

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

PART 3: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

SEPTEMBER 2017



Nortoft Partnerships Limited
2 Green Lodge Barn, Nobottle, Northampton NN7 4HD
Tel: 01604 586526 Fax: 01604 587719
Email: info@nortoft.co.uk Web: www.nortoft.co.uk

INTRODUCTION

This Playing Pitch Strategy is part of East Herts Council's Open Space and Sports Facilities Assessment Technical Study, which covers open space, built facilities and playing pitches. The background and context report is Part 1 as this applies to all the sports facility provision, so the overall structure for the reports are:

Part 1: Background and context

Part 2: Built facilities strategy

Part 3: Playing pitch strategy

Part 4: Open spaces

A key driver is the effective delivery of leisure services across East Herts and a need to ensure that a strategic network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the needs of the current and expected future populations. The Strategy will also:

- Provide the evidence base for relevant planning policies contained within the emerging Local Plan for East Herts.
- Identify the provision required to help support the implementation of local health and well-being programmes.
- Assist with prioritising funding applications.
- Inform local development management decisions.
- Support Neighbourhood Plans by providing a detailed local evidence base.
- Help to inform the Local Plans of the surrounding authorities.
- Give guidance on the phasing of provision to meet new growth, and the priorities for investment.

This report specifically includes the assessment of the following types of pitch. Some of these pitch types are strategic in nature and have involved cross boundary discussions and agreement between East Herts and its adjacent authorities in order to take account of the planned growth over the boundaries.

- Adult grass football pitches
- Youth grass 11v11 football pitches
- Youth grass 9v9 football pitches

- Mini-soccer grass 7v7 football pitches
- Mini-soccer grass 5v5 football pitches
- '3G' football turf pitches
- Grass and artificial turf cricket pitches
- Grass rugby pitches
- Artificial Grass Pitches for hockey

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS/METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 This Part 3 strategy considers the playing pitches used by the community for sport and physical activity. The approach to this assessment and the development of the recommendations reflects the guidance in the Sport England 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' of July 2013.

East Hertfordshire

- 1.2 East Hertfordshire is a predominantly rural district covering an area of 477 square kilometres (184 square miles). There are over 100 small villages and hamlets in the district in addition to the five historic market towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware. These towns provide a range of services to the nearby rural area. The southern third of the district lies within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, while the rest of the northern and central area lies within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt. The District is bordered by larger towns, with Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City to the west and Harlow to the south-east.
- 1.3 The district has good road and rail transport links and is well connected to the wider area. The A1M and M11 run close to the western and eastern boundaries of the district respectively. Within the district, the A414 runs from west to east whilst the A10 cuts the district from north to south. The district benefits from two mainline rail links into London. Stansted Airport lies adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the district within Uttlesford district. The district's excellent transport links make it an attractive place to live and as such continue to create pressure for new development, particularly housing.

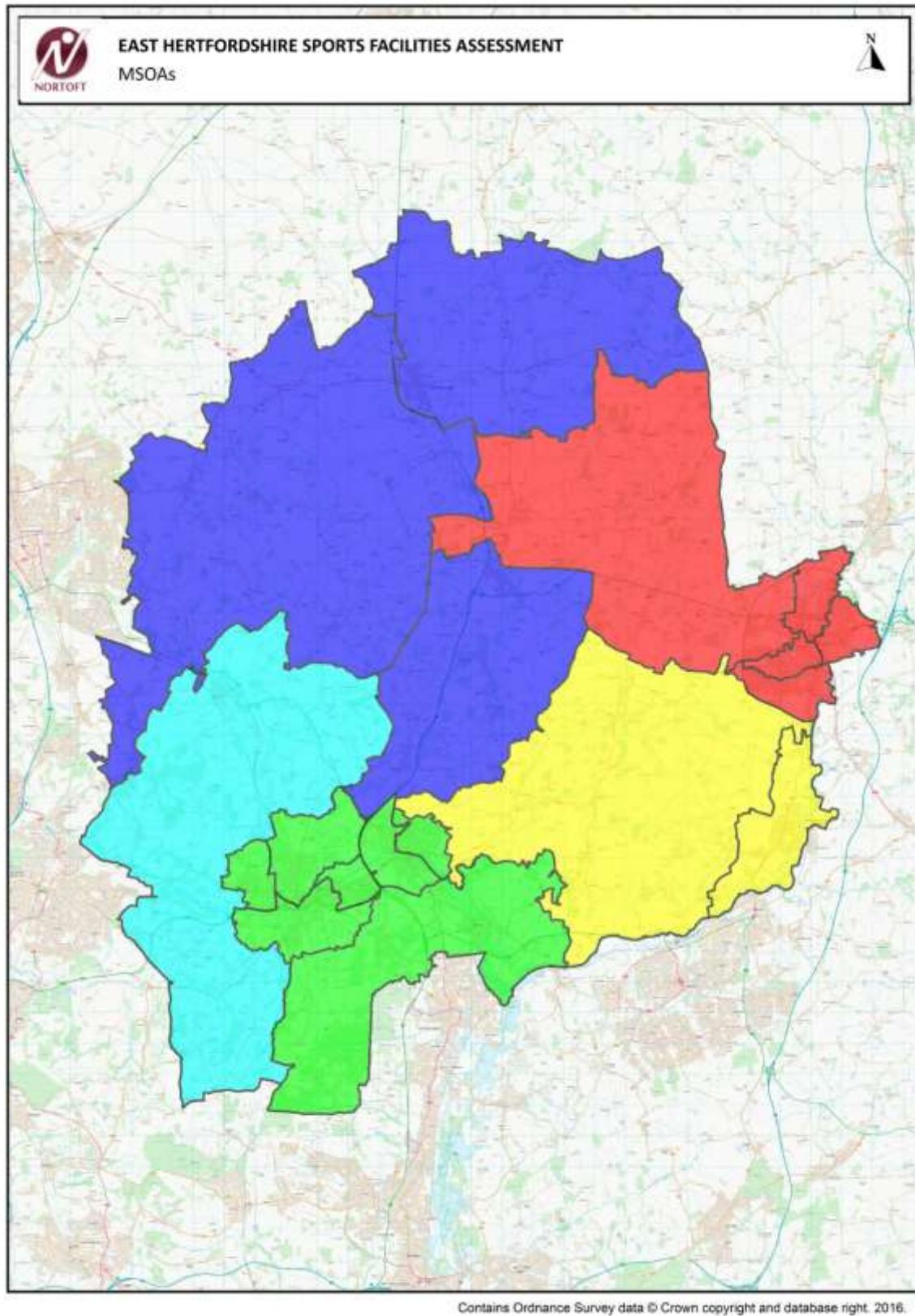
Methodology

- 1.4 The methodology used for each type of pitch included in the playing pitch strategy adopts the approach advocated in Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' (2013). The process involves five stages and ten steps as follows:
- **Stage A** - Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1).
 - **Stage B** - Gather information on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 and 3).
 - **Stage C** - Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 and 6).
 - **Stage D** - Develop the strategy (Steps 7 and 8).
 - **Stage E** - Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date (Steps 9 and 10).

Assessing current needs

- 1.5 To assess whether the current provision is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:
- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site.
 - An indication of the extent to which pitches and related facilities are being used during their respective peak periods.
 - The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.
 - The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are
 - Being overplayed - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
 - Being played to the level the site can sustain - where use matches the carrying capacity.
 - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play - where use falls below the carrying capacity.
- 1.6 The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:
- Any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
 - The impact of latent or displaced demand.
 - The situation at priority sites.
- 1.7 This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch and related facility provision.
- 1.8 To identify more localised issues, a sub-area analysis has been devised and approved by the project steering group and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. It is based upon Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs), clustered around the main service centres in the district and is illustrated in the map below:

Figure 1: East Herts sub-areas



1.9 The population in each sub-area is as follows:

Figure 2: East Herts sub-area populations

Sub-area	Population
Bishop's Stortford and surrounds	42,500
Buntingford and surrounds	20,600
Hertford, Ware and surrounds	62,300
Sawbridgeworth and surrounds	14,500
Watton-at-Stone and surrounds	7,200

Source: ONS MSOA mid-2013 estimates (2014)

1.10 The sub-areas also relate neatly to the planned housing growth in East Herts, as the table below reveals and the assessment of future needs (described below) has applied the respective population growth within each sub-area accordingly:

Figure 3: East Herts housing targets and population growth to 2033

Sub-area	Proposed development	Housing target to 2033	Extra Population 2033
Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford North Bishop's Stortford South	4,143	9,612
Buntingford	East of Stevenage	1,700	3,944
Hertford and Ware	North and east of Ware Hertford	1,950	4,524
Sawbridgeworth	Gilston Garden Village Sawbridgeworth	3,550	8,236
Watton-at-Stone	East of Welwyn Garden	1,350	3,132
East Herts	-	12,693	29,448

Assessing future needs

1.11 The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for pitches arising from future population growth involves the approach advocated in Sport England's PPS guidance, namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

1.12 Much of the projected housing growth in East Herts is on the periphery of the district and in some cases proposed major developments straddle the boundary.

The assessment of future needs has therefore been co-ordinated with neighbouring areas involving:

- Dialogue with neighbouring local authorities on their respective playing pitch assessments and the principles sharing developer contributions across boundaries.
- Development of a common approach to assumptions about the demography of the growth areas and its impact upon pitch demand.

Assessed demand parameters

1.13 Analysis of the above factors influencing the future supply and demand for playing pitches in the borough has led to the following conclusions, which are reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change:** The '*Greater Essex Demographic Forecasts 2012 - 2037*' (2012) suggest that the population of East Herts may rise to **179,560** by 2033. This represents an increase of **17.7%**.
- **Participation trends:** For the purposes of modelling, a rate of future demand increases of 0.5% per annum has been agreed with the steering group. The rationale behind this approach is that projecting pitch needs based upon a no growth in participation would mean that the Council's objective of getting more people active may be constrained if pitch needs are based the current rate of participation. The rates of participation across all pitch sports and the demand for pitch space will be kept under review, and will be a key consideration when this strategy is fully reviewed in approximately 5 years.
- **Changes in supply:** Any known proposed additional pitch or related facilities provision will help to accommodate some of the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

Delivering future needs

1.14 To identify the most appropriate way to meet the additional pitch needs arising from population and participation growth, four sequential questions were addressed:

- **Existing deficiency or spare capacity:** To what extent do existing pitches have any current shortfalls or any over-supply?
- **Additional needs:** What additional needs will arise from population growth?

- **Accommodating needs:** Which needs can be met in whole or part by spare capacity in existing pitches and which will need to be met in whole or part by new provision?
- **Extra pitches:** What extra pitches of each type are required to provide for the residual unmet demand?

1.15 The methodology in Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' provides quantified answers to the above questions as follows:

- **Current provision:** The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity has been assessed.
- **Additional needs:** Additional needs have been calculated by identifying the existing Team Generation Rates in East Herts, including a component to reflect unmet, latent and displaced demand, to identify the number of people that are currently required to form a team of various types in each of the pitch sports. These figures have then been applied to the projected population and increased participation in 2025, to calculate the gross additional teams and their related pitch needs.
- **Net requirements:** The net requirement for additional provision has been calculated by comparing the extra required capacity to the current spare capacity where appropriate, to identify the difference.

Sources of information

1.16 Information was gathered from a wide range of consultees including:

- East Herts Council's Leisure Services Development Manager and Planning Policy Officers, who provided information on pitch provision, grounds maintenance and policy issues.
- The governing bodies of the pitch sports - the Hertfordshire FA, Hertfordshire Cricket, the Rugby Football Union and England Hockey - who provided information on clubs and teams and assisted with the clubs' consultation.
- Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, who provided information on the wider county context.
- Local pitch sport clubs, who provided information on their current and future pitch needs and aspirations, via on-line surveys and meetings.
- Local pitch providers and/or managers who provided information on the operation and use of their pitches.

- Local schools, who provided information on their pitch provision, the extent to which it meets their needs, any current community use and attitudes to expanding this in the future.
- League secretaries, who provided information on affiliation trends and pitch quality.
- The neighbouring local authorities (Uttlesford District Council, Epping Forest District Council and Harlow District Council, Stevenage Borough Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Broxbourne District Council and Welwyn Hatfield Council) supplied information on their respective pitch strategies and any cross-border issues.
- Sport England, who advised on the methodological approach and policy issues and provided data from their Facilities Planning Model National Runs for artificial turf pitches.

The criteria assessed

1.17 The following pitch criteria were assessed:

- **Quantity:** The number of pitches and related facilities was established and cross checked against other sources provided by local stakeholders and consultees.
- **Quality:** The quality of playing pitches was assessed by visiting every pitch in East Herts during the respective playing seasons and assessing quality criteria using the recognised non-technical visual assessment criteria. The ratings for each aspect of each pitch were checked and challenged via the clubs' survey and stakeholder consultation and amended where necessary.
- **Accessibility:** The accessibility of pitches, in particular the extent of secured community use and pricing was assessed, to identify any barriers to use that might impact on the capacity of local provision.
- **Access:** The geographical spread of each type of pitch was mapped, the extent of catchment coverage was then determined and any gaps established.
- **Strategic priorities:** The assessment of need and priorities for provision was identified by the governing bodies of the respective pitch sports.
- **Used capacity:** The used capacity of existing pitches at each site was assessed using a bespoke supply-demand spreadsheet.

SECTION 2: FOOTBALL PITCH NEEDS IN EAST HERTS

The key local stakeholders

- 2.1 **East Herts Council:** The council provides grass football pitches at eleven sites in the district, with grounds maintenance provided by its appointed contractor HTS (Property and Environment) Ltd.
- 2.2 **The Hertfordshire FA:** The Hertfordshire FA administers football in the county.
- 2.3 **FA-affiliated clubs:** 68 football clubs, collectively comprising 407 teams, draw their playing membership from East Herts and are affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA.
- 2.4 **Schools:** There are 57 schools with football pitch provision in East Herts. There is community use of some school pitches.
- 2.5 **Other pitch providers:** Other local football pitch providers include the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust, Wodson Park Trust, Silverleys Trust.

Strategic context

Football Association Strategy

- 2.6 The Football Association's '*National Game Strategy 2015 - 2019*' (2015) has a number of ambitious targets with important implications for the organisation of football and its facilities needs at grassroots level. In particular, it seeks to:
 - Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2019.
 - Increase the number of over 16s playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2019.
 - Create 100 new '3G' football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches by 2019.
 - Develop 'Football Hubs' in 'areas where pressures on the local game are greatest'. The aim of the new programme is to create a new sustainable model for football facilities based around '3G' pitches and high quality grass pitches on Hub Sites.
 - Ensure that 50% of youth football and mini-soccer pitches are played on '3G' pitches by 2019.

Pitch strategies in neighbouring areas

2.7 **Uttlesford:** Uttlesford is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is good via the M11 and A120. The '*Uttlesford Sports Facilities Development Strategy*' (2016) has been adopted by the council and includes the following elements of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There is a current deficit equivalent to one adult football pitch, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from Uttlesford that contributes to this, nor of any exported demand to mitigate it.
- **Youth football:** There is a current deficit equivalent to 6 youth football pitches and whilst there is no evidence of any imported demand from Uttlesford that contributes to this, there is some exported demand from the Bishop's Stortford area.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is current spare capacity equivalent to one mini-soccer pitch and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts, nor of any exported demand from Uttlesford to East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There are currently no '3G' pitches in Uttlesford, leaving an assessed deficit of more than three pitches. There is evidence of exported demand from Uttlesford to '3G' pitches in East Herts.

2.8 **Harlow:** Harlow is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Sawbridgeworth sub-area. Accessibility towards Hertford is good via the A414 but links to Sawbridgeworth via the A1184 are slower. Harlow District Council is currently reviewing its playing pitch strategy but the following emerging findings are of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There is current districtwide spare capacity of adult football pitches and there is no evidence of imported demand from East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is a collective shortfall of youth football pitches in the district, which is contributed to by exported demand from East Herts, with Bishop's Stortford Community FC using pitches at Paringdon Sports Club.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is a collective shortfall of mini-soccer pitches in the district, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts that contributes to this, nor of any exported demand to East Herts to mitigate it.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There a shortfall of '3G' pitches in Harlow, with evidence of exported demand to facilities in East Herts.

