

UK ATHLETICS

FACILITIES STRATEGY 2014-19



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1. INTRODUCTION

UK Athletics (UKA) Facilities Strategy 2014-19

It is an exciting time for Athletics in the United Kingdom. The success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games (Glasgow), 2016 World Half Marathon Championships (Cardiff), 2017 IPC & IAAF World Outdoor Athletics Championships (London) and 2018 IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships (Birmingham), and the increase in high profile mass participation running events, are all contributing to a burgeoning profile of athletics which presents a fantastic platform for the development of the sport.

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and this 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development,

training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model (ADM). (Appendix 2)

In addition to Track and Field provision, it is important to recognise the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.

This strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

UKA does not have capital development funds to invest in facilities. However, it has a key role to play in the governance and direction of the sport and will continue to support HCAFs, Home Country Sports Councils and external funding partners to identify and prioritise capital projects that address deficiencies in provision, and contribute to the achievement of key strategic objectives.

HOME COUNTRY ATHLETICS FEDERATION (HCAF) STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

	<p>Make England an athletic nation.</p> <p>Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all.</p> <p>Growing and sustaining participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming the most popular sporting pursuit in England • 5% year on year growth in competing athletes • Attracting and retaining 3million athletics participants by 2017 • Increasing disabled participation across all levels of the sport <p>Improving performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of athletes moving on to the world class performance programme • Improving the quantity and quality of athlete performances across all event groups • More disabled athletes achieving high performance levels
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	<p>Athletics Northern Ireland (ANI) will create the best environment for everyone in the sport to achieve their maximum potential.</p> <p>ANI believes that adequate athletics specific facilities are extremely important in raising levels of participation and moving athletes along the development pathway. Therefore our priorities are to have existing facilities adequately maintained and promoted and that gaps in provision, particularly with indoor facilities, are addressed.</p>
	<p>The National Strategy for Athletics in Scotland 2015-2019 ('Perform When it Counts') has a simple vision to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>scottishathletics will lead, develop & deliver the athlete pathway in all communities in Scotland, ensuring that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides opportunities for all • Identifies and supports athletes with potential to perform on the world stage • Supports strong and sustainable clubs • Motivates and supports our coaching community to excel at all levels • Provides the right competition at the right level within the right environment
	<p>Cement athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in Wales, supported and inspired by a world leading community athletics network, engaging clubs, schools, local authorities and sports development partners.</p> <p>To make Wales an athletic nation. traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all.</p> <p>Our ambition brings to life Sport Wales' Vision for Sport, engaging with all available partners with a shared objective of growing and sustaining participation whilst nurturing young talent.</p>

Implicit throughout this facilities strategy is UKAs firmly held view that facilities should always follow the principles of inclusive design and be compliant with the 2010 Equality Act. (See Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 for design guidance)

Desired Outcomes of UKAs Facilities Strategy

1. Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
2. Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
3. Increased talent pool
4. Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
5. Securing the long term future of existing facilities
6. More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
7. Improving the athletics experience for all participants
8. Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

Who is this strategy written for?

This strategy document is intended to assist any organisation with an interest in the development of track & field athletics and running facilities:

- Local Authorities, Town Councils, Parish Councils
- County Sports Partnerships
- Leisure Trusts/Commercial Leisure operators
- Schools, Higher and Further Education
- National Sports Councils
- Sponsors and funding agencies
- Health and physical activity agencies
- Developers of new and enhanced sport and leisure facilities
- Contractors and the athletics industry
- Athletics Clubs and Networks
- Other National Governing Bodies of Sport

The strategy document should be read alongside the appendices listed in Section 7.

2. TRACK & FIELD

The hierarchy of Track & Field athletics facilities needs to match up closely with local developmental structures. In essence there needs to be sufficient facilities across the UK to meet the aspirations of athletics in terms of increased participation, improved standards of performance and the staging of all levels of competitions. Whilst competition provision is generally good, this strategy recognises the need for improvements at club/community venues and the development of a new breed of Compact Athletics Facilities at the entry level of the sport.

RIGHT FACILITIES, RIGHT PLACE

This strategy supports the development of a UK network of appropriate facilities that are aligned to the Athlete Development model and deliver participant growth and improved performances across all track and field disciplines.

A hierarchy of athletics facility provision (Figures 1.0 and 2.0) and needs assessment toolkit (Appendix 5) has been developed to better understand the facilities currently provided and define those required in order to meet the future demands of the sport.

The hierarchy model and needs assessment toolkit is the starting point for any facility development proposal and should always be used to assess that athletics needs and expectations are aligned with the facility being proposed.

