This process has provided us with a detailed understanding of current facility provision, and the opportunity to think deeply about the steps we need to take to create, maintain and futureproof the facilities the game will need moving forward.

We will review progress against our strategies and tactics on a 6-monthly basis and perform a full review of the strategy every 12 months. It is our intention to ensure this strategy evolves over its lifespan as new information becomes available and the world around us changes.



Facility Strategy 2023-2032



VISION
MISSION
OBJECTIVES
STRATEGY
TACTICS



10 APPENDICIES

1. County wide plan

2. Scoping document

3. County Grants Scheme documents

EXISTING PROJECTS

In the table below you will find a list of existing projects we were aware of when writing this strategy. Projects which have not had funding confirmed when this strategy is formally adopted will be reviewed against the priorities identified within this strategy.

Club/Organisation	District/City	Project	Project Status	Estimated Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Project Notes
Lincolnshire Cricket	Lincoln	Performance Hub Dome	Not Yet Started	£300,000	Unknown	There is a need and demand for a quality indoor space where our County representative teams can practice (a Lincs Cricket headquarters) & which could be hired out to other cricket clubs in the locality for indoor training.
Lindum CC	Lincoln	3-lane NTP Practice Facility	Not Yet Started	£60,000	Unknown	The club is one of the most well-established in the county with lots of growth in players & teams in recent years. They want to replace their existing 2-lane NTP practice facility which is very well-used & dilapidated with a new facility relocated to a different part of the ground.
Caistor CC	West Lindsey	2-lane NTP Practice Facility	Project Plan Formed	£45,000	October 2023	Another club that has seen significant growth in recent years, particularly with Women & Girls cricket. Their existing NTP practice facility is beyond repair and no longer ECB compliant nor



						safe for members to use. They are putting together a crowdfunding project to raise £25k, with top ups from other external funders and £10k from our County Grant Fund budget if successful.
Brocklesby Park CC	West Lindsey	Electric Mower	Project Plan Formed	£6,705	May 2023	County Grant Fund application - £6,035 grant requested. Project to enable club to produce better pitches, save money on running costs and reduce carbon emissions to tackle climate change.
Appleby Frodingham CC	Scunthorpe - North Lincolnshire	Revamp of Clubhouse	Funding Granted	£15,035	June 2023	County Grant Fund application - £8,500 grant accepted and contract signed. This project will encompass a widescale refurbishment of the existing clubhouse, creating a more welcoming environment for members and their families.
Uffington CC	South Kesteven	Electric Mower	Funding Granted	£7,113	May 2023	County Grant Fund application - £6,000 grant accepted and contract signed. Another tackling climate change project to reduce emissions, save money and create better playing surfaces.
Outcasts CC	Isle of Axholme – North Lincs	Electric Mower	Project Plan Formed	£6,355	May 2023	County Grant Fund application - £5,500 grant requested. Tackling Climate Change project.

PERFORMANCE CRICKET REQUIREMENTS

Item (e.g. Girls U13s – Indoor)	Requirement
Girls U13 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Girls U13 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Girls U13 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Girls U15 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Girls U15 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Girls U15 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Girls U18 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Girls U18 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Girls U18 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Boys U13 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Boys U13 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Boys U13 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Boys U15 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Boys U15 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Boys U15 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Boys U16 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Boys U16 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Boys U16 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Boys U18 Winter training	17 x 2hr sessions
Boys U18 summer training	Min 4 x 2 hrs
Boys U18 fixtures	6 home fixtures
Women Winter training	4 x 3hr sessions
Women summer training	0
Women fixtures	8

Men Winter training	16 hrs
Mens summer training	0 hrs
Mens fixtures	16
Development Winter training	0
Development summer training	16 hrs
Development fixtures	6