2.9 **Epping Forest:** Epping Forest district is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. The '*Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2012) is currently being updated by the council but pending the emergence of detailed findings, dialogue with the council and the FA has identified the following current issues of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There appears to be current districtwide spare capacity, with no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts, nor of any exported demand from Epping Forest to East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is a shortfall of youth football pitches in the district, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts that contributes to this, nor of any exported demand to East Herts to mitigate it.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is a shortfall of mini-soccer pitches in the district, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts that contributes to this, nor of any exported demand to East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There is only one full-sized '3G' football turf pitch in the district, along with several small-sided facilities. The FA believes that there is a significant shortfall of provision in Epping Forest district.

2.10 **Broxbourne:** Broxbourne is located to the south of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Ware sub-area. Accessibility is generally very good via the A10 corridor. The '*Broxbourne Leisure Facilities Strategy: Outdoor Facilities*' (2013) has been adopted by the council and includes the following assessment of needs of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There is current spare capacity equivalent to 20 adult football pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is a current deficit equivalent to 27 youth football pitches, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is a current deficit equivalent to 2 mini-soccer pitches, although there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** Supply and demand are broadly in balance, although there is some evidence of imported demand from East Herts, with Ware Youth FC using the pitch at John Warner Sports Centre.

2.11 **Welwyn Hatfield:** Welwyn Hatfield is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Watton-at-Stone sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A414 provides connections to Hertford. The '*Welwyn Hatfield Sports Facilities Strategy: A Vision to 2026*' (2010) is considered by Sport England to be out of date, but dialogue with the council and the FA has identified the following current issues of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There appears to be current spare capacity of adult football pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is a deficit youth football pitches and there is some evidence of exported demand from East Herts with Hertford Town FC using pitches at Welham Green.
- **Mini-soccer:** There appears to be current spare capacity of mini-soccer pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There are only two full-sized '3G' pitches in the district, plus 11 small-sided pitches and the FA believes that there is a significant shortfall of provision. There is some evidence of imported demand from East Herts.

2.12 **North Hertfordshire:** North Hertfordshire is located to the north and north-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A507 provides connections to Baldock and the A10 to Royston. The '*North Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) has been adopted by the council and includes the following assessment of needs of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There is current spare capacity of 4 adult football pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is current spare capacity of 4 youth football pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is current spare capacity of 5 mini-soccer pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** Supply and demand are broadly in balance and there is no evidence of imported demand from East Herts.

2.13 **Stevenage:** Stevenage is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, although the A602 provides connections to Watton-at-Stone. The '*Stevenage Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy*' (2014) has been adopted by the council and includes the following assessment of needs of relevance to football in East Herts:

- **Adult football:** There is current spare capacity of 10 adult football pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **Youth football:** There is a current deficit of 3 youth football pitches and there is some evidence of exported demand to East Herts, with use of the Walkern Recreation Ground by Austen Arrowheads FC from Stevenage.
- **Mini-soccer:** There is current spare capacity of 10 mini-soccer pitches and there is no evidence of any imported demand from East Herts.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** Supply and demand are broadly in balance, although there are issues of affordability. There is some evidence of imported demand from East Herts, with Watton Youth FC using the Stevenage Academy pitches for training.

The implications for East Herts

2.14 The implications of the strategic context for football in East Herts are as follows:

- **'3G' pitches:** The increased dependence on '3G' football turf pitches for youth football and mini-soccer matches by 2019 will need to be assessed in the context of the local availability of such pitches.
- **Football Hubs:** Football Hubs are being promoted by the FA as a more sustainable method of providing football facilities, compared with multiple single pitch sites. East Herts Council should consider how this can support the improvement of football facilities and participation locally.
- **Neighbouring areas:** Several neighbouring districts have assessed deficiencies in pitch provision, particularly youth football and mini-soccer pitches and there is some evidence of exported demand from East Herts that contributes to this.

Football pitch demand

Introduction

2.15 This section summarises the demand for football in East Herts and covers:

- Expressed demand.
- Displaced demand.
- Unmet demand
- Latent demand.

- Demand trends.
- The views of local stakeholders on demand.

Expressed demand

2.16 The following football clubs and teams are affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA and are based in East Herts. The information is arranged by sub-area and was supplied by the Hertfordshire FA through its 'Whole Game System' database, cross-referenced to the clubs' survey.

2.17 A questionnaire survey of clubs affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA produced responses from 17 clubs, collectively representing 284 teams or 69.8% of the 407 affiliated teams in East Herts. This was followed up with meetings with the key clubs, to explore additional issues. The following clubs responded:

- Bengo Tigers FC
- Bishop's Stortford Community FC
- Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC
- Bridge House FC
- Buntingford Cougars Junior FC
- Buntingford Town FC
- Bury Rangers FC
- Hertford Heath FC
- Hertford Town Youth FC
- Mangrove FC
- Real Stortford FC
- Ware Youth FC
- Watton Ladies FC
- Watton Youth FC
- Westmill FC
- Wodson Park FC
- Wolfpack United FC

2.18 Pitches used outside the district are marked in italics, as are teams from outside the district that are using pitches in East Herts:

Figure 4: Clubs and teams in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Training venue(s)	Adult teams	Youth (11v11) teams	Youth (9v9) teams	Mini (7v7) teams	Mini (5v5) teams
Albury FC	Albury Football Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Albury Saints FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Birchwood Rangers FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Bishop's Stortford FC	Prokit Stadium	Prokit Stadium	4	-	-	-	-
Bishop's Stortford Community FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre Pearce House Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust <i>Paringdon SC</i>	Birchwood High School	10	22	13	16	10
Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	Silverleys	Leventhorpe Academy	4	3	-	-	-
Bishop's Stortford Wanderers FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Casuals & Pelham FC	Brewery Field		1	-	-	-	-
Grange United FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Hockerill Tens FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Real Stortford FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Hockerill College AGP	-	2	-	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge FC	Standon Memorial Playing Field		2	-	-	-	-
Stortford Cobras FC	Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre		1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	28	27	13	16	10

Figure 5: Clubs and teams in Buntingford and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Training venue(s)	Adult teams	Youth (11v11) teams	Youth (9v9) teams	Mini (7v7) teams	Mini (5v5) teams
Austen Arrowheads FC	Walkern Recreation Ground		-	1	3	1	1
Boca Seniors FC	Freman College		1	-	-	-	-
Buntingford Cougars FC	The Bury London Road Playing Field Edwinstree Middle School Seth Ward Community Centre Norfolk Road Recreation Ground	Norfolk Road MUGA	-	6	4	5	5
Buntingford Town FC	The Bury	The Bury Norfolk Road MUGA	3	-	-	-	-
Buntingford Wanderers FC	Seth Ward Community Centre		2	-	-	-	-
Cottered FC	Cottered Playing Field		2	-	-	-	-
Dane End United FC	Horseman's Meadow		1	-	-	-	-
FC Benington	Benington Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Hares Youth FC	Ralph Sadleir School Braughing Playing Fields		1	2	2	1	2
Pig and Whistle FC	Aston Park		1	-	-	-	-
Standon and Puckeridge FC	Standon Memorial Playing Field		2	-	-	-	-
Thundridge City FC	Thundridge Playing Fields		1	-	-	-	-
Thundridge United FC	Thundridge Playing Fields		2	-	-	-	-
Westmill FC	Westmill Recreation Ground	Norfolk Road MUGA	2	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	19	9	9	7	8

Figure 6: Clubs and teams in Hertford and Ware

Club	Match venue	Training venue(s)	Adult teams	Youth (11v11) teams	Youth (9v9) teams	Mini (7v7) teams	Mini (5v5) teams
Allenbury's FC	Allenbury's Sports & Social Club	Allenbury's S & SC	1	-	-	-	-
Allenbury's Sports FC	Allenbury's Sports & Social Club	Allenbury's S & SC	1	-	-	-	-
Angels Lions FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Angel Ware FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Bengeo Tigers FC	The Sele School Hollybush School	Simon Balle School	-	6	2	9	10
Bengeo Trinity FC	Bengeo Recreation Ground		2	-	-	-	-
Bury Rangers FC	Presdales Recreation Ground Hartham Common	Wodson Park '3G' Simon Balle School	5	11	9	10	8
Christchurch Ware FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
FC Sloppys	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Harts Horns FC	Hartham Common		1	-	-	-	-
Hertford Corinthians FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Hertford Heath FC	Hertford Heath Playing Fields	Hertford Heath Playing Fields	1	2	2	-	2
Hertford Stags FC	<i>Wormley Playing Field</i>		1	-	-	-	-
Hertford Town FC	Wodson Park Sports Centre County Hall Ground Hartham Common Simon Balle School West Street Playing Field	Wodson Park '3G' Hartham Common '3G' Simon Balle School Haileybury School	12	11	6	10	7
Hunter United FC	Hartham Common		1	-	-	-	-
Lions FC	Trinity Playing Field	-	1	-	-	-	-
Mangrove FC	Hartham Common	Wodson Park '3G'	3	-	-	-	-
Spread Eagle FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Training venue(s)</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11) teams</i>	<i>Youth (9v9) teams</i>	<i>Mini (7v7) teams</i>	<i>Mini (5v5) teams</i>
St. Margaretsbury FC	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Soc. Club		2	-	-	-	-
St. Margaretsbury United FC	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Soc. Club		1	-	-	-	-
St. Margaretsbury Youth FC	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Soc. Club <i>Cranbourne Primary School</i> <i>John Warner Sports Centre</i> <i>New Rivers Education Centre</i>		2	2	4	2	3
The Bridge House FC	Hartham Common		1	-	-	-	-
The Hertford Hounds FC	Hartham Common		1	-	-	-	-
Turnford Tigers FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Ware FC	Ware FC Wodson Park Sports Centre	Ware FC Wodson Park Sports Centre	7	-	-	-	-
Ware Lions FC	Thundridge Sports Ground Hartham Common		2	2	3	3	3
Ware Rangers FC	Wodson Park Sports Centre St. Mary's Junior School Sacred Heart Primary School		-	3	4	4	2
Ware Sports FC	Wodson Park Sports Centre		1	-	-	-	-
Ware Warriors FC	Presdales Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Ware Youth FC	Trinity Playing Fields	Wodson Park '3G' <i>John Warner '3G'</i>	2	6	4	5	7
Wodson Park FC	Wodson Park Sports Centre	Wodson Park '3G'	2	-	-	-	-
Wodson Park Youth FC	Crouchfields		3	3	3	2	2
Wolfpack United FC	Hartham Common		1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	62	46	37	45	44

Figure 7: Clubs and teams in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Training venue(s)	Adult teams	Youth (11v11) teams	Youth (9v9) teams	Mini (7v7) teams	Mini (5v5) teams
Angels Saviours FC	Widford Playing Field		1	-	-	-	-
Hadham Villa FC	Much Hadham Playing Field		1	-	-	-	-
High Wych Youth FC	St. George's Playing Field		-	-	1	-	-
Much Hadham FC	Much Hadham Recreation Ground		1	-	-	-	-
Sawbridgeworth Town FC	Sawbridgeworth Town FC	Sawbridgeworth Town FC	8	2	2	2	-
TOTALS	-	-	11	2	3	2	0

Figure 8: Clubs and teams in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Training venue(s)	Adult teams	Youth (11v11) teams	Youth (9v9) teams	Mini (7v7) teams	Mini (5v5) teams
Watton-at-Stone FC	Watton-at-Stone Playing Field		1	-	-	-	-
Watton Ladies FC	Watton-at-Stone Playing Field	Watton-at-Stone Playing Field Walkern Playing Field	1	-	-	-	-
Watton Youth FC	Watton-at-Stone Primary School All Saints Primary School Aston St. Marys Primary School	Stripes (Stevenage) Wodson Park	-	1	2	2	3
TOTALS	-	-	2	1	2	2	3

Figure 9: The number of teams by sub-area in East Herts

Age group	Bishop's Stortford	Buntingford	Hertford and Ware	Sawbridgeworth	Watton-at-Stone
Adult male football	26	18	60	9	1
Adult female football	2	1	2	2	1
Boys youth 11v11 football	23	9	42	2	1
Girls youth 11v11 football	4	0	4	0	0
Boys youth 9v9 football	11	9	32	3	2
Girls youth 9v9 football	2	0	5	0	0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	16	7	45	2	2
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	10	8	44	0	3

Displaced demand

2.19 **Displaced demand:** Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. Examination of the data on where East Herts-based teams play their home games and do their training revealed the following:

- **Match demand:** All East Herts-based clubs currently play their home games on pitches within the district apart from the following, all of whom would prefer to accommodate their matches within East Herts:
 - Bishop's Stortford Community FC, which has three youth (11v11) teams playing on pitches in Harlow.
 - St. Margaretsbury Youth FC, which has three youth (11v11), four youth (9v9), two mini (7v7) and four mini (5v5) teams playing on pitches in Broxbourne.
 - Hertford Stags FC, which has one adult team playing in Broxbourne.
 - Watton Youth FC, which has one mini-soccer (5v5) team playing on a pitch in Stevenage.
- **Training demand:** Teams from St. Margaretsbury FC, Ware Youth FC and Watton Youth FC all train on '3G' pitches in Stevenage and Broxbourne. Several other teams play on non-specialist sand-filled artificial grass pitches at Hockerill College, Leventhorpe Academy, Simon Balle School and the Norfolk Road MUGA in Buntingford. This implies a lack of '3G' pitch capacity in East Herts.
- **Imported demand:** There is limited evidence of imported demand, which is confined to six teams from Stevenage using the pitches at Walkern Recreation Ground. Club survey respondents identified that collectively 95.2% of their players originate from within East Herts and 4.8% from neighbouring areas.

Unmet demand

2.20 Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for their matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

2.21 Consultation with clubs in East Herts revealed the following:

- 41.2% of respondents to the football clubs survey currently have a waiting list.
- Clubs estimate that unmet demand is equivalent to a total of 17 adult male teams, 4 adult female teams, 23 youth male teams, 7 youth female teams and 26 mini-soccer teams.
- 71.4% of club survey respondents cited a shortage of pitches as the main impediment to fielding more teams.
- 92.9% of club survey respondents identified as lack of available training facilities and several teams train on pitches outside the district as a result.

Latent demand

2.22 Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. 37.5% of respondents to the clubs currently have a waiting list for youth football and mini-soccer teams, which suggests that there is significant latent demand at these age groups.

Demand trends

2.23 Local and national demand trends in East Herts indicate the following:

- **National football participation rates:** Based upon the national results of Sport England's 'Active People' survey, adult (16+) participation in football has fallen over the period since 2005 as follows:

Figure 10: National adult football participation rates

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
4.97%	5.18%	5.08%	4.96%	4.98%	4.94%	4.25%	4.39%	4.34%	4.28%	-0.69%

- **Local affiliation data:** The FA's two most recent 'Football Participation Reports' (2013 to 2014) for East Herts reveal a fall in adult and youth male football, that was more than offset by an increase in youth female and mini-soccer teams.

Figure 11: Local football participation trends

Team category	2012/13	2013/14	% Change
Adult men	116	111	-4.3%
Adult women	7	6	-14.3%
Youth male	155	149	-3.9%
Youth female	10	12	+20.0%
Mini-soccer	108	146	+35.2%
TOTAL	396	424	+7.1%

- **Future trends:** 68.8% of East Herts club survey respondents expect to increase their membership over the next three years, by a collective total of 12 adult male teams, 3 adult female teams, 16 youth male teams, 5 youth female teams and 15 mini-soccer teams.