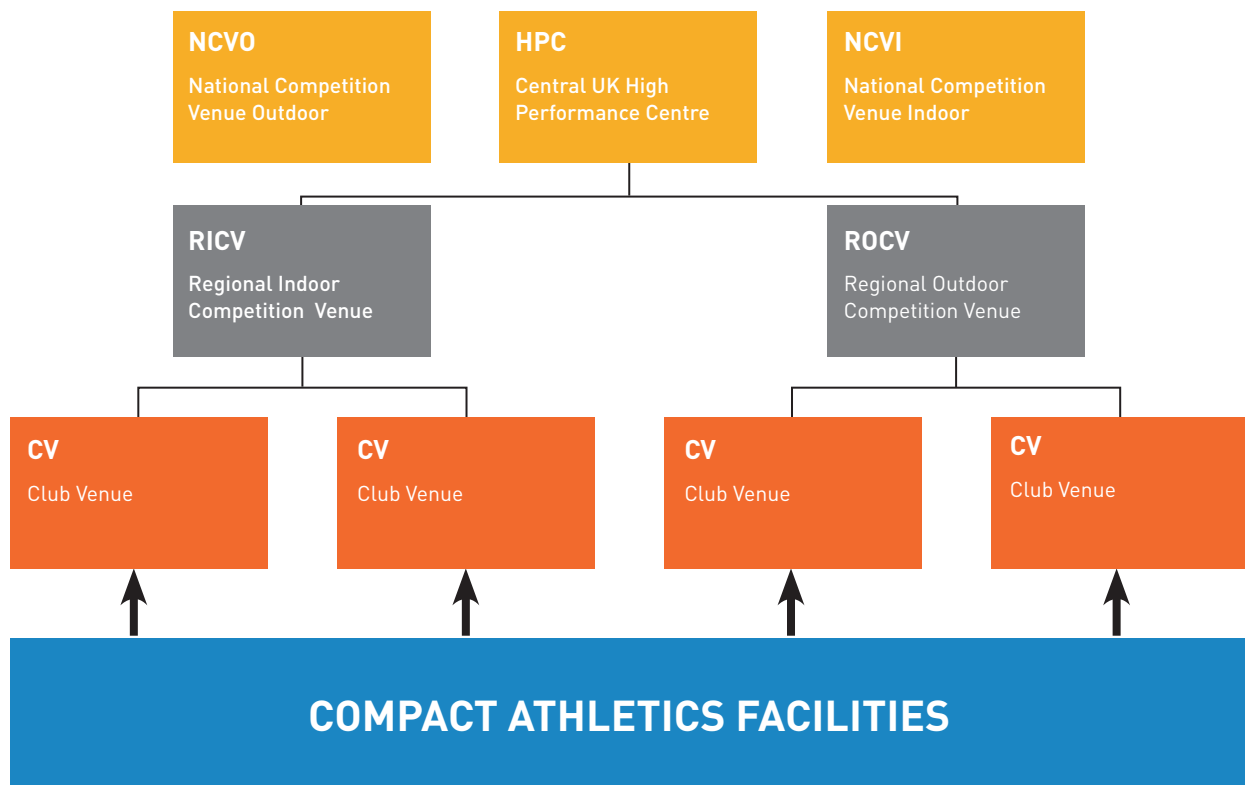
Figure 1.0 - UKA Facilities Hierarchy



UKA has defined a hierarchy of facilities that supports participant/athlete pathways and aligns with the UKA Athlete Development Model.

The following section details the suggested facility and activity requirements at each level of the hierarchy.

FIGURE 2.0 - UKA FACILITIES HIERARCHY LEVELS OF PROVISION



Compact Athletics Facility - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. Compact Athletics Facilities are designed to fit available spaces and budgets, and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the FUNdamental athletics movement skills of run, jump and throw.

(CV) Club Venue - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club(s) membership 100+ and a focus on athletes at the Event Group stage of the Athlete Development Model (ADM) promoting appropriate training and competition opportunities. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. Club venues are suitable for low level competitions only (Level 1 - local open/medal meetings).

(ROCV) Regional Outdoor Competition Venue - A UKA Competition certified outdoor facility capable of hosting permitted competitions at levels 2, 3 and 4 and identified by the relevant HCAF as a key competition venue. In addition to hosting competitions ROCVs should have a strong anchor performance club (200+T&F members), and a coaching infrastructure and programme that focuses on the event specialisation stage of the UKA ADM (aspiring performance athletes).

(RICV) Regional Indoor Competition Venue - A UKA Competition certified indoor facility capable of hosting permitted events and identified by the relevant HCAF as a key indoor competition venue. In addition to hosting events RICVs should attract regular usage from athletes and clubs in the surrounding areas; with coaching programmes focusing on the event specialisation stage of the UKA ADM (aspiring performance athletes).

(NCVO) National Competition Venue: Outdoor – A certified UKA or IAAF facility capable of hosting competitions at permit levels 4 and 5, and identified by the relevant HCAF as a key National Athletics venue. In addition to hosting major competitions NCVOs will provide training facilities to support the development of athletes at the top end of the UKA Athlete Development Model.

(NCVI) – National Competition Venue: Indoor – A UKA/ IAAF Certified permanent or temporary Indoor facility capable of hosting permitted competitions at levels 4 and 5 and identified by the relevant HCAF as a key National competition venue. Permanent facilities at NCVI level will also provide a training base to support the development of athletes at the top end of the UKA Athlete Development Model.

(HPC) High Performance Centre - The World Class Performance Programme for UK Athletics has evolved from a five site model prior to Beijing 2008, to a two site model prior to the London 2012 Games (Loughborough and Lee Valley), to the current aspiration for a 'central hub', supported by a number of regional high performance centres.

High Performance Facility provision in the lead-up to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2017 IAAF and IPC Championships will be based upon a purpose built world class, central athletics hub with a 'no compromise' approach that will guarantee priority usage and access for elite athletes.



COMPACT ATHLETICS FACILITIES



Activity

- Multi-sport/multi activity sites
- Focused on FUNdamentals stage of the Athlete Development Model (Entry Level): Run/Jump/Throw, multi activity, multi event, Fitness, Recreational participation.
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week all year round
- On site development club
- Appropriate number of coaches/teachers and volunteers to support facility activity
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Sustainable venue Business Plan including equipment replacement fund and sinking fund
- Partnership work local schools
- Strong links with Club Venues
- Meeting place/venue for recreational running activity
- AthleFit, Athletics 365
- Junior Holiday schemes and beginners athletics courses
- Sportshall competitions
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- Can be a standalone facility or a redesign/development of an existing sports space to accommodate athletics usage (e.g. indoor sports hall, artificial sports pitch, school playground)
- Facility designed for multi-sport and entry level T&F athletics
- Provides basic Run/Jump/Throw opportunities
- Kit of parts: No set, pre-determined layouts with facility options determined by potential users, space and budget
- Shelter provision included for outdoor facilities
- Co-located with other facilities
- Outdoor facilities floodlit to accommodate all year round community use
- Facility certification not required
- Meets minimum operating standards & safety requirements
- Secure, well managed site
- Equipment based upon participant needs
- Appropriate storage provision

CV - CLUB VENUE



Activity

- Mixed economy site encouraging multi-sport usage to create a sustainable business model
- Resident club(s) Clubmark accredited
- On site athletics club with a T&F membership of 100+
- Athletics activity focussed on Event Group progression stage of the Athlete Development model and continued track & field participation and recreational/fitness usage
- Low level local competitions and open meets only (Level 1)
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week
- Programmed a minimum of 4 nights per week
- Appropriate number of coaches and volunteers to support club activity
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Multi-sport sustainable venue Business Plan including equipment replacement fund and sinking fund
- HCAF approved Athletics development Plan in place
- Strong links with satellite Compact Athletics Facilities
- Meeting place/venue for recreational running activity
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- Meets athlete/participant training needs
- UKA approved outdoor/indoor surface
- Co-located with other facilities
- Facility designed/focused on flexible multi-sport usage
- Secure, well managed site
- Range of equipment based upon participant needs
- Clubhouse/social provision to support club/facility development & sustainability
- Facility certification optional

Outdoor specific

- Natural turf infield: For sustainable sites and/or clubs with a strong long throws section
- Artificial infield: To support increased multi-sport usage and increased revenue generation (subject to local needs assessment and consultation with club and HCAF)
- Floodlighting suitable for multi-sport training

Indoor specific

- Multipurpose Indoor facility suitable for athletics training
- Laned, spike resistant surface (desirable)
- Basic throws and jumps provision (desirable)

