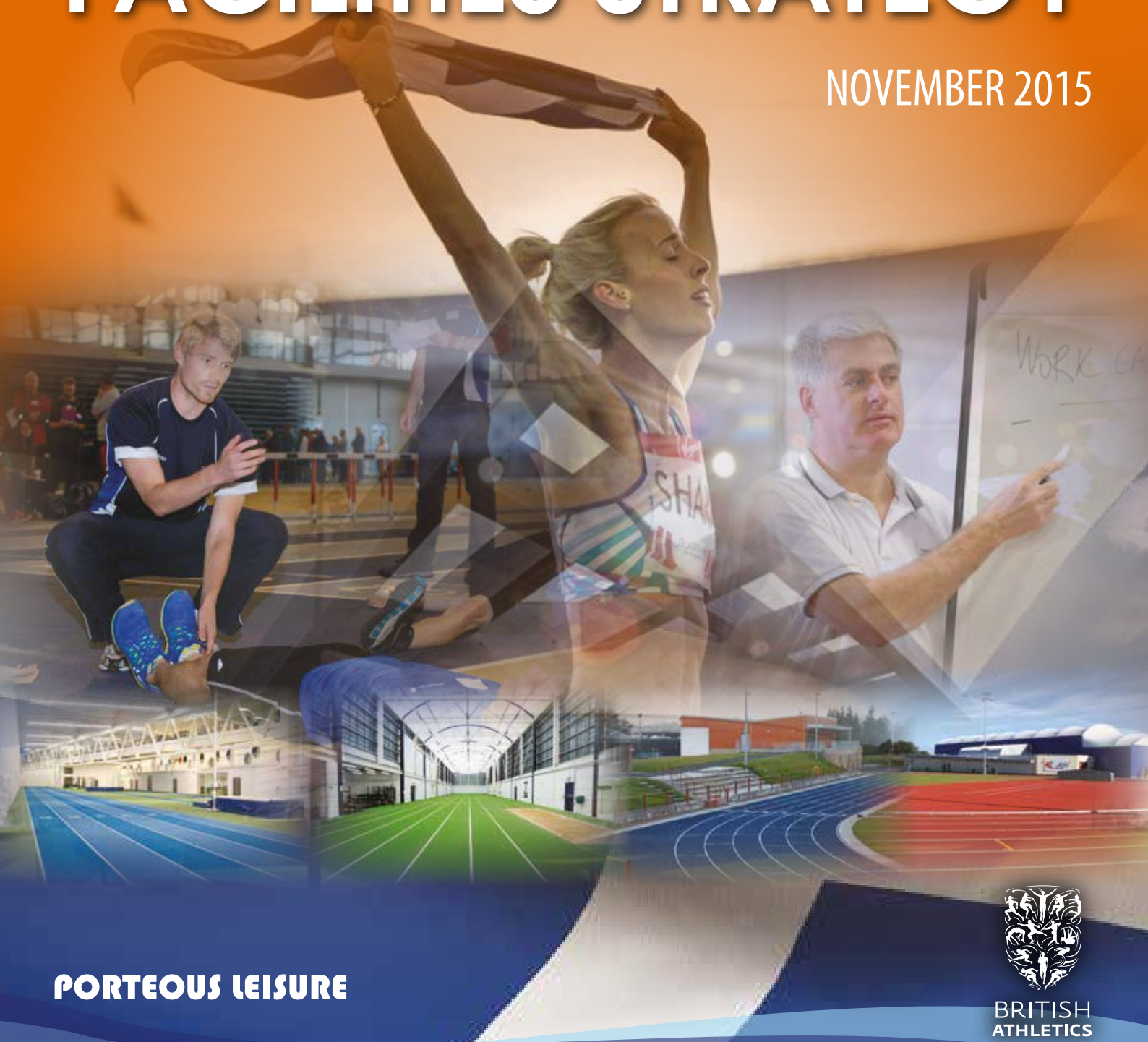


scottishathletics 

FACILITIES STRATEGY

NOVEMBER 2015



PORTEOUS LEISURE



**BRITISH
ATHLETICS**

Executive Summary

This facilities strategy forms an integral part of the wider strategic plan for athletics in Scotland and has been produced to support the continued development of the sport. It has been produced by **scottishathletics** with the aim of providing the sport with a hierarchy of facilities throughout the country that will continue to maximise participation and increase standards of performance in all disciplines of the sport. To achieve this the sport requires a plan for facilities development that clearly identifies areas where priority development is required based on a hierarchical approach from schools and clubs through to performance levels.

The strategy has been produced in consultation with clubs and local authorities and provides an indicative 12-year framework for facility development. A timescale of 12 years has been chosen to allow for a reasonable timeframe in which to plan, consult, develop and finance the wide range of recommendations being provided within the strategy, albeit that a number of projects have been identified as short-medium term. The initial findings show that there is close to an adequate supply of 400m track and field facilities in Scotland, however, there are clear challenges in terms of access, management and maintenance. The strategy also identifies clear investment requirements around the school estate as well as further up the athlete pathway in terms of regional and national athlete development.

The key proposals include:

- The long-term aspiration of developing Compact Athletics Facilities for athletics in all secondary schools in Scotland, allied with jogging / recreational running loops at schools.
- The construction of a limited number of synthetic 400m track and field facilities to fill the geographical gaps in the country and to build on club development potential
- The provision of further regional indoor training centres with Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness as the priorities.
- The development of a National Training Facility with both indoor and outdoor facilities (the logic being the National and a Regional Centre combine at the right venue)
- Identifying the need for improved maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities with leadership, and training support provided by the governing body
- Recognition of the benefits of integrated synthetic infields within community track and field facilities and the clear management requirements of such combined facilities

scottishathletics is committed to working closely in partnership with sportscotland, its clubs and Scotland's Local Authorities, Leisure Trusts and other agencies to provide Scotland with an outstanding network of facilities to drive forward the development of the sport.



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Introduction

BACKGROUND

1. The strategy for Athletics in Scotland 2015-2019 ('Perform When it Counts') has a simple vision to:

Inspire - the nation to participate and achieve

Engage - everyone in Scotland to perform when it counts

Aspire - to be the best - individually, as organisations, as a sport

To deliver the strategy **scottishathletics** will lead, develop & deliver the athlete pathway in all communities in Scotland, ensuring that it:

- Provides opportunities for all - at the level that is appropriate for them - learning, competing, contributing
- Identifies and supports athletes with potential to perform on the world stage
- Supports strong and sustainable clubs at the centre of development and delivery
- Motivates and supports our coaching community to excel at all levels
- Provides the right competition at the right level within the right environment
- Recruits & retains more people within the athletics community - performing in all roles
- Challenge existing systems and structures and promote change - Internationally (Scotland represented in world level competition), domestically (our own systems and approach), and those of our partners - where change can be demonstrated as beneficial to our aims and objectives.
- Is resourced, managed, and governed to an excellent standard

However, without the provision of modern, accessible and relevant facilities that are of the required quality throughout Scotland, the sport will simply fail to deliver on its potential.

2. In setting the context for this strategy it is important to understand the current landscape of athletics in Scotland that support the subsequent requirements for a new facility strategy and delivery. There has been significant growth in all forms of the sport in the past 5 years with club participation, recreational running, events and elite level achievements being at their highest point for more than 20 years;

- Club membership has grown by 38% in the last 3 years to around 16,000 club members and 11,500 **scottishathletics** members
- There are presently 146 athletics clubs in Scotland
- There are circa 1,250 qualified athletics coaches operating within these clubs
- There are circa 600 qualified and active officials
- Scotland had 4 medalists and 33 finalists at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and 4 medals at the 2014 European Championships
- There are 500 **jogscotland** groups with over 33,000 active members
- All national championship event entries across all disciplines (track and field, cross country, road and hill) are at their highest for more than 20 years

Introduction - Background

3. This facilities strategy therefore seeks to review the present state of facility provision for the sport of athletics in Scotland and to identify priorities for future development that will directly and positively impact on the development aims of all disciplines of the sport. The review was undertaken through a non-technical site survey and from information from clubs and local authorities/leisure trusts via a series consultation meetings and individual meetings.
4. While the strategy looks in the main at the provision of built facilities like tracks, jumps and throws areas and indoor centres, it is important to note the huge amount of club activity in Scotland which takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also comments briefly on these informal facilities.
5. The target audience for this strategy is firstly the sport of athletics itself but because most of the capital facilities used by the sport are owned and managed by local authorities, the document is also designed to provide guidance to councils and leisure trusts, and other potential facility owner / operators.
6. **scottishathletics** would like to recognise the role of **sportscotland** in enabling and supporting the work of the governing body in developing this strategy.
7. We have been grateful in the development of this strategy to have had the opportunity for dialogue with UK Athletics who are developing a new UK wide facilities strategy for the period 2015-19
8. **The development of the strategy has been overseen by a steering group comprising the following members:**
 - Nigel Holl, Chief Executive, **scottishathletics**
 - Mark Munro, Head of Development, **scottishathletics**
 - Alasdhair Love, Regional Development Manager, **scottishathletics**
 - Michael Hunt, UK Athletics
 - Brian Porteous, Porteous Leisure

with input provided from **sportscotland** Facilities and Sports Development staff



Introduction

OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

9. While the primary aim of this facilities strategy is to support the implementation of the overall strategy for the development of the sport of athletics in Scotland, the facilities strategy has been developed with following objectives in mind:
 - To provide facilities which meet the needs of the development pathway for the sport for increasing participation and improving performance
 - To support club development
 - To identify an appropriate hierarchy of facilities provision to meet the needs of all parts of the sport
 - To provide a framework and guidance for proposed new developments
 - To strengthen links with local authority partners including leisure trusts and education departments
 - To identify specifications for key facilities at every level
 - To assist in the prioritisation of investment decisions
 - To identify management and access issues in respect of current provision
 - To identify, within an implementation plan, relevant roles and responsibilities for the delivery of the strategy

10. The strategy proposes a hierarchy of provision for the sport at national, regional and local levels and has prioritised the developments identified in relation to their potential impact on delivering the objectives for the sport in terms of participation and performance. It is important to note however, that all the proposed developments included in the strategy are priorities which will contribute significantly to the development of the sport.

