



EAST HERTS COUNCIL

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS
AUDIT**

FINAL STRATEGY

JULY 2010

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ **F** 0161 764 7490 ◀ **E** mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ **www.kcp.co.uk**



Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Louise Hunsley	17 th February 2010
Quality control	Claire Fallon	1 st March 2010
Client comments	Jenny Pierce	March 2010
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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy for East Herts Council (EHC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities between 2010 and 2021. This Strategy will be capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear investment strategy for outdoor sports facility provision within the local authority area;
- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all outdoor sports facility providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas up to 2021;
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime;
- ◀ Recording progress against clearly defined Key Performance Indicators.

1.1: Vision

The proposed vision for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities (including ancillary facilities) in East Herts is that:

'By 2021 East Herts will have a range of outdoor sports facilities across the District which are focused and well managed and which offer increased opportunities for all to participate in both formal and informal sport and physical activity, thereby enhancing the quality of life and health of its residents.'

1.2: Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision and usage within the District and it provides:

- ◀ A strategic framework for improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sports facility stock in the District.
- ◀ A strategic vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities (including ancillary facilities) in East Herts.
- ◀ Robust evidence to support work on the East Herts Local Development Framework.
- ◀ An Area-wide and area-by-area sport-by-sport action plan.
- ◀ A site-specific action plan (where action is deemed necessary to maintain or improve quality).

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The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the District, which should be implemented from 2010 to 2021. It should be recognised that the Strategy and Action Plan is outlined to provide a framework and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partners and possible sources of external funding have been identified. There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs, town and parish councils and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements). This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

The site-by-site Action Plan provides recommended actions for each site, based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

1.3: Strategic framework for playing pitch facility improvements

The following objectives within this Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and evaluation. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

1.4: National context

The provision of an accessible range of community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Sport England Strategy

Sport England has recently clarified its primary role; to grow, sustain and excel participation in community sport. Its ambition is to get more people playing and enjoying sport and to help those with talent get to the very top. It seeks to achieve this through working closely with national governing bodies of sport and building strong partnerships with local authorities.

The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- ◀ One million people doing more sport.
- ◀ A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who drop out of five key sports.
- ◀ Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- ◀ A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience.
- ◀ A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

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Game Plan

Game Plan is the Government's strategy for sport and physical activity through to 2020. It was published in December 2002 and presents a vision for England to become the most active and successful sporting nation in the world. It sets an ambitious target of encouraging 70% of the UK's population to lead an active life by 2020 and for Sport England to increase participation 1% year on year.

A key premise of Game Plan is that participation levels need to be raised for the whole population, but that interventions should focus upon economically disadvantaged groups and within those, especially on young people, women and older people. For young people, a linked aim is to develop 'physical literacy' (i.e., ability across a range of skills). It also identifies the relevance and the importance of locally available facilities.

Playing to Win

'Playing to Win' is the Government's plan to get more people taking up sport simply for the love of sport; to expand the pool of talented English sportsmen and women; and to break records, win medals and win tournaments for this country.

The vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport. To deliver this vision, there is a need to develop an integrated and sustainable sporting system which will nurture and develop sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

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PART 2: SUMMARY OF ISSUES FROM ASSESSMENT REPORT

This section summarises the key issues identified in the Assessment Report. The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the consultation findings whilst drawing upon a core series of objectives which should be applied across the board and should not be attributed to any one particular type of facility. The Action Plans which form Part Five of this report are intended to focus specifically on particular sport/facility issues.

2.1: Football

- ◀ KKP identified a total of 373 teams playing in East Herts.
- ◀ FA demand trend analysis and team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in East Herts are significantly higher than national and regional averages.
- ◀ There is an increasing trend in East Herts towards the development of large clubs with multiple teams, where 20-30 teams are commonplace. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have to use facilities across a range of sites. Participation rates for youth male football are the highest in the Region.
- ◀ The audit identifies 55 sites available for community use, providing a total of 125 pitches. In addition, there are 16 sites containing 24 pitches which are not currently accessible to the community.
- ◀ 13 sites (comprising 21 senior, three junior and nine mini pitches) are overplayed by 27 matches each week.
- ◀ Clubs report that membership levels have remained static over the previous five years. However, clubs in East Herts report high levels of latent demand which is likely to be as a result of both clubs and facilities operating at capacity.
- ◀ There is an apparent need for investment in ancillary facilities, primarily because they are not keeping pace with improvements in pitch quality.
- ◀ Large clubs tend to be accommodated across a number of sites without a permanent base and are thus often perceived as 'roaming'. This has resulted in these clubs expressing significant levels of latent demand.
- ◀ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 12.6 teams by 2021.
- ◀ The PPM highlights a significant deficit of junior and mini pitches across the District. In some respects this is attributed to the high incidence of junior and mini teams using senior pitches.

2.2: Cricket

- ◀ There are 45 cricket pitches available for community use in East Herts, accommodating 133 teams (including senior and junior).
- ◀ Site assessments score the quality of cricket pitch provision as good.
- ◀ There is a strong senior and junior league structure which supports high levels of participation.
- ◀ Partners should support clubs to develop women's and girl's teams, where there is demand for such provision.
- ◀ Although it is difficult to fully express overplay through calculating the capacity of cricket pitches, it would appear, through analysis of play that there are a number of pitches operating over capacity i.e. Walkern Playing Fields (KKP Ref 89) and Springhall Road Cricket Ground (KKP Ref 69).

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- ◀ Latent demand for two cricket pitches has been reported by Cokenach and Watton-at-Stone cricket clubs.
- ◀ Although there is an anticipated surplus of cricket pitches in the District, this can be attributed to the large number of cricket pitches located in the rural settlements that are used below capacity.

2.3: Rugby

- ◀ There are 34 rugby union pitches in the District. Six clubs play on rugby pitches provided at privately owned sports clubs in East Herts, generating 80 teams (including senior, junior and mini).
- ◀ The distribution of rugby pitches is concentrated in the M11 Stort Corridor and the Hertford-Ware analysis areas.
- ◀ Datchworth RUFC has recently lease purchased additional land alongside Datchworth Green (located next to the existing site) to provide an additional senior rugby pitch and three mini rugby pitches.
- ◀ Pitches at Bishop's Stortford RUFC, Bishop's Stortford RUFC (Fire Brigade) and Hertford RUFC are overplayed on a weekly basis (due to juniors playing on senior pitches). The ground is also shared with Bishops Stortford Swifts FC.
- ◀ No latent demand has been identified by clubs.
- ◀ There is much spare capacity at the secondary schools in East Herts, where although there are rugby pitches, they are not used for community use. This is due to a number of reasons including poor quality and lack of demand from local clubs to use school facilities.
- ◀ TGRs for rugby in East Herts are good compared to national averages, particularly at senior men's level and junior boys.
- ◀ There is anticipated to be a deficit of junior and mini pitches, in particular in the A1 (M) Corridor and M11 Stort Corridor analysis areas. This can be attributed to juniors not having dedicated pitches at club sites and the inclusion of school rugby pitches not currently in use although available.

2.4: Hockey

- ◀ There are six STP's and eight grass hockey pitches in East Herts. The majority of STP's are located at education sites.
- ◀ Site assessments generally rate the quality of all STP's in East Herts as good quality. STP's at education sites Simon Balle High School and Hockerill Anglo College will both need to be re-carpeted in the next two years. A sinking fund is in place for both pitches to fund this, as and when required.
- ◀ Membership levels at Hertford and Bishop's Stortford hockey clubs have increased in the previous three years.
- ◀ STP provision is concentrated in the Hertford-Ware Area and M11 Stort analysis areas.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club reports latent demand for one STP (i.e. two senior teams).
- ◀ Towards a Level Playing Fields suggests that an STP should not accommodate more than four matches per week. Using this guidance, Hockerill Anglo-European College STP is overplayed by one competitive match on a Peak Day (usually Saturday).
- ◀ It is not thought that current or future demand for hockey will attribute to the need for more STP provision in East Herts. Accessibility and management issues at existing sites are more of a priority to tackle. However, it will be important in future to tenure

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equality of access to facilities across a range of sports, for example to accommodate football training.

2.5: Bowls

- ◀ Three quarters of clubs report senior membership levels have remained the same over the previous three years. Sawbridgeworth is the only Club to report an increase in senior membership.
- ◀ Clubs envisage that any increase in membership will be accommodated at existing facilities.
- ◀ Clubs generally do not believe that increasing the quantity of bowling greens in the area would increase club membership. One club; Bengo suggests it would have an additional ladies members if there were separate ladies changing rooms available at its home ground team (Bengo Bowling Club 213).
- ◀ Site assessments rated all bowling greens in East Herts as either good or excellent. No greens received a poor rating.
- ◀ There are four greens available for pay and play in the District. Pay and play is important as it can help to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and revenue of sites.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

2.6: Golf

- ◀ There are ten golf clubs in East Herts and three driving ranges. Ash Valley Golf Course is the only public course in the area.
- ◀ Clubs generally regard the quality of their courses as good or excellent.
- ◀ Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no significant gaps in the provision of golf courses in East Herts. Minor gaps are identified close to the Stevenage boundary, however, it is assumed that provision in Stevenage will contribute to meeting this shortfall.
- ◀ Demand for provision appears to have remained static over the past year. In general, the clubs in East Herts have capacity to increase their membership, particularly with regards to junior players.
- ◀ The Active People Survey shows that golf participation in East Herts has increased slightly from 5.73% in 2005/06 to 6.28% in 2007/08. However, clubs KKP consulted with identify senior participation levels have either remained static or decreased over the last three years.

2.7: Tennis

- ◀ East Herts provides 118 tennis courts. In total, there are ten affiliated LTA tennis clubs and three unaffiliated clubs in the District.
- ◀ Consultation reports membership levels, in particular juniors, have increased in the previous three years and is likely to further increase. However, it appears current levels of demand can be met at present.
- ◀ Demand for floodlighting has been identified at four sites in the District; Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club (KKP Ref 69), Hertford Tennis Club (KKP Ref 1), Bishop's Stortford (KKP Ref 194), Watton-at-Stone ((KKP ref 103).
- ◀ Latent demand for additional courts has been expressed by St Margaretsbury Tennis Club. It believes if it had access to more courts it would have more members.

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- ◀ Any growth in Buntingford would result in the need for access to additional court time.
- ◀ There is limited community use of tennis courts at education sites, primarily due to a lack of demand for such provision. Clubs in the District already have established home grounds and therefore demand for accessing off site courts is low.
- ◀ Site assessments score the majority of sites (57%) as good quality. Over one in ten (13%) courts was assessed as poor or below average quality. Two sites (providing a total of six courts) were identified through site assessments as derelict. These courts could potentially be restored or converted into hardstanding MUGAs, if demand was identified.

2.8: Athletics

- ◀ Herts Phoenix Athletics Club is the main athletics club in East Herts. In addition, there are two road running clubs; Ware Joggers and Bishop's Stortford.
- ◀ There is an eight lane, floodlit, synthetic athletic track located at Wodson Park, located in the Hertford-Ware analysis area,
- ◀ Consultation and site assessments score the athletic track as excellent quality.
- ◀ Current provision for athletics in East Herts is meeting demand.

2.9: Netball

- ◀ There are 48 netball courts across 18 sites in East Herts. The majority are located at education sites.
- ◀ Club membership levels have increased in the previous three years at both senior and junior level. This is also supported by The Active People Survey which shows that netball participation in East Herts has increased from 0.76% in 2005/06 to 1.29% in 2007/08.
- ◀ Over a third of netball courts were assessed as good quality (66%). Wodson Park Sports Centre courts and Birchwood High School (one court) are rated as excellent quality.
- ◀ There are a large number of netball leagues playing at central venue sites of which the majority are located outside of East Herts. Bishop's Stortford Netball League is the only central venue league using outdoor courts at Birchwood High School. During the summer, the courts accommodate permanent tennis nets. Consultation reports the School is reluctant to remove the nets to allow netball activity during the netball season.
- ◀ There is demand for a central venue league and site in East Herts. However, a facility with a minimum of six – eight courts, ancillary facilities and volunteer support would be needed. This would help alleviate demand at other central venue leagues across the County.
- ◀ There is a lack of floodlit netball courts for training. In addition, clubs also report a lack of indoor provision. As a result, clubs are forced to travel into neighbouring authorities to access provision.

2.10: Education

- ◀ There are 77 playing pitches, 52 tennis courts and 62 netball courts at schools in East Herts.
- ◀ Community use at primary school sites is minimal. A number of secondary schools allow community use of outdoor sports facilities, including, The Chauncy School, Freman College and The Leventhorpe School.

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- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of sports facilities (pitch and non pitch) at school sites varies across the District.
- ◀ Changing provision at the large majority of secondary school sites is considered to be poor and undersized.

PART 3: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

3.1: Introduction

The following section provides a framework for EHC and its partners to maintain and improve the playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities across the District. The overall vision in East Herts is to achieve an increase in sport and physical activity in line with regional and national targets and aspirations. In order to achieve this, it is vital that the Strategy, emerging from the Assessment Report, provides all stakeholders in the District with an opportunity to deal with the issues inside a clear, yet achievable, framework.

There is an opportunity to galvanise the emerging strength of the East Herts Community Sports Network (CSN) as a recognised body which monitors and evaluates the delivery of facility improvements across the District notwithstanding the Council's overall strategic lead role.

The Strategy will also respond to other drivers including the Sustainable Community Strategy, sports development objectives and as appropriate, Building Schools for the Future or any such replacement programme.

3.2: Vision

The vision takes account and draws upon the Council's corporate priorities which aim "to improve the quality of people's lives and preserve all that is best in East Herts."

The Council states six corporate priorities in working to achieve its aim:

- ◀ Enhance the quality of life, health, and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.
- ◀ Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.
- ◀ Improve standards of the neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.
- ◀ Care for and improve our natural and built environment.
- ◀ Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.
- ◀ Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.

This new Sustainable Community Strategy will become the over-arching framework for all key services in the District covering the period 2009 to 2024. The Strategy has been developed in close collaboration with the emerging Local Development Framework (Core Strategy) which will guide future land use and spatial planning in the area and other key strategies such as housing, community safety, health, economic and cultural strategies. Hence it is important that this Strategy also recognises the vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy which aims to:

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Create a thriving, fair, and inclusive East Herts that safeguards and enhances our unique mix of rural and urban communities, where people choose to live, work and visit because:

- ◀ It is safe, clean, green and well connected;
- ◀ Everyone matters and can take part in decisions that affect their lives; and
- ◀ There are sustainable economic and social opportunities that improve quality of life and are available to all.

The proposed vision for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities (including ancillary facilities) in East Herts is that:

'By 2021 East Herts will have a range of outdoor sports facilities across the District which are focused and well managed and which offer increased opportunities for all to participate in both formal and informal sport and physical activity, thereby enhancing the quality of life and health of its residents.'