ROCV - REGIONAL OUTDOOR COMPETITION VENUE



Activity

- Athletics takes primacy at the site with significant year round athletics activity and/or venue subsidy that allow uncompromised access to high quality track and field competition and training facilities
- Athletics activity focused on the Event specialisation stage of the Athlete Development Model: Aspiring performance athletes
- Hosts a minimum of 5 permitted T&F competitions per year
- Anchor club(s) has active T&F Membership of 200+
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week
- Programmed a minimum of 4 night per week for athletics
- Appropriate number of volunteers to support club activity
- Appropriate coaching infrastructure to support athlete development programmes
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Resident club(s) Clubmark accredited
- Strong links with feeder Club Venues
- Sustainable venue Business Plan including facility sinking fund and equipment replacement fund
- HCAF approved Athletics Development Plan in place
- Used for coach education and training squads
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- Fully IAAF/UKA compliant (including measurement survey)
- 6-8 lane 400m track
- UKA Competition certified
- Solid, Prefabricated track surface (desirable)
- Independent track surface test every 5years (desirable)
- Capable of hosting UKA permitted competitions (Level 2-4)
- Full IAAF/UKA equipment provision (training & competition)
- Good local transport links
- Adequate Car/Coach parking
- Secure, well managed site
- Adequate ancillary areas: Registration, Officials Room etc
- PA system
- Infield suitable for all field events
- Floodlit to UKA specification
- Covered spectator seating available
- Indoor warm up area (desirable)

RICV - REGIONAL INDOOR COMPETITION VENUE



Activity

- Athletics takes primacy at the site with significant year round athletics activity and/or venue subsidy that allow uncompromised access to high quality track and field competition and training facilities.
- Athletics activity focused on the Event specialisation stage of the Athlete Development Model: 20+ years aspiring performance athletes
- Hosts a minimum of 5 permitted T&F competitions per year
- Anchor club(s) has active T&F Membership of 200+
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week
- Programmed a minimum of 4 night per week for athletics
- Appropriate number of volunteers to support club activity
- Appropriate coaching infrastructure to support athlete development programmes
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Resident club(s) Clubmark accredited
- Sustainable venue Business Plan including facility sinking fund and equipment replacement fund
- Strong links with feeder club venues
- HCAF approved Athletics Development Plan in place
- Used for coach education and training squads
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- 200m indoor oval track (Minimum IAAF construction category V) or Sprint straight (60m minimum)
- IAAF/UKA compliant (including measurement survey)
- UKA Competition certified
- Solid or Prefabricated track surface (desirable)
- Independent track surface test every 5years (desirable)
- Capable of hosting UKA permitted competitions (Level 2-4)
- Full IAAF/UKA equipment provision (training & competition)
- Good local transport links
- Adequate Car/Coach parking
- Secure, well managed site
- Adequate ancillary areas: Registration, Officials Room etc
- Strength & Conditioning Room (desirable)
- Physio/rehabilitation areas (desirable)
- PA system

NCVO - NATIONAL COMPETITION VENUE (OUTDOORS)



Activity

- Venues that support the development of athletes at the top of the UKA Athlete Development Model
- Host major competitions (Diamond League, National Championships, UK Trials, International matches)
- Uncompromised access to high quality outdoor competition and training facilities
- Anchor club(s) has active T&F Membership of 200+
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week
- Programmed a minimum of 4 night per week for athletics use
- Appropriate number of volunteers to support club activity
- Appropriate coaching infrastructure to support athlete development programmes
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Resident club(s) Clubmark accredited
- Sustainable venue Business Plan including facility sinking fund and equipment replacement fund
- Used for coach education and training squads
- Flexibility to accommodate community athletics training and athletics events and activities to maximise usage and revenue
- Strong links with Regional and Club Venues
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- IAAF Class I or II certificate
- 8 lane 400m track
- Solid, Prefabricated track surface (desirable)
- Independent track surface test every 5years (recommended)
- Capable of hosting UKA permitted competitions (Level 4 & 5)
- Full IAAF/UKA equipment provision (training & competition)
- Good local transport links
- Full Car/Coach parking (IAAF Facilities Manual 1.7.6)
- Secure, well managed site
- Covered spectator seating (250 – Level 2 Competitions, 1000+ Level 3 Competitions, 5000+ Level 4 competitions)
- Floodlit to UKA specification
- Designated warm up area
- Ancillary Rooms: Athlete Changing, Showers & Toilets
- Rooms for Coaches and Officials
- Changing Rooms for Ancillary Staff
- First aid room/Medical room
- Doping control / Competition office / Officials' room
- Room for victory ceremony preparation.
- PA system

NCVI - NATIONAL COMPETITION VENUE (INDOORS)



Activity

- Venues that support the development of athletes at the top of the UKA Athlete Development Model
- Host major domestic competitions (National Championships, UK Trials, International matches)
- Uncompromised access to high quality indoor competition and training facilities
- Anchor club(s) has active T&F Membership of 200+
- Facility permanently managed and available 7days a week
- Programmed a minimum of 4 night per week for athletics use
- Appropriate number of volunteers to support club activity
- Appropriate coaching infrastructure to support athlete development programmes
- Appropriate Facility Maintenance programme in place
- Resident club(s) Clubmark accredited
- Sustainable venue Business Plan including facility sinking fund and equipment replacement fund
- Used for coach education and training squads
- Flexibility to accommodate community athletics training and other sports, events and activities to maximise usage and revenue
- Strong links with Regional and Club Venues
- Venue specific risk assessments in place



Facilities

- 200m standard IAAF track (IAAF construction category I, II, III)
- Minimum 6lane oval and 8lane straight
- Fully IAAF/UKA compliant (including measurement survey)
- UKA or IAAF Competition certified
- Preference for Solid, Prefabricated track surface
- Independent track surface test every 5years (recommended)
- Full IAAF/UKA equipment provision (training & competition)
- Good local transport links
- Spectator seating
- Full Car/Coach parking
- Secure, well managed site
- Ancillary Rooms: Athlete Changing, Showers & Toilets
- Rooms for Coaches and Officials
- Changing Rooms for Ancillary Staff
- First aid room/Medical room
- Doping control / Competition office / Officials' room
- Room for victory ceremony preparation.
- Competition control centre
- Strength & Conditioning Room
- Physio/rehabilitation areas
- PA system