11. Because of the time required to realise capital investments for facilities, a facilities strategy needs to take a longer-term perspective than say, a sports development strategy. In addition to identifying the priority of development, the strategy also identifies the likely phasing which reflects the likely availability of resources and the readiness of the partners involved. With that in mind, this strategy takes a 12-year horizon looking at the period from 2015 to 2027 and the priorities are assessed against the following phasing framework:
 - Short-term - the next 3 years
 - Medium-term - 4-8 years
 - Long-term - 9-12 years



Introduction

THE PRESENT POSITION

12. **Appendix One** provides a listing of the current provision of major facilities for the sport in Scotland. This list excludes informal and smaller scale school provision.
13. The Steering Group identified the present strengths and challenges of current provision and these are set out in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Current Strengths

Strengths relevant to facility development	
PLACES	The number of 400m tracks The number of indoor straights Fantastic roads, tracks and trails In terms of outdoor provision – not generally competing with other sports Schools provision in some areas
POLICY	Athletics is a priority sport for many partners The profile of the sport especially with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow Good access legislation Dedicated recreation strategies
STRUCTURES	Club strength and networks The jogging boom The sport is recreationally strong
OTHER	Major events

Table 2: Current Challenges

Challenges relevant to facility development	
PLACES	Significant gaps in indoor provision Geographical gaps in the number of 400m tracks Suitable high performance environments for elite athletes Poor levels of maintenance and a lack of refurbishment of existing facilities Lack of smaller scale indoor provision Lack of facilities for throws Competition for the use of the grass infields of tracks Pressures to replace grass infields with synthetic pitches Social spaces for clubs
OTHER	Willingness by clubs to travel, pay or merge Local authority perspectives on the need for multiple use of areas which are essential to athletics Health and safety issues related to the use of informal facilities in the outdoors

Introduction - The Present Position

14. Further comments on present provision and perceived future needs are contained in the chapter below that describes the outputs from the consultation phase of the development of the strategy.

Consultation - Levels of Investment Required

15. Clearly, the pressures on public expenditure at national and local authority levels make this a difficult time to be seeking major investment in new or refurbished facilities. However, we believe that the returns from effectively prioritised investment will be considerable in terms of their impact on participation and on raising the standards of performance.
16. **Online Survey -**
An online survey of clubs was created on the **scottishathletics** website and available for three months. The objective was to gain an understanding of what the key facilities issues were for clubs. There were 83 responses to a survey from 142 clubs in membership of the governing body. In this chapter we provide a summary of the conclusions of the survey.
17. **The Nature of clubs -**
 - Table 3, **Appendix 2** confirms that the sport is predominantly facility based
However, a significant minority use roads, tracks, trails and hills as their main facility
18. **The Size of Clubs -**
 - Table 4, **Appendix 2** shows the size distribution of responding clubs
 - Majority of athletics clubs in Scotland are large in membership compared to many other sports, consequently, where a facility leads to the creation of a new club or expansion of an existing clubs the numbers involved can be substantial
 - Table 5, **Appendix 2** shows the percentages of U20 and U13 members in responding clubs. Approximately two thirds of the responding clubs' memberships were under the age of 20 and confirms the sport is in a very strong position indeed for future development
19. **Club Ownership or Leasing of Facilities -**
 - Table 6 **Appendix 2** shows the extent of club ownership or long-term leases of their main facilities. As would be expected, the majority have no long-term leases and rely on local authority provision. Although, important to note that about 20% have their own facilities
20. **Facility Accessibility -**
 - It is really important in any facilities strategy to understand how accessible key facilities are to clubs - Table 7, **Appendix 2** provides important information on the issue
 - There are a number of important issues identified, **a)** while majority of clubs have good access to synthetic tracks and associated areas, there are still a number of geographical areas without access in less than 1 hours travel time limiting the spread of the sport an the potential for development, **b)** local indoor provision is extremely limited and a significant number of clubs simply have no access to any form of indoor provision

Consultation

21. The Condition of Facilities used by Clubs -

- It is important to understand club views about the condition of the facilities they use in order to get a sense of the need for investment. Table 8, [Appendix 2](#) shows club views about the present state of the facilities they use.
- A significant number of clubs are, in their views, using as their primary facility, a venue in need of significant investment but it is heartening to see that the majority believe that their primary facility is in good condition.
- In addition to the investment requirements for facilities, we also asked clubs about the day-to-day maintenance of their facilities and the responses are given in Table 9, [Appendix 2](#).
- It is important to note the comparisons between Tables 8 and 9. Whereas most clubs believe their primary facility to be in good condition, when it comes to rating the maintenance, the situation is less positive with a total of 19 clubs rating their main facility poor or very poor.

22. Club Priorities -

- Clubs were asked to identify local priorities for investment and the results are shown in Table 10, [Appendix 3](#).
- It is not surprising that the main priority for clubs is the upgrading of existing facilities given their responses above but it is important to note a number of other types of provision which scored highly including:
 - New 400m tracks
 - Outdoor jumps and throws areas
 - All types of indoor provision
 - Clubrooms

23. Rationale for New or Improved Facilities -

- Clubs were asked to identify the reasons they wanted new or improved facilities and these answers have helped us to understand the likely consequences of investment - see Table 11, [Appendix 2](#)
- Club competitiveness was obviously the first priority for the respondents but a significant number saw facilities contributing to increased participation and to developing higher levels of performance. The 'other' category contained mainly those who saw facilities contributing to all the aspects listed.
- The importance of this question is in seeing the extent to which clubs understand the value of new or improved facilities and there can be no question that the majority of clubs have that understanding.



Consultative Meetings - Feedback

24. **scottishathletics** organised a series of consultative meetings around the country to provide direct inputs from clubs and from agencies like local authorities and leisure trusts into the development of the strategy. In each location, afternoon meetings were held with the agencies and evening meetings with clubs. Table 12 shows the schedule of these meetings.

Table 12: Consultative Meetings

Meeting Location	Date
Dundee	31 March 2014
Edinburgh	1 April 2014
Falkirk	2 April 2014
Aberdeen	23 April 2014
Glasgow	24 April 2014
Inverness (with video links to the Islands)	7 May 2014

25. All the meetings provided useful insights into general issues that those attending considered important in respect of the strategy and also specific issues and priorities for the areas in question.
26. The key general issues identified included the following -
- Clubs throughout the country are hugely committed to developing the sport, often doing great things with very limited facilities
 - Clubs attending indicated a considerable enthusiasm and potential for growth if appropriate and enhanced facilities can be provided
 - As with the online survey, clubs identified the need for better maintenance of facilities
 - In terms of management, there was concern about a perceived lack of knowledge about the requirements of the sport from the staff working in facilities in some parts of the country
 - Indoor training provision was a major issue for clubs, not just in terms of specialised facilities for athletics but also in terms of gaining access to sports halls for winter training
 - A significant number of clubs use grass tracks and it is important to consider issues related to grass provision in this strategy
 - The provision of small scale facilities especially but not exclusively on school sites, was seen as a priority for grass roots development
 - Access to strength and conditioning facilities was identified as a priority
 - Lack of specialised provision for disabled athletes in terms of accessibility and anchor fixings for throwers
 - Clubs accepted the need to work where relevant in multi-sport partnerships

Consultative Meetings - Feedback

27. In addition to the general issues raised, there were discussions about the specific needs in the areas of the meetings. The key issues raised are included in Table 13.