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PART 4: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The proposed vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives (within boxed text which should be adopted as policy) which are supported by a range of management objectives. The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that EHC adopt the following strategic objectives (as policy) to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy:

OBJECTIVE 1

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required).

OBJECTIVE 2

To address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to support high levels of participation.

OBJECTIVE 3

To maximise access to outdoor facilities across the District.

OBJECTIVE 4

To ensure that unmet current demand and future demand is accommodated through planned increases in provision.

OBJECTIVE 5

To support the development of local sports clubs to meet their needs within the District.

PART 5: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives need to be implemented to enable the policy objectives to be delivered. It is recommended that EHC adopt the following management objectives across a range of departments to enable it to achieve the vision of the Strategy:

OBJECTIVE 1

To address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision (as and where required).

- a. Adopt minimum levels of provision which are accessible and sustainable and which commensurate to supporting future demand and which also address the high levels of latent demand identified.
- b. Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- c. Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan. For example, re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for other sports with an identified shortfall (e.g. junior football and mini-soccer), where another solution has not been identified (i.e. access to additional provision).
- d. Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock in the District to accommodate both latent and potential future demand.
- e. Establish an approach to securing developer contributions which prioritises projects according to a range of core criteria (to be developed by the CSN but which as a core should identify strategic need, sports development objectives, sustainability of provision and work with target groups).
- f. Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision.

Management objective (a) - Adopt minimum levels of provision which are accessible and sustainable and which commensurate to supporting future demand and which also address the high levels of latent demand identified.

In order to achieve the management objectives set out within the core strategic objective it is vital that EHC has a clear understanding of the surpluses and deficiencies on an area by area basis both now and in the future. The following tables provide a summary of the surpluses and deficiencies (for playing pitches) identified at present and the future levels in 2021. The supporting commentary suggests how such issues can be tackled.

Deficiencies in the supply of playing pitches are expressed by a range of instances which include an overall shortage and/or when existing pitch(es) cannot accommodate existing

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demand, particularly at peak periods and as a result of poor quality facilities which do not offer sufficient capacity. It is important that some surpluses (i.e. spare capacity) are built into the pitch provision and indeed all outdoor sports facilities across the District as an integral aspect of allowing rest and rotation of pitches and also ensuring that pitches are available for training purposes and to support informal play.

The following tables address the issues associated with surpluses and deficiencies in provision which arise across the analysis areas. Recommendations identify the need for additional provision, by analysis area, as identified through Playing Pitch modelling for the future (2021). It is important that the recommendations for pitches are placed within the wider context of demand and housing development and considers facility development which may be feasible in the long-term and where the latent demand/pressure for additional pitches both now and in the future has been identified. The identified deficiencies should be addressed through a range of actions including improvements to the current pitch stock and re-aligning a proportion of the existing pitch stock i.e. changing some senior pitches to junior pitches. Demand for junior provision should be updated in three years (i.e. 2013) to further quantify it in terms of provision required. It is important that the strategy also recognises the long term need for senior pitches as juniors progress into senior football, cricket and rugby.

At the District level there is currently an oversupply of adult football pitches (33.5) and an undersupply of junior football (56.5) and mini-soccer pitches (22.5). Modelling the future 2021 scenario maintains an oversupply of adult pitches (26.7), whilst the undersupply of junior football and mini soccer pitches is exacerbated (67.0 and 28.7 respectively). Cricket pitches are currently at an oversupply of 13.8 pitches likely to drop to 9.6 pitches by 2021 whilst surpluses and deficiencies of rugby pitches correspond with the pattern for football pitches whereby there is a current surplus 11.5 senior pitches but an undersupply of 9.5 junior pitches and 8.0 mini pitches. By 2021 the surplus of senior pitches is anticipated to have reduced to 9.8 whilst the deficiencies of junior and mini pitches increases to 11.1 and 10.0. To a great extent the supply and demand analysis for rugby suggests that the surpluses are currently, and will in the future, be capable of accommodating demand. This needs to be expanded to consider the population increases from additional homes from 2010 through to 2031.

However, these surpluses and deficiencies must be considered within the context of other findings within the report including:

- ◀ Variable community use of school pitches which can contribute to the overall pitches stock.
- ◀ The number of sites which are currently not operating at capacity.
- ◀ The number of sites which have fallen out of use.
- ◀ The potential to re-align the pitch stock i.e. surplus adult pitches could be re-marked as junior pitches. However it is important to note that adult pitches should not be lost completely and levels should also be maintained to support future requirements (i.e. as junior teams progress to adult football) and to ensure capacity at peak usage time is retained.

To ensure that there is an element of future-proofing in-built into the strategy we have modelled future scenarios based on population increases up to 2021. Whilst making accurate predictions is very difficult and can change with lifestyle changes and demographic changes very significantly over a period as short as 11 years, the scenarios

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for the future show, with some certainty that the pressure on junior football and mini-soccer pitches, junior rugby and mini-rugby will increase.

To some extent the identified deficiencies can be overcome either by securing community use at school sites or the re-designation of pitches for which there is an over-supply. Furthermore the re-designation of all surplus adult pitches may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

It is also important, particularly in planning future provision that surpluses and deficiencies are understood on an area by area basis particularly given the very different issues which face the areas. For example, in the rural areas provision tends to remain constant as there are fewer changes to the overall population, however, growth areas such as the M11 Stort Corridor are likely to experience significant housing growth and hence the pressure for new facilities in these areas is likely to be greater. Although the Council is a lead partner in pitch provision, it should support the needs of all sporting clubs and bodies to work together to make the recommendations of this strategy a reality. In effect the CSN provides a suitable network to direct future recommendations.

Figure 5.1: Map of pitch sites located on floodzones

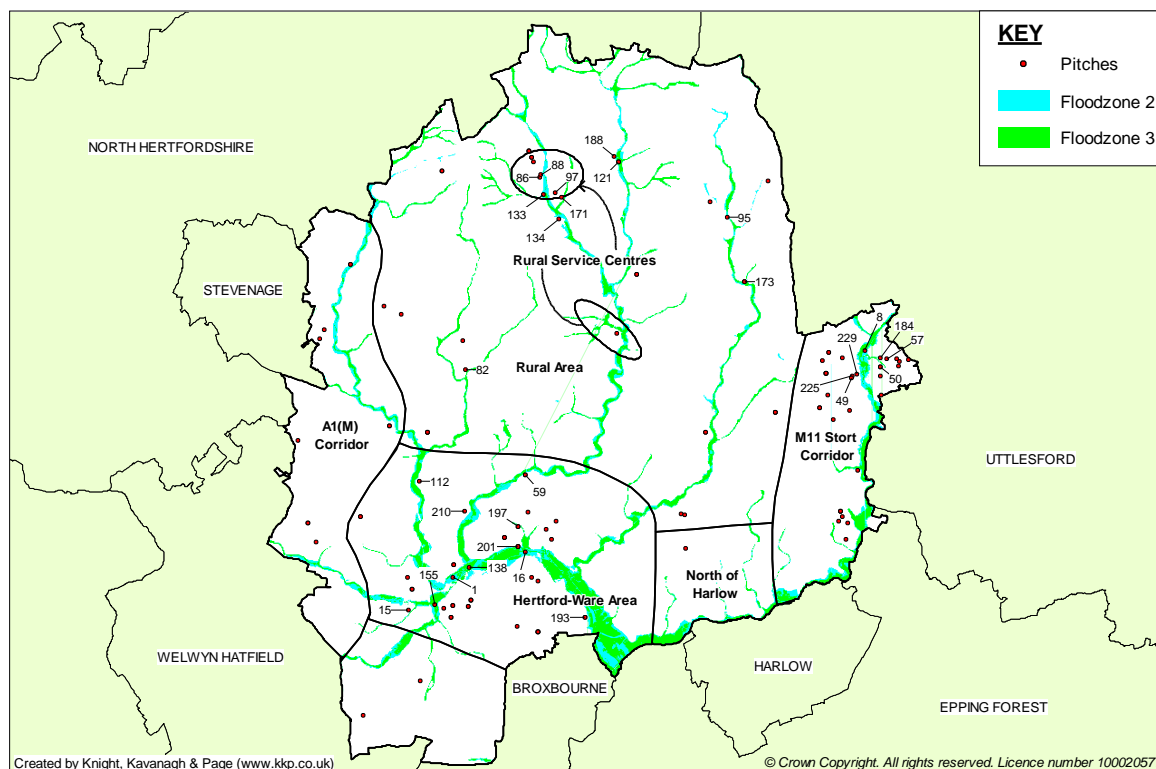


Figure 5.1 highlights those pitch sites which are located within floodzones. All of the pitches (except those at primary school sites) have current play assigned. It is unlikely that this play could be transferred to alternative sites. Whilst it may not be conducive for EHC to invest in sites which are located on the floodplain, in the long term there remains

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a need for provision of such sites. The following sites which are located on floodplains have spare capacity:

KKP Ref	Sites	Spare capacity
86	Buntingford Community Centre	0.5
133	Aspenden Recreation Ground	0.5
134	Westmill Recreation Ground	0.5
188	Hormead Hares	2.0
173	Albury Playing Fields	1.5
50	Hockerill Anglo-European College	8.0
210	Crouchfield	0.5
201	Allenburys Sports & Social	1.5
16	Sacred Heart School	1.0
193	St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club	0.5

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Area-by-area analysis of deficiencies

A1 (M) Corridor

Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease to 0.0 by 2021.</p>	<p>The slight oversupply of adult football pitches in this area should be retained to accommodate overplay within the area identified at Watton-at-Stone playing fields.</p> <p>It is also likely that there will be further adult football pitch pressures in this area as future TGRs predict the creation of a future 0.7 senior teams.</p> <p>Examining the scenario in 2021 there would be an oversupply of less than 0.5 pitches.</p>	<p>The future surplus of mini-soccer pitches is negligible. There is no need to take any action in this area.</p> <p>Short term consideration can be given to re-designating adult football pitches to junior or mini-soccer pitches.</p> <p>EHC should ensure that long term plans for the area include the provision of new adult pitches as well as the protection of all existing pitches.</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of 1.0 estimated to increase to 1.3 by 2021</p>	<p>The slight undersupply of junior football pitches could be met through the re-designation of adult football pitches or increasing the use of Walkern Playing Fields and Aston Playing Fields which currently offer spare capacity.</p>	<p>Short term consideration can be given to re-designating adult football pitches to junior or mini-soccer pitches.</p>
<p><i>Mini-soccer</i> Surplus of 1.0, estimated to remain at 1.0 by 2021</p>	<p>The slight oversupply of adult football pitches in this area should be retained to accommodate potential increases in the area.</p>	<p>The future surplus of mini-soccer pitches is negligible so there is no need to take any action in this area.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i> Surplus of 2.1 estimated to decrease to 1.4 by 2021</p>	<p>It is unlikely that this is a real surplus considering the strength of cricket within this analysis area for both seniors and juniors.</p>	<p>The future surplus should be retained to accommodate latent demand identified by Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i> Surplus is 1.5, estimated to decrease to 1.2 by 2021.</p>	<p>The slight surplus of adult rugby pitches is slightly misleading due to the training usage of the pitches.</p>	<p>In the long-term it is likely that additional pitches will be needed to accommodate Datchworth Rugby Club, particularly at a junior level. EHC should be support any development plans held by the club.</p>
<p><i>Junior Rugby</i> Deficiency of 2.5, estimated to increase to -2.8 by 2021.</p>	<p>The deficiency of junior rugby pitches is due to Datchworth RUFC being based in the area. The club has some access to junior pitches and the junior teams use the adult pitches and this brings subsequent pitch quality issues at Rectory Lane (KKP Ref 110).</p>	<p>The club already have plans to increase the number of pitches at their club site and the Council should be supportive of this aim.</p>

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Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Mini-rugby</i></p> <p>Deficiency estimated at 0.4 by 2021</p>	<p>The deficiency of mini-rugby pitches is due to Datchworth RUFC being based in the area. The club has some access to junior pitches and the junior teams use the adult pitches and this brings subsequent pitch quality issues at Rectory Lane (KKP Ref 110).</p>	<p>The club already have plans to increase the number of pitches at their club site and the Council should be supportive of this aim.</p>

Hertford-Ware Area

Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i></p> <p>Surplus of 16.5, estimated to decrease to 13.4 by 2021.</p>	<p>Senior football is strong in the area. However, if the recommendations are followed in re-designating adult football pitches to junior football and mini-soccer pitches, the level of under utilised pitches will be much reduced.</p>	<p>EHC should seek to maintain this level of provision to allow for a strategic reserve of pitches for rest and recovery and for the fulfilment of latent demand. Alternative sporting uses could also be considered for such sites.</p> <p>It is important that there is management of use at over-played sites whereby play and training is distributed to under-played locations.</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i></p> <p>Deficiency of 37.0 estimated to increase to 43.2 by 2021</p>	<p>There are a very significant number of junior teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches.</p> <p>If the junior teams were playing on junior pitches the undersupply would be decreased.</p> <p>It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.</p>	<p>The undersupply of junior pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into junior pitches. • Increased community use of school sites. • Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.
<p><i>Mini-soccer</i></p> <p>Deficiency of 16.5 estimated to increase to 20.0 by 2021</p>	<p>There are a very significant number of mini teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches.</p> <p>If the mini teams were playing on mini pitches the undersupply would be decreased.</p> <p>It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.</p>	<p>The undersupply of mini pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into mini pitches. • Increased community use of school sites.