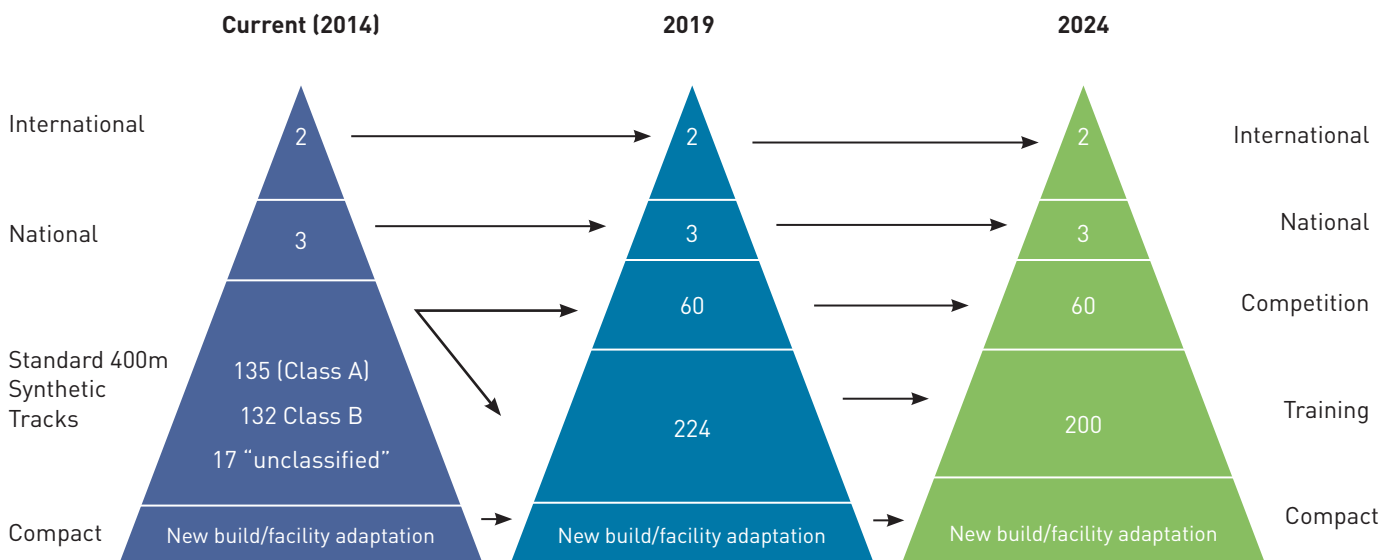
TRACK & FIELD FACILITIES – A 2024 VISION

Whilst this strategy only covers the period 2014-19, the hierarchy of provision outlined in the previous section has been developed with the objective of developing a balanced mix of facilities that will meet the participant/athlete pathway needs of the sport over the next decade (2014-2024). At the end of this strategy period (2019) UKA will work with HCAFs and stakeholders to review

progress towards its 2024 vision, and develop its stage two 2019-24 strategy.

Figures 3.0 and 7.0 show the current status of outdoor and indoor facilities in the UKA and detail aspirational facility hierarchies for 2019 and 2024.

Figure 3.0 - Outdoor Track & Field Facilities: Current And Projected Facility Hierarchies



International and National venues:

Figure 3.0 shows that at performance level the UK is currently well served in relation to International (Olympic Stadium - London, Alexander Stadium - Birmingham) and National facilities (Scotstoun - Glasgow, Cardiff International Sports Stadium - Cardiff and Mary Peters Stadium - Belfast).

Having reviewed facility provision at a domestic level UKA maintains that there is a sufficient supply of synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition demands and therefore any new facility developments should be focused on entry level Compact Athletics

Facilities or the refurbishment/redevelopment of existing facilities to encourage increase usage and sustainability at club level.

In this context UKA is only supportive of new build 400m track and field facilities that:

1. Are a direct replacement for existing 400m facilities and/or:
2. Demonstrate a genuine strategic need following a thorough needs assessment (see ANOG guide Appendix 5).

Creating a network of better competition facilities and sustainable club venues

Below National level competition venues sits a UK wide network of competition classified facilities (267) which vary significantly in the range of quality of provision and competition usage.

An analysis of competitions held in 2013 revealed that 1,898 permitted track & field events were held at 270 different facilities.

When these facilities are ranked in order from 1 to 270 (1 being the facility that held the most events and 270 being the facility that held the least) the results show that the top 100 ranked facilities account for 72% of the competitions (1,368) with the remaining 170 facilities accounting for just 28% of events (530). (See Figure 4.0)

Further analysis of the data revealed that just under half of the 270 facilities (132) hosted fewer than 5 competitions per year. (See Figure 5.0)

Figure 4.0 - Analysis of the number of annual competitions hosted by facilities (2013)

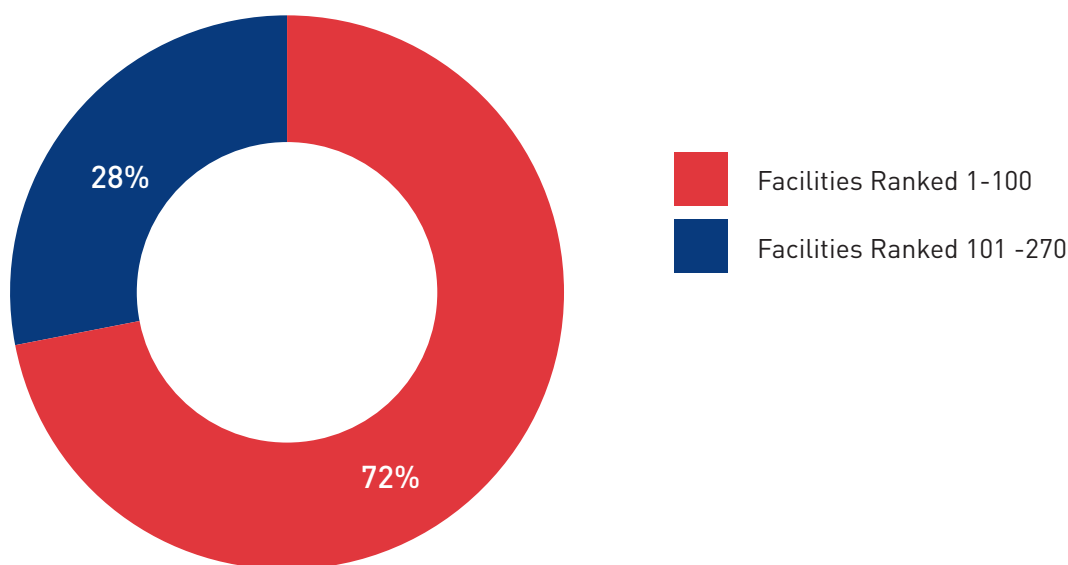
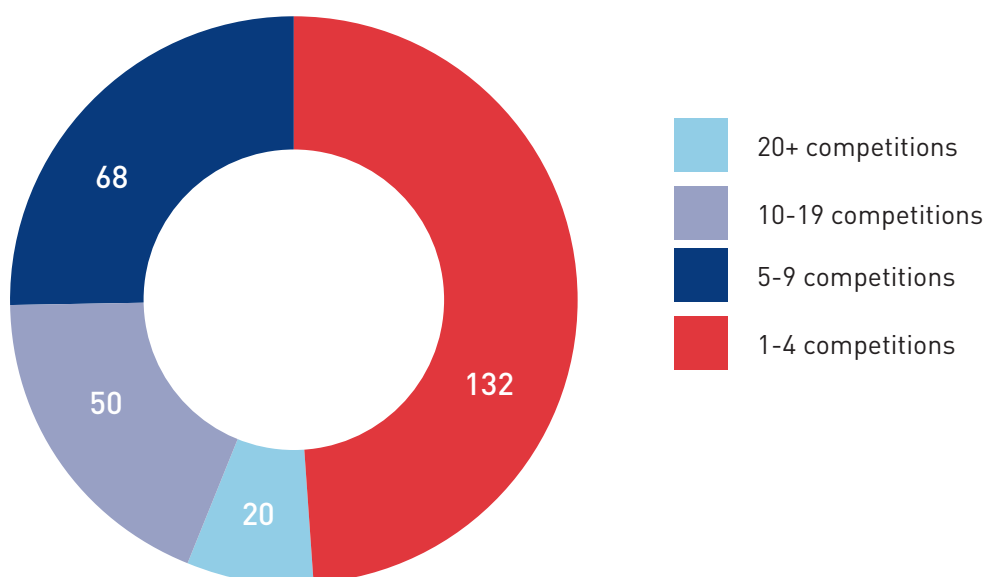


Figure 5.0 - Breakdown of annual number competitions hosted by facilities (2013)



Outdoor athletics facility provision has, historically, been provided as a “one size fits all” model (400m synthetic track and run ups, jump pits, water jump, PV facility, High Jump, throws circles and throws cage), and rigorous design guidance, adherence to competition standards and complex certification procedures have all helped to create an oversupply of competition focused facilities, in hindsight at the expense of a more appropriate, sustainable community athletics facilities.