Table 13: Specific Issues Raised at the Consultative Meetings

Meeting	Specific Issue Raised
Tayside & Fife Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed indoor centre needs to be at Caird Park not elsewhere in Dundee Levels of activity and potential in Arbroath justify the provision of a 400m track Management and accessibility issues in respect of the Perth track Need for more tracks and track access in Fife perhaps by refurbishing the track at Balwearie High School or a new track in St Andrews
East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for specific plans to refurbish Meadowbank Stadium Saughton track is urgently needing refurbishment Possibility of including athletics in the National Centre for Performance Sport at Heriot Watt University Lack of indoor provision in the Borders
Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jumps and throws provision in the Stirling area The management of throws at Grangemouth
Grampian Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberdeen Sport Village works well but clubs wanted a dedicated clubroom Upgrading of the Peterhead track New track in Fraserburgh Upgrading of the Elgin cinder track or provision elsewhere in Moray Improved maintenance of grass tracks
West Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for a Glasgow specific plan to make the best use of the outdoor and indoor facilities available Review of the provision in North Lanarkshire in the light of the urgent need to refurbish Wishaw track The continued use of Scotstoun as a major events venue in the light of competition with other sports The lack of any significant provision in Argyll A possible new track in East Dunbartonshire Indoor training provision in Glasgow - Emirates being essentially a competition venue
Highlands & Islands Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible tracks in Thurso and Fort William Compact Athletics Facilities for Nairn A major indoor facility for Inverness. Two venues discussed; cited adjacent to existing track or as part of the Inverness Campus development Investigating the feasibility of shared track cleaning equipment for the Highlands and Islands

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

THE OVERALL STRUCTURE

28. As has been suggested above, the hierarchy of facilities for any sport needs to align closely with the developmental structures for that sport. That means that there needs to be sufficient facilities in Scotland to meet the needs and aspirations of the sport of athletics in terms of increasing participation, improving standards of performance and for the staging of all levels of competitions.
29. The diagram in Table 14 shows the outline structure the Steering Group has identified for the facilities strategy for scottishathletics and the detail of the hierarchy is explained below.

Table 14: The Facilities Hierarchy



A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

30. In the detailed description of the hierarchy below we set out the role of each type of provision, the proposed distribution of each level of facility across the country and our assessment of gaps in present provision in Scotland. An outline of the technical specifications and standards for each type of built facility is given in [Appendix 2](#).

NATIONAL FACILITIES - EVENT PROVISION

31. While occasional major international events are attracted to Scotland, the main purpose of the national event venues is the staging of competitions of a Scottish national level.
32. In terms of indoor events, the splendid Emirates Arena meets all the requirements of the sport and gives the possibility of staging both national and some international events. No further provision is required for indoor events.
33. In terms of outdoor events, the picture is more complicated with no one venue meeting all requirements. Indeed, in terms of **scottishathletics** National Events, there was a strong view from the consultation exercises that it was valuable to take these competitions around the country and not to stage them always in the central belt.
34. For the purposes of this strategy therefore, we have identified the venues that scottishathletics would want to use for national championships together with an identification of any investment needs to bring the facility up to the required standard. Details are contained in Table 15 below.

Table 15: National Facilities Proposals - Events

Venue	Purpose	Comments/Proposals
Emirates Arena	National and International Indoor Competitions	Meets all current requirements
Grangemouth Stadium	National Competitions	Recently upgraded and meets all current requirements
Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh	National Competitions	In need of major refurbishment and/or replacement.
Queens Park, Inverness	National Competitions	Meets all current requirements outdoor but without an indoor warm up area, few events can be staged there
Aberdeen Sports Village	National Competitions	Meets all current requirements
Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow	National Competitions	Meets all current requirements but there is concern about the possible development of a synthetic infield for rugby



A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

NATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES / HIGH PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENT

35. The Strategy “Perform When It Counts” is clear in terms of the role **scottishathletics** plays with elite athletes - it is that of “Performance Foundation”. That is best described as catalysing the journey along the athlete pathway from ages of around 16 years to the point the athlete merits greater levels of support from UK Athletics / UKSport.
36. That has facility implications. Many of our UK Athletics athletes make choices and move away from Scotland currently. We must offer a domestic alternative -and that has facilities, coaching, and integrated support services at its heart. Such a “home” was envisaged at the Emirates Arena, but the dedicated time and priority for athletics has not proven possible to achieve. This leaves a requirement that we must fill if the performance foundation level of our work is to have a focus, a home and be able to provide decision options for athletes as they emerge onto the world stage.
37. Presently national level athletes train at a variety of different venues throughout Scotland or in many cases beyond, and while the facilities used provide the basic athletics requirements, there is limited access on a daily basis to ancillary facilities and support services like physiotherapy, sports science provision and strength and conditioning facilities. The focus is on the prioritisation of a suitable athletics training facility in the Central Belt with appropriate medical, sports science and conditioning services, and coaching excellence available 7 days per week. This is much more than bricks and mortar - but it can’t happen without the bricks and mortar first.
38. The **scottishathletics** view - given other established venues and provision - is that the ideal place for this development is within easy access of Edinburgh and the M8 corridor within reach of the M9 and M90. The view is also that the development of such a facility, where feasible, should be as part of a multi-sport approach where appropriate facilities and service provision are available on a near 24/7 365 basis.



A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

NATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES / HIGH PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENT

39. If the aspirations of new facility build alongside other sports is not possible in the short-medium term then alternatives must be identified. The key is ensuring that as well as the physical build (bricks and mortar) that the ancillary support services are available on site. It may be that additional investment (capital build plus support services) needs to be considered at an existing Regional Facility site within Central Scotland by **scottishathletics**

40. As per the criteria in [Appendix 3](#), a Regional Facility upgrading to a National Training Facility would require the inclusion of the following additional facilities and services;

Facilities:

- In-out throws area (training - enabling throwing training in inclement weather)
- Full medical / rehab facilities on site - ice baths, physio rooms,
- Associated training aids - alter-g / underwater treadmills etc.
- Practical applied sports science (biomechanical / physiology / performance analysis) space and facilities
- Athlete lounge and rest areas (Wi-Fi / work stations etc / relaxation zones)

Services:

- Office accommodation (coaches and possible Governing Body)
- Physio and massage services
- Conditioning services - S&C / weights practitioners
- Physiology support - field orientation
- Biomechanical / performance analysis support - filming and direct application in the training environment
- Seminar Room(s)
- Space for Nutrition / lifestyle education

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES (including competition)

41. The second level of provision in the hierarchy is that of regional centres. While it is important that these venues can stage regional level competition, their main purpose is to facilitate training and development for the clubs in the region. In addition therefore to being able to stage competitions, each of the regional centres should be able to support both indoor and outdoor training throughout the year.

42. In terms of indoor provision, to be a regional centre, a venue requires to have as a minimum, at least a 60-80m Indoor straight, min 6 lane straight and facilities for jumps and throws. The indoor provision should also provide access to appropriate strength and conditioning facilities although these can be shared with other sports. See Appendix 3 for further facility requirements.

43. Any regional outdoor and indoor provision must be co-located to ensure that use and potential are maximised.

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES (including competition)

44. Table 16 describes the present regional provision and identifies proposals for development to complete the network in each of the 6 regions. Generally, the objective is to have one regional centre in each region but the population and geographical extent of the West Region requires extra provision as identified.

Table 16: Regional Facility Proposals

Region	Facility	Comments/Proposals
East	Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh	Presently meets the formal requirements but is in need of major refurbishment / replacement (1)
Central	Grangemouth Stadium	Recently upgraded and meets all current requirements
Tayside and Fife	Caird Park, Dundee	The outdoor provision at Caird Park meets the basic outdoor needs and Dundee City Council is planning a major development at Caird Park that would include appropriate indoor provision and an upgrade of existing external facilities. Indoor provision should be seen as a priority in Dundee
Grampian	Aberdeen Sports Village	Meets all current requirements
Highland	Queens Park Inverness	The outdoor provision in Inverness is sufficient but the Highlands and Islands needs an indoor centre as a matter of priority. The view of scottishathletics is that the only option for an indoor centre is adjacent to a National standard outdoor events venue (see appendix 3), whether this at existing track or a complete re-development of both outdoor and indoor to another site.
West	Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow	Meets all current requirements but there is concern about the possible development of a synthetic infield for rugby having an impact on the future provision for throws. If Scotstoun is still to be used for these purposes then provision for throws training will need to be provided on adjacent pitches
West	Ayrshire Athletics Arena, Kilmarnock	Current provision is appropriate for training
West	Ravenscraig Regional Sports Centre, Motherwell	The indoor provision at Ravenscraig meets requirements for a regional centre but it is understood that the level of use for athletics is not at full capacity due to a reduction in facility access including a semi-permanent tennis court reducing track size by 50m and use of other areas for fitness. Secondly, is believed that the lack of full utilisation may be because of the lack of any outdoor provision on the site. It is understood that the Wishaw outdoor track is in need of major refurbishment and one option which North Lanarkshire Council might consider is closing the Wishaw track and building a new track at Ravenscraig - if current access issues to indoor can be overcome

(1) If National Training Facilities/High Performance Environments are established in the East corridor at a location other than Meadowbank then they will also be able to play the role of the regional centre in the east of Scotland, reducing the range and scale of facilities required at Meadowbank.

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

INDOOR TRAINING AREAS / CENTRES (Local)

45. A third possible level of provision in the hierarchy currently being investigated by scottishathletics, and one that has come to light during the drafting of this strategy, is that of club-led localised low-cost indoor training areas/centres. The need for this provision has arisen from clubs that are of significant size (450+ members), are outwith reasonable travel time of an existing regional centre and where there is an appropriate infrastructure of existing facilities and staffing to ensure additional costs are minimised. The main purpose of these facilities would be to facilitate training and development for clubs locally, and a priority for **scottishathletics** is that such facility projects could be club-led and developed in a low-cost way. Such facilities should be multi-purpose to allow for other activities.
46. This idea originates from a 'training barn' concept, therefore it is hoped that the build costs should be greatly reduced. Further work is required to explore this emerging concept in terms of where such facilities may be located etc. They would ideally have at least a 60-80m Indoor straight, min 4 lane straight (ideally 6) and facilities for jumps and throws. See [Appendix 3](#) for further facility requirements.