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Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.
<p><i>Cricket</i> Surplus of 6.3 estimated to decrease to 4.7 by 2021</p>	<p>It is unlikely that this is a real surplus considering the strength of cricket within this analysis area for both seniors and juniors. It is likely that the surplus is more likely to be expressed as a result of the school pitches which are not currently used to capacity and a number of other pitches which are not currently being used to capacity.</p>	<p>The future surplus should be retained to accommodate future increases in participation.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i> Surplus of 4.5, estimated to reduce to 3.8 by 2021.</p>	<p>The surplus is exaggerated by the perceived availability of school pitches for community use when there is actually very little/no community use.</p>	<p>The surplus is exaggerated by the perceived availability of school pitches for community use when there is actually very little/no community use. The pitches should be retained for reserve/rest.</p>
<p><i>Junior Rugby</i> Deficiency of 3.5, estimated to increase to 4.1 by 2021.</p>	<p>Work with local clubs to address deficiencies.</p>	<p>The Council should be supportive of club facility development plans in the area.</p>
<p><i>Mini-rugby</i> Deficiency of 5.0, estimated to increase to 6.2 by 2021.</p>	<p>Work with local clubs to address deficiencies.</p>	<p>The Council should be supportive of club facility development plans in the area.</p>
<p><i>Tennis</i> Deficiency of courts identified.</p>	<p>Latent demand for additional courts has been expressed by St Margaretsbury Tennis Club. It believes if it had access to more courts it would have more members.</p>	<p>Investigate floodlighting and additional courts to increase capacity.</p>

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M11 Stort Corridor

Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 9.0, estimated to decrease to 7.4 by 2021.</p>	<p>Senior football is strong in the area. However, if the recommendations are followed in re-designating adult football pitches to junior football and mini-soccer pitches, the level of under utilised pitches will be much reduced.</p>	<p>EHC should seek to maintain this level of provision to allow for a strategic reserve of pitches for rest and recovery and for the fulfilment of latent demand. Alternative sporting uses could also be considered for such sites.</p> <p>It is important that there is management of use at over-played sites whereby play and training is distributed to under-played locations.</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of 15.0 estimated to increase to 17.7 by 2021</p>	<p>There are a very significant number of junior teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches.</p> <p>If the junior teams were playing on junior pitches the undersupply would be decreased.</p> <p>It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.</p>	<p>The undersupply of junior pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into junior pitches. • Increased community use of school sites. • Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.
<p><i>Mini-soccer</i> Deficiency of 7.0 estimated to increase to 8.7 by 2021</p>	<p>There are a very significant number of mini teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches.</p> <p>If the mini teams were playing on mini pitches the undersupply would be decreased.</p> <p>It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.</p>	<p>The undersupply of mini pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into mini pitches. • Increased community use of school sites. • Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.
<p><i>Cricket</i> Deficiency of 2.1 estimated to increase to 2.9 by 2021</p>	<p>The deficiency is brought about by the high number of teams playing within the analysis area.</p> <p>It is vital that current sites are protected.</p>	<p>The undersupply of pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community use of school sites. • Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.

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Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<i>Senior rugby</i> Surplus of 0.5, estimated to become a deficiency of 0.1 by 2021.	The presence of Bishop's Stortford RUFC results in a future deficiency of 0.1.	The future deficiency is not considered to be significant to require future action.
<i>Junior Rugby</i> Deficiency of 3.5 estimated to increase to 4.2 by 2021.	The large deficiency of junior rugby pitches is due to the presence of Bishop's Stortford RUFC. The club has limited access to junior pitches.	EHC should be supportive of any pitch development plans.
<i>Mini-rugby</i> Deficiency of 3.0 estimated to increase to 3.4 by 2021.	The large deficiency of junior rugby pitches is due to the presence of Bishop's Stortford RUFC. The club has limited access to junior pitches.	EHC should be supportive of any pitch development plans.
<i>Hockey</i> Deficiency of one STP	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club reports latent demand for one STP (i.e. two senior teams).	Investigate the feasibility of securing STP provision through relocation of secondary schools in the District.

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Rural Area

Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<p><i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 3.5, estimated to decrease to 2.2 by 2021.</p>	<p>Senior football is strong in the analysis area. However, if the recommendations are followed in re-designating adult football pitches to junior football and mini-soccer pitches, the level of under utilised pitches will be much reduced.</p>	<p>EHC should seek to maintain this level of provision to allow for a strategic reserve of pitches for rest and recovery and for the fulfilment of latent demand. Alternative sporting uses could also be considered for such sites.</p> <p>It is important that there is management of use at over-played sites whereby play and training is distributed to under-played locations.</p>
<p><i>Junior football</i> Deficiency of 7.5 estimated to increase to 8.9 by 2021.</p>	<p>There are a very significant number of junior teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches.</p> <p>If the junior teams were playing on junior pitches the undersupply would be decreased.</p> <p>It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.</p>	<p>The undersupply of junior pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into junior pitches. • Increased community use of school sites. • Long term consideration of establishing a new multi-pitch site to service the area.
<p><i>Mini-soccer</i> Surplus of 3.0, estimated to decrease to 2.5 by 2021.</p>	<p>Provision should be protected to accommodate any potential increases in demand.</p>	<p>Surpluses should be maintained. No action required at present.</p>
<p><i>Cricket</i> Surplus of 7.0, estimated to decrease to 6.1 by 2021.</p>	<p>The surplus cannot be equated to one whole pitch being surplus anywhere across the area rather it is comprised of a large number of pitches which are being slightly underplayed. In real terms there is no surplus. It also includes school pitches where there is no community use.</p>	<p>Surpluses should be maintained. No action required at present.</p>
<p><i>Senior rugby</i> Surplus of 5.0, estimated to remain at 5.0 by 2021.</p>	<p>The surplus is exaggerated by the perceived availability of school pitches for community use when there is actually very little/no community use.</p>	<p>Surpluses should be maintained. No action required at present.</p>
<p><i>Junior Rugby</i> No action required.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

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Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<i>Mini-rugby</i> No action required.	No action required.	No action required.

Rural Service Centres

Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<i>Senior football</i> Surplus of 4.0, estimated to decrease to 3.7 by 2021.	Senior football is strong in the analysis area. However, if the recommendations are followed in re-designating adult football pitches to mini-soccer pitches, the level of under utilised pitches will be much reduced.	EHC should seek to maintain this level of provision to allow for a strategic reserve of pitches for rest and recovery and for the fulfilment of latent demand. Alternative sporting uses could also be considered for such sites. It is important that there is management of use at over-played sites whereby play and training is distributed to under-played locations.
<i>Junior football</i> Surplus of 3.0, estimated to remain at 3.0 by 2021.	Junior football is strong in the analysis area. However, if the recommendations are followed in re-designating junior football pitches to mini-soccer pitches, the level of under utilised pitches will be much reduced.	EHC should seek to maintain this level of provision to allow for a strategic reserve of pitches for rest and recovery and for the fulfilment of latent demand and also to support progression of mini-soccer players into junior football.
<i>Mini-soccer</i> Deficiency of 3.0 estimated to increase to 3.4 by 2021.	There are a very significant number of mini teams in this analysis area that are playing on/across adult pitches. If the mini teams were playing on mini pitches the undersupply would be decreased. It is vital that all current sites are protected from development.	The undersupply of mini pitches should be rectified through a range of methods including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conversion of senior pitches (not a holistic approach) into mini pitches. • Increased community use of school sites.
<i>Cricket</i> Surplus of 0.5, estimated to decrease to 0.3 by 2021.	As demand currently meets supply and it is predicted that participation would slightly increase (due to population increases) in the long term, there is no need for EHC to take any action in this area. The small surplus should be maintained.	Surpluses should be maintained. No action required at present.
<i>Senior Rugby</i> No action required.	No action required.	No action required.
<i>Junior Rugby</i> No action required.	No action required.	No action required.

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Summary of surpluses/Deficiencies	Key issues	Proposed action
<i>Mini-rugby</i> No action required.	No action required.	No action required.

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In view of significant deficiencies in football in the Hertford-Ware, and football, cricket and rugby in the M11 Stort Corridor areas, the creation of new multi-pitch sites are the only long term option. Whilst there is capacity for some re-designation of senior pitches to junior and mini pitches it is important to note that this is not a holistic approach and that there is a need to ensure pitch provision meets the needs of senior football at the current and future levels.

Proposals to relocate two secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford are unclear as yet regarding the overall changes to the pitch stock. This could provide significant opportunities for higher quality and more accessible pitches in the area.

Another potential solution for the M11 Stort Corridor area is to secure community access to the Jobbers Wood Playing Fields to the west of Bishop's Stortford. The school is currently applying to alter the current planning restrictions to enable wider use of the site by other organisations.

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Management objective (b) - Regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that EHC maintains the data contained within the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable EHC to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners across the District via a consultative mechanism such as the CSN.

Management objective (c) - Rectify inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities in line with the Action Plan. For example, re-designate a proportion of the surplus adult pitches for other sports with an identified shortfall (e.g. junior football and mini-soccer), where another solution has not been identified (i.e. access to additional provision).

EHC and partners should rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report through improvements to the current pitch stock and ancillary facilities. It is important that the levels of pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future.

Latent demand, national changes in sport participation and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase occurs, it will obviously impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates latent demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

There is a significant level of latent demand for junior football pitches. The Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM) used in the Assessment Report highlights an anticipated future surplus of senior football pitches. Whilst these predictions should not be used in isolation, they are in line with issues highlighted. However, this type of surplus is important to overall levels of provision in the context of using adult pitches to accommodate junior and mini-soccer as multifunctional pitches. Furthermore surplus pitches allow some to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term.

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Table 5.1: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Likely that junior clubs will grow in number and continue to develop into large single entities.	Consider allocating sites to clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities.
	Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players.	Continually invest in the improvement of 'key centres' to improve ancillary facilities (see site by site action plan).
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of facilities across the District.	This is not likely to require additional pitches.
Rugby union	There are a number of strong clubs in the District with facility development plans which aim to consolidate the current provision.	Existing clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with clubs to maintain the current pitch stock.
Hockey	Membership is growing at Hertford Hockey Club and Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club.	Demand for usage of STPs is likely to remain high.
Bowls	Membership remains constant.	Likely that any future increases will be accommodated on existing facilities.
Golf	No golf club (public / private) has a waiting list and senior membership levels remain static. Clubs recognise the need to encourage junior participants to sustain demand.	No demand for additional facilities.
Tennis	Whilst current demand is being met clubs note that junior membership levels are increasing.	Likely to be greater demand for facilities in the future. Increases in capacity can be achieved through floodlighting courts to provide additional hours.
Netball	Club membership is increasing.	Demand for a central venue league site in the District
MUGAs	MUGAs can support a wide range of formal and informal participation opportunities.	Consider re-designating areas which have fallen out of use (e.g. old tennis courts) to become MUGAs.
STPs	Demand for STPs for both hockey and football.	Continue to work with schools and clubs to identify partnership arrangements.

Management objective (d) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock in the District to accommodate both latent and potential future demand

Under utilised and indeed non-utilised pitches identified within this study can be used to improve management practices, for example, by rotating games and resting pitches in the high season. The playing pitch databases include details of sites which appear to have fallen out of use but which have the capacity to contribute to the overall pitch stock in areas of high demand and include for example, Bury Green Farm, Temple Lane Playing Fields and High Street, Ware.

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners including town/parish councils and clubs across the District. This Action Plan should list the improvements to be made to each site. As Section 106 monies are collected (see later in part seven) the upgrades can occur. Section 106 monies should be focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate in each analysis area.

Any potential urban extensions to main towns should include new playing fields, particularly in areas such as Bishop's Stortford.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. In the past where schools have closed, for example the former Pines JMI in Hertford, their playing fields have been converted to dedicated community use which would have helped address any unmet community needs at this time.

Management objective (e) - Establish an approach to securing developer contributions which prioritises projects according to a range of core criteria (to be developed by the CSN but which as a core should identify strategic need, sports development objectives and sustainability of provision).

It is important that this strategy informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the Council approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes on the pitches. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Continue to ensure that where sites are lost, through development or closure, that facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment, re-provision or a contribution for investment should be sought for elsewhere as appropriate in an accessible location.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to a Section 106 Agreement. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ◀ A 'central pot' for developer contributions across the East Herts District should be established to put towards playing pitch facility provision and maintenance, whilst recognising that contributions will need to be ring fenced for use within the area of the District that they originated.

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- ◀ Where new pitches are provided, changing rooms should be located on site.

A full appraisal of the derivation of local standards and their application to section 106 calculations is provided in part seven of this report.

Table 5.2: Playing pitch standards¹ on analysis area by area basis (ha per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Local standard
A1(M) Corridor	2.07
North of Harlow	0.56
Hertford-Ware Area	2.09
M11 Stort Corridor	1.62
Rural Area	3.60
Rural Service Centres	2.37
EAST HERTS	2.00

Table 5.3: Non pitch standards on analysis area by area basis (ha per 1,000 population)

Analysis area	Local standard
A1(M) Corridor	0.12
North of Harlow	0.17
Hertford-Ware Area	0.17
M11 Stort Corridor	0.04
Rural Area	0.09
Rural Service Centres	0.10
EAST HERTS	0.11

Management objective (f) - Work with facility providers to establish an approach to co-ordinate investment to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision.

As the majority of investment in new provision across the District will not be made by EHC directly, it is important that it seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by schools, colleges, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision. In delivering this objective EHC should maintain a regular dialogue with Hertfordshire County Council relating to school developments through BSF (or any replacement programme) and that work continues with sports clubs through the CSN.

¹ Including requirement to meet latent demand

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OBJECTIVE 2

To address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.

- a. Adopt a District wide quality standard.
- b. Increase the capacity of sites.
- c. Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites across the District which accommodate the greatest number of teams and are located in the areas of highest population density including Grange Paddocks (Bishops Stortford), Presdales (Hertford) and Hartham Common (Hertford).
- d. Projects should improve pitch/surface quality as a priority and improvements to ancillary facilities including changing accommodation and parking.
- e. Secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quality of existing outdoor playing fields in the District and provide new ones where a shortfall has been identified or is predicted to be significant in the future.

Management objective (g) – Adopt a District wide quality standard

To support achievement of this objective EHC should adopt the following quality standard for provision, to be achieved by 2021:

‘All outdoor sports facilities should achieve a quality score of 70% and/or be rated as good quality’

This standard, based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, should be used to identify deficiencies and hence investment should be prioritised to those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The policy approach to these outdoor recreation facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

Good quality refers to facilities that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc, have access for disabled people and are supported by good quality ancillary facilities including changing accommodation, toilets and car parking. Please refer to the Sport England quality assessment carried out in the Assessment Audit.

Management objective (h) – Increase the capacity of sites

EHC and partners should work to deliver improvements to pitch sites which are rated as average quality or below. This will assist in increasing the capacity of sites across the District. Those sites which require capacity improvements include those sites identified as poor quality in the Assessment Report.

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Management objective (i) – Invest in key strategic multi-pitch/sport sites across the District which accommodate the greatest number of teams and are located in the areas of highest population density including Grange Paddocks (Bishops Stortford), Presdales (Hertford) and Hartham Common (Hertford).

Consultation has highlighted a number of key sites. These are the sites which are considered to be the most popular. They need to be high quality in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. Partners should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve all sites in the area based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on strategic importance in a District-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

Management objective (j) – Projects should improve pitch/surface quality as a priority and improvements to ancillary facilities including changing accommodation and parking.

It is vital that local clubs and organisations have access to the best facilities possible, both to accommodate current levels of participation and to stimulate new activity. These facilities must meet the minimum specification requirements set out by governing bodies of sport, leagues/competitions as well as (as far as possible) meet the aspirations of sports clubs in the District.

There are a number of rural sites in East Herts which are not served by changing facilities. These sites, in effect, can be considered poor quality. Furthermore there are also some key sites that have poor quality facilities. The lack of (or poor) quality facilities is not conducive to retaining existing players nor attracting new participants. Consultation suggests that it is one of the primary reasons limiting participation, as many clubs identify latent demand.