This strategy seeks to develop a balance between competition and community provision, by supporting HCAFs to identify key competition venues (60 Regional venues by 2024) alongside networks of sustainable community Club Venues (200 by 2024) and a new generation Compact Athletics Facilities, that are freed from many of the facility restrictions imposed by competition, and able to attract and retain a new and diverse range of participants.

UKA will support HCAF led national facility reviews and local needs assessments that prioritise a reduced number of strategically positioned competition venues and the development/diversification of existing facilities into a supporting network of multi-sport, sustainable community club training venues with improved revenue opportunities and excellent club/social provision.

Sustainable Club venues

Feedback from HCAFs National and Regional staff reflects the growing sustainability challenge being faced by athletics facility operators, with many beginning to question the significant expense required to achieve and maintain competition standard facilities to service a small number of formal competitions.

Operators are increasingly looking at ways of reducing costs and generating new income, and UKA recognises that there needs to be a more flexible approach to track & field provision that enables operators to improve their facility business model.

At the pinnacle of the sport it is absolutely right that facilities continue to meet the rigorous control standards required by both UKA and the IAAF. However, at local club training venues a relaxation of stringent competition requirements in place of new UKA minimum operating standards will help operators to reduce running costs and encourage greater usage.

The benchmark assessment grid in table 1.0 is modelled on actual member, activity and income/expenditure data from track & field facility operators and provides a benchmark assessment grid against which facilities can position themselves.

Table 1.0 - Benchmark sustainability assessment for 400m Outdoor Track & Field Facilities

Table Level (UKA Hierarchy)	Facility sustainability	Total T&F Members at Venue	Casual Usage	Number of other sports
National - IAAF/UKA certified facility capable of hosting IAAF/UKA permitted competitions at levels 4 and 5	High	400+	High	0
	Medium	200-400	Low	0
	Low	<200	Low	0
Regional - UKA certified outdoor facility capable of hosting UKA permitted competitions at levels 2,3, and 4	High	200+	High	1+
	Medium	200-300	Low	0
	Medium	<200	High	1
	Low	<200	Low	0
Club Venue - Track and field/multi-sport training venues	High	100-200	High	1+
	High	200+	Low	0
	Medium	<100	Low	0
	Medium	<100	High	1
	Low	<100	Low	0

As can be seen, at a National level there is a recommended “no compromise” single sport (Athletics) approach which, is largely dependent upon a strong anchor club(s), regular community athletics usage and a comprehensive competition/events programme in order to make the facility financially viable.

Regional and club level facilities can also be solely athletics focused. However, this demands a high anchor club track and field membership: circa 200+ at Regional facilities and 100+ at Club Venues, and when membership drops below these levels the long term sustainability of the facility becomes a real issue. In such cases it is

important that the operator and the club work together to develop a long term vision for the facility and put in place action plans based upon increasing athletics club membership and/or opening up the facility for greater usage from other sports.

One consideration for facilities sitting in red/amber areas of the sustainability grid is the installation of an artificial grass infield to increase multi-sport site usage. Whilst not appropriate for regional competition venues and club venues with a strong long throws section*, the introduction of an AGP infield has the potential to transform an athletics facilities’ revenue profile.

*UKA is currently participating in a research study looking at the development of an artificial surface that would be suitable and safe for a multitude of ball sports AND long and heavy throws, which may in the future mean that certain types of artificial surface/shockpad may be suitable for ball sports and athletics field throws.

UKA recognises the income imperatives of local authorities, leisure trusts and commercial operators and supports the development of facility improvements that encourage increased usage and revenue generation.

One emerging opportunity is the conversion of natural turf infields into Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), and UKA recognises that the revenue

potential of AGPs can help to secure the future of athletics facilities where sustainability is a concern.

In such cases UKA is receptive to AGP infield proposals as long as these are developed in consultation with local clubs/networks, HCAF and National Sports Council and based upon a detailed needs assessment and business case.





Clubhouses/social provision

It is difficult to sustain participation without a modern pavilion or clubhouse. An appropriately designed, functional clubhouse can generate vital income and, through careful planning, can meet the requirements of a variety of sports to act as a true sports community hub. There are many examples to show how clubs and venues have been able to revitalise membership and participation through the provision of modern changing and social provision. A good example can be seen at Longford Park Stadium, Manchester where a modern clubhouse services the needs of athletics, and also provides additional revenue opportunities through the hosting of meetings, functions and events.

Although the majority of athletics clubs will have some form of covered 'gathering' provision either on-site or off-site of their main venue, the quality of provision varies considerably with many not having on-site changing or social areas.

UKA is supportive of the development of attractive well designed clubhouse facilities that help to improve

the quality of sporting experience and improve the social dimension of athletics clubs, providing a modern, attractive base for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and spectators to meet.

UKA can provide design support on new clubhouse developments but as a general guide the following elements should be included:

- Social area
- Refreshments area
- Small kitchen
- Club and coach office
- Small meeting room
- Strength and conditioning area
- Changing rooms
- Toilets