LOCAL TRAINING FACILITIES (Tracks plus throws/jumps areas)

47. The heart of the provision for the sport in Scotland is the network of synthetic tracks around the country. Some of these facilities have already been listed above as they also provide for regional and national purposes. It should be noted in particular that there is excellent provision in even some of the more geographically distant places like the Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland. Against this background of basically good and well-distributed provision of synthetic tracks, it has been possible to easily to identify gaps in provision based on populations not within easy access of an existing track and communities with active clubs with considerable potential for development. Given the mixed urban and rural geography of Scotland it is difficult to have one measure of provision for the whole country. However, a measure of each town or community with a population of over 12,000 being within 20 minutes of a track would seem to be a reasonable aspiration and one which suggests only a few new tracks need to be provided in Scotland. This approach has been chosen because it reflects the likely travel time that parents will travel to take their children to a track on a regular basis combined with the minimum size of a community which is likely to be able to sustain a viable club. This process has also been agreed with UK Athletics and is consistent with the UK Athletics guidelines.
48. In terms of identifying priorities, it is not sufficient simply to look at geographical models. It is important also to consider the levels of current club activity. The proposals for the priorities for the development of new 400m synthetic tracks contained in Table 17 take into account both geographical factors and levels of present club activity and have been informed by the consultation exercise reported on above. An action arising from this strategy will be to develop approximate costings for the provision of new 400m synthetic track facilities.

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

LOCAL TRAINING FACILITIES (Tracks plus throws/jumps areas)

Table 17: Priority Location for Development of Local 400m Tracks

Region	Facility	Comments/Proposals
East	No new provision required	It is important to note in the context of the options for the redevelopment of Meadowbank that Edinburgh will still require to have 2 tracks. Given population base and athletics population these should be at Meadowbank then either Saughton or or any proposed National Training Facility if achievable in the timescales identified.
Central	No track required	Additional jumps and throws provision is required in the Stirling area as the present tracks at Stirling University and Lornshill Academy do not fully meet the needs for these disciplines. Central Athletics club is active throughout the area.
Tayside and Fife	Arbroath	Arbroath has a very strong and developing club and a population base of 23,000 with excellent potential for further development.
Tayside and Fife	Kirkcaldy	Fife generally is served well with 400m tracks with facilities in Glenrothes, Dunfermline and at St Andrews University. Fife AC has made the case for an additional track in the area of Kirkcaldy, and while the population of the area might justify this in the longer term, the priority should be the maximising of the use of the existing tracks.



A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

LOCAL TRAINING FACILITIES (Tracks plus throws/jumps areas)

Table 17: Priority Location for Development of Local 400m Tracks

Region	Facility	Comments/Proposals
Grampian	Elgin	Moray has no synthetic track provision for a population of 93,000 and the nearest provision in Inverness and Aberdeen is too distant for effective development. Upgrading the Elgin cinder track is one possible option. There are a number of active clubs in the Moray area.
Grampian	Peterhead	The existing track in Peterhead is in need of significant refurbishment and this should be seen as a priority. The football club is leading this project in partnership with the athletics club.
Grampian	Fraserburgh	Proposals are being discussed for the provision of a track in Fraserburgh and with the town having a population of 12,600, this is a priority. The local club is working closely with the local football club on this development which is intended to be part of the Community Sports Hub.
Highland	Thurso	The communities of Thurso and Wick are over 100 miles from their nearest mainland track and with a combined population of some 14,000, this is a clear gap in present provision. The local club is actively campaigning for this development.
West	Argyll	There is no 400m track provision anywhere in Argyll and while the area has few major centres of population, the lack of track provision stands out in comparison especially with the Western and Northern Isles. It is recommended that a needs assessment for an athletics facility is conducted to support a business case for a track in the largest centre of population Oban subject to consultation with local clubs and Argyll and Bute Council.
West	Bishopbriggs	While the greater Glasgow area could be considered to have adequate provision of tracks, clubs in the North of the City and in East Dunbartonshire do not have as good access as elsewhere. Consequently, the track being proposed for Huntershill in Bishopbriggs will meet unsatisfied demand.

Table 18: Pipeline Developments

Region	Facility	Comments/Proposals
Grampian	Banff Academy	Proposals are in place from Aberdeenshire Council for the development of a new 8 lane 400m track as part of a range of new sports facilities at the school.
West	Dalbeattie High School	Dalbeattie High School, Dumfries and Galloway, is being re-developed with the new school proposed to include a 400m, 6 lane track.

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

COMPACT ATHLETICS FACILITIES AND GRASS TRACKS

49. From the consultation discussions with clubs, it is clear that much good work is done in developing the sport of athletics around Scotland with the most basic of facilities and this strategy does not propose that all development requires to be focused on 400m synthetic tracks. Indeed if that was the only type of local provision, it would not realise the potential for growth in the sport in Scotland.
50. UK Athletics has developed the concept of a Compact Athletics Facility that can take a number of forms but essentially will provide a suitable strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws. The concept is based on creative thinking about ways that the essential features of full-sized facilities can be scaled down to suit individual sites where space is limited. It is about creating a 'kit of parts' that can be made to fit almost any site and any budget and enable the essential athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed. Compact Athletics Facilities can be relevant to a wide range of situations. For example -
- Primary and secondary schools to complement existing sport and play provision
 - Additions to existing sports and leisure facilities
 - Where the space for a standard 400m track is not available
 - Where cost effective entry level facilities are required
51. This strategy has a long-term aspiration that every secondary school in Scotland should have this type of facility. We realise that this is a significant challenge but, if opportunities are taken when schools are being redeveloped, then the costs will be relatively minor in comparison to the overall costs of sports facilities in the school.
52. The concept of a Compact Athletics Facility should not simply be restricted to school provision as there are a number of clubs where this type of provision would be a very effective investment in their development. However, any development should facilitate access by schools. Specific locations identified through the consultation process for priority compact facility developments included Nairn.
53. As part of the implementation of this strategy, **sportscotland** and **scottishathletics** have agreed to produce a Design Guide for the development of Compact Athletics Facilities - see [Appendix 3](#)
54. It is clear that in many parts of the country where there is no current provision of synthetic tracks, grass tracks still provide important facilities for the sport. Even where Compact Athletics Facilities are already available or might be provided in future, the 400m grass track is and will still be an important provision for summer activity.
55. Clubs have reported significant problems with the on-going provision of grass tracks both in terms of their design and their maintenance. This strategy recommends that local authorities note the importance of this type of provision to the both schools and for club development and make better efforts to provide and maintain good quality grass facilities.

A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events

INFORMAL FACILITIES - Sports Halls

56. While this strategy is proposing as a priority, the expansion of dedicated indoor athletics provision in Scotland, it is important to note that for many clubs, the priority is gaining access to local authority sports halls during the winter season. Issues of the general accessibility of sports halls for the community especially those in the school estate are beyond the scope of this strategy. However, it is important to flag up that a sport like athletics that mainly takes place outdoors, does require access to sports halls for training purposes during the winter. Clubs reported major difficulties in securing adequate winter access not least because they were competing with other sports that used the facilities all year.
57. There can be no easy answer to this particular problem but local authorities might look to meet this demand by the additional opening of school facilities where clubs can show sufficient demand.

INFORMAL FACILITIES - Roads, Trails and Paths

58. It is important to note of course, that the whole sport of athletics is not confined to built facilities like track and that road, trail, cross country and mountain running are important disciplines in the sport with very high levels of participation in Scotland.
59. The consultation exercises produced no major issues in respect of these parts of the sport and Scotland's land access legislation does indeed facilitate all levels of informal activity. The Core Paths Network, in particular, presently being rolled out by all local authorities should provide an enhanced set of marked trails for training activities.
60. In terms of the formal activities of events and competitions run on the roads and on land like the national forest estate, there was concern expressed about increasing charges both for the support required from the authorities and for access. This a major issue not just limited to the sport of athletics and all that can be done in the context of this strategy is to identify it as an issue and to propose that **scottishathletics** works in partnership with **sportscotland** and other Scottish governing bodies of sport to seek appropriate levels of dialogue with the agencies involved.



A Hierarchy for Competition, Training & Events *cont'd...*

SOCIAL FACILITIES AND CLUBROOMS

61. The provision of dedicated social facilities for clubs makes a very significant contribution to the success and cohesion of club growth and development. This can be seen clearly in the clubs with this type of provision available.
62. The strategy strongly recommends therefore that any new or refurbished provision should include dedicated social space for the clubs using the facility where appropriate, therefore, helping them with member engagement, commercial activities and social benefits - all key aspects of club life.