Due to local authority budget constraints, it is clear that, across the life of this strategy, not all of those sites currently without changing facilities can be upgraded to have suitable changing facilities. Furthermore in some locations the provision of changing accommodation is not economic or efficient. It is therefore important to prioritise those sites which, by upgrading the changing facilities, will have the greatest impact on the largest number (and variety) of teams. The following sites should therefore be considered short-term priorities for partners to upgrade the changing facilities:

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Table 5.4: Short-term priority sites for changing facilities

Site	Analysis area	Current quality	Comments	Recommendation
The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	M11 Stort Corridor	Poor	Small wooden pavilion.	New purpose built changing facility required, suitable for males/ females with separate junior/ senior areas and which is of an appropriate size.
Walnut Drive	M11 Stort Corridor	Very Poor	Portacabin changing.	Work with Thorley CC to upgrade existing temporary facility and provide further changing accommodation to serve the cricket club at the site.
Thundridge Sports Pavilion	Hertford-Ware Area	Poor	Old wooden pavilion in need of refurbishment.	Refurbish the existing facility which services a range of sports.
Benington Playing Fields	Rural Area	Very Poor	Vandalised portacabin - does not appear in current use.	Support the Parish Council to realise this project. Although the site is currently played under capacity it is not clear if this is a consequence of the poor quality changing facilities.
Trinity Road	Hertford-Ware Area	Very Poor	Outdated concrete slab and corrugated roof structure. Difficult to ascertain whether or not the pavilion is in use.	Work with Hertford Heath FC to refurbish the existing facility.
Albury Playing Field	Rural Area	Very Poor	Very poor condition changing accommodation.	Work with Albury CC and Albury FC to ascertain demand for refurbished facilities.
Little Munden Cricket Club	Rural Area	Very Poor	Basic wooden pavilion and adjacent portacabin toilets.	Work with Little Munden CC to ascertain demand for refurbished facilities.

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitch stock, it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity (Sport England suggests that a good pitch can accommodate two matches per week). This is determined by assessing pitch quality and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this, for example at Kings Mead and Bell Lane Playing Fields where pitches scored as average and are overplayed due to poor pitch quality. Whilst this works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being played overcapacity, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular. Hence creating a continuous cycle of overplay. There is a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites

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Management objective (k) – Secure developer contribution wherever possible to improve the quality of existing outdoor playing fields in the district and provide new ones where a shortfall has been identified or is predicted to be significant in the future.

Partners, led by EHC, should ensure that Section 106 funds are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities.

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OBJECTIVE 3

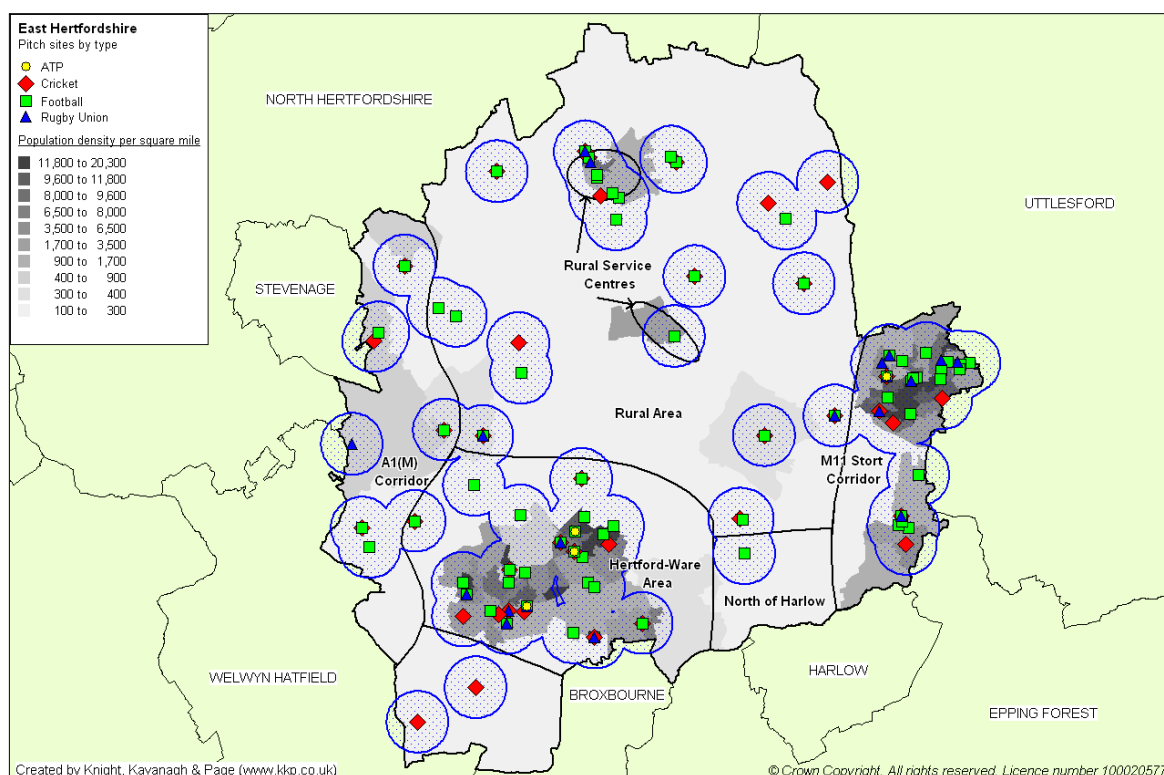
To maximise access to outdoor sports facilities across the District.

- I. Adopt accessibility standards.
- m. Work in partnership with local schools to maintain, improve and encourage community use of school facilities.
- n. Secure tenure and access to sites across the District for high quality, development minded clubs through lease arrangements.

Management objective (I) – Adopt accessibility standards

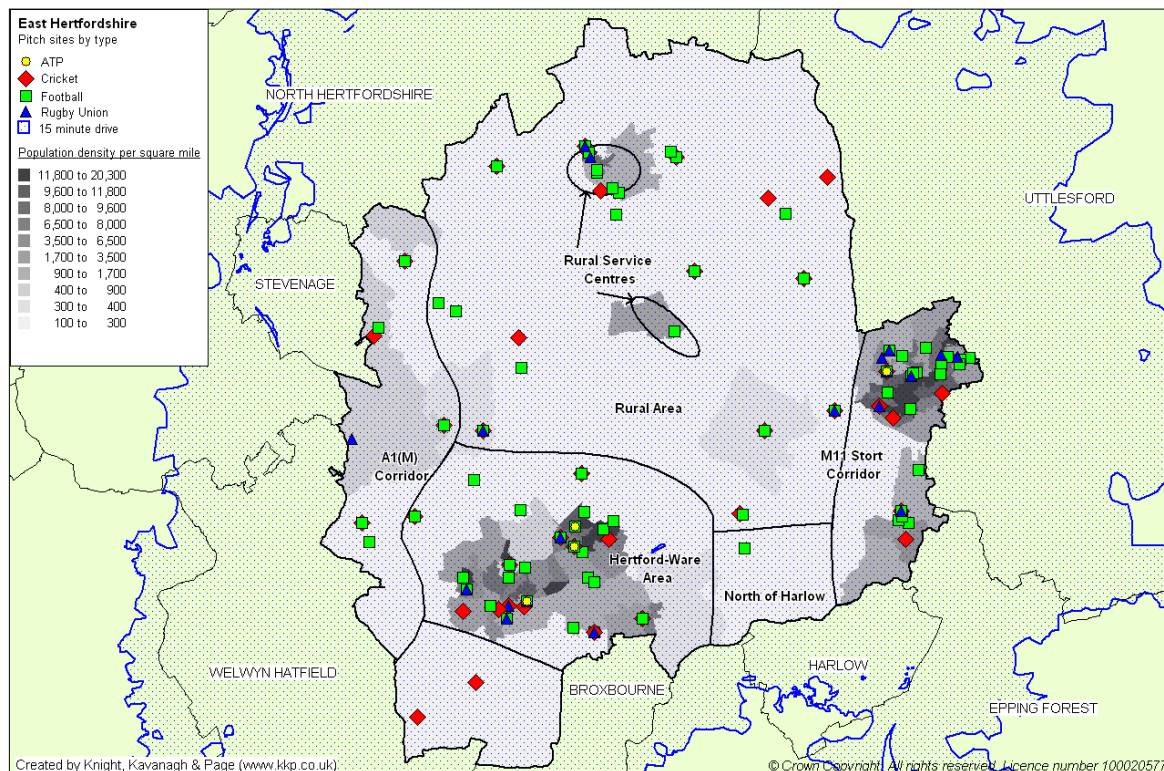
Community access to outdoor sport and recreation facilities in East Herts is important. The use of accessibility standards enables the identification of areas of deficiency. Accessibility in this instance refers to the distance to travel to provision, rather than to access for disabled people. The methodology used to identify catchment areas takes data from user surveys and takes the distance from which the majority of users have travelled to reach sites. The results are rationalised into walking, cycling and for larger sites, public transport and/or driving distances. The approach used adopts 5, 10, 15 or 20 minute travel times and converts them into distances using typical walking, cycling, and public transport or driving times. Taking both into account, we have then recommended a 15 minute walk time distance threshold is applied to outdoor sports in East Herts. This standard has then been used to map pitch and non-pitch facilities to identify deficiencies.

Figure 5.2: Pitch facilities with a 15 minute walk time



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Figure 5.3: Pitch facilities with a 15 minute drive time



Through application of a fifteen minute walk time, it is evident that whilst the main settlement areas (which thus correlate with the patterns of population density) are well served by playing pitch facilities, the main gaps are in the Rural Area. However, this is also indicative of the demand for provision, which to some extent is less in the Rural Area.

Application of a 15 minute drive-time, however, shows a much different picture and suggests that the whole District is well served by pitch provision.

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Figure 5.4: Non-pitch facilities with a 15 minute walk time

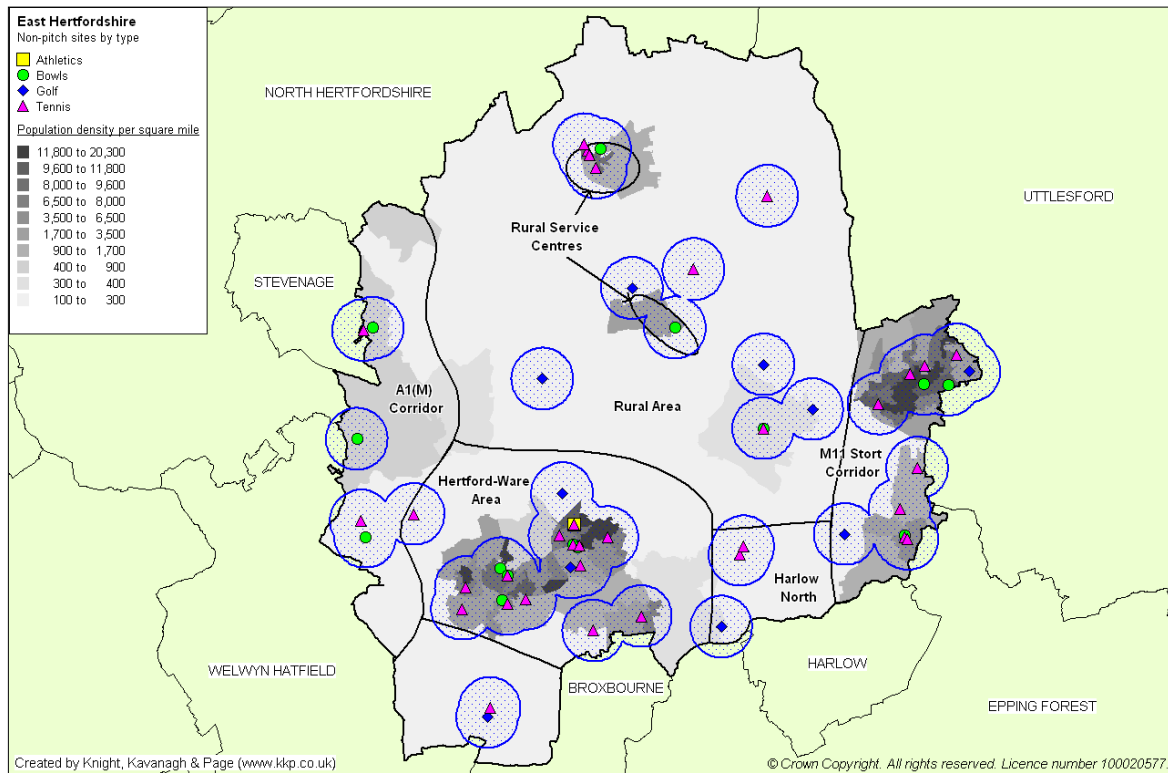
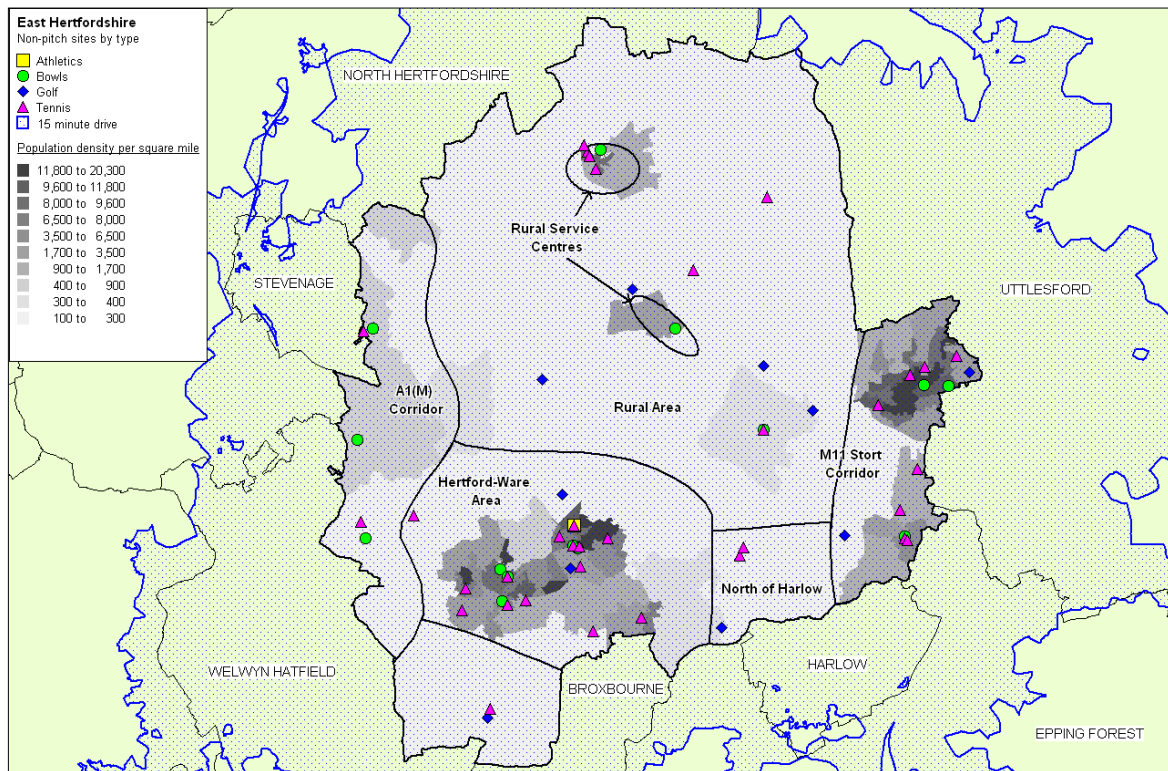


Figure 5.5: Non-pitch facilities with a 15 minute drive time



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The accessibility of non-pitch facilities correlates with access to pitch facilities. Again through application of a fifteen minute walk time, it is evident that whilst the main settlement areas (which thus correlate with the patterns of population density) are well served by facilities, the main gaps are in the Rural Area. However, this is also indicative of the demand for provision, which to some extent is less in the Rural Areas.