The views of local stakeholders on demand

2.24 **The Hertfordshire FA:** The key points are as follows:

- **Larger clubs:** The Hertfordshire FA has a strategy to encourage and support the development of larger football clubs with teams catering for all age groups and this has been successfully achieved in East Herts with at least one large club in each of the main centres of population. These are Bengo Tigers FC (25 teams), Bishop's Stortford Community FC (74 teams), Buntingford Cougars FC (20 teams), Bury Rangers FC (43 teams), Hertford Town FC (46 teams) and Ware Youth FC (24 teams).
- **Impact on smaller clubs:** One unintended consequence of the pitch demands of the larger clubs is that some single team village clubs are being displaced from their local pitch, to accommodate teams from the larger clubs, which has had a negative impact on football participation in the rural parts of the district.

2.25 **FA-affiliated football clubs:** A questionnaire survey of clubs affiliated to the Hertfordshire FA produced responses from 17 clubs, collectively representing 284 teams or 69.8% of the 407 affiliated teams in East Herts. This was followed up with meetings with the following key clubs, to explore additional issues. The consultation identified the following issues in relation to East Herts:

- **Membership trends:** Responding clubs indicated the following trends over the past three years. Five clubs are currently operating a waiting list for players and Buntingford Cougars FC stated that 'the club overall has grown by 87% from 187 to 350 members in the three years to May 2016. Growth has been driven by increased marketing, community events e.g. school's tournaments and a community where residential development is growing local population. The main growth has been in youngest pre-match section (we call them Cougars Cubs for 3 - 6 year olds) and mini soccer Under7 to Under10s':

Figure 12: Football club membership trends in East Herts

Age group	Increased (%)	Stayed the same (%)	Decreased (%)
Adult male	41.7%	50.0%	8.3%
Adult female	36.4%	63.6%	0%
Youth male	83.3%	16.7%	0%
Youth female	63.6%	36.4%	0%
Mini-soccer	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%

- **Issues inhibiting expansion:** 81.4% of responding clubs indicated at least one issue that is inhibiting their expansion. The table below indicates the proportion of clubs affected by specific impediments to growth:

Figure 13: Issues inhibiting East Herts football clubs' expansion

Factor	% Clubs
Shortage of pitches	84.6%
Cost of pitches	47.1%
Lack of funding	60.0%
Shortage of coaches	14.3%
Recruitment difficulties	14.3%
Lack of volunteers	28.6%

- **Area of origin of players:** Responding clubs identified that collectively 95.2% of their players originate from within East Herts and 4.8% from neighbouring areas.

The implications for football in East Herts

2.26 Analysis of local demand for football in East Herts indicates the following:

- 407 affiliated teams play football in East Herts and most local match demand can be accommodated within the district. Only 4.8% of players in East Herts teams live outside the district.
- Displaced demand for match play accounts for one adult male team, ten youth male teams and seven mini-soccer teams.
- Unmet demand due to lack of pitches is equivalent to a total of 17 adult male teams, 4 adult female teams, 23 youth male teams, 7 youth female teams and 26 mini-soccer teams.
- Latent demand based upon information supplied by local clubs is equivalent to 12 adult male teams, 3 adult female teams, 16 youth male teams, 5 youth female teams and 15 mini-soccer teams.

2.27 The table below summarises the above figures for the purposes of calculating team equivalents in East Herts:

Figure 14: Effective football team numbers in East Herts

Age group	Expressed demand	Displaced demand	Unmet demand	Latent demand	Total demand
Adult male football	112	1	17	12	142
Adult female football	8	0	4	3	15
Boys youth 11v11 football	72	5	10	4	91
Girls youth 11v11 football	8	0	2	2	12
Boys youth 9v9 football	52	5	13	4	74
Girls youth 9v9 football	7	0	3	3	13
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	68	4	7	8	87
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	62	3	8	7	80

Football pitch supply

Introduction

2.28 This section summarises the supply of football pitches in East Herts and covers:

- Grass pitches.
- ‘3G’ football turf pitches.
- Pitch quality.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Pitch pricing.
- Ownership, management and security of access.
- The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply.

Grass pitches

2.29 **Introduction:** Provision of grass pitches in East Herts with regulation line markings and goalposts for organised football are listed below by sub-area. Where pitches are over-marked on other pitches, they are listed in brackets:

2.30 Grass football pitches with community use and used are as follows.

Figure 15: Grass football pitches with community use and used in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Albury Football Ground	Parsonage Lane, Albury SG11 2HU	1	-	-	-	-
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SR	-	1	-	-	-
Braughing Playing Fields	Green Lane, Braughing SG11 2QN	1	-	-	-	-
Brewery Field	Brookside, Furneux Pelham SG9 0LQ	1	-	-	-	-
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	Friedberg Avenue, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4RF	-	1	1	-	-
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2HH	6	2	1	3	-
Pearce House	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BQ	-	-	2	-	-
Prokit Stadium	Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5RG	1	-	-	-	-
Silverleys Trust	Hadham Rd, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2QE	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	11	5	4	3	0

Figure 16: Grass football pitches with community use and used in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
All Saints Primary School	Hollybush Lane, Datchworth SG3 6RE	-	-	-	1	1
Aston Park	School Lane, Aston SG2 7EX	1	-	-	-	-
Aston Junior School	School Lane, Aston SG2 7EU	-	-	-	1	1
Benington Recreation Ground	Oak Tree Close, Benington SG2 7QZ	1	-	-	-	-
Cottered Playing Field	Baldock Road, Cottered SG9 9QW	1	-	-	-	-
Crouchfields	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0HA	1	1	2	2	1
Edwinstree Middle School	Norfolk Rd, Buntingford SG9 9AW	-	-	1	-	-
Freman College	Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford SG9 9BT	2	-	-	-	-
Horseman's Meadow	Munden Road, Dane End SG12 0LP	1	-	-	-	-
London Road Playing Field	London Road, Buntingford SG9 9JY	-	-	1	-	-
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Norfolk Road, Buntingford SG9 9AN	1	-	-	-	-
Ralph Sadleir School	Station Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TF	-	1	1	1	1
Seth Ward Community Centre	Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG	1	1	-	-	-
Standon Memorial Playing Field	Station Road, Standon SG11 1TF	1	-	-	-	-

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
The Bury	London Road, Buntingford SG9 9JY	1	-	-	1	2
Thundridge Playing Fields	Cambridge Road, Thundridge CM12 0SU	1	-	-	-	-
Thundridge Sports Ground	Cold Christmas Lane, Thundridge SG12 0SJ	-	1	(1)	1	1
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	High Street, Walkern SG2 7NP	-	2	1	(1)	(1)
Westmill Recreation Ground	Station Road, Westmill SG9 9LH	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	13	6	6(1)	7(1)	7(1)

Figure 17: Grass football pitches with community use and used in Hertford and Ware

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	Harris's Lane, Ware SG12 0DP	1	-	-	-	-
Bengeo Sports Field	New Road, Hertford SG14 3JL	1	-	-	-	-
County Hall Sports Ground	Leahoe, Hertford SG13 8EH	-	-	2	2	-
Hartham Common/Leisure Centre	Hartham Lane, Hertford SG14 1QR	5	1	-	1	2
Hertford Football Club	West Street, Hertford SG13 8EZ	1	-	-	-	-
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	Trinity Road, Hertford Heath SG13 7QS	1	-	-	-	1
Presdales Recreation Ground	Walnut Tree Walk, Ware SG12 9PB	2	3	2	(2)	-
Sacred Heart Primary School	Broadmeads, Ware SG12 9HY	-	-	1	-	-
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Lakes Court, Stansted Abbots SG12 8EH	2	(1)	-	-	-
St. Mary's Junior School	Heath Drive, Ware SG12 0RL	-	-	-	1	1
Simon Balle School	Mangrove Road, Hertford SG13 8AJ	-	2	-	-	-
The Sele School	Welwyn Road, Hertford SG14 2DG	-	2	2	2	1
Trinity Playing Fields	Fanham's Hall Road, Ware SG12 7NN	-	3	2	1	2
Ware Football Club	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0QU	1	-	-	-	-
West Street Playing Field	West Street, Hertford SG13 8EZ	-	1	-	-	-
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0QU	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	15	12(1)	9	7(2)	7

Figure 18: Grass football pitches with community use and used in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Tower Hill, Much Hadham SG10 6DL	1	-	-	-	-
St. George's Playing Field	High Wych Lane, High Wych CM21 0JJ	-	-	1	-	-
Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club	Crofter's End, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0DF	2	-	-	-	-
Widford Playing Field	Bell Lane, Widford SG12 8SH	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	4	0	1	0	0

Figure 19: Grass football pitches with community use and used in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Crouchfields	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0HA	1	1	2	2	1
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	Rectory Lane, Watton-at-Stone SG14 3SG	-	-	1	-	-
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	School Lane, Watton-at-Stone SG14 3SB	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	2	1	3	2	1

2.31 Grass football pitches with community use but currently unused are as follows:

- Bishop's Stortford and surrounds: None
- Buntingford and surrounds:

Figure 20: Grass football pitches with community use but currently unused in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Standon Memorial Playing Field	Station Road, Standon SG11 1TF	1	-	-	-	-
The Meads	B1368, Hare Street SG9 0DY	1	1	1	2	1
TOTALS	-	2	1	1	2	1

- Hertford and Ware: None

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds:

Figure 21: Grass football pitches with community use but currently unused in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Bullfields	Cutford Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9EA	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	1	-	-	-	-

- Watton-at-Stone and surrounds:

Figure 22: Grass football pitches with community use but currently unused in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Bramfield Playing Field	Bury Lane, Bramfield SG14 2QL	1	-	-	-	-
Church Lane Playing Field	Clusterbolts, Stapleford SG14 3ND	-	-	1	-	-
Tewin Recreation Ground	Upper Green Road, Tewin AL6 0LE	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	2	-	1	-	-

2.32 Grass football pitches with no community use are as follows:

Figure 23: Grass football pitches with no community use in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
All Saints' Primary School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BE	-	-	-	2	-
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Rd., Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	2	1	2	-	-
Bishop's Stortford High School	Great Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford SG10 6FB	6	-	-	-	-
Hillmead Primary School	Woburn Avenue, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4PW	-	-	1	-	-
Manor Fields Primary School	Penningtons, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4LE	-	-	-	2	2
Northgate Primary School	Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2RL	-	-	-	1	-
Richard Whittington Primary School	Thornbera Gardens, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3NP	-	-	-	1	-
St. Joseph's Primary School	Great Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NL	-	-	-	1	-
St. Mary's Catholic School	Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ	1	1	-	-	-

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Summernote Primary School	Plaw Hatch Close, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BJ	-	-	-	1	-
Thorley Hill Primary School	Park Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3NH	-	-	-	1	-
Thorn Grove Primary School	Thorn Grove, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5LD	-	-	-	1	-
Windhill 21	Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NE	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	9	2	3	11	2

Figure 24: Grass football pitches with no community use in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Benington Primary School	Walkern Road, Benington SG2 7LP	-	-	-	1	-
Layston First School	The Causeway, Buntingford SG9 9EU	-	-	-	1	-
Little Munden Primary School	Dane End, Little Munden SG12 0NR	-	-	1	-	-
Millfield First School	Monks Walk, Buntingford SG9 9DT	-	-	-	-	1
St. Thomas of Canterbury Primary School	High Street, Puckeridge SG11 1RZ	-	-	1	1	-
Tewin Cowper Primary School	Cannons Meadow, Tewin AL6 0JU	-	-	1	-	-
Thundridge Primary School	Ermine Street, Thundridge SG12 0SY	-	-	1	-	1
Walkern Primary School	High Street, Walkern SG2 7NS	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	0	0	4	3	2

Figure 25: Grass football pitches with no community use in Hertford and Ware

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Abel Smith Primary School	Churchfields, Hertford SG13 8AE	-	-	1	-	-
Amwell View School	Station Road, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8EH	1	-	-	-	-
Bengeo Primary School	The Avenue, Bengeo SG14 3DX	-	-	-	1	-
Chauncy School	Park Road, Ware SG12 0DP	1	1	-	2	1
Christ Church Primary School	New Road, Ware SG12 7BT	-	-	-	1	-
Hailey Hall School	Hailey Lane, Hertford SG13 7PB	1	-	-	-	-
Hertford Heath Primary School	Woodland Road, Hertford Heath SG13 7QW	-	-	1	-	-
Haileybury College	Hertford SG13 7NU	3	-	-	-	-
Hertford St. Andrew's Primary School	Calton Avenue, Hertford SG14 2EP	-	-	1	1	-

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Hollybush Primary School	Fordwich Rise, Hertford SG14 2DF	-	-	-	1	-
Kingshill Infants School	Heath Drive, Ware SG12 0RL	-	-	1	1	-
Middleton School	Walnut Tree Walk, Ware SG12 9PD	1	-	1	-	-
Mill Mead Primary School	Port Vale, Hertford SG14 3AA	-	-	1	-	-
Morgans Primary School	Morgans Road, Hertford SG13 8DR	-	-	-	1	-
Priors Wood Primary School	Cozens Road, Ware SG12 7HZ	-	-	1	-	-
Richard Hale School	Morgan's Walk, Hertford SG13 8BL	-	2	-	-	-
St. Andrew's Primary School	Mill Race, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8BZ	-	-	-	1	-
St. Catherine's Primary School	Park Road, Ware SG12 0AW	-	-	-	1	-
St. Joseph's RC Primary School	North Road, Hertford SG14 2BU	-	-	-	1	-
St. Edmund's College	Farm Lane, Ware SG11 1DS	1	-	-	-	-
Tower Primary School	Tower Road, Ware SG12 7LP	-	-	-	1	-
Wareside Primary School	Reeves Green, Wareside, Ware SG12 7QR	-	-	-	1	-
Wheatcroft Primary School	Stanstead Road, Hertford SG13 7HQ	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	8	3	8	13	1

Figure 26: Grass football pitches with no community use in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
High Wych Primary School	High Wych Road, High Wych CM21 0JB	-	-	1	-	-
Leventhorpe Academy	Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY	4	-	-	-	-
Mandeville Primary School	West Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0BL	-	-	1	-	-
Reedings Junior School	Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9DD	-	1	-	-	-
Widford School	Ware Road, Widford SG12 8RE	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	4	1	3	0	0

Figure 27: Grass football pitches with no community use Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Address	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Tewin Cowper Primary School	Cannons Meadow, Tewin AL6 0JU	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	0	0	1	0	0

2.33 The number of grass pitches with each type of access in each sub-area in East Herts is as follows:

Figure 28: Grass football pitches in all community access categories by sub-area in East Herts

Pitch type	Access Type	Bishops Stortford	Buntingford	Hertford & Ware	Sawbridge worth	Watton-at-Stone	East Herts
Adult	Community use/used	11	13	15	4	2	45
	Community use/unused	0	2	0	1	2	5
	No community use	9	0	8	4	0	21
	Total pitches	20	15	23	9	4	71
Youth 11v11	Community use/used	5	6	12(1)	0	1	24(1)
	Community use/unused	0	1	0	0	0	1
	No community use	2	0	3	1	0	6
	Total pitches	7	7	15(1)	1	1	31(1)
Youth 9v9	Community use/used	4	6(1)	9	1	3	23(1)
	Community use/unused	0	1	0	0	1	2
	No community use	3	4	8	3	1	20
	Total pitches	7	11(1)	17	4	5	42(1)
Mini 7v7	Community use/used	4	6(1)	7(2)	0	2	20(3)
	Community use/unused	0	2	0	0	0	2
	No community use	11	3	13	0	0	27
	Total pitches	15	11(1)	20(2)	0	2	48(3)
Mini 5v5	Community use/used	0	7(1)	9	0	1	17(1)
	Community use/unused	0	1	0	0	0	1
	No community use	2	2	1	0	0	5
	Total pitches	2	10(1)	10	0	1	23(1)

‘3G’ football turf pitches

2.34 Provision of ‘3G’ football turf pitches with community access in East Herts is as follows. All pitches are floodlit:

Figure 29: ‘3G’ football turf pitches with community use and used in East Herts

Site	Address	Sub-area	Size	Floodlit	Hours of use	Year built
Birchwood High School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD	Bishop's Stortford	70m x 44.5m	Yes	17.00 - 21.00 Weekdays 09.00 - 17.00 Weekends	2007
Hartham Leisure Centre	Hartham Lane, Hertford SG14 1QR	Hertford & Ware	40m x 25m	Yes	06.30 - 22.00 Weekdays 07.00 - 17.00 Weekends	2014
Hartham Leisure Centre	Hartham Lane, Hertford SG14 1QR	Hertford & Ware	40m x 25m	Yes	06.30 - 22.00 Weekdays 07.00 - 17.00 Weekends	2014
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0QU	Hertford & Ware	103m x 63m	Yes	07.00 - 22.00 Weekdays 08.00 - 20.00 Saturday 09.00 - 21.00 Sunday	2015

2.35 In addition to the pitches with community use, usage of the small-sided facility at Allenbury's is restricted to the two Allenbury's football clubs:

Figure 30: Small-sided '3G' football turf pitches with community use and used in East Herts

Site	Address	Sub-area	Size	Floodlit	Hours of use	Year built
Allenbury Sports & Social Club	Harris's Lane, Ware SG12 0DJ	Hertford & Ware	40m x 25m	Yes	19.00 - 21.00 Weekdays	2009

Grass pitch quality

2.36 The quality of all grass football pitches in East Herts was assessed from site visits during the playing season, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed by the FA for use in conjunction with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. The criteria assessed are as follows. A percentage score and associated ratings are generated as an overall measure of quality:

- **The playing surface** - This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities** - This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance** - This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

2.37 The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 100% - 75% (highlighted in green below), 'Standard' for scores of 74.9% - 50% (highlighted in yellow below), 'Poor' for scores of 49.9% - 25% (highlighted in red below) and 'Unsuitable' below 25%. Comments on each site from the assessment visits and/or the clubs' survey are also detailed and the sites are arranged by sub-area:

Figure 31: Grass football pitch quality in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Albury Football Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Poor	Poor	Pitch surface very uneven (rated 46%). Pavilion in poor state of repair (rated 31%).
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	Youth 11v11 Pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch (81%) on cricket outfield. Changing in the Trust's pavilion.
Braughing Playing Fields	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch and changing facilities towards the higher end of 'standard' quality.
Brewery Field	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Poor	None	Very poor quality pitch (36%) with no on-site changing. Site currently for sale.
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard Standard	Poor	'The site suffers from public use, dog fouling rubbish from the public and the pub next door not a secure site' - Bishop's Stortford Community FC Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard' (67%), but changing is 'poor' (35%) in a converted grounds maintenance depot.

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult 11v11 Pitch 2 Adult 11v11 Pitch 3 Adult 11v11 Pitch 4 Adult 11v11 Pitch 5 Adult 11v11 Pitch 6 Youth 11v11 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11 Pitch 2 Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 3	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	'The pitches are subject to flooding, poor site management, dog fouling and unauthorised public use' - <i>Bishop's Stortford Community FC</i> 'The lower pitches by the river flood easily' - <i>Real Stortford FC</i> Pitch quality varies within the 'standard' range (55% to 67%). Changing is rated as 'poor' (34%) which is unacceptable at one of the key multi-pitch sites in the district.
Pearce House	Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2	Standard Standard	None	Pitch quality at the high end of standard (71%), but no on-site changing.
Prokit Stadium	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Good	Good	Pitch (100%) and changing (100%) both very 'high' quality.
Silverleys Trust	Adult 11v11 Pitch Youth 11v11 Pitch	Good Standard	Good	The adult pitch (90%) and changing are 'high' quality (82%), but the youth pitch (66%) is in the mid-range of 'standard'.

Figure 32: Grass football pitch quality in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
All Saints Primary School	Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard	Standard	'Very muddy when it rains during winter, pitch cuts up a lot causing ruts during cold weather' - <i>Watton Youth FC</i> . Changing not available for external users.
Aston Park	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	None	Pitch quality at the high end of standard (70%), but no on-site changing.
Aston St. Mary's Junior School	Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard	Standard	Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard' rating (54%). Changing not available for community users.
Benington Recreation Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Poor	Changing facilities are not fit for purpose - work started on a new self-build project.
Cottered Playing Field	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch at the lower end of 'standard' rating (54%) but changing at the upper end of 'standard' (74%).
Crouchfields	Adult 11v11 Pitch Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	'We have a 15-year lease (10 remaining) and would like to develop the site to include simple amenities like proper toilets, running water etc., a possible club house, perimeter fencing and pitch regeneration' - <i>Wodson Park FC</i> Pitch quality at the high end of standard (70%), but changing very poor (34%).

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Edwinstree Middle School	Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality at the high end of standard (74%). Changing not available for community use.
Freman College	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult 11v11 Pitch 2	Standard Standard	Good	Pitch quality at the high end of standard (73%). Changing rated 'good' (79%).
Horseman's Meadow	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	None	'Standard' quality pitch with no on-site changing provision.
London Road Playing Field	Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard	Poor	'No secure goalpost storage. Ground contamination that put the pitch out of action last year for several weeks' - <i>Buntingford Cougars FC</i> . Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard' (66%), but changing is 'poor' (35%).
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Poor	Good	Pitch quality is 'poor' at 43% with a severe slope and uneven surface, but changing is 'good' (82%) shared with cricket.
Ralph Sadleir School	Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard' (74%), but changing is 'good' (82%).
Seth Ward Community Centre	Adult 11v11 Pitch Youth 11v11 Pitch	Poor Standard	Standard	'Poor drainage leads to cancellation of 25% of matches' - <i>Buntingford Cougars FC</i> . Adult pitch is 'poor' (43%) and the youth pitch at the lower end of 'standard' (54%). Changing in the community centre is at the high end of 'standard' (74%).
Standon Playing Field	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality (67%) and changing (69%) both in the mid-range of 'standard'.
The Bury	Adult 11v11 Pitch Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Wet weather on clay-based waterlogged pitches means that most matches in December and January are cancelled' - <i>Buntingford Cougars FC</i> . Pitch quality (64%) and changing (69%) both in the mid-range of 'standard'.
Thundridge Playing Fields	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality (59%) towards the lower end of 'standard', but changing (63%) is in the mid-range of 'standard'.
Thundridge Sports Ground	Youth 11v11/9v9 Pitch Mini 7v7 Pitch Mini 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitch quality (73%) at the high end of 'standard', but changing (63%) is in the mid-range of 'standard'.
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	Youth 11v11/9v9 Pitch Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Good	Pitch quality is in the mid-range of 'standard' (67%), but changing (85%) is 'high' quality.
Westmill Recreation Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality (73%) is at the high end of 'standard', but changing (52%) is at the low end of 'standard'.

Figure 33: Grass football pitch quality in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Allenbury Sports & Social Club	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Good	Standard	Very high quality pitches (97%), changing at the high end of 'standard' quality (77%).
Bengeo Sports Field	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Good	Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard' rating (51%). 'Good' quality changing in the Community Hall on-site.
County Hall Sports Ground	Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'We have agreed a programme of works with the County Council to improve to the clubhouse which we licence, but the costs must be met through fundraising' - <i>Hertford Youth FC</i> . Pitches (60%) and changing (54%) are both at the lower end of 'standard' quality.
Hartham Common/Leisure Centre	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult 11v11 Pitch 2 Adult 11v11 Pitch 3 Adult 11v11 Pitch 4 Adult 11v11 Pitch 5 Youth 11v11 Pitch Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	'The site suffers from dog fouling, glass litter unofficial use and poor drainage' - <i>Hertford Town Youth FC</i> 'The quality of pitch maintenance is appalling. Virtually non-existent and therefore getting steadily worse' - <i>Bridge House FC</i> Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard' (56%), but changing is 'poor' (35%).
Hertford Football Club	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Good	Good	High quality pitch and changing facilities in an enclosed ground.
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	Adult 11v11 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard	Standard	'Some vandalism problems at the site' - <i>Hertford Heath FC</i> Pitch quality (59%) and changing (54%) both at the lower end of 'standard'.
Presdales Recreation Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult 11v11 Pitch 2 Youth 11v11/7v7 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11/7v7 Pitch 2 Youth 11v11 Pitch 3 Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Moving into a higher league would allow us to attract additional players, however the poor standard of Presdales, coupled with the lack of fenced playing area and clubhouse mean this has been impossible for years' - <i>Bury Rangers FC</i> . Pitches (59%) and changing (57%) both at the lower end of 'standard' quality.
Sacred Heart Primary School	Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard' (66%). Changing not available for community users.
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult/Youth 11v11 Pitch	Good Standard	Good	Stadium pitch (100%) and changing (95%) are very 'high' quality. Second pitch (overmarked for youth 11v11) is at the high end of 'standard' (73%), as is the pavilion changing (74%).
St. Mary's Junior School	Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard' (66%). Changing not available for community users.

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Simon Balle School	Youth 11v11 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11 Pitch 2	Standard Standard	Good	'Last season we lost a pitch for half the season due to a sink hole' - <i>Hertford Town Youth FC</i> . Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard' (66%). Changing not available for community users.
The Sele School	Adult 11v11 Pitch Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Standard	'Some sunken areas on the pitch (e.g. penalty spots)' - <i>Bengeo Tigers FC</i> . Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard' (70%), but changing facilities at the lower end of 'standard' (55%).
Trinity Playing Fields	Youth 11v11 Pitch 1 Youth 11v11 Pitch 2 Youth 11v11 Pitch 3 Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch 2	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Some pitches drain a lot better than others' - <i>Ware Youth FC</i> Pitch quality varies slightly but all are at the high end of 'standard' (71% - 74%), but changing is 'good' (82%).
Ware Football Club	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Good	Good	Pitch (100%) and changing (100%) both very 'high' quality.
West Street Playing Field	Youth 11v11 Pitch	Poor	None	'The site is situated on a flood plain and is prone to flooding between November and February' - <i>Hertford Youth FC</i> . Pitch quality (56%) towards the lower end of 'standard'. No on-site changing.
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Good	Good	Pitch in the middle of the athletics track. Pitch (81%) and changing (85%) both 'high' quality.

Figure 34: Grass football pitch quality in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Good	Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard' (61%), but changing is 'good' (82%).
St. George's Playing Field	Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard	Poor	Pitch quality in the low end of 'standard' (51%), but changing is very 'poor' (20%).
Sawbridgeworth Town FC	Adult 11v11 Pitch 1 Adult 11v11 Pitch 2	Good Standard	Good	Stadium pitch (100%) and changing (100%) are very 'high' quality. Second pitch is at the high end of 'standard' (71%).
Widford Playing Field	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	None	Pitch quality (73%) is at the high end of 'standard'. No on-site changing.

Figure 35: Grass football pitch quality in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitch	Pitch quality	Changing quality	Comments
Crouchfields	Adult 11v11 Pitch Youth 11v11 Pitch Youth 9v9 Pitch 1 Youth 9v9 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 1 Mini-soccer 7v7 Pitch 2 Mini-soccer 5v5 Pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Poor	'We have a 15-year lease (10 remaining) and would like to develop the site to include simple amenities like proper toilets, running water etc., a possible club house, perimeter fencing and pitch regeneration' - Wodson Park FC Pitch quality at the high end of standard (70%), but changing very poor (34%).
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	Youth 9v9 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard' (63%). Changing not available for community users.
Watton-at-Stone Recn Ground	Adult 11v11 Pitch	Standard	Standard	Pitch quality (63%) is in the mid-range of 'standard', but changing (71%) is at the high end of 'standard'.

2.38 The number and percentage of pitches in each quality band is tabulated below. There are no particular sub-area concentrations:

Figure 36: Number and percentage of football pitches in each quality category in East Herts

Pitch type	Good		Standard		Poor	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Adult 11v11	8	17.8%	33	73.3%	4	8.9%
Youth 11v11	1	3.8%	24	92.2%	1	3.8%
Youth 9v9	0	0.0%	21	100.0%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer 7v7	0	0.0%	22	100.0%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer 5v5	0	0.0%	20	100.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	9	6.7%	120	89.6%	5	3.7%

2.39 The percentage of pitches of each type that are served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities is as follows. There are no particular sub-area concentrations:

Figure 37: The number and percentage of football pitches served by poor quality changing in East Herts

Pitch type	Number	%
Adult 11v11	16	38.1%
Youth 11v11	9	34.6%
Youth 9v9	7	33.3%
Mini-soccer 7v7	7	31.8%
Mini-soccer 5v5	7	35.0%
TOTAL	46	35.1%

'3G' pitch quality

- 2.40 The quality of the '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts involved site visits to undertake the non-technical visual inspection produced by the FA for Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). The assessment generates an overall 'score' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 80% or more 'Standard' for scores of 79% - 51% and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below.

Figure 38: '3G' football turf pitch quality in East Herts

Site	Rating	Comments
Allenbury Sports & Social Club	Good	Pitch 8 years old but low usage.
Birchwood High School	Standard	Pitch installed 10 years ago, some signs of wear.
Hartham Leisure Centre	Good	New pitch on converted tennis courts.
Hartham Leisure Centre	Good	New pitch on converted tennis courts.
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Good	Very high quality pitch.

Pitch maintenance

- 2.41 Grass pitch maintenance in East Herts is organised as follows:
- **Council-owned pitches** - John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance is contracted by the Council to maintain all its football pitches and related changing facilities. Maintenance is carried out according to a service specification.
 - **School pitches** - Schools make individual arrangements for football pitch maintenance, although the County Council has a contract with Serco that is utilised by some schools.
 - **Sports clubs** - The pitches owned by football clubs are generally maintained by the clubs' own groundstaff, in some instances with support from volunteers.
- 2.42 The annual spend per pitch on grounds maintenance at selected sites is tabulated below. The figures compare with Sport England Guidance in *'Natural Turf for Sport'* (2011), which identified the need for a £5,000 to £10,500 annual budget for undrained or pipe drained football pitches. This figure was increased in its *'Protecting Playing Fields'* (2015) guidance, to £11,700 for an adult football pitch and £9,600 for a youth football pitch.

Figure 39: Selected grass pitch annual maintenance expenditure in East Herts

Site	Spend per pitch per annum (£)
Crouchfields, Ware	£4,000
Friedberg Avenue	£5,000
Presdales Recreation Ground	£5,000
Trinity Playing Field, Ware	£4,000

Pitch pricing

- 2.43 The basis for charging for football pitch hire in East Herts varies by user type and provider, but a selection of prices is summarised below:

Figure 40: Selected grass pitch hire costs in East Herts

Site	Seasonal Charges (£)	Equivalent Charge per Match (£)
Hartham Common/Leisure Centre	£1,200 per adult pitch £600 for youth pitch £400 for mini-soccer	£60 £30 £25
Grange Paddocks	£1,160 per adult pitch £600 for youth/mini	£58 £30
The Bury, Buntingford	£600 per adult pitch	£30
Watton-at-Stone Recn. Grd.	£600 per pitch	£30
Benington Recreation Ground	£600 per pitch	£30
Hertford Football Club	£1,200 per adult pitch	£60
Simon Balle School	£700 per youth pitch	£35

Figure 41: Selected grass pitch hire costs in neighbouring areas

District	Site	Equivalent Charge per Match (£)
Harlow	Fairways Sports Club (adult pitch)	£48
Harlow	Staple Tye (adult pitch)	£50
Harlow	Paringdon Sports Club (adult pitch)	£50
Harlow	Church Langley Country Park (adult pitch)	£50
Harlow	Mark Hall Sports Centre (adult pitch)	£40
Harlow	Rectory Field (adult pitch)	£50
Stevenage	All council-owned pitches (adult pitch)	£65 with changing /£56 without
Stevenage	All council-owned pitches (youth pitch)	£34 with changing /£27 without
Stevenage	All council-owned pitches (mini pitch)	£19

Figure 42: Selected '3G' football turf pitch hire costs in East Herts and neighbouring areas

Pitch	District	Basis of hire	Cost per hour (£)
Wodson Park Sports Centre	East Herts	Full-sized pitch	£100
Birchwood High School	East Herts	Full-sized pitch	£95
Mark Hall Sports Centre	Harlow	Full-sized pitch	£85
Passmores Academy	Harlow	Full-sized pitch	£105
Great Dunmow Sports Centre	Uttlesford	Full-sized pitch	£82
John Warner Sports Centre	Broxbourne	Full-sized pitch	£115

Ownership management and security of access

- 2.44 The ownership, management and security of access to all football pitches with community use and used in East Herts is set out below, arranged by sub-area.