Implementation and Action Planning

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

63. **Appendix 4** provides a phased set of proposals identifying the priority of developments over the 12 years of this strategy. These priorities will only be achieved through a partnership approach. There have been a number of detailed discussions with key local authorities in the preparation of this strategy and **scottishathletics** will take the lead in following up its identified priorities with the relevant authorities.
64. At the time of writing, sportscotland grant aid programmes are available to assist projects of the size and scale of those being considered in this strategy. A number of authorities are considering significant regional indoor provision or major redevelopments of existing facilities. While **sportscotland** assistance will be important, the majority of funding is likely to come from local authority resources and **scottishathletics** recognises the importance of working closely with all the local authorities identified in relation to the priority developments proposed.
65. **scottishathletics** have identified the following key actions to take forward in the short term to ensure that priority developments take place:
- **scottishathletics** senior staff will work closely with sportscotland to identify potential developments around the creation of national training facilities/high performance environments to meet the requirements for high performance athletes, coaches and appropriate service provision
 - **scottishathletics** senior staff will work closely with the City of Edinburgh Council, the clubs and sportscotland to ensure the facilities provision in Edinburgh meets the needs and aspirations for athletics
 - **scottishathletics** senior staff will work closely with the Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life the clubs and sportscotland to ensure the facilities provision in Glasgow meets the needs and aspirations for athletics In terms of access, availability and cost
 - **scottishathletics** will meet with Highland and Dundee City Councils along with sportscotland to discuss the opportunities to develop regional indoor provision in their respective regions
 - **scottishathletics** will meet with North Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Leisure along with sportscotland to discuss the opportunities to develop further athletics provision at Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility
 - **scottishathletics** national club managers will work closely with clubs, local authorities and trusts to secure the implementation of the strategy at a local level given the identified list of local priority Investments
 - **scottishathletics** senior staff will work with UK Athletics and sportscotland to develop design guidance for Compact Athletics Facilities.
 - **scottishathletics** senior staff will review this strategy and implementation plan at regular intervals to ensure that it remains up to date during its lifespan, and that the actions in the implementation plan are delivered.

Implementation and Action Planning

EDINBURGH

66. In Edinburgh, the City Council has been considering for a number of years the need to replace or refurbish Meadowbank Sports Centre, as well as the need to refurbish its Saughton track facility. As this strategy was being written outline proposals are being developed for the re-development of Meadowbank.
67. At the present time there is no athletics provision at the National Performance Centre at Heriot-Watt University on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Therefore, both Meadowbank and the Saughton facilities are required to meet the basic needs for athletics in the Capital, and refurbishment is required at both sites.
68. If national training facilities/high performance environments are developed elsewhere in Scotland (i.e. not at Heriot-Watt University or Meadowbank) then Meadowbank will require to continue to fulfil the role as the regional training centre for the east of Scotland and the Saughton track will continue to be needed to meet the community demand for the sport in Edinburgh and to be refurbished to a suitable standard.



Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh

Implementation and Action Planning

GREATER GLASGOW

69. The size, scale and importance at local, regional, national and international level of the facilities in and around Glasgow require a specific section in this strategy. This is especially important in the context of making the best use of existing and future resources and in understanding the roles of major venues like the Emirates Arena and Scotstoun Leisure Centre.
70. Specific discussions have taken place with representatives of Glasgow Life on behalf of the City Council in coming to this summary.
71. In terms of the Emirates Arena, the key issue is the impact on the use of this facility as an international multi-sport events arena (and the premier indoor athletics competition venue) alongside its role as an important indoor training venue for the sport. Glasgow Life has agreed to look closely at the accessibility of the athletics facilities at the Emirates to maximise the availability to the sport in particular to ensure that regular and extensive training is available especially through the winter months.
72. Glasgow Life and **scottishathletics** have agreed to work together to maximise the availability of all parts of the facility (circular 200m track, indoor straight, jumps and throws areas) for training by improved management practices and, if necessary, minor changes to the building. It is recognised that, if this does not work, then it would be necessary to look for an alternative facility to be the main indoor training centre in the West of Scotland.
73. The outdoor facilities at Scotstoun Leisure Centre presently provide the premier outdoor competition venue for the sport in Scotland. Its use for that purpose but more significantly, its use as a major training venue is compromised to a degree by the growing influence and importance of the arena as the home of the Glasgow Warriors rugby team.
74. A working group is investigating the possible addition of a synthetic infield at Scotstoun and the implications for Scotstoun as the premier competition venue for athletics are being considered as part of that study. **scottishathletics** is part of that working group.
75. Notwithstanding its use for major events, Scotstoun continues to be an important training venue for clubs and especially for Victoria Park City of Glasgow. It has been agreed that Glasgow Life will review management practices to maximise the accessibility of the facilities at Scotstoun for training.
76. Given the overall demand for training facilities in Glasgow, it is proposed that Crownpoint Road should be further developed as the main dedicated outdoor training centre for Glasgow and Glasgow Life have recently begun to upgrade the site.
77. The possibility of providing strength and conditioning facilities at Crown Point Road is to be investigated further as a priority.
78. In addition to these main training and competition venues, it is important to note that the tracks at Eastwood, Williamwood, Hutchesons Grammar School, St Peters the Apostle (Clydebank) and Nethercraigs also provide important resources for local clubs and the additional proposed tracks at Huntershill in East Dunbartonshire and at Barrhead in East Renfrewshire will be complementary to the existing provision.

Implementation and Action Planning

SYNTHETIC PITCH INFIELDS

79. One of the challenges in providing athletics facilities is the relatively high capital cost and space involved compared with fairly limited revenue. With this in mind, a number of authorities are considering the conversion of infields to 3G synthetic surfaces for football or rugby to improve the income from venues.
80. UKA and the International Association of Athletics Federations are presently carrying out major research into the suitability of synthetic surfaces for throws. We await the findings of this study.
81. **scottishathletics** recognised the income imperatives of trusts and local authorities and will support the development of 3G infields provided that -
- There is a proven need for them
 - They are not in major competition venues
 - Efforts must be made to provide adjacent throws facilities for club training
 - **scottishathletics** and clubs are consulted in advance of any changes being implemented
 - Clear management agreements are in place that protect the priority of athletics users within programmed schedules



Hutchesons Grammar School

Implementation and Action Planning

FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY, MAINTENANCE AND STAFF EXPERTISE

- 82. As has been discussed above, most facilities in Scotland are seen to be in reasonable condition or to have plans in place for refurbishment. There were a significant number of complaints from clubs about the quality of routine maintenance and also about the lack of athletics specific knowledge in the staff managing facilities
- 83. As part of the implementation of this strategy, **scottishathletics** intends to work with UK Athletics to produce guidance on track maintenance and **scottishathletics** will then establish and run training courses for staff responsible for the operation of athletics facilities.
- 84. Generally, there were few accessibility issues identified in relation to the majority of venues, However, there are a number of facilities where accessibility beyond designated club nights, for example for coaches to work with elite competitors, is limited. **scottishathletics** will look to work with local authorities to address this issue in a cost effective manner.

FACILITIES FOR DISABLED ATHLETES

- 85. Two issues were identified in respect of the needs of disabled athletes. The first is the provision of anchor points in all competitive venues for wheelchair throws competitors and this strategy recommends that this type of provision should be made in all venues.
- 86. The second issue was the general accessibility of competitive venues for disabled athletes. Modern facilities which have complied with the Equalities Act 2010 legislation generally have no problems but older facilities need to address these requirements whenever any significant refurbishment takes place. We recommend that disabled athletes and their coaches be consulted about any facility plans.



Appendix 1

Current Provision of Regional and Local 400m Synthetic Tracks and Associated Facilities

Region	Venue	Facilities	General Condition
			A=Good B=Needs minor refurb or adjustment C=Needs of major refurb or replacement
East	Saughton Sports Complex, Edinburgh EH11 3BQ	400m, 8 lane	C
	Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, EH7 6AE	400m, 8 lane, indoor training	C
	Meadowmill Sports Centre, Tranent, EH33 1LZ	400m, 6 lane	A
	Dalkeith Schools Comm. Campus, Dalkeith, EH22 2PS	400m, 6 lane	B
	Craigswood Sports Centre, Livingston, EH54 5ER	400m, 6 lane	A
	Tweedbank Sports Ground, Galashiels, TD1 3RS	400m, 8 lane	B
Central	Grangemouth Stadium, Grangemouth, FK3 0EE	400m, 8 lane, indoor training	B - recently refurbished
	University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA	400m, 4 lane, 6 lane straight, limited facilities for throws	B
	Lornshill Academy, Alloa, FK10 2ES	400m, 6 lane	B
Grampian	Catto Park, Peterhead, AB42 1EP	400m, 6 lane	C - plans exist for upgrading
	Aberdeen Sports Village, Aberdeen AB24 5RU	400m, 8 lane, indoor training	A



Appendix 1

Current Provision of Regional and Local 400m Synthetic Tracks and Associated Facilities

Region	Venue	Facilities	General Condition
			A=Good B=Needs minor refurb or adjustment C=Needs of major refurb or replacement
Highlands and Islands	Queens Park Sports Ground, Inverness, IV3 5SR	400m, 8 lane	B
	Pickaquoy Sports Centre, Kirkwall KW15 1LR	400m, 6 lane	A
	Clickimin Sports Centre, Lerwick, ZE1 0PJ	400m, 6 lane	A
	Stornoway Track, Stornoway, HS1 2PY	400m, 6 lane	A
	Liniclate Sports Centre, Benbecula, HS7 5PJ	400m, 4 lane	A
Tayside & Fife	Caird Park, Dundee, DD4 9BX	400m, 8 lane	C
	Pitreavie Sports Ground, Dunfermline, KY11 8PP	400m, 6 lane, indoor training	B
	University of St Andrews, St Andrews, KY16 9DY	400m, 4 lane	B
	Fife Institute, Glenrothes, KY6 1HJ	400m, 6 lane	B
	George Duncan Athletics Arena, Perth, PH1 5AZ	400m, 8 lane	A