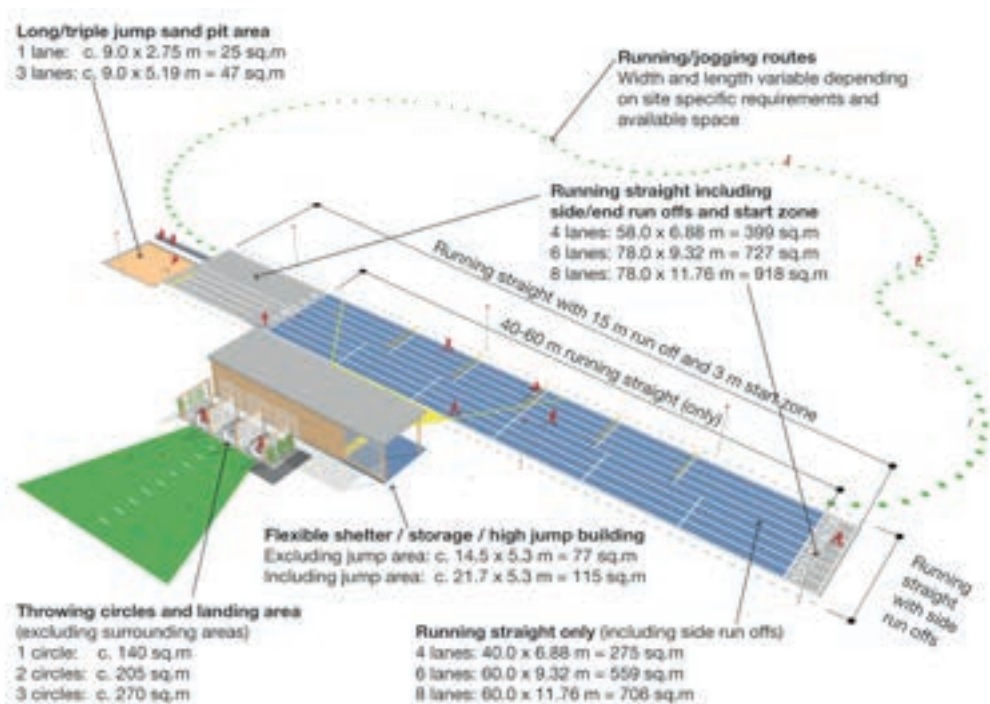
See Appendix 6 for Clubhouse design information.

Compact Athletics Facilities

A major deficiency in current athletics provision is a lack of developmental facilities and specifically designed for beginners and those at the early stages of the athlete development model.

Working with England Athletics and Sport England, UKA has developed a new model of provision that offers a cost effective, flexible, entry level solution that uses eye catching layouts and colour schemes designed to attract new participants.

Figure 6.0 - Compact Athletics Facility: Example Layout



Essentially a 'kit of parts', Compact Athletics Facilities can be made to fit almost any site and any budget, and enable essential athletics skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed. The flexibility of the design of Compact Athletics Facilities means that they are relevant to a wide range of situations:

- Colleges, universities, primary and secondary schools to complement existing sport and play provision
- Additions to existing sports and leisure facilities
- Where cost effective entry level facilities are required
- Introduce the FUNdamentals of athletics

The introduction of a wide network of Compact Athletics Facilities is a key part of UKA's ambition to capture the interest and demand that will be generated by hosting IAAF and IPC World Championships in London in 2017 and the strategic positioning of new facilities will be crucial in capturing this demand and providing feeder pathways into athletics activity at Club Venues.

See Appendix 7 for Compact Athletics Facilities Design Guidance

Indoor Athletics

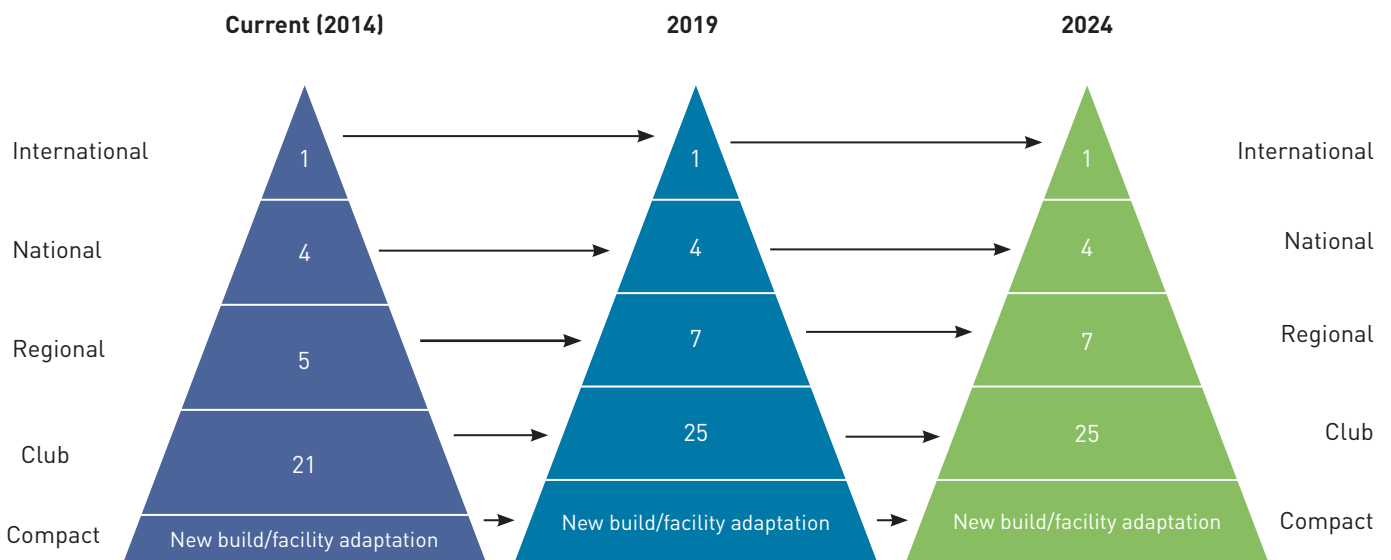
Athletics Performance needs are currently well served by four national standard competition facilities at The English Institute of Sport – Sheffield, Lee Valley – London, The Emirates Arena – Glasgow and The National Indoor Athletics Centre – Cardiff. In addition, multi-use arena venues (e.g. Birmingham NIA) may also be utilised as they have the flexibility to be adapted for specific competition/spectator requirements.

Athletics specific regional indoor facilities serve a much larger catchment area than their outdoor equivalents and

they rely heavily on clusters of clubs, regular community/school usage and cross boundary competition programmes in order to make them operationally viable.

Accordingly, UKA has an aspiration for 90% of the UK population to be within a 60minute drive of a regional indoor facility, and based on these criteria there is currently good coverage across the UK. In areas where drivetime exceeds 60minutes a facility a needs assessment (See Appendix 5) should be conducted in liaison with the HCAF to assess the viability of an indoor proposal.

Figure 7.0 - Indoor Track & Field Facilities: Current and projected facility hierarchy



Club/Community level

Indoor provision at club/community level (whether a basic indoor straight or the utilisation of multi-sport indoor facilities), provide excellent venues for winter training, low level competitions: Sportshall, jumps festivals and recreational/fitness activities: AthleFit, athletics365.

Areas with high levels of track and field club membership and/or comprehensive community athletics programmes should ideally be able to access appropriate indoor provision within a 20minute drivetime so that activities can be continued throughout the year. Where this is not the case and opportunities

arise to influence new/redeveloped indoor facilities; UKA and HCAF will look to engage early on in the planning process in order to ensure that local athletics needs are considered and included in any design specifications.

As with outdoor facilities the main focus of this strategy is to protect and enhance of the current stock of indoor athletics facilities and support the development of multi-use indoor facilities that can provide all year round participation opportunities (e.g. adaptation of multi-use Sportshall areas).