Figure 43: Ownership, management and security of access to football pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Albury Recreation Ground	Albury Parish Council	Albury Parish Council	Secured
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	East Herts District Council	Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	Secured
Braughing Playing Fields	Braughing Parish Council	Braughing Parish Council	Secured
Brewery Field	Rayments Brewery	Furneux Pelham Parish Council	Unsecured
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	Bishops Stortford Town Council	Bishops Stortford Town Council	Secured
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	East Herts District Council	Everyone Active	Secured
Pearce House	Birchwood High School	Birchwood High School	Unsecured
Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Prokit Stadium	Bishop's Stortford FC	Bishop's Stortford FC	Secured
Silverleys Trust	Silverleys Trust	Silverleys Trust	Secured

Figure 44: Ownership, management and security of access to football pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
All Saints Primary School	Herts County Council	All Saints Primary School	Unsecured
Aston Park	Datchworth Parish Council	Datchworth Parish Council	Secured
Aston Junior School	Herts County Council	Aston Junior School	Unsecured
Benington Recreation Ground	Benington Parish Council	Benington Parish Council	Secured
Cottered Playing Field	Cottered Parish Council	Cottered Parish Council	Secured
Crouchfields	Private Owners	Wodson Park FC	Secured
Edwinstree Middle School	Edwinstree Middle School	Edwinstree Middle School	Unsecured
Freman College	Freman College	Freman College	Unsecured
Horseman's Meadow	Little Munden Parish Council	Little Munden Parish Council	Secured
London Road Playing Field	Buntingford Relief in Need Charity	Buntingford Cougars FC	Unsecured
Norfolk Road Playing Field	Buntingford Town Council	Buntingford Town Council	Secured

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Ralph Sadleir School	Ralph Sadleir School	Ralph Sadleir School	Unsecured
Seth Ward Community Centre	Buntingford Town Council	Buntingford Town Council	Secured
Standon Memorial Playing Field	Standon Parish Council	Standon Parish Council	Secured
The Bury	Fairview Homes	Buntingford Sports Club Ltd.	Secured
The Sele School	The Sele School	The Sele School	Unsecured
Thundridge Playing Field	Thundridge Parish Council	Thundridge Parish Council	Secured
Thundridge Sports Ground	Thundridge Parish Council	Thundridge Parish Council	Secured
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	Walkern Parish Council	Walkern Parish Council	Secured
Westmill Recreation Ground	T&M Greg Trust	Westmill Parish Council	Secured

Figure 45: Ownership, management and security of access to football pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Allenbury Sports & Social Club	Glaxo Smith Kline	Allenbury Sports & Social Club	Secured
Bengeo Sports Field	Bengeo Parish Council	Bengeo Parish Council	Secured
County Hall Sports Ground	Hertfordshire County Council	Hertfordshire County Council	Secured
Hartham Common and Leisure Centre	East Herts District Council	Everyone Active	Secured
Hertford Football Club	Hertford FC	Hertford FC	Secured
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	Hertford Heath Parish Council	Hertford Heath Parish Council	Secured
Presdales Recreation Ground	East Herts District Council	Bury Rangers FC	Secured
Sacred Heart Primary School	Hertfordshire County Council	Sacred Heart Primary School	Unsecured
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Secured
St. Mary's Junior School	Hertfordshire County Council	St. Mary's Junior School	Unsecured
Simon Balle School	Simon Balle School	Simon Balle School	Unsecured
The Sele School	The Sele School	The Sele School	Unsecured
Thundridge Sports Ground	Thundridge Parish Council	Thundridge Parish Council	Secured

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Trinity Playing Fields	East Herts District Council	Ware Youth FC	Secured
Ware Football Club	Ware Football Club	Ware Football Club	Secured
West Street Playing Field	Hertford FC	Hertford FC	Secured
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Wodson Park Trust	Wodson Park Trust	Secured

Figure 46: Ownership, management and security of access to football pitches in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Much Hadham Parish Council	Much Hadham Parish Council	Secured
St. George's Playing Field	High Wych Parish Council	High Wych Parish Council	Secured
Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club	Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club	Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club	Secured
Widford Playing Field	Private Owner	Angels Saviours FC	Secured

Figure 47: Ownership, management and security of access to football pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Crouchfields	Private Owners	Wodson Park FC	Secured
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	Hertfordshire County Council	Watton-at-Stone Primary School	Unsecured
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	Secured

2.45 Security of access for each type of football pitch in East Herts is summarised below. Only 62.5% of youth (9v9) pitches have secured access. There are no particular sub-area concentrations:

Figure 48: Number and percentage of football pitches with secured community access in East Herts

Pitch type	Total pitches	Number secured	% secured
Full-sized '3G'	1	1	100%
Adult 11v11	37	33	89.2%
Youth 11v11	26	23	88.5%
Youth 9v9	24	15	62.5%
Mini-soccer 7v7	21	17	81.0%
Mini-soccer 5v5	26	22	84.6%
TOTAL	135	111	82.2%

The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply

2.46 This section summarises the views of local football stakeholders in East Herts.

2.47 **The Hertfordshire FA:** Consultation with the Hertfordshire FA's County Development Manager, identified the following key issues in relation to East Herts:

- The FA's highest regional facilities priority is to secure a home base for Bishop's Stortford Community FC, the largest club in the country with a total of 74 teams. The preferred option is for a site with two '3G' football turf pitches and a clubhouse. The FA believes that East Herts Council should take a proactive approach to assisting the club with acquiring a site. This might include purchasing a suitable site and leasing it to the club to operate it.
- Bury Rangers FC has secured the provision of a '3G' football turf pitch at Richard Hale School with the help of Football Foundation funding.
- Bengoe Tigers FC and Hertford Town FC are investigating the feasibility of developing pitches at a site near Hertford currently owned by Lafarge.

2.48 **FA-affiliated football clubs:** The consultation identified the following key issues in relation to pitch supply East Herts:

- **Pitch usage preferences:** 82.3% of clubs are playing at their preferred location.
- **Pitch availability:** Several clubs experience problems with pitch availability for matches. A sample of comments is as follows:
 - **Bishop's Stortford Community FC:** 'We have children who wish to play football who cannot be accommodated due to the lack of playing facilities. It is our Club's considered opinion that the lack of facilities in accordance is severely hampering our ability to meet provision in the town. With the impending growth of Bishop's Stortford North, the Club are not only concerned about the lack of football provision, but the knock-on effects of children's health, social skills and community cohesion'.
 - **Hertford Town FC:** 'We have some teams who have to occasionally use pitches in Stevenage and Welham Green due to no pitch availability in East Herts with or without changing facilities'.
 - **Watton Youth FC:** 'The Main problem for Watton Youth is the lack of Pitches. We are having to turn away mini age group players because of lack of pitches. We already play with pitches marked within a larger pitch to allow three age groups to use the same pitch'.

- **Wodson Park FC:** 'With the volume of local clubs and teams there is a shortage of facilities. We are restricted to the number of teams we have because of the lack of local facilities or funding to develop those we already have'.
- **Watton Ladies FC:** 'Our pitch can only have two teams allocated due to the pitch staying playable throughout the winter months. Our youth team has had to find an alternative pitch due to this, therefore moving outside of the village'.
- **Bengeo Tigers FC:** 'Our Minis football has waiting lists as we simply don't have the space for more teams - this is the growth area of our club Winter training facilities are a real problem with a lack of floodlit facilities More pitches would allow us to expand and reduce waiting lists'.
- **Watton Youth FC:** 'The Main problem is the lack of Pitches. As the club continues to grow the club will require a new pitch for 11 v 11 each year. On average, the club has increased 15 players each year. We have funding to assist in the development of any prospective future land that could be used for football pitches'.
- **Pitch maintenance:** Only 16.7% of responding clubs feel that the maintenance of the pitches they use is 'good' 66.7% believe that it is 'adequate' and 16.7% believe that it is 'unsuitable'. A typical comment from Bridge House FC was that 'the quality of pitch maintenance is appalling, virtually non-existent and therefore getting steadily worse. It makes player retention difficult - poor skills and increased injuries'.
- **Pitch quality:** 54.5% of respondents believe that pitch quality has deteriorated since last season, although all pitches still meet league standards.
- **Training facilities:** 92.9% of clubs cited a lack of training facilities as the main factor inhibiting expansion. A sample of comments is as follows:
 - **Bengeo Tigers FC:** 'Our Minis football has waiting lists as we simply don't have the space for more teams - this is the growth area of our club Winter training facilities are a real problem with a lack of floodlit facilities More pitches would allow us to expand and reduce waiting lists'.
 - **Real Stortford FC:** 'We could have recruited an additional six teams this season, half of whom we could have found suitable pitches for Sunday/Saturday games. However, the lack of training facilities prevented us from recruiting. We could have found slots for maybe two teams at Hockerill College (although this is technically a Hockey Surface), but Birchwood High School has the only '3G' surface in Bishops Stortford and is block booked by Bishop's Stortford Community FC.

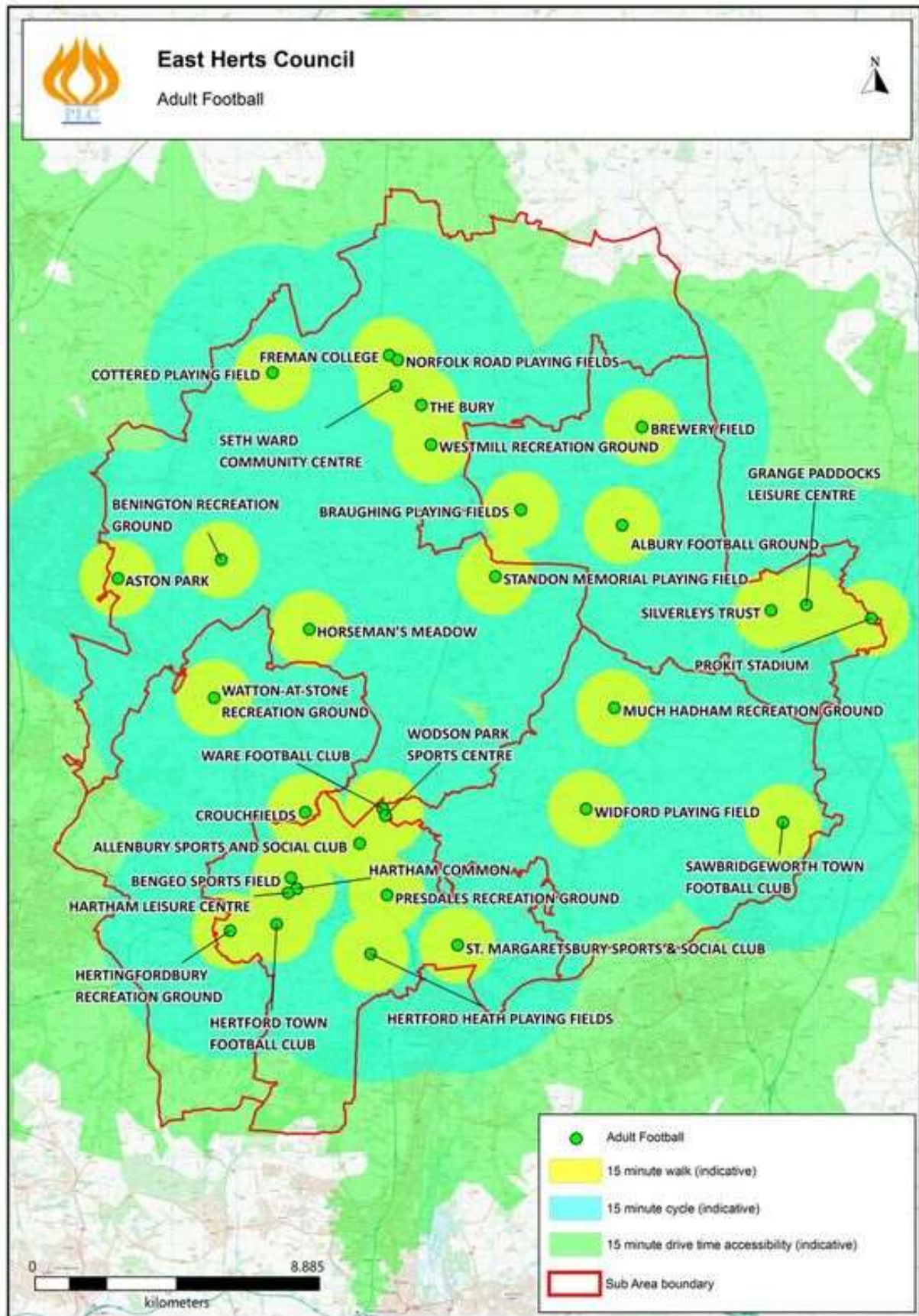
- **Hertford Town Youth FC:** 'We have lost access to training slots at Wodson Park because priority has been given to Ware clubs. We have a short fall in training facilities for several teams'.
- **Wodson Park FC:** 'We currently use the '3G' pitch at Wodson Park for our training but there aren't enough slots for all our teams'. With the volume of local clubs and teams there is a shortage of facilities. We are restricted to the number of teams we have because of the lack of local facilities or funding to develop those we already have'.
- **Watton Youth FC:** 'For training, in the summer months we use any recreational field available, during the winter all ages groups above under 7's hire '3G' training facilities at various locations in Hertford and Stevenage at a high cost which takes approximately 75% of funds raised by players' subs'.
- **Buntingford Cougars FC:** 'We are over capacity on [demand for] all weather floodlit training facilities and may consider setting a cap on teams or player numbers. An additional challenge is the clay-based soil that effectively waterlogs many local pitches in the winter. Our single biggest issue at the club is all weather facilities'.
- **Changing facilities:** Wodson Park FC stated that 'we have a 15-year lease (10 remaining) on our Crouchfields base. We would like to develop the site to include simple amenities like proper toilets, running water, a possible club house, perimeter fencing and pitch regeneration'.