Appendix 1

Current Provision of Regional and Local 400m Synthetic Tracks and Associated Facilities

Region	Venue	Facilities	General Condition
			A=Good B=Needs minor refurb or adjustment C=Needs of major refurb or replacement
West	Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow, G14 9HD	400m, 8 lane, indoor training	B
	Cowpoint Stadium, Glasgow, G40 2PZ	400m, 8 lane	A - Recently refurbished
	Nethercraigs Sports Complex, Glasgow, G52 1RR	400m, 4 lane	A
	Emirates Arena, Glasgow, G40 3HY	200m international indoor competition track also used for training	A
	David Keswick Athletics Centre, Dumfries, DG1 1PX	400m, 8 lane	A
	Lorimer Park, Sanquhar, DG4 6DB	400m, 4 lane	A
	Everholm Park, Annan, DG12 5AA	400m, 6 lane	A
	Stranraer Academy, Stranraer, DG9 8BY	400m, 4 lane	A
	Kilmarnock Athletics Centre, Kilmarnock, KA1 3JG	400m, 8 lane	A
	Williamwood High School, Clarkston, G76 7NU	400m, 6 lane with 8 lane straight	B
	Eastwood High School, Capelrig Rd, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire G77 6NQ	400m, 4 lane with 6 lane straight	B
Laighdykes, Saltcoats, KA21 5NY	400m, 6 lane	A	



David Keswick Athletics Centre, Dumfries



Cowpoint Stadium, Glasgow

Appendix 1

Current Provision of Regional and Local 400m Synthetic Tracks and Associated Facilities

Region	Venue	Facilities	General Condition
			A=Good B=Needs minor refurb or adjustment C=Needs of major refurb or replacement
West	Ravenscraig Regional Sports Centre, Motherwell, ML1 1AD	Indoor training only	A
	Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre, Coatbridge, ML5 1ER	400m, 8 lane	B
	Wishaw Sports Centre, Wishaw , ML2 0HQ	400m, 8 lane	C
	Dalziel High School, Cleland, ML1 5LG	400m, 4 lane	B
	Linwood Sports Centre, Linwood, PA3 3RY	400m, 6 lane	B
	Dam Park, Ayr, KA8 0EU	400m, 8 lane	B
	John Cumming Stadium, Carluke, ML8 5AL	400m, 6 lane, synthetic infield	A
	Ravenscraig Stadium, Greenock, PA16 0JE	400m, 8 lane	A
	St Peter the Apostle School, Clydebank, G81 2DB	400m, 6 lane	A
	Hutchesons Grammar School, Glasgow, G41 4NW	400m, 6 lane	A
	Broomfield Park, Auchinleck Road, Cumnock, KA18 1AE	400m, 4 lane	B/C



Appendix 2

Consultation – Online Survey Tables

Table 3: Club Interests

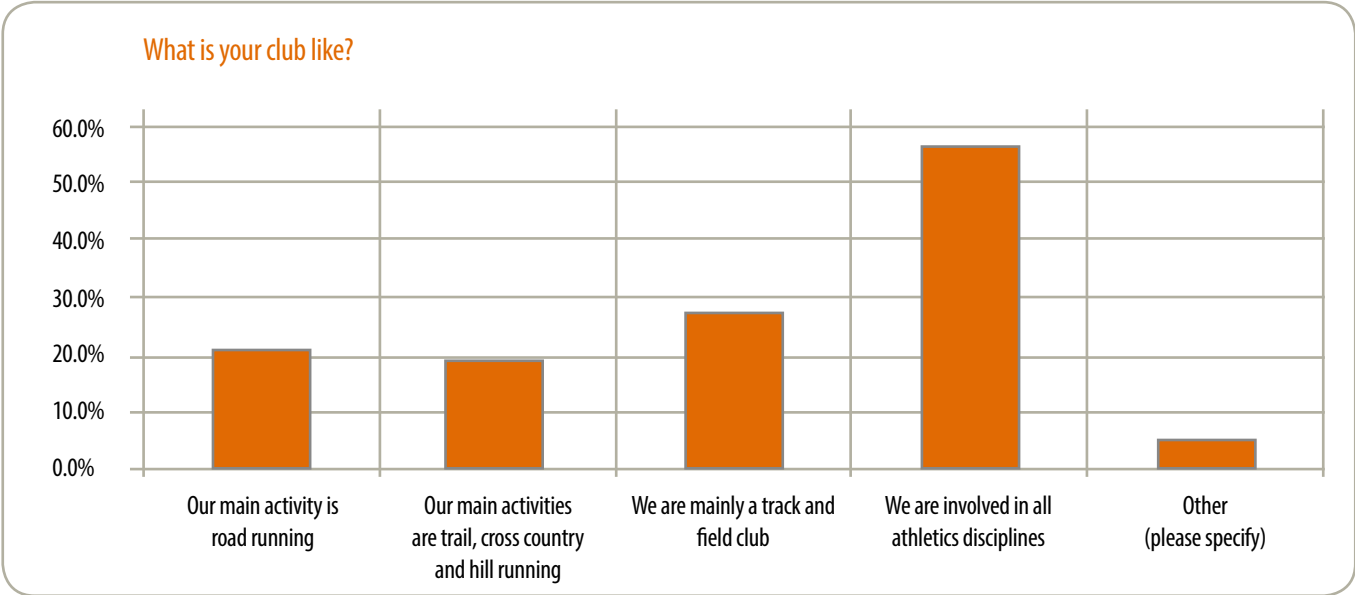
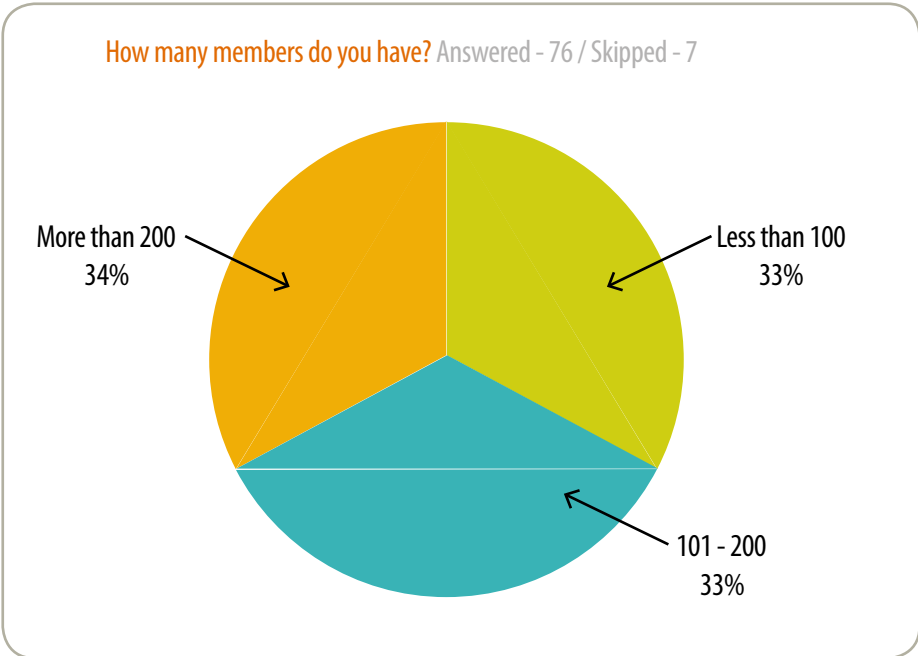


