

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

3rd July 2018

Report of the Director, Public Health,
Protection and Community Services

Agenda Item No.5

**AN UPDATE ON THE
DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF
3G PITCHES THROUGHOUT
RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Scrutiny Committee on:

- 1.1 The strategic framework developed as an approach to the development of 3G pitches.
- 1.2 The development and delivery of 3G pitches throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.3 The future development of 3G pitches throughout the Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To scrutinise the content of the report.
- 2.2 Acknowledge the progress made by the Council in the targeted investment in to improving sports facilities across the County Borough.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council, through a collaborative approach between Leisure and Parks with 21st Century Schools, have invested in the development of 3G pitches over the last 3 years. There are currently nine Council 3G pitches operating across the County Borough with an additional five in the process of being developed.

- 3.2 As well as 3G pitches the Council also operates five astro-turfed pitches (ATP), these are essential for the sport of hockey.
- 3.3 Sport Wales commissioned an external consultant to report on the need to develop new and existing artificial surfaced playing pitches throughout Wales
- 3.4 Welsh Government awarded Sport Wales circa £3 million to invest in both 3G pitches and ATP across Wales.
- 3.5 The All-Wales Collaboration Group, a joint working group between Sport Wales, the Welsh Rugby Union, the Football Association of Wales Trust and Hockey Wales, was tasked with delivering the report's recommendations.
- 3.6 Officers from Leisure and Parks and the 21st Century School Team worked to develop a RCT based group alongside the All-Wales Collaboration Group with a view of developing a 3G pitch strategic framework that maximises usage through both curriculum and community use complimenting the local authority's aim of every resident to live within a 3-mile radius of a 3G pitch. The strategic framework focused on ensuring that each region of the County Borough has a rugby standard 3G pitch, as football standard 3G pitch and an ATP.
- 3.7 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC was successful in accessing the following monies from the Collaboration Group: -
- Y Pant Comprehensive School - £80,000 awarded towards the development of a 3G (football standard) on site.
 - Maritime Recreation Ground - £50,000 awarded towards the upgrading of the ATP in to 3G (football standard).
- 3.8 Additional monies accessed by Pontypridd RFC (£250,000) to upgrade their match pitch in to a 3G (rugby standard) and £25,000 invested in a the development of a hockey hub in the University of Wales Sport Park resulted in £405,000 of the total £3 million used within Rhondda Cynon Taf (13.5% of the all Wales monies).
- 3.9 Alongside these developments the Council has invested capital monies in the development of 3G pitches within the following locations:
- Sobell Sports Centre / Aberdare Community School;
 - Caedrawnant Park, Mountain Ash;
 - Abercynon Sports Centre;
 - Tonyrefail Sports Centre / Tonyrefail Comprehensive School;
 - YG Garth Olwg;
 - Tonypandy Comprehensive School;
 - Pentre Park.

- 3.10 Cabinet has also announced further investment in 3G pitches in YG Rhydywaun, Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School, Rhondda Fach Sports Centre (indoor facilities), Porth Secondary School and Ferndale Secondary School.

4. BENEFITS OF 3G PITCHES

- 4.1 The main benefit of 3G pitches is they ensure that sport participation levels remain constant or improves as a direct consequence of the reduction in cancelled sessions. Therefore improving the health and wellbeing of those that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.2 The all-weather surface has been developed for intensive use allowing for back-to-back usage with no need to 'rest' the pitch in between sessions. The surface also allows for usage to continue during inclement weather.
- 4.3 The opportunity to train and play on a top quality surface will encourage more children and young people to become active through sports club membership and community organisations.

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 Under the strategic framework and for the Council to achieve its aim of every resident to live within a 3-mile radius of a 3G pitch the need to develop a 3G pitch in the upper Rhondda Fawr area has been identified (see appendix 1).
- 5.2 Future developments should include a rugby standard 3G pitch in the Rhondda valley, the Welsh Rugby Union fully support this and are working with the local authority to identify potential locations.
- 5.3 Further discussion between the Council and the Football Association of Wales Trust has suggested that the council work with the local mini and junior football leagues to ensure that fixtures take place on a 3G pitch. The local leagues are aware of this, further discussion need to take place between all parties.
- 5.4 Development of a Council wide pricing policy for 3G pitches that encompasses facilities that managed by both Leisure and Parks and Secondary Schools.
- 5.5 Maximise usage of school-based 3G pitches and ATP for the community by working collaboratively to ensure facilities are accessible in the evenings and on weekends for recreational opportunities and competitive fixtures.
- 5.6 In partnership with the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport complete a matrix of grass playing fields, outlining current condition, in order to identify how 3G pitches and ATP can support both the development of sport, in particularly the mini and junior sections, as well as assisting to protect grass pitches during inclement weather.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Regular consultation with Sport Wales and the National Governing Bodies of Sport through the RCT Collaboration Group.
- 6.2 Consultation occurs with the local football leagues through annual meeting with Head of Service, the Cabinet Member and the Council Leader.

7. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

- 7.1 Improved accessibility of facilities and increased opportunities within local communities will have a positive impact on the lives of people that live and work in the County Borough.
- 7.2 The development of new facilities throughout communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf, alongside increased participation support the seven well-being goals.
- 7.3 Increased opportunities and improved participation will improve the health and wellbeing of those that live, work and visit Rhondda Cynon Taf.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 3G pitches present the Council with an all-weather sports facility that encourages participation whilst protecting the current stock of grass pitches.
- 8.2 The strategic framework maximises opportunities for sports clubs across the county borough.
- 8.3 The continuing development of 3G pitches present modern, high quality facilities for current users and future generations.

APPENDIX 2 - Location of Artificial Surfaced Playing Pitches (May 2018)

**Funding has been approved by RCT CBC

	RCT CBC Owned	Clubs / Community Organisations / Other
Cynon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercynon Primary ATP (TS) • Blaengwawr ATP • Sobell 3G Pitch • Mountain Ash 3G (rugby) • Abercynon 3G • YG Rhydywaun 3G** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercwmboui RFC 3G (TS)
Taff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthorn ATP • Tonyrefail ATP • Tonyrefail 3G • Garth Olwg 3G • Y Pant 3G • Maritime 3G • Bryncelynnog 3G** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USW ATP • USW 3G (rugby) • USW 3G (football) • Brynna 3G (TS) • Sardis RFC 3G (rugby) • Ely Valley 3G (TS)
Rhondda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treorchy ATP • Darren Park ATP • Treherbert Park ATP (TS) • Tonypandy 3G • Pentre 3G • Rhondda Fach SC Indoor 3G** • Porth 3G** • Ferndale 3G** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambrian & Clydach Vale 3G • The Yard Indoor 3G (TS) • Ton & Gelli 3G (TS) • Tylorstown RFC 3G (TS)

TS – Training size

Unless stated all 3G pitches are football standard