Geographical distribution

2.49 To geographical spread of football pitches in East Herts is set out below:

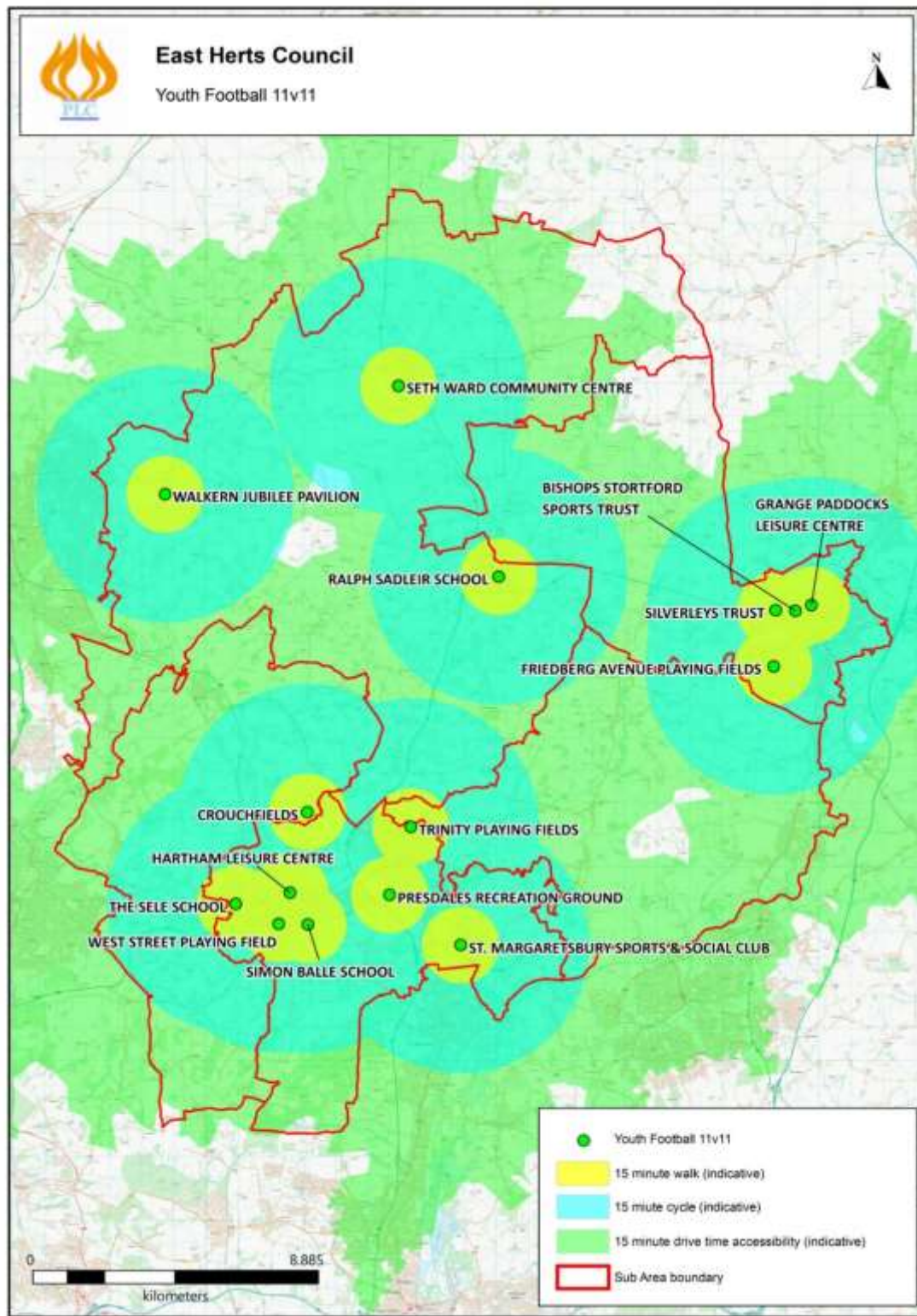
- **Adult grass pitches:** Geographical coverage of adult football pitches is good, with the whole population is within 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch. There is pitch provision in all sub-areas.

Figure 49: Geographical coverage of adult football pitches in East Herts



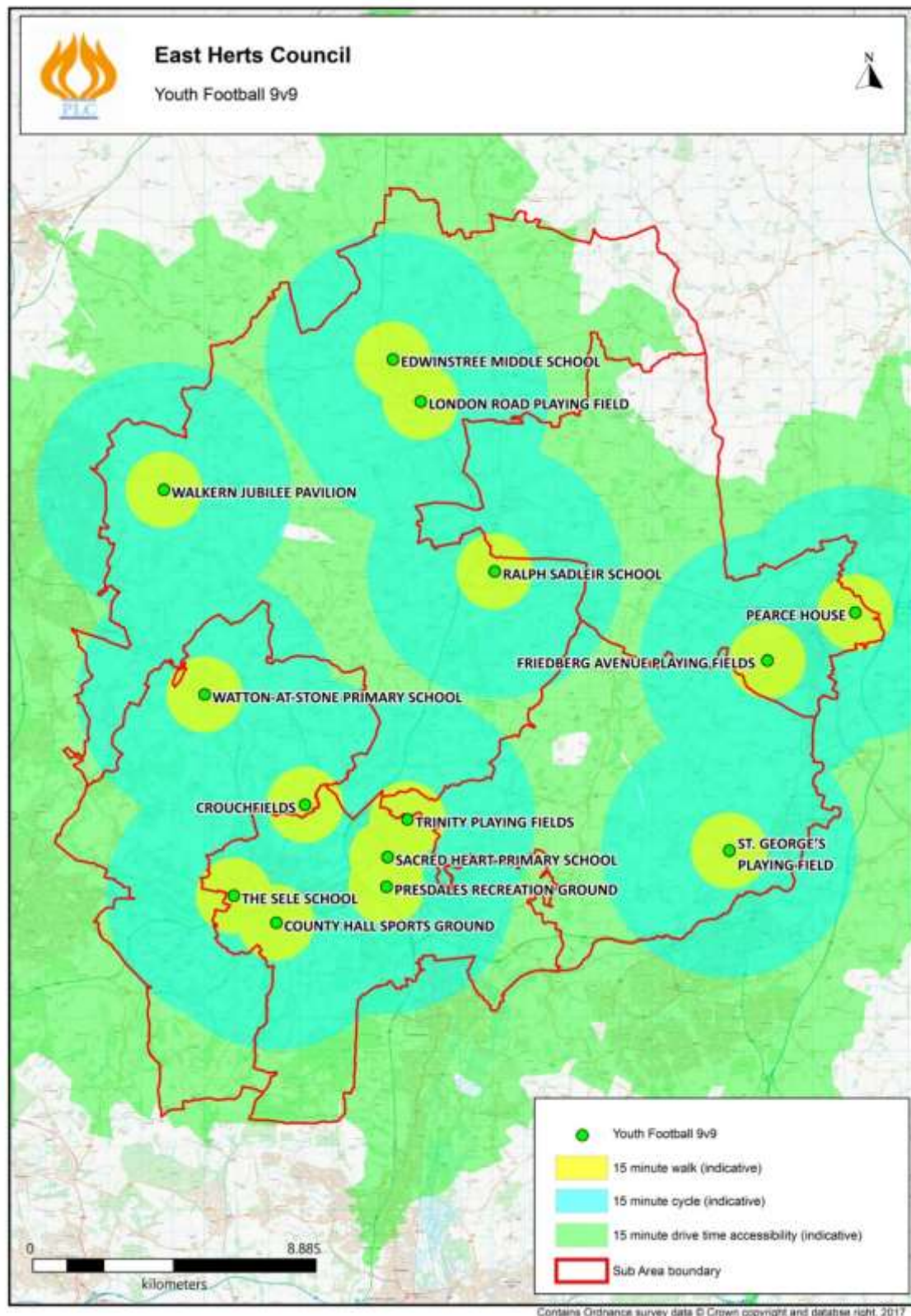
- **Youth 11v11 grass pitches:** Geographical coverage of youth 11v11 football pitches is good, with only three small rural areas beyond 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch. There is no pitch provision in the Sawbridgeworth sub-area.

Figure 50: Geographical coverage of youth (11v11) football pitches in East Herts



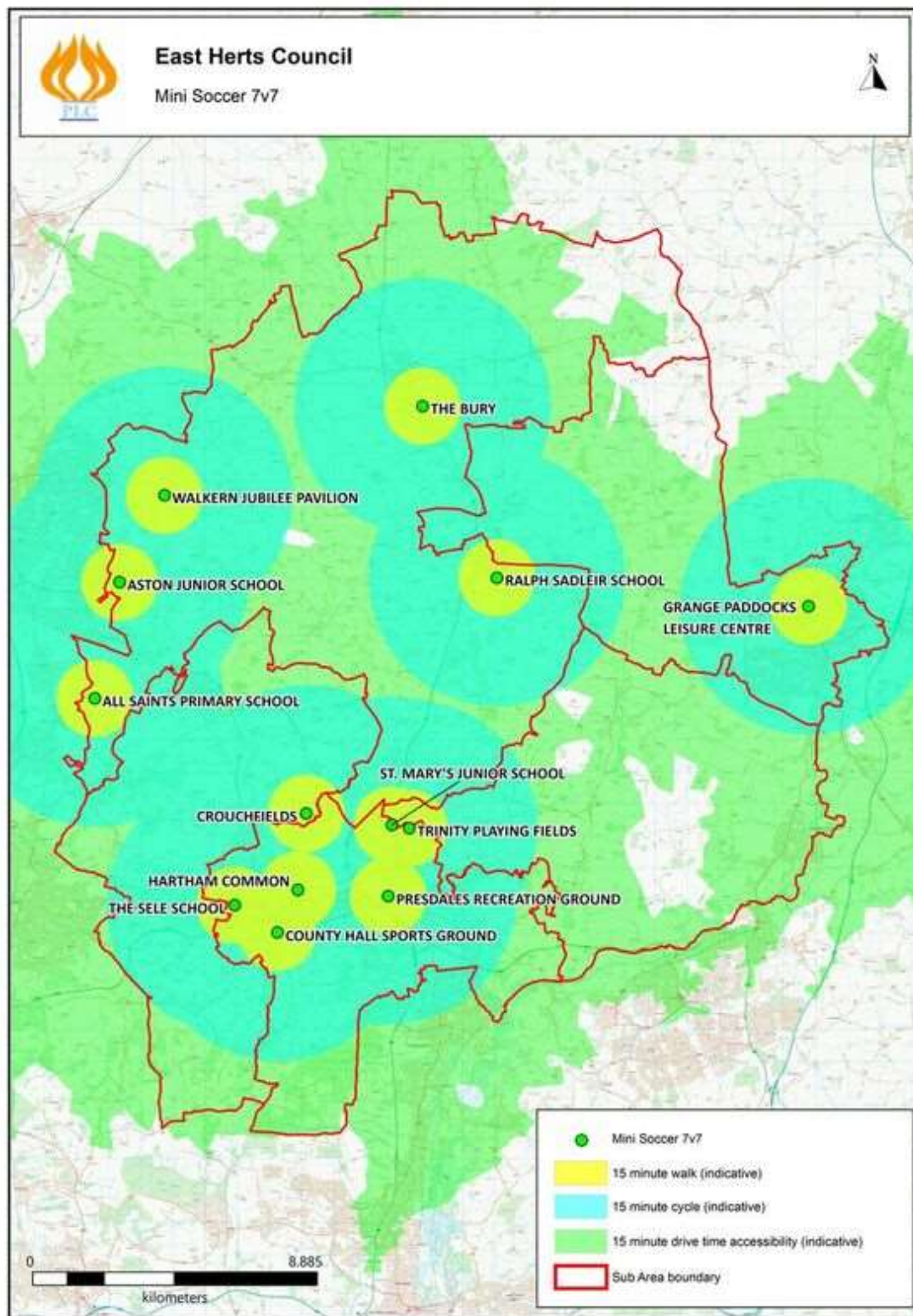
- **Youth 9v9 grass pitches:** Geographical coverage of youth 9v9 football pitches is good, with only three small rural areas beyond 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch. There is provision in all sub-areas:

Figure 51: Geographical coverage of youth (9v9) football pitches in East Herts



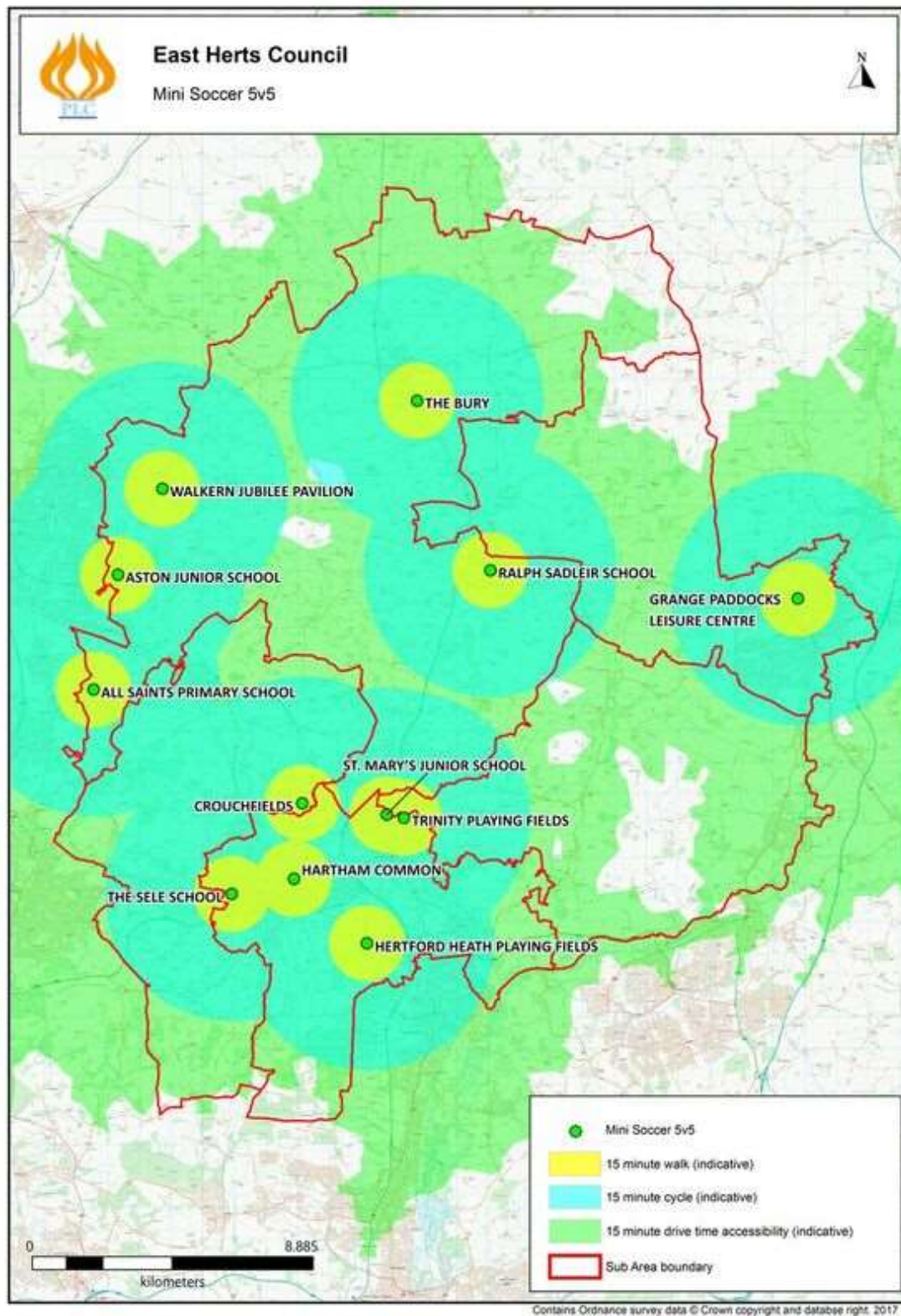
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 grass pitches:** Geographical coverage of mini-soccer 7v7 grass football pitches is good, with only five small rural areas beyond 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch. There is no pitch provision in the Sawbridgeworth sub-area.