Application of a 15 minute drive-time, however, shows a much different picture and suggests that the whole District is well served by outdoor sports facility provision. However, it is important to note that whilst adults are able to travel further to access provision there is a need for more localised provision to support participation for younger players and hence a walk time catchment is more appropriate.

Management objective (m) – Work in partnership with local schools and colleges to maintain, improve and encourage community use of school facilities.

Colleges, secondary schools, and indeed primary schools where the facilities exist, have an important role in a playing pitch strategy. It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established dual use sites, community access to outdoor sports facilities is limited. The assessment report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ School facilities are, in general, unattractive to community clubs (e.g., because of the lack of ancillary facilities).
- ◀ There are no identified standard community use agreements between clubs and schools for outdoor pitches.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing dual-use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Planning Bulletin 16 – School Sites and Community Provision (2004). (www.sportengland.org/planningkitbag).

During the production of this Assessment the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme has been revoked by the Government. Such a programme could provide a new range of shared sports facilities in Hertfordshire to help meet both the current and future needs of the area. It is therefore advocated that a similar programme be developed in partnership with the County Council, local schools, School Sports Partnerships and sports clubs to secure the long term use of school sites for public use.

Where appropriate, it will be important for such schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. The proposals in this document, therefore, need to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ BSF presents an opportunity to deal with some of the issues outlined above. However, it is not the only solution and should only be seen as one part of the strategic approach to the future provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate with developers delivering the BSF programme.

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Hertfordshire's vision for education (for BSF) states as a key feature of the vision that it promotes "*healthy lifestyles for the whole community, with sports facilities and activities that are physically accessible for all*".²

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector (i.e. through the School Sports Partnership) but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure, is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased use of school facilities. This should incorporate the following representation:

- ◀ Sports development officers.
- ◀ Partnership development manager(s).
- ◀ PE/Education officers.
- ◀ Individual school representative.

Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools meets the needs of the local community and contributes towards overcoming deficiencies in the area (as identified in the assessment above).

This work should be delivered without waiting for the arrival of BSF to secure formal community use agreements due to timescales and uncertainty about the future of the programme.

Management objective (n) - Secure tenure and access to sites across the District for high quality development minded clubs through lease arrangements.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority and town/parish council owned and maintained sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. These have not been included in the above priority list as they are used by a single club on a season-by-season basis. Such sites are therefore considered the 'home ground' of the club, despite not always having a long-term lease. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There is potential for a number of sites in the District to be leased to sports clubs and/or organisations. Each club will be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives set out by the District Council. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered,

²<http://www.hertsdirect.org/infobase/docs/pdfstore/vision.pdf>

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which take into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

Table 5.5: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as tier C sites (i.e. not those with a District-wide significance) but which offer development potential.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should require capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> <p>An NGB/EHC representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.</p>

EHC will further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

OBJECTIVE 4

To identify and maintain appropriate levels of provision through both recommending protection of existing provision and identifying opportunities to develop new provision to ensure that demand is sustained.

- o. Adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking.
- p. To use the findings of the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Development Framework to secure new provision from new development in the District.

Management objective (o) – Adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of facilities which allows for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach including ancillary facilities such as changing accommodation and car parking.

East Herts has a number of 'key centres', which are sites which are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mainly to football pitch hire. However, EHC should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve all sites in the District based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a District-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, junior and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities, East Herts has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock across the District. Therefore, there are a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by the local authority or town/parish councils, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the 'home ground' of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are, in effect, 'allocated' to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

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Table 5.6: Proposed tiered site criteria

Tier A Key centres	Tier B Senior/junior sites	Tier C Club sites	Tier D Strategic reserve
Strategically placed in the district context.	Strategically placed in the local and district context.	Strategically placed in the local context.	Strategically placed in the local context.
Could accommodate more than five pitches/courts.	Could accommodate more than three pitches/courts.	Could accommodate more than one pitch/court.	Likely to be single-pitch/court sites with limited demand.
Can serve multiple sports.	Can be single sport provision.	Can be single sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority.	Management control remains within the local authority.	Club either has a long-term lease on site, or hires the pitch for the entire season.	Held as strategic reserve.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms to serve the number of pitches.	Adequate changing to accommodate both senior and junior teams concurrently or which specifically serve one or the other.	Maintenance can be either by the club or remain with the local authority.	Maintenance should remain with the local authority or other management body i.e. parish council.

Tier A sites are sites that have been identified as having District-wide significance. These are the identified 'key centres' and are often multi-pitch sites catering for more than one type of sport and on a weekly basis cater for a high level of play. They should be maintained to a high standard, although in some instances improvements in the quality of these pitches will relieve pressure on football pitches across the District and increase the capacity and adequacy of the pitch stock. The tier A sites in need of improvement are highlighted in the Assessment Report. However, it is recommended that tier A sites are continually improved in order to preserve their status as the key football sites in the District. As multi-pitch sites they should be able to accommodate all types of football concurrently, including male/female mixed mini-soccer, junior male/female 11-a-side football and senior male/female, as well as small-sided football if deemed appropriate (in the form of MUGAs etc.). As a consequence, the following recommendations relate to all tier A sites:

- ◀ All sites should have segregated changing facilities with suitable shower facilities.
- ◀ All sites should have dedicated changing facilities for junior, male and female teams that are of sufficient size and quality for the target user group. It is vital that the changing rooms should be totally secluded for a range of obvious reasons, including child protection issues etc.
- ◀ A mixture of senior, junior and mini-soccer pitches should be located on tier A sites to actively encourage a cross-section of teams to make use of the facilities. The types of pitches should be driven by local deficiencies in pitch types as highlighted in the Assessment Report.

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It is therefore anticipated that a significant amount of the annual maintenance budget, and any available capital investment (Section 106 planning gain etc.) should be spent on such sites. Due to the recommendations highlighted above, any initial investment is considered to be at least a medium-term priority. Management control should remain with the local authority.

Tier B sites recognise the growing emphasis on dedicated football venues catering for both senior and junior (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for junior football are becoming more stringent as the issue of child protection becomes more prominent in society. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for junior football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. At present, there are no dedicated junior and mini-soccer sites in the District. It is anticipated that both junior and mini-football matches will be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at tier A and B sites in order that they complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions. They should be designated as medium priority for investment.

As previously referenced, tier C sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment is relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site, in order that external funding can be sought. It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire / lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Tier D sites are those which are to be made available as strategic reserve which could be used for summer 'friendly' matches, training purposes or informally. They could be single-pitch sites with limited usage, or have no recognised current usage.

Management objective (p) - To use the findings of the Strategy to provide an evidence base for the Local Development Framework to secure new provision from new housing development in the District.

This is important as the assessment has provided the evidence base to justify protecting facilities to meet existing/future needs and therefore the development of appropriate policies through the LDF to secure protection, are required.

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OBJECTIVE 5

To support the development of local sports clubs to meet their needs within the District.

- q. Support high levels of participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.
- r. Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.

Management objective (q) – Support participation at clubs which contribute to the achievement of sports development objectives.

East Herts Council sports development objectives state that “We (the council) will work in partnership with schools, local venues and the voluntary club network to provide and improve opportunities for everyone to participate in the sport and active recreation of their choice and attain their desired level of performance”.

It is important that sports development objectives, to some extent, dictate and are embedded within the outcomes of the Strategy. To this end, the following objectives are suggested for use to monitor and evaluate the future sustainability, and relative success, of facility projects which are identified and supported:

- ◀ Growth and retention.
- ◀ Raising standards.
- ◀ Better players and coaches.
- ◀ Building the workforce.
- ◀ Improving facilities.

Management objective (r) - Work with local clubs which have achieved quality accreditation to, where relevant, identify and secure facility improvements, appropriate sites for new facility development and funding opportunities.

EHC should adopt a policy/charter which supports quality accredited clubs (<http://www.clubmark.org.uk/files/images/clubmark-charter-large.gif>). Clubmark and FA Charter Standard helps clubs to achieve their own aims and ambitions and to support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities, schools/school sport partnerships and other community agencies.

Support to quality accredited clubs may include offering discounted facility hire and priority bookings slots as well as assembling bespoke benefits packages incorporating free or reduced cost access to courses.

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The adoption of a charter as policy also benefits partners:

- ◀ **Grow:** Research suggests that Clubmark clubs are better equipped to drive and manage increased levels of participation; particularly, but not solely, for young people.
- ◀ **Meeting targets:** Having Clubmark clubs to work with will assist local authorities and SSPs to achieve targets for youth participation, the 5 hour offer and school-club links.
- ◀ **Parental confidence:** Being seen to actively address issues such as equity and child protection gives parents confidence when considering or choosing a club for their children - thus helping to boost introductory participation.
- ◀ **Sustaining participation levels:** Clubmark stimulates innovation and improvements to how clubs cater for junior (and all) members. The culture it promotes boosts the morale of players and ensures that volunteers are recognised for their contribution.
- ◀ **Continuous improvement:** Accreditation encourages clubs to adopt better, more organised systems and structures, helping them to run more effectively and efficiently.
- ◀ **Coaches and coaching:** Research suggests Clubmark clubs both deploy more, and work harder to develop the skills of, coaches. This leads to better quality provision and improved player performance.
- ◀ **School-club links:** Increasingly, schools are seeking guarantees of quality and the presence of child-friendly systems and procedures. Clubmark clubs are the first invited to work with local school sport partnerships and individual schools. Teachers and schools staff are actively encouraged to signpost pupils to them.

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5.1: Sport specific objectives

Sports development objectives should also guide delivery of sports specific objectives and should be read within the context of the summary findings identified by the Assessment Report.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

To meet identified deficiencies in junior provision and increase the quality and standard of changing rooms.

Senior football

- ◀ Protect the current playing pitch stock.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ The anticipated surplus of senior pitches should be considered in contributing towards addressing the current and future deficit of junior and mini pitches.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. Charter Standard) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development. This could include varying levels of shared management between the club and the parish council/local authority. Development and management criteria need to be established in order to maintain the viability and financial security of these sites.
- ◀ Continue to support clubs and parish/town councils in the management and identified improvements to their provision.
- ◀ Maximise community use of education sites.
- ◀ Work with clubs to secure potential sites to accommodate latent demand identified.
- ◀ Support clubs with facility development aspirations through the planning and application stages.

Women and girls' football

- ◀ Invest in central venue sites able to accommodate anticipated growth in girls' football.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.

Junior boys' football

- ◀ Work towards meeting likely future deficiencies in junior pitches by also utilising pitch provision at school sites. Encourage greater usage of primary school sites to cater for mini-soccer demand and ensure site security and access to changing facilities is enhanced.
- ◀ Work with clubs to achieve Charter Standard accreditation. As a target the District should work to achieve at least 75% of youth football clubs (in line with County targets) by 2012.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded (i.e. Charter Standard) clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development. This could include varying levels of shared

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management between the club and the parish council/local authority. Development and management criteria need to be established in order to maintain the viability and financial security of these sites.

- ◀ Improve the quality and capacity of existing pitch stock.
- ◀ Meet likely future deficiencies in junior pitches by utilising pitch provision at school sites.

Mini football

- ◀ Meet likely future deficiencies in mini pitches by utilising senior pitches in areas of over supply.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ◀ Encourage greater usage of primary school sites to cater for mini-soccer demand.

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

To maintain current provision levels and quality. However, further pitches may need to be sought in the future to ensure that key focus clubs have access to two pitches.

- ◀ Consider underused pitches in accommodating latent demand expressed by clubs.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop their ancillary facilities to further meet local needs.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed facilitate opportunities for senior women's and junior girls' competitive cricket.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.
- ◀ Increase the quality of cricket pitches where necessary.
- ◀ Work with schools to encourage sharing cricket pitches with clubs in East Herts.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's cricket.
- ◀ Work with clubs to secure potential sites to accommodate latent demand identified.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve cricket net facilities.

RUGBY OBJECTIVE

To work towards meeting identified deficiencies and increase quality as required.

- ◀ As a priority, support club development plans to increase the capacity of sites, particularly to accommodate junior and mini-rugby.
- ◀ Work to secure greater use of education sites for training purposes to reduce overplay on existing sites, particularly along the M11 Stort Corridor. In addition, ensure there is access to changing facilities.
- ◀ Encourage and support development of junior girls' and women's' rugby.
- ◀ Support clubs to improve the standard of lighting on training pitches.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.

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HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

To maintain current levels of provision as a minimum but as a priority increase accessibility to ensure community use is maximised to meet identified need.

- ◀ Work to ensure that plans are in place to maintain STP quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work with Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club to identify potential facilities to accommodate latent demand identified by the club.

BOWLS OBJECTIVE

To support and encourage junior bowls development in order to sustain future participation levels in the sport.

- ◀ Support clubs to improve green quality.
- ◀ Increase the quality and standard of changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing.
- ◀ Ensure bowling greens and pavilions are safe, secure facilities.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to increase membership levels.
- ◀ Support and encourage clubs to provide pay and play opportunities.

GOLF OBJECTIVE

To support clubs to develop ancillary facilities and improve course quality and to promote the sport to junior members.

- ◀ Support plans for the development of Valley Golf Course to enable pay and play opportunities.
- ◀ Support National Governing Body and club plans to promote the sport to junior members.
- ◀ Encourage and support clubs to deliver the Community Links programme to help to increase junior participation.

TENNIS OBJECTIVE

To work with clubs to make plans to accommodate future increases

- ◀ Work with clubs to make plans to accommodate future increases.
- ◀ Where demand exists, support tennis clubs to improve court quality and/or install floodlighting (in order to increase the capacity) of existing tennis court provision.
- ◀ Where derelict courts have been identified, investment in these courts could be restored if demand is identified.
- ◀ Continue to support and encourage junior development at key tennis clubs in order to increase participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ Where necessary, improve the quality of education courts.
- ◀ Support satellite clubs to continue to provide quality coaching and competitive opportunities by providing access to good quality facilities.