Table 4: Club Sizes



Appendix 2

Consultation – Online Survey Tables

Table 5: Junior Membership

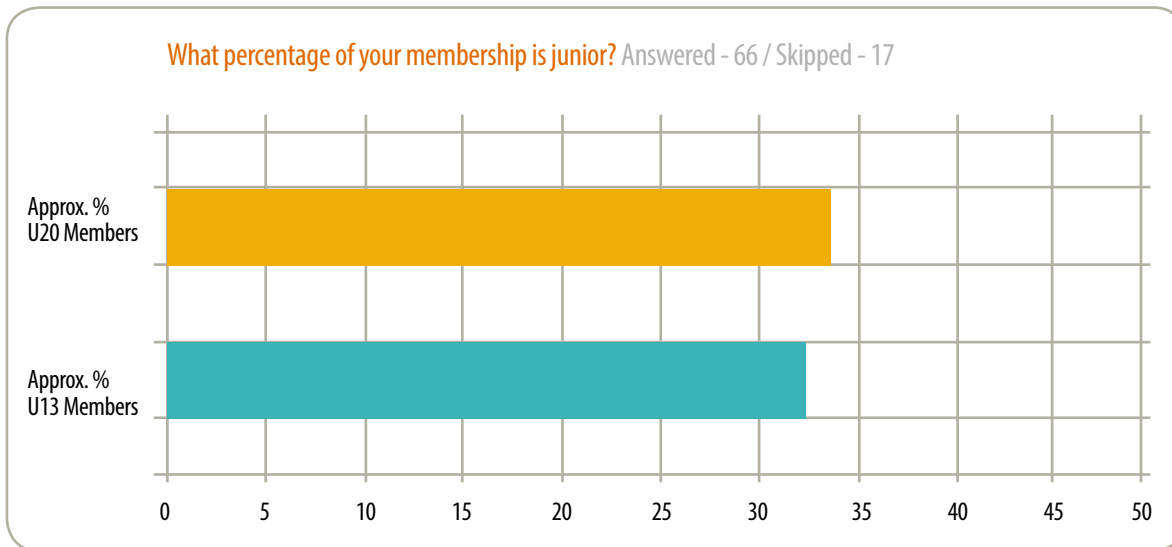
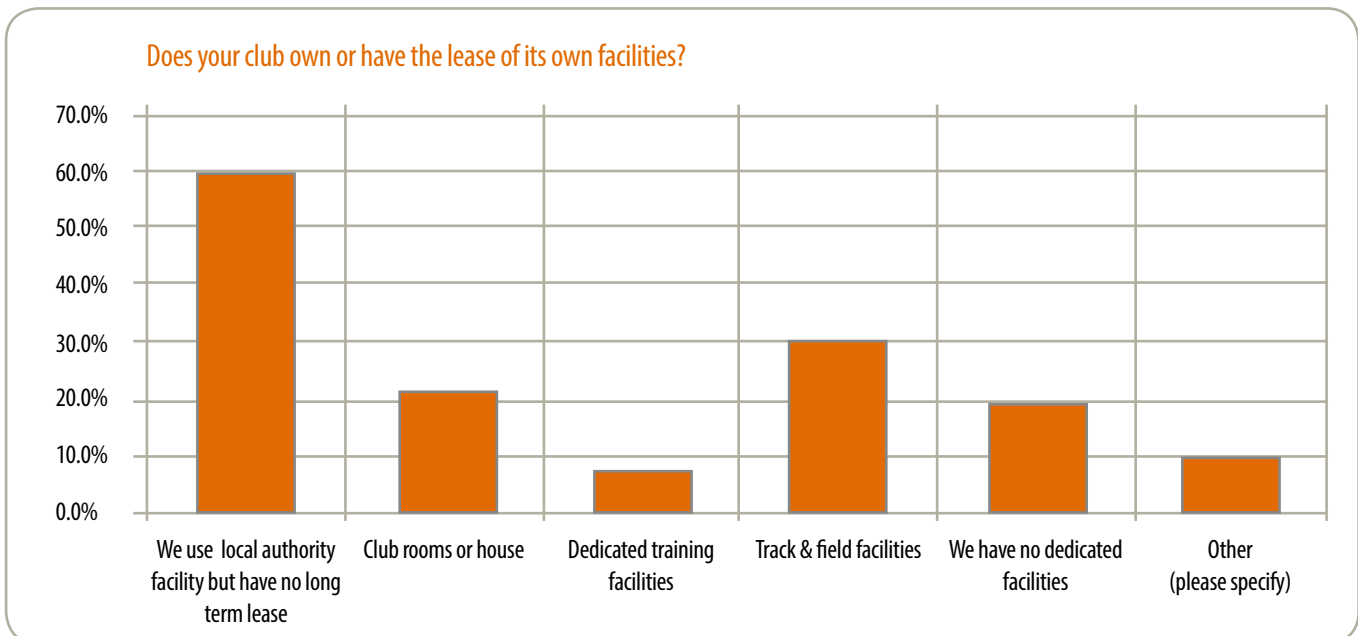


Table 6: Club Ownership or Leasing of Facilities



Appendix 2

Consultation – Online Survey Tables

Table 7: Facility Accessibility (by number of clubs)

Facilities	Local (within 20mins travel time)	Regional (Up to 1 hr travel time)	National (within 2hrs travel time)	Not Available	Don't Know
Throws Area	51	14	0	3	2
400m Synthetic Track	49	16	0	5	1
Jumps Area	54	12	0	2	2
400m Grass Track	25	4	1	25	7
Indoor Training Facility - Sprints	15	28	10	14	1
Indoor Training Facility - Jumps	15	29	8	12	5
Indoor Training Facility - Throws	11	23	11	15	5
Good & Safe Roads & Trails	54	3	0	0	3
Club Social Facilities/Meeting Rooms	48	3	1	17	3

Table 8: Club Views on the Condition of Facilities Used (Condition of Facilities Used)

Facilities Used	Great Cond. (no investment required)	Good Cond. (needs some investment)	Poor Cond. (needs major investment)	Not Fit for Use	Don't Know	N/A
Facility One	6	37	17	4	0	6
Facility Two	10	20	8	1	0	7
Facility Three	8	10	3	0	0	3
Facility Four	5	7	0	0	0	3

Table 9: Club Views on the Maintenance of Facilities Used (Facility Maintenance)

Facilities Used	5 (excellent)	4 (good)	3 (average)	2 (poor)	1 (very poor)	Rating Average
Facility One	7	17	24	15	4	2.88
Facility Two	6	17	12	6	0	2.44
Facility Three	2	10	5	4	1	2.64
Facility Four	2	7	3	0	0	2.08

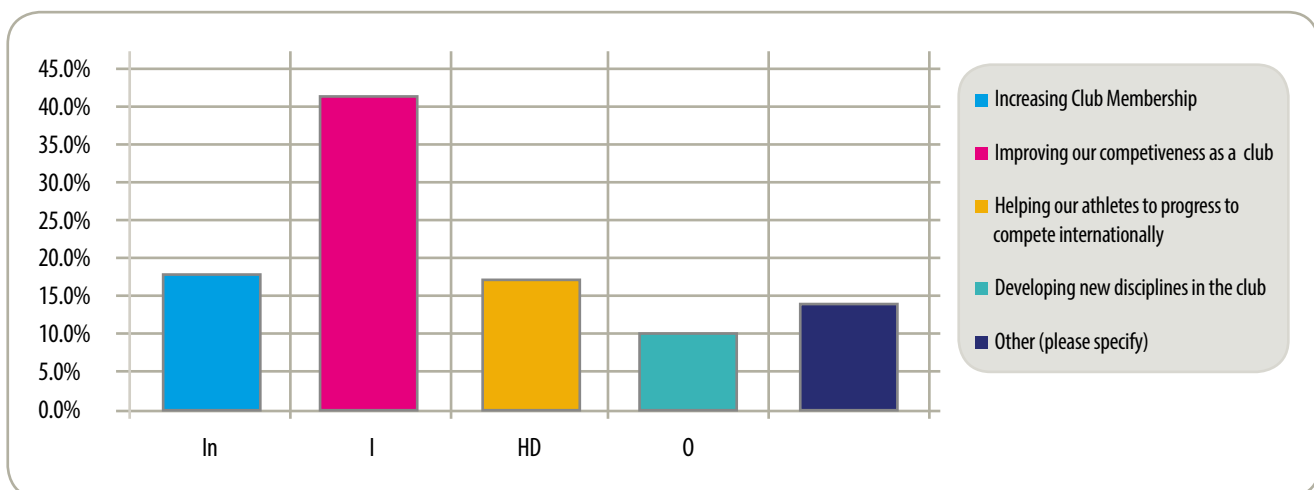
Appendix 2

Consultation – Online Survey Tables

Table 10: Club Priorities for Local Provision (Local Priorities)

Facilities	Essential	Desirable	Not Needed/ Already Available
Indoor Throws Facility	16	34	18
Outdoor Throws Area	19	16	31
Ulgrading & Modernisation of Existing Facilities	32	23	12
New 400m Track Outdoor	20	16	29
Outdoor Jumps Area	23	13	30
Indoor Sprint Training Facility	22	28	17
Indoor Jumps Facility	21	29	19
Better and/or Safer Off-Track Roads & Paths	4	20	37
Better Changing Facilities	9	25	34
Clubhouse or Clubs Room	16	29	22

Table 11: Rationale for New or Improved Facilities



Appendix 3

Facility Standards

1. In this appendix we describe the basic requirements of each level of built facility within the hierarchy and identify exemplar facilities where they already exist in Scotland.

National Training Facilities / High Performance Environment	
Description	<p>In addition to the facilities required at Regional Indoor and Outdoor Facilities, National Training Facilities would require the following facilities and services:</p> <p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-out throws area (training - enabling throwing training in inclement weather) • Full medical / rehab facilities on site - ice baths, physio rooms, • Associated training aids - alter-g / underwater treadmills etc • Practical applied sports science (biomechanical / physiology / performance analysis) space and facilities • Athlete lounge and rest areas (Wi-Fi / work stations etc / relaxation zones) <p>Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office accommodation (coaches and possible Governing Body) • Physio and massage services • Conditioning services - S&C / weights practitioners • Physiology support - field orientation • Biomechanical / performance analysis support - filming and direct application in the training environment • Seminar Room(s) • Space for Nutrition / lifestyle education



Aberdeen Sports Village

Appendix 3

Facility Standards

Regional Centre Outdoor (Training & Competition)	
Description	<p>A strategic network of high quality regional standard training (and competition) facilities able to host competitions at UKA permit Levels 1, 2 and 3 (regional and local competitions).</p> <p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 8-lane synthetic track Seated throws and anchor points for wheelchairs Access improvements for disabled athletes Covered spectator seating areas (Circa 500) Photo finish Indoor warm up areas (min 60m indoor straight, multiple lanes plus jumps including pole vault and throws) Weight training area and space for plyometrics/movement work Ancillary areas: clubroom, refreshments, official's room Suitable floodlighting Double ended PV 2x double ended jumps runways 2 x javelin runways
Spectator Seating	Circa 500 covered
Accessibility	Available for training 5 nights per week plus weekend use and must also be available for ad-hoc weekday daytime use for aspiring athletes and coaches living and training locally. Must be able to deliver regional and local level competition as well
Other	Must be combined with indoor facilities as a priority
Example	Aberdeen, Grangemouth, Kilmarnock, Scotstoun, Pitreavie