Figure 52: Geographical coverage of mini-soccer (7v7) football pitches in East Herts



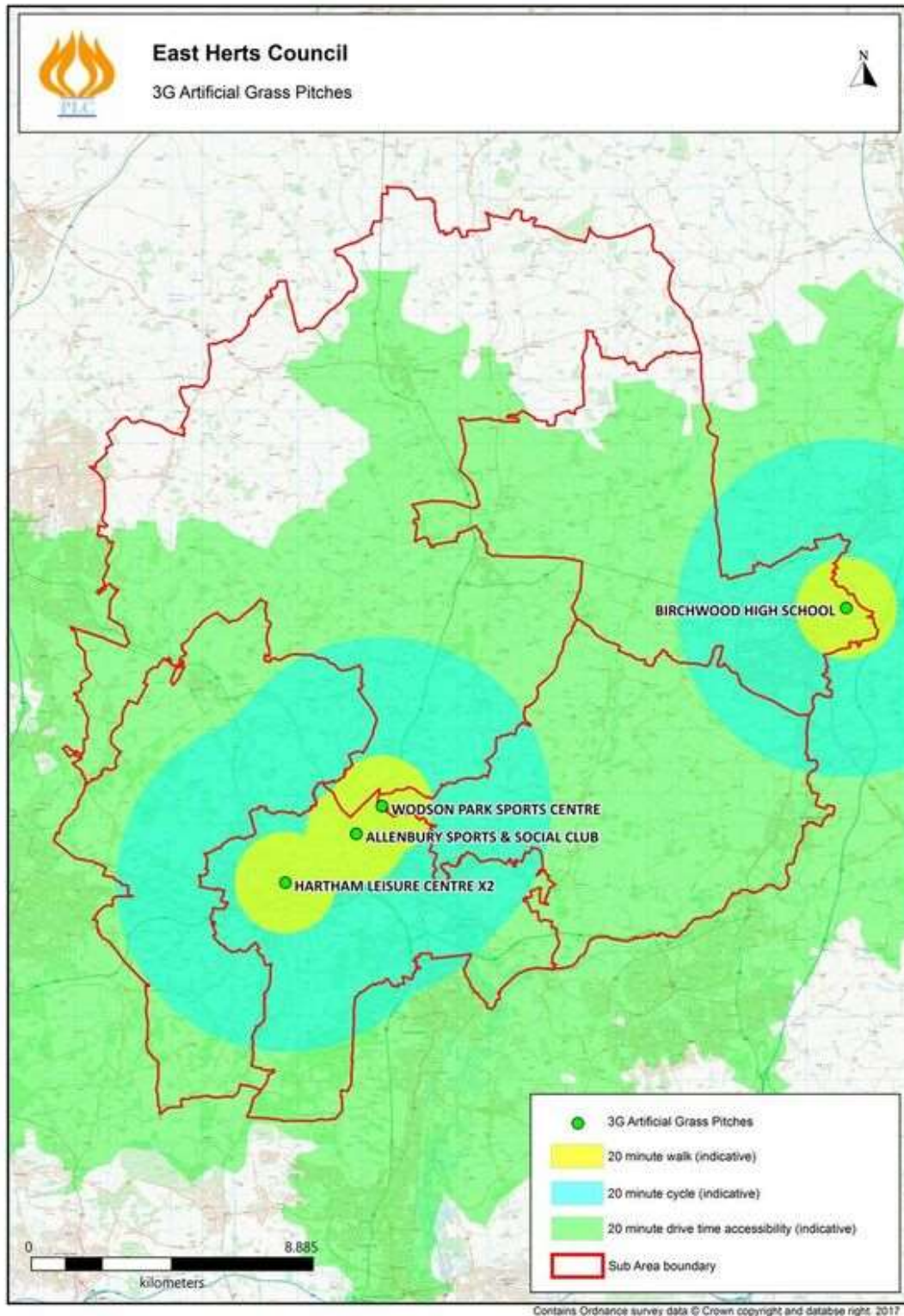
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 grass pitches:** Geographical coverage of mini-soccer 5v5 grass football is good, with only seven small rural areas beyond 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch. There is no pitch provision in the Sawbridgeworth sub-area.

Figure 53: Geographical coverage of mini-soccer (5v5) football pitches in East Herts



- **'3G' football turf pitches:** Geographical coverage of '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts shows that the much population in the north of the district is more than 20-minutes drive from their nearest pitch. All current provision is in the Bishop's Stortford and Hertford and Ware sub-areas.

Figure 54: Geographical coverage of '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts



The implications for football in East Herts

2.50 Analysis of local supply of football pitches in East Herts indicates the following:

- The activities of several of the larger FA Charter Standard clubs in the district are curtailed by the quantity and/or quality of pitch and ancillary facilities provision, in particular:
 - Bishop's Stortford Community FC plays at seven different sites, three of which have poor quality or no changing facilities. The Club is currently seeking to identify a site where it can develop a home base comprising two '3G' pitches, some grass pitches and a clubhouse.
 - Bengoe Tigers FC are operating at full capacity and are currently investigating the feasibility of developing additional pitches at a new site in Hertford.
 - Wodson Park FC have very poor quality changing facilities at their Crouchfields site, which it would like to improve.
 - Buntingford Cougars FC are currently playing at five different sites and would like to develop a '3G' pitch at The Bury, to create additional capacity.
- Six adult pitches are currently unused, which reflects the reduction in affiliated teams in this age group.
- 25 youth and 23 mini-soccer pitches are on school sites with no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage, given the resurgent demand for football in these age groups and the waiting lists being operated by several clubs at present.
- Only 3.8% of grass pitches in the district are rated as 'poor' quality, although a number of others score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range and could easily become poor quality if grounds maintenance regimes are allowed to deteriorate any further.
- 35.1% of all pitches in East Herts are served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities, including those at key sites like Grange Paddocks, Crouchfields and Hartham Common.
- Demand for floodlit '3G' football turf pitches significantly outstrips supply, with many teams having to access pitches in neighbouring areas. Based on the FA calculation that there should be one full-sized '3G' pitch per 42 teams, there should be 12.23 pitches in East Herts (including latent and unmet demand).
- Pitch hire charges in East Herts are comparable to those in neighbouring areas, so prices should have no influence on imported or exported demand.

- Grounds maintenance expenditure is at or below the lower level recommended by Sport England, although the provision of voluntary labour by clubs to support pitch maintenance is not costed within the local figures.
- More than 80% of pitches in East Herts have secured community access and access to the remaining pitches on school sites could, in theory, be withdrawn in the absence of a formal community use agreement.

Assessment of current needs

2.51 To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand is accommodated there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site and includes a component to reflect unmet and latent demand identified by the club users (see section 2.28 above). School's use of education sites is also included, where it impacts upon carrying capacity:
- An indication of pitch usage during the peak periods.

2.52 The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

2.53 In line with FA guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

Figure 55: Carrying capacity of grass football pitches

Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Adult	3	2	1
Youth 11v11	4	2	1
Youth 9v9	4	2	1
Mini-soccer 7v7	6	4	2
Mini-soccer 5v5	6	4	2

- 2.54 On sites where the quality of pitches varies, the individual ratings are reflected in the overall site capacity.

Adult grass pitches

- 2.55 The peak period for adult grass pitches is Saturday afternoons, although there is a secondary peak on Sunday mornings:

Figure 56: Supply-demand balance of adult football pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Albury Football Ground	1	Albury FC	1.0	0.5	+0.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Braughing Playing Fields	1	Hares Youth FC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Brewery Field	1	Casuals & Pelham FC	1.0	0.5	+0.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	6	Albury Saints FC Birchwood Rangers FC BS Community FC BS Wanderers FC Grange United FC Hockerill Tens FC Sawbridgeworth Brewery FC Stortford Cobras FC Real Stortford FC	12.0	9.5	+2.5	6.0	6.0	Balanced
Prokit Stadium	1	Bishop's Stortford FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Silverleys Trust	1	Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTAL	11	-	22.0	17.0	+5.0	11.0	11.5	-0.5

Figure 57: Supply-demand balance of adult football pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Aston Park	1	Pig & Whistle FC	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Benington Recreation Ground	1	FC Benington	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Cottered Playing Field	1	Cottered FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park Youth FC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Freman College	2	Boca Seniors Freman College	4.0	2.0	+2.0	2.0	0.5	+1.5
Horseman's Meadow	1	Dane End United FC	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	1	Buntingford Cougars FC	1.0	0.5	+0.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Seth Ward Community Centre	1	Buntingford Wanderers FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Standon Memorial Playing Field	1	Standon & Puckeridge FC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Bury	1	Buntingford Town FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Thundridge Playing Fields	1	Thundridge City FC Thundridge United FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Westmill Recreation Ground	1	Westmill FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTAL	13	-	25.0	14.0	+11.0	13.0	10.0	+3.0

Figure 58: Supply-demand balance of adult football pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	1	Allenbury's FC Allenbury's Sports FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Bengeo Sports Field	1	Bengeo Trinity FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Hartham Common/Leisure Centre	5	Bury Rangers FC Harts Horns FC Hunter United FC Mangrove FC The Bridge House FC Hertford Hounds FC Ware Lions FC Wolfpack United FC Hertford Town FC	10.0	10.0	Balanced	5.0	5.0	Balanced
Hertford Town FC	1	Hertford Town FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	2	Hertford Heath FC	4.0	2.5	+1.5	2.0	2.5	-0.5
Presdales Recreation Ground	2	Angels Lions FC Angel Ware FC Bury Rangers FC Christchurch Ware FC FC Sloppys Hertford Corinthians Spread Eagle FC Turnford Tigers FC Ware Warriors FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	2	St. Margaretsbury FC St. Margaretsbury United FC	5.0	3.5	+1.5	2.0	2.5	-0.5
Ware Football Club	1	Ware FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wodson Park Sports Centre	1	Hertford Town FC Ware Sports FC Wodson Park FC Ware Rangers FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTAL	14	-	37.0	32.0	+5.0	16.0	18.0	-2.0

Figure 59: Supply-demand balance of adult football pitches in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	1	Hadham Villa FC Much Hadham FC	2.0	1.0	+1.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club	2	Sawbridgeworth Town FC	5.0	4.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Widford Playing Field	1	Angels Saviours FC	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
TOTAL	4	-	9.0	5.5	+3.5	4.0	3.5	+0.5

Figure 60: Supply-demand balance of adult football pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park Youth FC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	1	Watton-at-Stone FC Watton Ladies FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
East Herts	22	-	4.0	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced

2.56 The key findings are:

- There is a small peak time deficit at six sites, but at all other sites, peak time usage is either balanced or has spare capacity.
- There is collective peak time surplus of one match equivalent, although this figure reverts to a deficit of one match equivalent if the site with unsecured community access (Freman College) is discounted.

Youth 11v11 grass pitches

2.57 The peak period for youth 11v11 grass pitches is Sunday afternoons:

Figure 61: Supply-demand balance of Youth 11v11 football pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	1	BS Swifts FC	4.0	0.5	+3.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	1	BS Community FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	2	BS Community FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Silverleys Trust	1	BS Swifts FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTAL	5	-	12.0	9.5	+2.5	5.0	6.5	-1.5

Figure 62: Supply-demand balance of Youth 11v11 football pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park YFC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Ralph Sadlier School	1	Hares Youth FC Ralph Sadlier School	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	(1)	St. Margaretsbury Youth FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	0.5	1.0	-0.5
Seth Ward Community Centre	1	Buntingford Cougars	2.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Thundridge Sports Ground	1	Ware Lions FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	2	Austen Arrowheads	4.0	0.5	+3.5	2.0	0.5	+1.5
TOTAL	8 (1)	-	13.0	9.0	+4.0	6.5	8.0	-1.5

Figure 63: Supply-demand balance of Youth 11v11 football pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Hartham Leisure Centre	1	Hertford Town FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Presdales Recreation Ground	3	Bury Rangers FC	6.0	5.5	+0.5	3.0	5.5	-2.5
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	(1)	St. Margaretsbury Youth FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	0.5	1.0	-0.5
Simon Balle School	2	Hertford Town FC Simon Balle School	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
The Sele School	2	Bengeo Tigers FC The Sele School	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Trinity Playing Fields	3	Ware Youth FC	12.0	3.0	+9.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
West Street Playing Field	1	Hertford Town FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTAL	12 (1)	-	30.0	19.5	+10.5	12.5	16.5	-4.0

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds: None

Figure 64: Supply-demand balance of Youth 11v11 football pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park YFC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
TOTAL	1	-	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5

2.58 The key findings are:

- There are peak time deficits at seven sites and a peak time surplus at only two sites.
- At all sites with a peak time deficit, the shortfall is managed by scheduling two fixtures consecutively. There is sufficient weekly site capacity to do this on a sustainable basis at five sites, but at Grange Paddocks and Seth Ward Community Centre, the quality of the pitches is compromised by overplay.
- There is a collective peak time deficit of 7.5 match equivalents. This figure increases to 12.5 match equivalents if the sites with unsecured community access are discounted.

Youth 9v9 grass pitches

2.59 The peak period for youth 9v9 grass pitches is Sunday mornings:

Figure 65: Supply-demand balance of Youth 9v9 football pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	1	BS Community FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Grange Paddocks	1	BS Community FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Pearce House	2	BS Community FC	4.0	4.5	-0.5	2.0	2.5	-0.5
TOTAL	4	-	8.0	5.5	+1.5	4.0	4.5	-0.5

Figure 66: Supply-demand balance of Youth 9v9 football pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
County Hall Sports Ground	2	Hertford Town FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Crouchfields	2	Wodson Park Youth FC	4.0	1.5	+2.5	2.0	1.5	+0.5
Edwinstree Middle School	1	Buntingford Cougars FC Edwinstree Middle Sch.	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
London Road Playing Field	1	Buntingford Cougars FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ralph Sadlier School	1	Hares Youth FC Ralph Sadlier School	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Thundridge Sports Ground	(1)	Ware Lions FC	1.0	1.5	-0.5	0.5	1.5	-1.0
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	1	Austen Arrowheads	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
TOTAL	8(1)	-	17.0	12.5	+4.5	8.5	10.5	-2.0

Figure 67: Supply-demand balance of Youth 9v9 football pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
County Hall Sports Ground	2	Hertford Town FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Presdales Recreation Ground	2	Bury Rangers FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Sacred Heart Primary School	1	Ware Rangers FC Sacred Heart Prim. Sch.	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
The Sele School	2	Bengeo Tigers FC The Sele School	4.0	3.5	+0.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Trinity Playing Fields	2	Ware Youth FC	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTAL	9	-	22.0	14.5	+7.5	9.0	11.0	-2.0

Figure 68: Supply-demand balance of Youth 9v9 football pitches in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
St. George's Playing Field	1	High Wych Youth FC	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
TOTAL	1	-	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5

Figure 69: Supply-demand balance of Youth 9v9 football pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	2	Wodson Park Youth FC	4.0	1.5	+2.5	2.0	1.5	+0.5
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	1	Watton Youth FC Watton-at-Stone Primary School	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTAL	3	-	6.0	3.5	+2.5	3.0	2.5	+0.5

2.60 The key findings are:

- There are peak time deficits at five sites and a peak time surplus at only three.
- At all sites with a peak time deficit, the shortfall is managed by scheduling two fixtures consecutively. There is sufficient weekly site capacity to do this on a sustainable basis at four sites, but at Pearce House the quality of the pitches is compromised by overlay.
- There is collective peak time deficit of 3.5 match equivalents and this figure would increase to 11.5 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.

Mini-soccer 7v7 grass pitches

2.61 The peak period for mini-soccer 7v7 grass pitches is Saturday mornings:

Figure 70: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	3	BS Community FC	12.0	4.0	+8.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
TOTAL	3	-	12.0	4.0	+8.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced

Figure 71: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
All Saints Primary School	1	Watton Youth FC All Saints Primary School	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Aston Junior School	1	Watton Youth FC Aston Junior School	4.0	2.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Crouchfields	2	Wodson Park FC	8.0	1.0	+7.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Ralph Sadlier School	1	Hares Youth FC Ralph Sadlier School	4.0	1.5	+2.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Bury	1	Buntingford Cougars FC	6.0	2.5	+3.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Thundridge Sports Ground	1	Ware Lions FC	4.0	1.5	+2.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	(1)	Austen Arrowheads FC	1.0	0.5	+0.5	0.5	0.5	Balanced
TOTAL	7(1)	-	29.0	11.0	+18.0	7.5	6.5	+1.0

Figure 72: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
County Hall Sports Ground	2	Hertford Town FC	8.0	5.0	+3.0	2.0	2.5	-0.5
Hartham Common	1	Bury Rangers FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	1.5	-0.5
Presdales Recreation Ground	(2)	Bury Rangers FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
St. Mary's Junior School	1	Ware Rangers FC St. Mary's Junior School	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Sele School	2	Bengeo Tigers FC	8.0	4.5	+3.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Trinity Playing Fields	1	Ware Youth FC	6.0	2.5	+3.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
TOTAL	7(2)	-	32.0	20.0	+12.0	8.0	9.5	-1.5

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds: None

Figure 73: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	2	Wodson Park FC	8.0	1.0	+7.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
TOTAL	2	-	8.0	1.0	+7.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0

2.62 The key findings are:

- There are small peak time deficits at five sites, all of which are managed by scheduling fixtures consecutively. In all cases, there is sufficient weekly pitch carrying capacity to accommodate this use.
- There is a small collective peak time surplus of 0.5 match equivalents, although there would be a deficit of 5.5 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.