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ATHLETICS OBJECTIVE

To maintain current provision.

- ◀ Support clubs to continue to deliver sports hall athletics in primary schools to encourage junior participation.
- ◀ Quality of the athletic track facilities should be maintained and support club and school athletic activities.

NETBALL OBJECTIVE

To work with clubs in the District to identify sites to establish a central venue league.

- ◀ Work with clubs in the District to identify sites to establish a central venue league.
- ◀ Support National Governing Body plans to deliver local initiatives to help to increase netball participation.
- ◀ Encourage schools to allow community use of indoor and outdoor netball courts.
- ◀ Improve the quality of outdoor courts on education sites.

EDUCATION OBJECTIVE

To work with schools to encourage greater community use, particularly for mini-football at appropriate sites.

- ◀ Secure existing community use through implementation of formal community use agreements where they are not currently in existence in order to provide sustainable community access.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate access to changing provision on school sites to support community use.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

6.1: Introduction

The Action Plan does not identify all quality improvements required. Specific details on how this is best achieved can be found in the accompanying assessment database. Prioritisation of improvements should be led through the annual maintenance planning programme.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

6.2: Justification of sites within the action plan

The Action Plan details policy options relating to individual sites and the need to enhance and develop new provision. The following criteria have been used to identify priorities and justify the inclusion of sites within the Action Plan. Just one of the following may apply:

- ◀ A project is currently underway to enhance the existing site and/or funding has been secured.
- ◀ An evaluation of site use is required as it is of poor quality and is reportedly underused.
- ◀ The desired action is small scale, short term and will enhance the quality of current provision, whilst aiding community use.
- ◀ The importance of the site is identified in other strategies.

6.3: Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Gaining revenue funding from planning contributions in order to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Gaining planning contributions to assist with the creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups/parish councils to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.

The following tables set out a series of recommended actions relating to sport and site specific issues within the District.

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The Action Plan has been created to be undertaken over an eleven-year timescale. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. It is not feasible to include all sites with identified development issues. Only sites, which meet the criteria listed above, have, therefore, been included.

Football

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Across the District, thirteen pitch sites are overplayed on a weekly basis and four sites are played to capacity.	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of the pitches to increase their carrying capacity. • If the pitches are rated as good quality but are being overplayed, play should be directed to other sites with capacity (see site-by-site action plan). 	No football sites in the District are overplayed, to prevent detrimental impact to their long-term quality.	Local clubs, East Herts Council (EHC), Hertfordshire County FA (HCFA)	Football Foundation, HCFA,	S

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Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
2	Sites without changing facilities do not meet local league requirements, which state that competing clubs must have access to changing provision. A number of sites do not have changing rooms to accommodate segregated changing for women and girls.	All potential tier 'C' sites (i.e. those without a changing facility, or with poor quality changing facilities) should be working towards becoming upgraded to the tier 'C' standard at a minimum, and therefore have access to a changing facility.	All football sites in the area meet league regulations for competitive play.	Local clubs, EHC, HCFA	Football Foundation, EHC.	S
3	Overall current deficit of 56.5 (future 62.6) junior pitches and 21.5 (future 24.9) mini pitches in the District. In practice, all of this play is accommodated on senior pitches, but it emphasises the need for additional (dedicated) junior and mini pitches.	Mini-soccer/junior; support the creation of at least one strategically located site in the area to become junior and or mini football venues. These sites are highlighted in the site-by-site section.	Appropriate quality and quantity of provision for junior and mini-soccer football.	Local clubs, EHC, HCFA	Football Foundation, EHC.	M

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Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
4	Limited community use of school facilities and formal community use agreements.	Secure formal community use agreements on existing and potential dual use sites. Ensure that adequate resources and procedures are put in place to facilitate the community use of school pitches, particularly for junior and mini football, to alleviate overplay on other sites (as identified in this strategy document).	Community use of school facilities is managed in a strategic manner to enhance the quality and protect the quality of the area's overall pitch stock.	Local clubs, EHC, SSP, BSF/PCP	-	L
5	Clubs cannot secure funding without lease arrangements.	Lease arrangements should be investigated at appropriate sites with suitable clubs (i.e. Charter Standard accredited clubs).	Clubs have greater security of tenure and are able to attract funding to improve facilities.	Local clubs, EHC and town/parish councils.	Football Foundation	L

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Cricket

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	East Herts Ladies CC and Bishop's Stortford Ladies CC are currently the only clubs providing women's and girls' cricket.	Support the Birchwood SSP's work with Sawbridgeworth CC to deliver girls cricket.	Access to a high quality training area.	Local clubs, EHC, SSP, HCCA	HCCA	M
2	The quality of cricket pitches at private sites is good.	Ensure clubs are supported to continue this maintenance.	Long-term quality of cricket pitches is maintained.	Local clubs, EHC, SSP, HCCA	HCCA	S
3	Hertford CC is seeking funding to relay its outdoor cricket net facility.	Support the club to achieve funding to complete this development.	Increased access to good quality training facility for clubs from the Hertford area.	Local clubs, EHC, SSP, HCCA	HCCA	M
4	The quality of ancillary facilities has not kept pace with improvements in pitch quality.	Ensure that clubs are supported to make plans for improving ancillary facilities.	Long-term quality of ancillary facilities is secured.	Local clubs, EHC, SSP, HCCA	HCCA	L
5	Vandalism to clubhouse facilities.	Ensure that clubs are supported in making clubhouse and grounds secure.	Reduced levels of vandalism.	Local clubs, EHC, HCCA and the Police.	HCCA	S
6	Two clubs, Ware and Datchworth are developing second home pitches to accommodate current and future demand.	Support the clubs to achieve this development.	Junior sections have better access to facilities.	Datchworth CC, Ware CC, EHC, HCCA	HCCA	S

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Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
7	Latent demand for two cricket pitches has been reported by Watton-at-Stone and Cokenach cricket clubs (an additional pitch each).	Identify sites which have the capacity to accommodate additional match play.	Increased levels of participation.	Watton –at-Stone and Cokenach cricket clubs, EHC and HCCA		M
8	Overplay on sites due to a number of juniors playing on pitches.	Relocate overplay to sites that have the capacity to accommodate additional play.	Long-term quality of cricket pitches is maintained.	Local clubs, EHC, HCCA		S
9	Clubs require access to nets both indoor and outdoor for training.	Support clubs to develop and improve cricket net facilities and where appropriate to form relationships with schools to accommodate these facilities.	Access to nets for training.	Local clubs, EHC, HCCA	HCCA	L

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Rugby union

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Overplay on sites due to a number of juniors playing on pitches.	Support clubs with pitch development projects.	Long-term quality of rugby pitches is maintained.	Local clubs, EHC, RFU	RFU	M
2	Secure greater access to school facilities for club training purposes to reduce overplay on existing sites, particularly along the M11 Stort Corridor.	Work with clubs and schools to develop formal community use agreements.	Increased security of tenure and established school club links.	EHC, SSPs, schools and clubs	-	M
3	Datchworth Rugby Club has plans to consolidate a site at Datchworth Green as its home ground.	Support Datchworth Rugby Club in realising its plans.	A high quality rugby facility for the west of the District.	Datchworth Rugby Club, EHC, RFU	RFU	S
4	Hertford Rugby Club requires a new access road to the site.	Work with the club and the RFU to develop plans and proposals for the necessary work.	Sustained access to play rugby in a club environment.	Hertford Rugby Club, EHC, RFU	RFU	M
5	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club requires access to additional pitches in the long term to support its mini and junior section.	Work with the club and Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC to make long term plans for access to pitches.	Sustained demand for juniors to play rugby in a club environment.	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club, Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC, EHC, RFU	RFU	L
6	Poor drainage on pitches specifically located in the M11 Stort Corridor analysis area.	Improve the drainage on pitches which are not affected by floodzone issues.	Access to good quality pitches.	EHC, RFU, local clubs	RFU	M

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Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
7	Demand for segregated changing for women and girls at Hertford and Datchworth rugby clubs.	Work with and support clubs to provide segregated changing facilities.	Access to a high quality training area	Local clubs, EHC, RFU	RFU	M

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Hockey

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Ensure that plans are in place to maintain the quality of STPs in the future.	Work with partner providers to ensure that appropriate sinking funds are in place.	Long term quality of STPs secured.	EHC, EH, schools and clubs.	England Hockey	L
2	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club reports demand for access to an additional STP.	The Club should work with local schools to investigate the future provision of an STP.	Secure long-term access to additional facilities to accommodate latent demand.	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club, Local Schools, EHC	England Hockey	M
3	Hertford Cricket & Hockey Association (HC&HA) plan to extend their existing clubhouse facility to provide additional changing and toilet facilities to meet demand.	Support HC&HA with facility developments.	Access to good quality changing facilities.	Hertford Cricket & Hockey Association, EHC,EH	Section 106 agreement	M

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Bowls

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Overall, the greens are well maintained with the correct levels of specialist preparation and ongoing maintenance.	Encourage clubs to seek advice and expertise from the Bowls England Greens Maintenance Advisory Service and the Hertfordshire Bowls Association Green Keepers Forum.	A range of good quality greens which sustain, and where possible increase, levels of participation in the sport.	Local clubs, Local leagues, HBA, EHC	Bowls England	M
2	A number of clubs experience problems with unofficial use which impacts upon green quality.	Work with the clubs to install appropriate security measures.	The quality of greens is protected and sites are secure.	Local clubs, Local leagues, HBA, EHC	Bowls England	S
3	Demand for better quality changing facilities.	Liaise with the clubs and improve the quality of the ancillary facilities.	Access to good quality changing facilities which may attribute to increase membership levels.	Local clubs, local leagues, EHC, HBA	Bowls England	M
4	Lack of pay and play opportunities.	Work with clubs to develop pay and play opportunities.	Increase in membership levels through pay and play.	Local clubs, local leagues, EHC, HBA	Bowls England	L

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Golf

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Lack of pay and play opportunities.	Work with clubs to develop pay and play opportunities using Valley Golf Course as pilot venue.	Increased membership levels through pay and play.	Local clubs, Golf Foundation, SSP, EHC	Golf Foundation	L
2	Current demand levels are low across private clubs for juniors, with significant spare capacity at the majority of clubs.	In particular there is a need to target junior players. Work with Golf Foundation to develop Community Links facilities.	Increase use of courses for junior players.	Local clubs, Golf Foundation, SSP, EHC	Golf Foundation	M

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Tennis

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Demand to improve court quality and/or install floodlighting	Support tennis clubs in order to increase the capacity of existing tennis court provision.	A range of good quality courts which sustain, and where possible increase, levels of participation in the sport.	Local clubs, HLTA, EHC	HLTA	M
2	Over one in ten courts were assessed as poor quality.	Ensure all courts are of a good quality or where demand is low investigate conversion into MUGAs.	Access to good quality courts or MUGAs.	EHC	HLTA	M
3	There is demand for the provision of a good club structure, supported by access to good quality courts at Buntingford.	Support Buntingford Tennis Club to affiliate and improve court quality in Buntingford.	Support club growth and meet demand expressed.	Buntingford Tennis Club, HLTA, EHC	HLTA	M
4	St Margaretsbury Tennis Club reports demand for access to additional courts.	Identify nearby sites in which have the capacity to accommodate additional match play.	Increased levels of participation.	St Margaretsbury Tennis Club, HLTA, EHC	HLTA	S
5	Demand for better quality changing facilities	Liaise with the clubs and improve the quality of the ancillary facilities.	Access to good quality changing facilities which may attribute to increase membership levels.	Local clubs, HLTA, EHC	HLTA	M

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Athletics

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Wodson Park is key athletic track facility servicing the District.	Continue to support Wodson Park athletic track as a key District wide facility.	Good quality athletic track facility supporting club and school athletic activities.	EHC, SSPs, Local clubs	-	L

Netball

Action plan

Action	Issue	Recommended actions	Outcomes	Partnerships	Potential external funding	Priority
1	Clubs travel outside of the District to access central venue league sites.	Investigate the sites to establish a central venue league.	Increased levels of participation. Help to alleviate waiting list demand from local leagues.	England Netball, EHC, Local clubs	England Netball	M
2	Poor quality courts at education sites resulting in lack of community use.	Improve the quality of courts on education sites and promote as sites for the delivery of NGB initiatives to increase participation.	Increased levels of participation.	England Netball, EHC, schools and clubs.	England Netball	L

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Area by area specific Action Plan

A1 (M) Corridor

Summary of surplus and deficiency A1(M) Corridor								
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	
Current	0.5	-1.0	1.0	2.1	1.5	-2.5	-	1.6
Future	0.0	-1.3	1.0	1.4	1.2	-2.8	-0.4	0.9

There is likely to be an overall surplus of pitches in the A1 (M) Corridor in 2021, particularly when taking into account that, for cricket the calculation does not fully take into account the number of cricket matches which can be accommodated per day, as it is difficult to provide an average match length and it often differs significantly between senior and junior matches. Even after taking account of the deficiency of junior football pitches and junior and mini rugby pitches, there will still be slight oversupply of pitches across the A1 (M) Corridor at present and in the future. However, it is important that this surplus is maintained to provide strategic reserve for the Area.

Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Walkern Playing Field	Good quality large recreation area which is fenced with brick built club house.	Support the Parish Council's plans to refurbish the pavilion.	High quality changing accommodation which supports a number of women's and girl's teams.	B
Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	Village recreation ground which is currently overplayed by 1.0 match per week. Demand for floodlighting on the tennis courts.	Work with Heath Mount School and local clubs to secure greater community access to grass playing pitches and changing accommodation and transfer some overplay to this site. Investigate floodlighting the tennis courts.	High quality facilities, pitches are not overplayed which preserves the long term quality. Secure the long term future of a local club. Increased site capacity which can accommodate current and latent demand.	B

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Upper Green	Village playing field currently played to capacity.	No action – maintain current levels of play.	Good quality playing pitch site which supports current demand.	C
Aston Playing Fields	Site assessments suggest that the football pitches are not in current use.	Retain the site as strategic reserve for the A1 (M) Corridor.	Site which offers spare capacity and contributes to the overall pitch stock as strategic reserve and which has the capacity to accommodate training and summer friendly fixtures.	D
Aston Cricket Ground	Site has spare capacity to accommodate further play.	Retain the site as strategic reserve for the A1 (M) Corridor.	Site which offers spare capacity and contributes to the overall pitch stock as strategic reserve and which has the capacity to accommodate training and summer friendly fixtures.	D
Turkey Farm Recreation Ground	The tennis courts were assessed as below quality. Demand to upgrade the changing facilities and create additional seating areas for after match events.	Work with Datchworth Parish Council and users of the site to upgrade the facilities.	Site offering good quality facilities.	A

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North of Harlow

No playing pitches have been identified in the North of Harlow analysis area as having community use and hence the calculations for surpluses and deficiencies have not been completed. However issues pertaining to outdoor sports facilities have been identified.

Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Hunsdon School	Consultation suggests that the site has no community use. It offers one adequate quality junior pitch	No action at present.	Site which offers spare capacity and contributes to the overall pitch stock as strategic reserve and which has the capacity to accommodate junior training and fixtures.	D
Briggens Park Golf Course	Consultation suggests demand for signage and evenness of two tees on the course.	Support the club with course improvements.	Site offering a god quality course.	-

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Hertford-Ware Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency Hertford-Ware Area								
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	
Current	16.5	-37.0	-16.5	6.3	4.5	-3.5	-5.0	-34.7
Future	13.4	-43.2	-20.0	4.7	3.8	-4.1	-6.2	-51.6

The likely overall shortfall of pitches in the Hertford-Ware Area can currently and in 2021 be dealt with without provision of additional pitches, but only by encouraging greater community use of school sites which have significant spare capacity. However, this should not deter from the need to address issues on key multi-pitch sites at Hartham Common and Presdales.

Furthermore although there is likely to be a deficiency of junior football pitches, there is also a smaller surplus of senior pitches. This indicates that junior teams are currently playing on senior sized pitches. However, there remains a requirement for access to additional football pitches as the deficiencies far exceed the surpluses. As these younger players move into the adult game there will also be a further need for senior pitches.

Although the figures above show there to be a surplus of cricket pitches and rugby pitches in the Hertford-Ware Area, it is important to note that these pitches should be protected as strategic reserve and can be explained in part by the fact that some pitches are used slightly below capacity (as is the case for cricket).

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Hartham Common	<p>Main outdoor leisure facility for Hertford town. Site is extensively overplayed and suffers poor drainage.</p> <p>There is demand for greater enforcement of issues pertaining to dog fouling and litter.</p> <p>Limited availability of parking is an issue at peak times.</p> <p>Demand for floodlighting has been identified on the tennis courts.</p> <p>Clubhouse suffers from vandalism and the green is used as a playing surface by young people.</p>	<p>As a key multi-pitch site Hartham Common should be prioritised for improvements to playing pitches and ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Investigate floodlighting the courts.</p> <p>Improve the security of the site.</p>	<p>High quality multi-pitch sites which services a range of users.</p> <p>Courts which have the capacity to support current and latent demand.</p>	A
Presdales Recreation Ground	<p>Main pitch site for Hertford.</p> <p>Limited availability of parking is an issue at peak times.</p>	<p>As a key multi-pitch site Presdales should be prioritised for improvements to playing pitches and ancillary facilities.</p>	<p>High quality multi-pitch site which also provides a secure home venue for a local large FA Charter Standard club.</p>	A
Trinity Road	<p>Home ground of Hertford Heath FC. Some issues with litter at the site.</p>	<p>Install a litter bin to ameliorate problems with unofficial use at the site.</p>	<p>Good quality site which supports local club.</p>	C
Kings Mead	<p>Hertford Town Youth FC uses the pitches at Kings Mead.</p> <p>Site is rated as average quality and hence is currently overplayed.</p>	<p>Improve pitch quality. Latent demand expressed at this site by Hertford Town Youth FC could be accommodated with improved pitch quality.</p>	<p>Increased site capacity which can accommodate current and latent demand.</p>	B
Bury Lane	<p>There is some use of the site by White Lion.</p>	<p>Address issues relating to dog fouling and motorbikes at the site.</p>	<p>Good quality site which supports local club.</p>	C

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Bengeo Sports Field	Good quality site which is home ground of Bengeo Trinity FC.	No action at present.	No action at present.	C
St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club	Good quality multisport venue. Latent demand for additional courts has been identified	Latent demand at this site by St Margaretsbury Tennis Club could be accommodated via floodlighting the third court, which will increase the number of playing hours.	Increased site capacity which can accommodate current and latent demand.	A
Hertfordshire Cricket and Hockey Association	Limited availability of parking is an issue at peak times.	Improvements to the car parking facilities to prevent parking on the cricket outfield.	Sufficient car parking for members and increased quality of the cricket outfield.	A
Haileybury College	Cost of STP hire is considered to be expensive.	Consult with the School and clubs regarding the pitch cost.	Support the long term sustainability of existing clubs training in the area	A
Sele School	Consultation reports the surface of the outdoor netball courts are deemed as poor.	Investigate re-surfacing the courts.	Access to good quality courts which could potentially be available for community use.	A
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Good quality site offering a sports hall, STP, netball and grass playing fields. In addition it provides an eight lane designated floodlit athletic track.	No action at present.	No action at present.	A
Wallfields Bowling Green	Plans to improve the drainage in a corner of the green.	Support the club to improve the drainage.	Access to a good quality green.	C
Simon Balle School	Poor lighting on the STP	Work with the school to improve the quality of the lighting.	Good quality lighting.	A
Hertford Rugby Union Football Club	Poor lighting on the training area.	Improve the quality of the lighting.	Access to a high quality training area.	B

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M11 Stort Corridor

Summary of surplus and deficiency M11 Stort Corridor								
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	
Current	9.0	-15.0	-7.0	-2.1	0.5	-3.5	-3.0	-21.1
Future	7.4	-17.7	-8.7	-2.9	-0.1	-4.2	-3.4	-29.6

It is unlikely that the overall shortfall of pitches in the M11 Stort Corridor Area can be dealt with without provision of additional pitches. Although encouraging greater community use of school sites which have significant spare capacity can be used support some of the current shortfall, additional pitches will also be required to accommodate future deficiencies.

Furthermore although there is likely to be a deficiency of junior football pitches, there is also a smaller surplus of senior pitches. This indicates that junior teams are currently playing on senior sized pitches. However, there remains a requirement for access to additional football pitches as the deficiencies far exceed the surpluses.

The figures above also show there to be a deficiency of cricket pitches and rugby pitches in the M11 Stort Corridor Area.

Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
The Barons	Consultation suggests that although in broad terms facilities are in place they are generally of a poor standard and require refurbishment to allow continued use. Limited availability of parking is also a problem at peak times.	As a multi-pitch site The Barons should be prioritised for improvements to playing pitches and ancillary facilities.	High quality multi-pitch sites which services a range of users. Access to sufficient car parking.	B

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Bullfields Recreation Ground	The site provides two pitches. Site assessments evidence the second pitch is not in use with no line markings and an uneven surface, However, use of the site is restricted to U21s.	Retain the site as strategic reserve for the M11 Corridor.	Site which offers spare capacity and contributes to the overall pitch stock as strategic reserve and which has the capacity to accommodate training and summer friendly fixtures.	D
The Grange Paddocks	There are seven changing rooms at the site which are only considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate one team.	Increase the changing room capacity.	Access to sufficient changing provision.	A
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	The site provides one senior football and four senior rugby pitches. Site is currently overplayed due to the amount of junior/mini teams.	Work with Bishops Stortford RUFC to secure greater community access to grass playing pitches and transfer some overplay to this site.	High quality facilities, pitches are not overplayed which preserves the long term quality.	B
Pearce House	The site has spare capacity to accommodate a further 2.5 matches per week.	Retain the site as strategic reserve for the M11 Corridor.	Site which offers spare capacity and contributes to the overall pitch stock as strategic reserve and which has the capacity to accommodate training and summer friendly fixtures.	D
Birchwood High School	The school provides four netball courts and accommodates tennis courts during the Summer. Consultation reports the school is reluctant to remove the tennis nets to allow netball activity.	Consult with the school regarding removal of the tennis nets to enable community use for local netball teams.	Access to netball courts for training and match fixtures.	A
Springhall Road Cricket Ground	Demand for floodlighting has been identified on the tennis courts (by Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club).	Investigate floodlighting the courts.	Courts which have the capacity to support current and latent demand.	C

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
St Mary's Catholic School	The school has obtained planning permission to provide an additional two tennis courts. It currently provides six tennis courts. However, it receives very few enquires, suggesting demand is low.	Support the school in increasing the use of its facilities.	No action at present.	-
The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	Demand for additional floodlighting has been identified on the tennis courts.	Investigate floodlighting on the courts.	Increased site capacity which can accommodate current and latent demand.	A
Bishop's Stortford High School	Limited community use.	Work with the School to secure formal community use of the site.	A formal community use agreement is in place which provides access for local clubs.	B
Herts & Essex School	Limited community use.	Work with the School to secure formal community use of the site.	A formal community use agreement is in place which provides access for local clubs.	C
Jobbers Wood	Current planning restrictions do not allow community use of the site.	Work with the Council to remove existing planning restrictions.	Formal community use of an extensive site of good quality playing pitches.	A
Leventhorpe School	Should the proposed development of the STP go ahead there is a need to secure community use of the site.	Work with the School to secure formal community use of the site.	A formal community use agreement is in place which provides access for local clubs.	B

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Rural Area

Summary of surplus and deficiency Rural Area								
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	
Current	3.5	-7.5	3.0	7.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	11
Future	2.2	-8.9	2.5	6.1	5.0	0.0	0.0	6.9

There is likely to be a surplus across the majority of pitch sports in Rural Areas in 2021, with the exception of junior football. The likely shortfall of junior football pitches can be addressed without provision of additional pitches, but by increasing pitch quality or re-aligning current provision.

Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Bell Lane Playing Fields	Site is currently overplayed due to poor site quality.	Upgrading pitch quality and providing changing accommodation would increase the capacity of the site.	Good quality site which supports teams playing in the East Herts Corinthians League.	C
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Good quality recreation site with access to changing accommodation. However, changing provision is not available to tennis users.	Ensure tennis users of the site have access to changing facilities.	Site which has access to good quality facilities and changing facilities.	B
Cottered Recreation Ground	Football teams currently use the village hall for changing accommodation. Football Club has expressed interest in having a second pitch in place of the cricket pitch. However, given there is spare capacity at the site this is considered to be unnecessary.	Retain current configuration of pitches.	Good quality multi-pitch site which serves a range of sports.	A

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Horse's Meadow	Site is rated as average quality and no changing accommodation is available.	Retain site and investigate potential for use a training facility.	Good quality site which continues to the rest and rotation capacity for the area.	D
Brickendon Golf Club	Plans to provide additional practice facilities and add a 9-hole short course	Support the club with facility development plans.	Access to high quality golf facilities.	-
Ash Valley Golf Club	Plans to upgrade the clubhouse and course in order to attract new members.	Support the club with facility development plans.	Access to high quality golf facilities.	-
East Herts Golf Club	Vandalism is an issue.	Improve security of the site.	Site offering good a good quality course.	-
Great Hadham Golf Course	Facility development plan which includes an additional 18-hole par tree course which will act as an academy course.	Support the club with facility development plans.	Access to high quality golf facilities.	-

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Rural Service Centres

Summary of surplus and deficiency Rural Service Centres								
	Football			Cricket	Rugby union			Total pitches
	Senior	Junior	Mini		Senior	Junior	Mini	
Current	4.0	3.0	-3.0	0.5	-	-	-	4.5
Future	3.7	3.0	-3.4	0.3	-	-	-	3.6

There is also likely to be a surplus across the majority of pitch sports in Rural Service Centres in 2021, with the exception of mini football. The likely shortfall of mini football pitches can be addressed without provision of additional pitches, but by increasing pitch quality or re-aligning current provision.

Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Benington Playing Fields	Site does not appear to be in current use. Some play is recorded by the Parish Council. Changing accommodation is provided in a vandalised portacabin.	Work with the Benington Parish Council Recreation Ground Committee to redevelop changing accommodation at the site.	Site with good quality changing.	C
Brookside Playing Fields	Single football pitch without changing accommodation rated as poor quality.	Improve site quality.	Site provides strategic reserve and can be used for informal opportunities and training.	D
Hare Street Playing Fields	Site used extensively by Hormead Hares FC. Old wooden pavilion at the site has been extensively renovated.	Continue to support the club.	Good quality club site.	C
Braughing Playing Fields	Sloping pitch with average surface.	Investigate cost of improvements to pitch surface.	Good quality single pitch site suitable for club use.	C

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Site name	Current issues	Recommended action	Outcome	Proposed tier
Norfolk Road, Buntingford	The pitch is being played to capacity during peak times. Tennis courts at the site were assessed as poor quality.	Maintain levels of capacity and ensure there is no overplay. Improve the quality of the tennis courts.	Increase tennis participation in the area.	B
Aspenden Recreation Ground	The site has spare capacity to accommodate additional cricket matches.	Retain the site as strategic reserve for the Rural Service Areas.	Capacity to rest and rotate pitches in the area.	D
Wyddial Road Bowling green	Moss is an issue on the green.	Work with the club to eliminate moss.	Access to a good quality green.	-

PART 7: SETTING PLAYING PITCH STANDARDS

7.1: Introduction

Within local plans/unitary development plans, many local authorities use the FIT (Fields in Trust - old NPFA) guidelines to set local standards for outdoor sports provision. This is usually based on a number of hectares per 1,000 population, which should be protected and maintained as formal outdoor sports provision and designated as such in the local plan/LDF. FIT outlines 1.21 hectares of formal outdoor sports pitches as an aspiration for provision. Local authorities can then use this figure as a benchmark.

However, taking this analysis a step further to identify within the pitch stock, adequate and inadequate provision and levels of latent demand in the area, makes the standard significantly more representative of the local situation. By factoring in this information a 'qualitative local standard' can be derived. That is to say a local standard that takes into account local qualitative information.

The qualitative local standard is calculated by adding the hectarage of pitch stock available for community use to the identified shortfall/surplus of pitches (latent and future demand) and applying it to potential future population growth.

It is important that this document informs policies and emerging supplementary planning documents by setting out the Council's approach to securing outdoor sport facilities through new housing development. The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches. A number of management objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Continue to ensure that where sites are lost, through development or closure, that facilities of the same or improved standard are provided to meet the continued needs of residents.
- ◀ Capital receipts from disposals of playing pitch facilities should be ring-fenced specifically for investment into other playing pitch facilities. They should be invested in accordance with the aims of the Strategy.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to a Section 106 Agreement. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement must be completed specifying the amount and timing of sums to be paid.
- ◀ A 'central pot' for developer contributions across East Herts should be established to invest in playing pitch facility provision and maintenance.
- ◀ Where new pitches are provided, changing rooms should be located on site.

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Playing pitch standards have been calculated in line with Sport England guidance set out in 'Towards A Level Playing Field'. Within this report local standards or 'local aspirations targets for provision' in hectares per 1,000 population are derived as follows:

Existing provision (within this a recognition of 'poor quality' provision)	+	Additional provision to meet current unmet demand (latent demand identified through consultation)	+	=	Local aspirational target for provision (per 1,000 population - taking into account population projections for 2021)
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The Assessment Report divides East Herts into six analysis areas. These have been adopted to allow more localised assessment of provision, examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies and local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The following example calculation is applied to calculate how much provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve East Herts in the future.