3. RUNNING FACILITIES

MORE PEOPLE RUNNING AND RUNNING MORE OFTEN

It is important to note, that the sport of athletics is not confined to track & field facilities and road, trail, fell, cross country and mountain running are important disciplines with very high levels of participation across the UK.

The “facilities” for cross-country, trail and fell running are well served by existing natural environments and therefore this strategy focuses on providing three levels of “facility solutions” in areas where research suggests that the removal of physical barriers will help to unlock high levels of latent demand. (E.g. a lack of safe, readily accessible doorstep running routes in urban areas).

Common to all Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) is an ambition to get more people running and

running more often; creating a nation where running is the most popular individual sporting pursuit.

The 2014 UK Active Report “Turning the Tide of Inactivity,” recognises the growing issue of physical inactivity across the UK. Running and athletics are well positioned, accessible activities that support the development of healthier people and communities, and UKA is committed to working collaboratively with HCAFs and key strategic partners to identify and promote new initiatives, programmes and facilities that will encourage regular participation in sport and physical activity regardless of age, circumstance or ability.



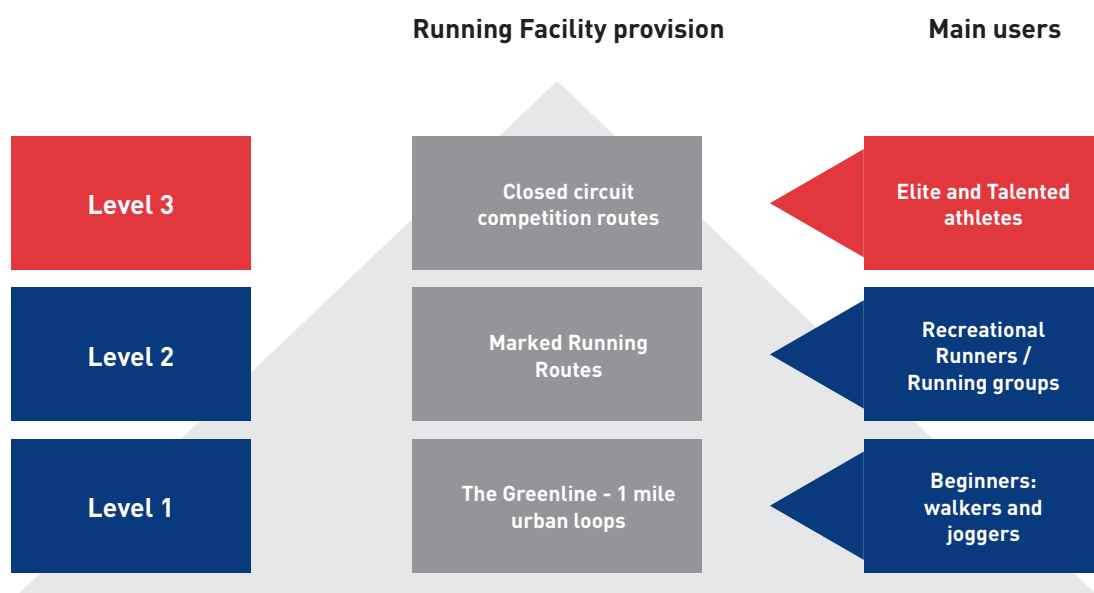
UK Active: Turning the tide of inactivity Report (2014)

- **Inactivity** - One in four people in England fail to achieve more than 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity per week over a 28-day period.
- **Cost and spend** - Reducing physical inactivity by just one per cent a year over a five year period would save local authorities £1.2 billion.
- **Leisure facilities** - The most inactive local authorities have on average a third fewer facilities than the least inactive areas.
- **Green spaces** - The utilisation of green space, rather than its volume, is the determining factor in reducing levels of physical inactivity.

Reaping the benefits of physical activity requires regular participation and providing environments that lead to positive experiences are vital in encouraging lifelong participation. Research shows that these environments are characterised by enjoyment, participation, inclusivity, friendship; are easy and safe to access, free to the user and led by committed and passionate people.

In many areas of the UK “facilities” for off-track running are well serviced by existing natural environments (parks, rivers, canals, public footpaths); and this strategy focuses on supporting new running facility solutions in areas where the removal of physical barriers will help unlock latent demand.

Figure 8.0 - Levels of running “facility” provision



URBAN/CITY 1 MILE FITNESS LOOPS



Activity

- Targeting beginners (someone who can walk/jog for 30seconds)
- Key demographic – currently inactive, particularly females
- Usage of fitness loop enhanced by organised group led sessions
- Qualified Coaches to lead community sessions
- Informal walking, jogging and personal challenges
- Supporting health improvement programmes (e.g. Cardiac rehab, Couch to 5k)
- Progression routes into local community clubs and events (e.g. Parkrun, Great Run Local, Race For Life)



Facilities

- 1mile fitness loops for beginners
- Located in urban, city, housing estate and educational establishments (e.g. University campuses)
- Targeting areas of high latent demand
- Stud floor markers every 2meters
- Additional quarter mile disc markers
- Directional post waymarkers
- Minimum of 2 x "In route" information boards
- Well lit
- Level surface suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users
- For further information on 1mile urban fitness loops see Appendix 8



NATIONAL RUNNING ROUTES



Activity

- Targeting existing/lapsed runners
- Pace/Distance/Interval/Fartlek training
- Venue for club training runs
- Routes for individual training sessions
- Permanent race and/or club challenge routes
- Linked to running apps



Facilities

- Linear or circular routes of any distance
- Traffic free where possible
- Well drained, even surface free of obstructions
- Well marked route with regular signage, waymarkers and floor markings (where applicable)
- Information boards and signage at main route entry points
- Distance markers along the route
- Utilising existing infrastructure (parks, cycle routes, canals etc)
- Route inspected annually



CLOSED CIRCUIT RUNNING ROUTES



Activity

- Club /individual training/competition venues in surroundings not affected by other road users
- Traffic free road race venue
- Road Relay competition venue (Regional/National)
- Pace/Distance/Interval/Fartlek training
- Training camps
- Regional/ National endurance workshops
- Coach Education courses
- Wheelchair training
- Cycling/multi-sport usage



Facilities

- Co-located with other facilities (e.g. Athletics Track, Leisure Centre, Closed circuit cycle track)
- Closed circuit (Minimum 1500m, maximum 5000m)
- Recommended circuit width of 6–8m
- Drainage system
- Hard wearing surface consisting: sub base, base course, wearing course
- Floodlit
- Distance markers
- PA system across whole route
- Start/Finish area width of 7–8m
- Loops to include hill/bend sections
- Landscaped (trees/banking/grassed verges) for spectators and route aesthetics
- Perimeter fencing
- Emergency vehicle access points



RUNNING FACILITIES – A 2024 VISION

UKAs vision over the next decade is to support the HCAFs to develop a network of appropriately designed jog/walk/run routes that provide accessible opportunities for people of all ages and abilities across the UK.