Pitreavie Stadium

Appendix 3

Facility Standards

Regional Centre Indoor	
Description	<p>A strategic network of high quality regional standard indoor training facilities catering for athletes from high performing UK level athletes living locally to regional level athletes and local club athletics.</p> <p>Must be alongside outdoor 400m tracks with appropriate throws and jumps facilities to ensure a fit-for-purpose regional training environment.</p> <p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 60-80m straight with multiple lanes (min 6) Throwing circle for shot, hammer and discus with throwing area/nets plus opportunity for javelin throwers to utilise space High Jump area with suitable run-up to meet needs of high level athlete Long Jump training pit as per Emirates arena example Area suitable for pole vault Seated throws and anchor points for wheelchairs Access improvements for disabled athletes Potential for basic viewing gallery area(s)/pod suitable for coach viewing plus video filming etc Physiotherapy, sports science rooms Weight training/ strength and conditioning areas within easy access of track/throws/jumps areas Multi-purpose room(s) catering for Video analysis, Lectures/seminars Suitable Equipment Storage Timing equipment.
Spectator Seating	N/A - Basic Viewing gallery area(s) suitable for coach viewing plus video filming
Accessibility	Available for training 5 nights per week plus weekend use and must also be available for ad-hoc weekday daytime use for aspiring athletes and coaches living and training. Must be able to deliver low-level indoor competition in winter
Other	Must be combined with an outdoor track
Example	Aberdeen, Grangemouth, Kilmarnock, Scotstoun, Pitreavie



Aberdeen Sports Village Indoor Area

Appendix 3

Facility Standards

Indoor Training Areas / Centres (local)	
Description	<p>A needs-based network of multi-functional indoor training facilities catering for local athletes in large clubs (450+).</p> <p>Must be alongside outdoor 400m track with appropriate throws and jumps facilities plus additional localised infrastructure (ie sports centre/school) to reduce staffing costs etc</p> <p>Consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 60-80m straight with multiple lanes (min 4) Throwing circle for shot, hammer and discus with throwing area/nets plus opportunity for javelin throwers to utilise space High Jump area with suitable run-up to meet needs of high level athlete Long Jump training pit as per Emirates arena example Area suitable for pole vault Seated throws and anchor points for wheelchairs Access improvements for disabled athletes
Spectator Seating	N/A
Accessibility	Available for training 5 nights per week plus weekend use and must also be available for ad-hoc weekday daytime use for aspiring athletes and coaches living and training as well as multi-functional use for other activities.
Other	Must be combined with an outdoor track
Examples	Witton Park Arena, England



Appendix 3

Facility Standards

Local Track	
Description	<p>Sustainable club training venues with a supply of 400m synthetic outdoor athletics tracks and appropriate throws and jumps facilities where the athletics community support local operators to develop and maintain a high quality mix of provision that supports viable business models, underpinned by strong development activities, high anchor club membership (300+ active members) and regular usage during daytime (schools) with 5 day weekday evening usage and weekend activities.</p> <p>400m training venues with appropriate throws and jumps facilities that also cater for low level competition Seated throws and anchor points for wheelchairs Access improvements for disabled athletes External throws areas where issues exist with infield multi-sport use Clubhouse/clubrooms Refreshment/meeting room/coach education areas Changing and social provision Track floodlighting Potential for conversion of natural turf infield and other external areas to artificial surfaces to enable greater income generation. Rugby/football etc where suitable arrangements have been made for throws training and competition plus clear and well managed access arrangements are in place so no clash between sports, health & safety etc</p>
Spectator Seating	Minimal - covered areas more important than seating
Accessibility	Weekday evenings and weekends for club use
Other	Can have a 3G synthetic pitch in the infield provided adjacent throws facilities are available and there is appropriate management to integrate athletics and pitch sports.
Example	Carlisle

Compact & School Facility (2)	
Description	<p>Basic athletics facilities that provide functional venues where people of all ages and abilities can develop their Fundamental run, jump and throw movement skills.</p> <p>Built with much lower capital and maintenance costs than a standard 400m track, Compact Athletics Facilities offer a cost effective, entry level solution that where facilities require flexibility in their scope to fit the space available.</p> <p>As a minimum they must incorporate a 100m synthetic straight, High Jump fan, LJ/TJ pits (both directions) and throwing circles with cage or concrete strips with multiple painted circles.</p>
Spectator Seating	None
Accessibility	Weekday evenings and weekends for club use
Other	
Examples	None

(2) - Design guidance to be developed by sportscotland and scottishathletics

Appendix 4

Implementation Plan and Priorities

Level	Facility	Possible Delivery Partners	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Possible Phasing
						Short Term - Next 3yrs Medium Term - 4-8yrs Long Term - 9-12yrs
	Nat. Training Facilities High Perf. Environ.	sportscotland and local partners				Short - Medium
Tayside and Fife	Dundee Indoor Centre & Upgrading of Caird Park Track	Dundee City Council				Short
Highlands and Islands	Inverness Indoor Centre	Highland Council				Short - Medium
East	Edinburgh Regional Centre - depending on decision of National Training Facility location	City of Edinburgh Council				Short
West	Ravenscraig outdoor track	North Lanarkshire Council				Medium
West	Crownpoint, Glasgow	Glasgow City Council				Short (in hand)
Central	Upgrading of Grangemouth Stadium	Falkirk Council				Short (in hand)



Appendix 4

Implementation Plan and Priorities

Level	Facility	Possible Delivery Partners	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Possible Phasing
						Short Term - Next 3yrs Medium Term - 4-8yrs Long Term - 9-12yrs
All	Compact Athletics Facilities on all School Sites	All				Duration of the strategy & ongoing
Highlands & Islands	Nairn Compact Facility	Highland Council				Short
Central	Jumps and throws the Stirling area	Stirling Council				Medium
Tayside and Fife	New 400m track in Arbroath	Angus Council				Short - Medium
Tayside and Fife	Kirkcaldy 400m track	Fife Council				Long
Grampian	Moray 400m track	Moray Council				Medium
Grampian	Upgrading of the existing Peterhead Track	Aberdeenshire Council				Short
Grampian	Fraserburgh 400m track	Aberdeenshire Council				Short - Medium
Grampian	Banff Academy 400m track	Aberdeenshire Council				Medium - Long
Highland	Thurso 400m track	Highland Council				Short - Medium
West	Oban 400m track	Argyll and Bute Council				Medium - Long
West	Bishopbriggs 400m track	East Dunbartonshire Council				Short
West	Barrhead 400m track	East Renfrewshire Council				Short
West	Dalbeattie High School 400m track	Dumfries & Galloway				Medium
West	On-X Linwood Sports Centre - Indoor Training Facility	Renfrewshire Council				Medium

Appendix 5

Challenges, solutions and key clauses for effective implementation of 3G pitches to protect athletics clubs

Synthetic Pitch Infields

scottishathletics recognises that one of the key challenges in providing suitable athletics facilities is the relatively high capital cost and space involved compared with fairly limited revenue. With this in mind, a number of local authorities are considering the conversion of existing grass infields to 3G synthetic surfaces for football or rugby to improve the income from venues.

UKA and the International Association of Athletics Federations are presently carrying out major research into the suitability of synthetic surfaces for throws but at the time of writing, while progress is reported on shot and discus, no solution has yet been found for javelin and hammer.

There are some examples across the UK where the existence of 3G synthetic infields within the infield of an athletics track works, examples such as Carlisle (John Cummings Stadium) in South Lanarkshire and Allianz Park, home to Saracens Rugby Club as well as two athletics clubs - Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers and Barnet and District AC.

CASE STUDY – Allianz Park

The stadium is home to Saracens Rugby Club plus Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers and Barnet and District AC. There are clear management structures in place that allow the three clubs to co-exist effectively providing players and athletes with the opportunity to develop to the top level of their sport.

The athletics clubs utilise the 3G synthetic infield for a variety of uses including children's athletics, RJT centres, athlete conditioning work as well as throws training for shot put and discus. A separate floodlit throws area for javelin and hammer has been developed adjacent to the stadium.

Interestingly, Allianz Park has been deemed suitable for hosting high level domestic league competition with the clubs hosting British League matches regularly.

Our Position

scottishathletics recognises the income imperatives of trusts and local authorities and will support the development of 3G infields provided:

1. Only where there is a proven need for them
2. These are not in major competition venues as identified within this consultation (i.e. Regional or National venues)
3. Efforts must be made to provide adjacent throws facilities for club training that are of an appropriate standard and floodlit to allow for winter training
4. scottishathletics and clubs are consulted in advance of any changes being proposed and subsequently implemented
5. Clear management agreements are in place that protect the priority of athletics users within programmed schedules at key time for athletics users
6. No football or rugby activity is programmed simultaneously alongside athletics training or events - serious health and safety issues.

scottishathletics 

Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ
0131 539 7320

www.scottishathletics.org.uk