Table 7.1: Local standards calculations

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet latent demand (ha)	Total future provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand	Future population (2021)	Total new provision for 2021 (ha)
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
			$A/B \times 1,000$		$A+D$	$E/B \times 1,000$		$(F \times G / 1,000) - A$

The current level of provision (column A, B, C)

The current level of provision is calculated using the information collected and is presented earlier within the assessment report and analysed using the playing pitch project database.

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Deficiencies (column D)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient to meet peak time demand. Additional provision required in East Herts to meet current demand is taken from the PPM calculations presented earlier in the report. All shortfalls are summarised below and feed into the standards calculations.

Table 7.2: Summary of deficiencies

Analysis area	Pitches							Total deficient hectareage
	Football			Cricket	Rugby			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	All	Senior	Junior	Mini	
A1(M) Corridor	-	-1.0	-	-	-	-2.5	-	2.87
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	-	-37.0	-16.5	-	-	-3.5	-5.0	36.06
M11 Stort Corridor	-	-15.0	-7.0	-2.1	-	-3.5	-3.0	29.29
Rural Area	-	-7.5	-	-	-	-	-	6.15
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-3.0	-	-	-	-	0.90
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	-	-60.5	-26.5	-2.1	-	-9.5	-8.0	75.27

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Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that several clubs currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to good quality facilities. The table below provides a summary of latent demand identified across East Herts and feed into the standards calculations.

Table 7.3: Summary of latent demand

Analysis area	Pitches							Total hectareage
	Football			Cricket	Rugby			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	All	Senior	Junior	Mini	
A1(M) Corridor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	-	7.0	-	-	-	-	-	5.74
M11 Stort Corridor	0.5	5.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	4.80
Rural Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Service Centres	1.0	3.0	-	-	-	1.0	-	3.86
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	1.5	15.0				2.0		14.4

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Future population growth (columns F)

The Office of National Statistics has recently produced long term population projections. They project forward the mid year estimates of population for 2004 and give an indication of future trends by age and gender for next 25 years.

Current total District population is 128,688 ONS (2008 mid-year population estimates).

ONS population projections (2004 – 2029) show that by 2021 (to fit with the Core Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy) the District population is projected to be 145,900. This equates to a total increase of 17, 212 or 13.37%.

Therefore, a cumulative increase of 13.37% (by 2021) is applied to each analysis area to reflect the population projections at a local level. However, the only population figures which are available for us to breakdown by analysis area are 2001 Census:

	(2001) Current population	13.37% Increase	(2021) Future population
A1(M) Corridor	8,263	1,105	9,368
North of Harlow	1,457	195	1,652
Hertford-Ware Area	53,043	7,094	60,137
M11 Stort Corridor	44,044	5,891	49,935
Rural Area	14,317	1,915	16,232
Rural Service Centres	7,564	1,012	8,576
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	128,688	17,212	145,900

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The projections are trend based projections and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies.

Analysis area	2001 Census Population	Mid 2010 Population Estimate ³	7.5% Increase	(2021) Future population
A1(M) Corridor	8,263	8,733	635	9,368
North of Harlow	1,457	1,534	118	1,652
Hertford-Ware Area	53,043	56,057	4080	60,137
M11 Stort Corridor	44,044	46,547	3388	49,935
Rural Area	14,317	15,131	1101	16,232
Rural Service Centres	7,564	7,994	582	8,576
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	128,688	136,000	9,900	145,900

Target standards (column G)

Future population growth is applied to total future provision required to provide target standards by analysis area. This tells us how much provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve East Herts until 2021. We then present deficiencies between the current provision and future proposed provision in hectares.

³Based on applying same proportion of population from census data (i.e. 5.7%) to East Herts mid year estimate total.

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7.2: East Herts outdoor sports pitch standards

The following table summarises the recommended local provision standards for outdoor sports in East Herts. Target standards provide a guideline about how much provision per 1,000 people is needed to strategically serve the District until 2021.

Table 7.5: East Herts outdoor sports⁴ pitch standards

Analysis area	Current provision (ha)	Current population	Current standard (ha per 1,000 population)	Provision to meet latent demand (ha)	Total future provision (ha)	Standard based on current demand (ha per 1,000 population)	Future population (2021)	Total new provision for 2021 (ha) ⁵
A1(M) Corridor	24.72	8,263	2.99	0.00	24.72	2.99	9,368	3.31
North of Harlow	1.07	1,457	0.73	0.00	1.07	0.73	1,652	0.14
Hertford-Ware Area	118.33	53,043	2.23	5.74	124.07	2.34	60,135	22.33
M11 Stort Corridor	52.99	44,044	1.20	4.80	57.79	1.31	49,933	12.53
Rural Area	52.86	14,317	3.69	0.00	52.86	3.69	16,231	7.07
Rural Service Centres	14.79	7,564	1.96	3.86	18.65	2.47	8,575	6.35
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	264.76	128,688	2.06	14.40	279.16	2.17	145,894	51.72

It is important that all levels of analysis are kept up to date approximately every three years. In line with Sport England recommendations in Towards A Level Playing Field and that EHC has a current audit and assessment of provision in order to respond appropriately to the needs of the local community.

The recommended standard for planning is the standard based on current demand.

⁴ Includes *all* outdoor sports facilities (i.e. pitches, courts, greens and golf courses are included).

⁵ Due to rounding of figures there is a slight difference between those presented in the table (database generated) and those which are worked manually.

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7.3: Calculating Section 106 contributions

The requirement for outdoor sports provision should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme, using the average household occupancy rate of 2.32 persons per dwelling as derived from the Census 2001. On this basis 1,000 persons at 2.32 persons per household represents 431 dwellings.

The first stage is to calculate the total number of persons in the development (dwellings in the development multiplied by 2.32 (persons per dwelling)). For example, 500 dwellings at 2.32 persons per household represent 1,160 persons.

The next stage is to calculate the hectareage required for the development. This is calculated by multiplying total persons in the development by the target local standard for the analysis area where the development is taking place and dividing the total by 1,000. For example, 1,160 persons multiplied by 2.99 (A1 (M) Corridor analysis area) and divided by 1,000 equals 2.31 hectares required.

Based on the figure that a senior football pitch (including run off) is 1.4 hectares, this would equate to a need of one senior football and two junior pitches for example. For full breakdown of playing pitch sizes used in this report, please refer to the Appendix.

In addition to the standards calculations, the deficiencies and surpluses in provision identified within the PPM should also be taken into account, in terms of identifying where (by analysis area) provision is required. Please refer to the relevant pages within the sport by sport sections at the beginning of this report.

Calculation:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Number of} & & & & & & \text{Hectares} \\ \text{dwellings} & & & & & & \text{required for} \\ \text{x 2.32} & \text{x} & \text{Local} & = & (\div 1000) & = & \text{the} \\ & & \text{standard} & & & & \text{proposed} \\ & & & & & & \text{development} \end{array}$$

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Changing rooms

In the District, poor quality pitches are unable to accommodate the maximum number of weekly matches. In certain cases, this is due to either lack of changing facilities or current changing provision being poor quality. All playing pitches should be served by suitable, good quality ancillary facilities; these should be located in close proximity to the playing area.

To achieve an increase in participation in sport and physical activity in the District, it is imperative that in addition to the need to secure developer contributions for pitch provision, contributions should also be sought for improving and providing changing room accommodation using the following guidelines:

- ◀ Figures based on the sports facility costs from Sport England for the 2nd quarter of this year
http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/planning_kitbag.aspx
- ◀ Therefore the calculations below would need to change each quarter.
- ◀ Changing provision requirements are reliant on the number of pitches not the size of pitches. Changing facilities required for new pitches, whether they are on or off site.

Example 1: Calculation for off site contribution for playing pitches:

Hectares required (Based on East Herts standard)	/	640sqm (or 0.064ha) (typical area of grass pitch identified by Sport Eng for calculation purposes)	x	£80,000 (cost of grass pitch per 640sqm as identified by Sport England for calculation purposes)	=	£ off-site contribution
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Example 2: Calculation for off site contribution for changing rooms:

No. of Pitches (Need 2 team changing room per pitch)	x	£555,000 (cost of 4 team changing room as identified by Sport England for calculation purposes)	/	2 (based on 2 teams per pitch)	=	£ off-site contribution
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NB – the total figures do not include land value contribution or commuted sum for future maintenance.

PART 8: MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is important that there is regular monitoring (i.e. quarterly) and review against the actions identified in the Strategy.

The Council can monitor on an annual basis changes in the supply and demand for facilities by updating the assessment database with changes to site and team information.

This is important as regular monitoring of changes in supply and demand can avoid the need for a complete review of the Strategy after three years.

A Playing Pitch Strategy should be subject to a full review every three years under Sport England recommendations. However, regular monitoring of key supply and demand data can extend the life of the Playing Pitch Strategy to five years.

PART 9: CONCLUSIONS

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for planning decisions made across the District in the eleven years up to 2021. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of East Herts can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of East Herts Council's corporate priorities and the vision set out by the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependant upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. The Strategy is intended to be flexible and regularly updated using the accompanying database tools provided.

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APPENDIX ONE: MODELLING SCENARIOS

Sport England's Play Pitch Model (PPM) is used to assess whether the supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times for each grass pitch sport i.e. football, cricket and rugby. By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying team generation rates (TGRs) to the projected population for 2021, we have projected the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and applied this to the PPM to illustrate any shortfalls in provision.

In order to provide a greater understanding of the need for pitches in the future and to create flexibility in planning policy, a number of potential modelling scenarios are presented below based on a range of future timescales.

The table below outlines potential population increases in 2026 and 2031 based on ONS population projections. An alternative 2031 scenario is also provided based on East Herts providing 9,071 new homes up to 2031 with an average occupancy rate of 2.4 persons.

Whilst the modelling scenarios are useful in providing some understanding of future surpluses and deficiencies, it must be noted that they are for example particularly superficial figures given their longevity and the fact that they do not take into account any new provision.

Table A1: Future population estimates

Analysis area	Current population (based on 2001 census data)	2021 Future population (13.37%)	2026 Future population (3.08%) (16.45%)	2031 Future population (2.59%) (19.04%)	2031 Future population based on housing growth (16.92%)
A1(M) Corridor	8,263	9,368	9,657	9,907	9,661
North of Harlow	1,457	1,652	1,703	1,747	1,704
Hertford-Ware Area	53,043	60,137	61,989	63,595	62,018
M11 Stort Corridor	44,044	49,935	51,472	52,805	51,496
Rural Area	14,317	16,232	16,732	17,165	16,739
Rural Service Centres	7,564	8,576	8,840	9,069	8,844
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	128,688	145,900	150,393	154,288	150,446

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PPM 2021

The PPM below, as cited in the report, provides a summary of surpluses and deficiencies based on population increases in the period up to 2021. It shows that there is likely to be a surplus of senior football and ruby pitches and cricket pitches whilst a deficit of junior and mini football and rugby.

Table A2: PPM 2021

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union		
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu
A1(M) Corridor	0.0	-1.3	1.0	1.4	1.2	-2.8	-0.4
Harlow North	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	13.4	-43.2	-20.0	4.7	3.8	-4.1	-6.2
M11 Stort Corridor	7.4	-17.7	-8.7	-2.9	-0.1	-4.2	-3.4
Rural Area	2.2	-8.9	2.5	6.1	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	3.7	3.0	-3.4	0.3	0	0	0
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	26.7	-67.0	-28.7	9.6	9.8	-11.1	-10.0

PPM 2026

The PPM below provides a summary of surpluses and deficiencies based on population increases in the period up to 2026. It shows that the surpluses and deficiencies for 2021 are further exacerbated with population growth.

Table A3: PPM 2026

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union		
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu
A1(M) Corridor	-0.1	-1.3	1.0	1.2	1.1	-2.9	-0.5
Harlow North	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	12.7	-44.4	-20.8	4.4	3.6	-4.2	-6.5
M11 Stort Corridor	7.0	-18.3	-9.1	-3.1	-0.2	-4.4	-3.5
Rural Area	1.9	-9.2	2.4	5.9	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	3.7	3.0	-3.5	0.3	0	0	0
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	25.2	-69.3	-30.1	8.6	9.4	-11.5	-10.5

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PPM 2031

The PPM below provides a summary of surpluses and deficiencies based on population increases in the period up to 2031. It shows that the surpluses and deficiencies for 2021 are further exacerbated with population growth.

Table A4: PPM 2031

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union		
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu
A1(M) Corridor	-0.2	-1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	-3.0	-0.6
Harlow North	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	12.0	-45.5	-21.5	4.1	3.5	-4.4	-6.7
M11 Stort Corridor	6.7	-18.8	-9.4	-3.3	-0.4	-4.5	-3.6
Rural Area	1.7	-9.4	2.3	5.7	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	3.6	3.0	-3.6	0.2	0	0	0
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	23.9	-71.1	-31.3	7.8	9.1	-11.9	-10.9

PPM 2031: Housing growth

The PPM below provides a summary of surpluses and deficiencies based on population increases in the period up to 2031. It shows that the surpluses and deficiencies for 2021 are further exacerbated with population growth. However to a lesser extent than figures for ONS based projections.

Table A5: PPM 2031 based housing growth

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union		
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu
A1(M) Corridor	-0.1	-1.3	1.0	1.2	1.1	-2.9	-0.5
Harlow North	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	12.5	-44.6	-20.9	4.3	3.6	-4.3	-6.5
M11 Stort Corridor	7.0	-18.4	-9.2	-3.1	-0.3	-4.4	-3.5
Rural Area	1.9	-9.2	2.3	5.8	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	3.7	3.0	-3.5	0.2	0	0	0
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	25.0	-69.6	-30.3	8.5	9.4	-11.6	-10.5

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PPM: Future PPM 2021 based on population and participation increases

The playing pitch model below provides a summary of surpluses and deficiencies based on population increases and participation increases (of 1% annually based on Sport England targets) in the period up to 2021. It shows that the surpluses and deficiencies for 2021 are further exacerbated with population growth and participation growth both factored into the equation.

Table A6: Future PPM 2021 based on population and participation increases

Analysis area	Football			Cricket	Rugby union		
	Sf	Jf	Mf		SRu	JRu	MRu
A1(M) Corridor	-0.4	-1.5	1.0	0.6	0.8	-3.1	-0.8
Harlow North	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	10.2	-47.9	-23.3	3.0	3.0	-4.7	-7.5
M11 Stort Corridor	5.7	-20.3	-10.4	-3.7	-0.7	-5.0	-3.8
Rural Area	0.9	-10.3	1.9	5.1	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	3.5	3.0	-3.8	0.1	0	0	0
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	19.8	-76.0	-34.6	5.2	8.1	-12.9	-12.1