Performance Training and Competition

At performance level feedback from competition and event organisers and running clubs is that opportunities for training and competition are becoming increasingly challenging due to stringent safety requirements (e.g. Road closures, traffic management at road races) as well as a general increase in the usage of highways and byways by other users.

Akin to the closed circuit cycling model, UKA will look to work with partners to pilot a Closed Circuit Road Running training and competition venue by 2016. If successful, the venue will be used as a model of good practice that can then be replicated in other key areas of the UK.

National Running Routes

Locally UKA encourages HCAFs to develop nationally branded marked running routes that target areas of latent demand and provide easy to access local running/jogging opportunities; encouraging new and more sustained levels of participation.

Beginner routes in urban areas

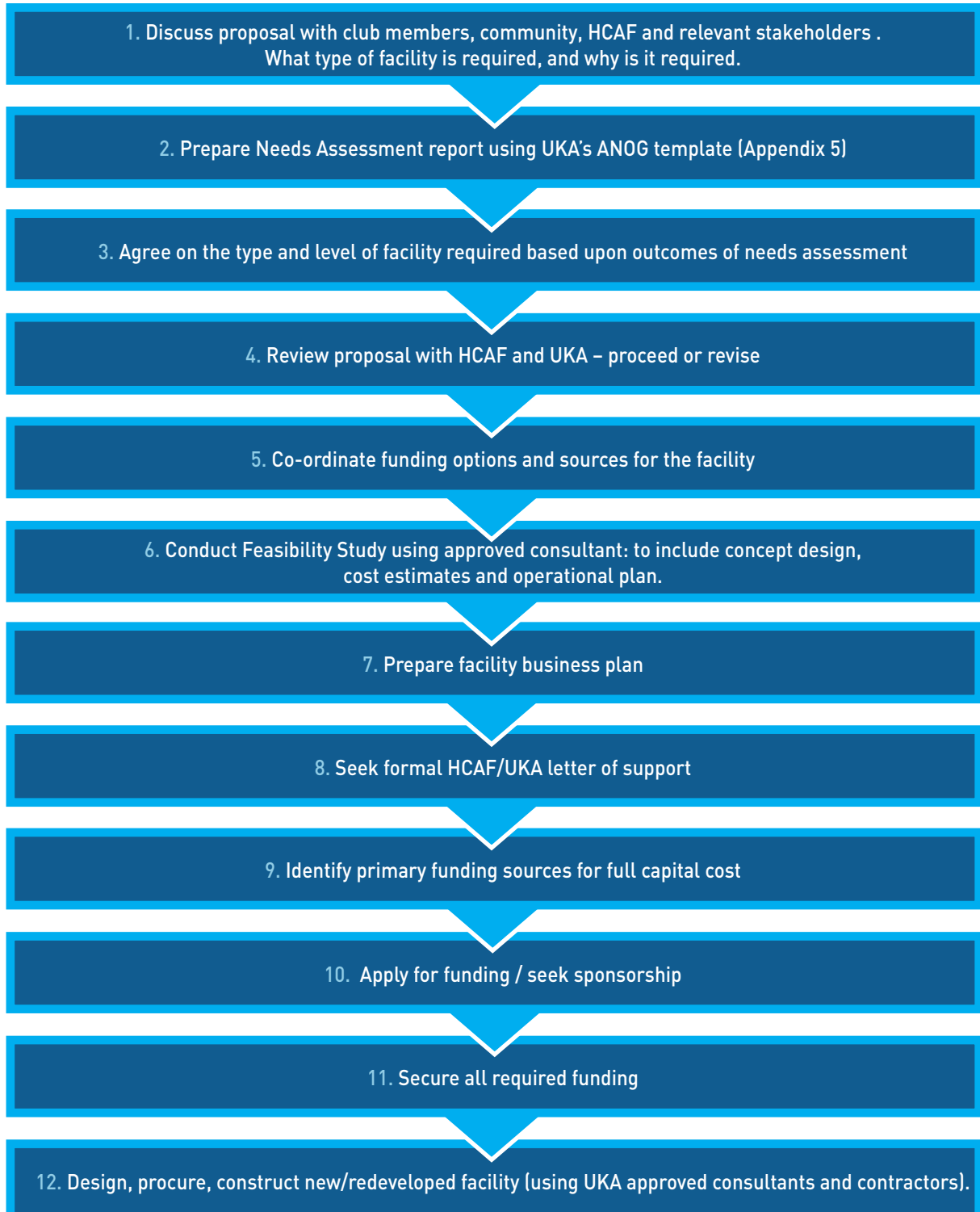
Underpinning national running routes is a vision for a new network of city/urban based 1mile "Greenline" fitness loops. Developed in response to participation insight and target group consultation the loops will be located in urban areas of high latent demand and will provide safe, well-marked, entry level routes for absolute beginners.

The Greenline model is designed to unlock the latent demand for running and UKA/HCAFs aspiration is to have at least 1 route in 15 different UK cities by 2019. (See Appendix 8 for more information)



4. FACILITY PLANNING PROCESS

Crucial to the delivery of UKA's 2024 vision is a planned approach to facility development over the next 10years. To ensure that developments align to the UKA Facility hierarchy all new or redevelopment facility proposals should follow UKA's 12 step planning process outlined below. It should be noted that the assessment should be proportionate and based around the particular nature of the study area and the level of detail required by the proposal.



5. SUMMARY

The strategy sets out the needs of the sport for the next decade and provides a 12 step process and needs assessment toolkit that supports facility owners, operators, member clubs and stakeholder organisations to make informed decisions about the

development of affordable, sustainable and appropriate athletics facilities that will encourage and increase participation, strengthen member clubs and support UKAs objective of improving performance in every event and in every age group.



6. USEFUL FURTHER INFORMATION

Technical documents

- IAAF: Track and Field Facilities Manual 2008
- SAPCA Code of Practice for the Construction of Outdoor Track & Field Athletics facilities (2014)
- UK Athletics: Track and Field Facility Guide 2005
- Sport England: Athletics Design Guidance note March 2008
- Sport England: Accessible Sports Facilities 2010
- Sport England: Developing the Right Sports Hall 2011
- Sport England: Pavilions and Clubhouses Design Guide 2000
- Compact Athletics Design Guide 2014
- The Greenline 2014
- National Running Routes 2014 (TBC)

Useful websites

- www.englandathletics.org
- www.scottishathletics.org.uk
- www.athleticsni.org
- www.welshathletics.org
- www.sportengland.org
- www.sportscotland.org.uk
- www.sportni.net
- www.sportwales.org.uk
- www.uka.org.uk
- www.iaaf.org
- www.sapca.org.uk

7. LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Methodology
2. UKA Athlete Development Model
3. Sport England - Accessible Sports Facilities (2010)
4. EFDS "Access for All" (2013)
5. Assessment of Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)
6. SE Design Guide – Pavilions and Clubhouses
7. SE Design Guide – Compact Athletics Facilities (2014)
8. The Greenline guidance document (2014)

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