Mini-soccer 5v5 grass pitches

2.63 The peak period for mini-soccer 5v5 grass pitches is Saturday mornings:

- Bishop's Stortford and surrounds: None

Figure 75: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 5v5 pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
All Saints Primary School	1	Watton Youth FC	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Aston Junior School	1	Watton Youth FC	4.0	2.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park Youth FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ralph Sadleir School	1	Hares Youth FC Ralph Sadlier School	4.0	1.5	+2.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Bury	2	Buntingford Cougars FC	12.0	2.5	+9.5	2.0	1.5	+0.5
Thundridge Sports Ground	1	Ware Lions FC	4.0	1.5	+2.5	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	(1)	Austen Arrowheads FC	1.0	0.5	+0.5	0.5	0.5	Balanced
East Herts	7(1)	-	31.0	11.0	+20.0	7.5	6.0	+1.5

Figure 76: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 5v5 pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Hartham Common	3	Hertford Town FC	12.0	3.5	+8.5	3.0	2.0	+1.0
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	1	Hertford Heath FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	0.5	+0.5
St. Mary's Junior School	1	Ware Rangers FC St. Mary's Junior School	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
The Sele School	1	Bengeo Tigers	4.0	5.0	-1.0	1.0	2.5	-1.5
Trinity Playing Fields	2	Ware Youth FC	12.0	3.5	+8.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
TOTAL	8	-	36.0	16.0	+20.0	8.0	8.0	Balanced

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds: None

Figure 77: Supply-demand balance of mini-soccer 5v5 pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Crouchfields	1	Wodson Park Youth FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTAL	1	-	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced

2.64 The key findings are:

- There is a small peak time deficit at one site, which are managed by scheduling fixtures consecutively. Apart from the Sele School pitch, there is sufficient weekly pitch carrying capacity to accommodate this use.
- There is a collective peak time surplus of 3.0 match equivalents, although this figure would be a deficit of 3.0 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.

'3G' football turf pitches

2.65 **Introduction:** The methodology for assessing the need for '3G' football turf pitches involves assessing information from three sources:

- The actual used capacity of artificial turf pitches is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.
- A projection based upon the FA's guide figure of one pitch per 42 teams.
- An assessment of the results of Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Facilities Audit 'run' for artificial turf pitches in East Herts.

- 2.66 **Used capacity of artificial turf pitches:** The used capacity of '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts is based upon their hours of use in the peak period.

Figure 78: Used capacity of '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts

Site	Pitches	Users	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Allenbury Sports & Social Club	40m x 25m	Allenbury's FC Allenbury's Sports FC	10.0	10.0	Balanced
Birchwood High School	70m x 44.5m	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	22.0	22.0	Balanced
Hartham Leisure Centre	40m x 25m	Hertford Town FC Commercial leagues	20.0	13.0	+7.0
Hartham Leisure Centre	40m x 25m	Hertford Town FC Commercial leagues	20.0	13.0	+7.0
Wodson Park Sports Centre	103m x 63m	Bury Rangers FC Hertford Town FC Mangrove FC Ware FC Ware Youth FC Wodson Park FC	20.0	20.0	Balanced

- 2.67 The key findings are:

- Allenbury Sports Club, Birchwood High School and Wodson Park Sports Centre are fully utilised in the peak periods, although the Allenbury's pitch is not available for external hire.
- There is limited spare capacity at the pitches at Hartham Leisure Centre.
- There is collective peak-time spare capacity of 14 hours per week, although if the Allenbury's pitch was excluded, this figure falls to four hours per week.
- Use of '3G' football turf pitches outside of the district by East Herts clubs amounts to a further 15 hours per week of peak time demand.

- 2.68 **FA assessment:** A supplementary way of assessing '3G' pitch needs is to apply the FA's guide figure of one full-sized pitch per 42 teams and/or one small-sided pitch per ten teams. With 407 teams in East Herts at present, plus a further 64 teams representing unmet demand and 43 teams representing latent demand (see section 2.28 above) this produces a requirement for 12.23 pitches in the district as a whole. Existing provision of two effectively full-sized pitches and three small-sided pitches should meet the needs of 114 teams. The 400 remaining teams have an effective need for 9.53 full-sized '3G' pitches.

2.69 **Facilities Planning Model:** Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a spatial assessment of artificial grass pitch provision based on the nature of demand within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity (hours of availability in the peak period) and accessibility. The key findings for artificial grass pitches in East Herts (including those with sand-filled/dressed surfaces) for the National Facilities Audit 'run' of the FPM in 2016 were as follows:

- The FPM includes 7 AGPs in East Herts, although this figure excludes the three small-sided '3G' pitches at Allenbury's Sports Club and Hartham Leisure Centre and includes as fully available a pitch at Bishop's Stortford College that has only three hours of community use per week.
- The FPM calculates that satisfied demand is fairly high at 86%, although this is largely on the basis that 65% of demand from within East Herts is exported to other areas (principally to pitches in Stevenage, Harlow, Welwyn Garden City and Hoddesdon).
- Unmet demand is assessed as 14% of total demand, equivalent to 0.47 pitches.
- Used capacity is high at 100% and all individual facilities are operating at 100% utilised capacity at peak times. 81% of used capacity is catered for by facilities in neighbouring areas.
- Local share is a measure of which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100. East Herts has a local share of 128, which means that provision is 28% better than the national average.
- Unmet demand is highest in the A10 corridor around Hertford and Ware.

2.70 **Analysis:** The three measures of the adequacy of provision of '3G' pitch provision in East Herts identify contradictory findings that can be reconciled as follows:

- **Used capacity:** Actual usage data shows that there is some limited capacity in the peak period (14 hours per week), although this is offset by 15 hours a week of known exported demand to pitches in neighbouring areas so in practice the 100% utilised capacity in the FPM assessment seems broadly accurate.
- **Exported demand:** Based upon actual usage data, 19.2% of East Herts demand is currently exported to neighbouring areas, rather than the 65% calculated by the FPM.
- **Unmet demand:** The responses to the clubs' survey indicate that there is insufficient peak-time artificial grass pitch availability both in East Herts and at pitches in neighbouring areas which are already heavily used.

- **Assessed deficiency:** The FPM assessed deficiency of 0.47 pitches understates the high levels of expressed and unmet football (and hockey) demand locally and overstates the effective supply of available peak-time capacity. For this reason, the FA assessed deficiency of 9.53 full-sized '3G' pitches represents the most accurate measure of the shortfall.

Sub-area analysis

2.71 **Introduction:** The analysis of the current supply-demand balance in terms of match equivalents by sub-areas is set out below. Two scenarios are presented for each pitch type, one showing expressed demand only and the other showing total demand (expressed, plus displaced, unmet and latent demand).

2.72 Adult football:

Figure 79: Expressed supply-demand balance for adult football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	22.0	17.0	+5.0	11.0	11.5	-0.5
Buntingford	25.0	14.0	+11.0	13.0	10.0	+3.0
Hertford and Ware	37.0	32.0	+5.0	16.0	18.0	-2.0
Sawbridgeworth	9.0	5.5	+3.5	4.0	3.5	+0.5
Watton-at-Stone	4.0	2.5	+1.5	2.0	2.0	Balanced
East Herts	97.0	71.0	+26.0	46.0	45.0	+1.0

Figure 80: Total supply-demand balance for adult football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	22.0	21.0	+1.0	11.0	13.5	-2.5
Buntingford	25.0	16.0	+9.0	13.0	12.0	+1.0
Hertford and Ware	35.0	37.0	-2.0	16.0	18.0	-2.0
Sawbridgeworth	9.0	6.0	+3.0	4.0	4.0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	2.5	-0.5
East Herts	97.0	83.0	+14.0	46.0	50.0	-4.0

2.73 Youth 11v11 football:

Figure 81: Expressed supply-demand balance for youth 11v11 football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	12.0	9.5	+2.5	5.0	6.5	-1.5
Buntingford	13.0	9.0	+4.0	6.5	8.0	-1.5
Hertford and Ware	30.0	19.5	+10.5	12.5	16.5	-4.0
Sawbridgeworth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watton-at-Stone	2.0	1.5	+0.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
East Herts	57.0	39.5	+17.5	25.0	32.5	-7.5

Figure 82: Total supply-demand balance for youth 11v11 football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	12.5	14.0	-1.5	5.0	10.5	-5.5
Buntingford	13.0	11.0	+2.0	6.5	10.0	-3.5
Hertford and Ware	30.0	29.0	+1.0	12.5	15.0	-2.5
Sawbridgeworth	0.0	1.5	-1.5	0.0	1.5	-1.5
Watton-at-Stone	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
East Herts	57.5	57.5	Balanced	25.0	39.0	-14.0

2.74 Youth 9v9 football:

Figure 83: Expressed supply-demand balance for youth 9v9 football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	8.0	5.5	+1.5	4.0	4.5	-0.5
Buntingford	17.0	12.5	+4.5	8.5	10.5	-2.0
Hertford and Ware	22.0	14.5	+7.5	9.0	11.0	-2.0
Sawbridgeworth	2.0	0.5	+1.5	1.0	0.5	+0.5
Watton-at-Stone	6.0	3.5	+2.5	3.0	2.5	+0.5
East Herts	53.0	36.5	+16.5	24.5	28.0	-3.5

Figure 84: Total supply-demand balance for youth 9v9 football pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	8.0	8.5	-0.5	4.0	5.5	-1.5
Buntingford	17.0	13.5	+3.5	8.5	11.5	-3.0
Hertford and Ware	22.0	18.5	+3.5	9.0	13.0	-4.0
Sawbridgeworth	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	6.0	3.5	+2.5	3.0	2.5	+0.5
East Herts	55.0	45.0	+10.0	25.5	33.5	-8.0

2.75 Mini-soccer 7v7:

Figure 85: Expressed supply-demand balance for mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	12.0	4.0	+8.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Buntingford	29.0	11.0	+18.0	7.5	6.5	+1.0
Hertford and Ware	32.0	20.0	+12.0	8.0	9.5	-1.5
Sawbridgeworth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watton-at-Stone	8.0	1.0	+7.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
East Herts	81.0	36.0	+45.0	20.5	20.0	+0.5

Figure 86: Total supply-demand balance for mini-soccer 7v7 pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	12.0	6.0	+6.0	3.0	5.0	-2.0
Buntingford	29.0	12.0	+17.0	7.5	7.0	+0.5
Hertford and Ware	32.0	25.0	+7.0	8.0	14.5	-6.5
Sawbridgeworth	0	0	0	0	0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
East Herts	81.0	45.0	+36.0	20.5	28.5	-8.0

2.76 Mini-soccer 5v5:

Figure 87: Expressed supply-demand balance for mini-soccer 5v5 pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	0	5.0	-5.0	0	2.5	-2.5
Buntingford	31.0	11.0	+20.0	7.5	6.0	+1.5
Hertford and Ware	36.0	16.0	+20.0	8.0	8.0	Balanced
Sawbridgeworth	0	0	-	0	0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
East Herts	81.0	33.0	+48.0	16.5	17.5	-1.0

Figure 88: Total supply-demand balance for mini-soccer 5v5 pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	0	7.0	-7.0	0	3.5	-3.5
Buntingford	31.0	12.0	+19.0	7.5	6.5	+1.0
Hertford and Ware	36.0	21.0	+15.0	8.0	10.0	-2.0
Sawbridgeworth	0	0	0	0	0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	4.0	1.5	+2.5	1.0	1.5	-0.5
East Herts	87.0	41.5	+45.5	16.5	20.5	-4.0

2.77 '3G' football turf pitches: The assessment is based upon the FA's 42 teams per full-sized pitch figure:

Figure 89: Expressed supply-demand balance for '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	No. Teams	Pitch capacity	Balance	Pitch equivalents
Bishop's Stortford	107	42	-65	-1.55
Buntingford	66	0	-66	-1.57
Hertford and Ware	295	72	-223	-5.30
Sawbridgeworth	20	0	-20	-0.48
Watton-at-Stone	13	0	-13	-0.31
East Herts	514	114	-400	-9.52

Figure 90: Total supply-demand balance '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts

Sub-area	No. Teams	Pitch capacity	Balance	Pitch equivalents
Bishop's Stortford	133	42	-91	-2.17
Buntingford	80	0	-80	-1.90
Hertford and Ware	356	72	-284	-6.76
Sawbridgeworth	24	0	-24	-0.57
Watton-at-Stone	18	0	-18	-0.43
East Herts	611	114	-497	-11.83

2.78 The key findings are:

- Based on expressed demand only, there are peak time deficiencies in most of the larger types of grass pitch in the more urban sub-areas.
- Once total demand is included, there are collective deficiencies in all pitch types in the district, with the exception of mini-soccer 5v5 pitches where supply and demand are balanced.
- The collective deficiency is highest in the Hertford and Ware sub-area, but Bishop's Stortford also exhibits an overall deficit.

Assessment of future needs

Population growth

2.79 Population growth to the end 2033 has been projected based upon housing supply targets. The population figures are as follows:

Figure 91: Population projections in East Herts to 2033

Population 2021	Population 2026	Population 2033
152,525	158,730	179,558

Location of growth

2.80 Housing targets and related population growth in each sub-area are projected as follows, based upon an average of 2.32 residents per dwelling:

Figure 92: Housing targets and population projections in East Herts to 2033

Sub-area	Housing target to 2033	Extra Population 2033	Total Population 2033
Bishop's Stortford	4,143	9,612	55,112
Buntingford	1,700	3,944	24,544
Hertford and Ware	1,950	4,524	66,824
Sawbridgeworth	3,550	8,236	22,736
Watton-at-Stone	1,350	3,132	10,332
East Herts	12,693	29,448	179,558

- 2.81 The location of growth within each sub-area is as follows. In several instances the proposed housing developments are on the boundary of the sub-area (and indeed the district as a whole), so the geographical focus of demand (and the related pitch supply solutions) is very specific:

Figure 93: Location of major proposed housing developments in East Herts by sub-area

Sub-area	Location of development
Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford North and Bishop's Stortford South
Buntingford	Land east of Stevenage
Hertford and Ware	Land north and east of Ware and sites around Hertford
Sawbridgeworth	Gilston Garden Town and land north and east of Sawbridgeworth
Watton-at-Stone	Land east of Welwyn Garden City

Potential changes in demand

- 2.82 In addition to the growth in population, potential increases in participation need to be factored in. estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments. Two alternative scenarios have therefore been considered, a 0% increase in participation and 0.5% increase in participation.

Potential changes in supply

- 2.83 The following football pitch development projects in East Herts are currently being proposed:

- Outline planning consent has been granted for grass pitches with provision for community use at a new secondary school and two new primary schools at the Bishop's Stortford North development.
- Outline planning permission and section 106 funding has been secured for two adult football pitches and a pavilion at Hoggate's Park in the Bishop's Stortford North development.
- New secondary schools with dual use playing fields are proposed in the Local Plan to the north of Ware, the east of Welwyn Garden City and in the south of Bishop's Stortford.
- Freman College in Buntingford has planning consent for an extension to its playing field.
- Active proposals for '3G' pitches include:
 - One at Richard Hale School (Hertford) which is under construction.
 - Three at Haileybury College (Hertford).
 - Two at a site to be identified by BS Community FC in Bishop's Stortford.
 - One at The Bury in Buntingford.
 - One at Pearce House (Birchwood High School, Bishop's Stortford).

Existing spare capacity

2.84 Based upon the assessment of current needs, the current shortfalls are as follows:

Figure 94: Current football pitch needs in East Herts by sub-area

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	+1.0	+0.5	-5.0	-2.5
Youth 11v11	-6.5	-3.5	-14.0	-7.0
Youth 9v9	-3.0	-1.5	-8.0	-4.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	Balanced	0	-8.0	-2.0
Mini-soccer 5v5	-1.0	-0.5	-4.0	-1.0
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-9.52	-	-11.83

Figure 95: Current football pitch needs in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	-0.5	-0.25	-2.5	-1.25
Youth 11v11	-1.5	-0.75	-5.5	-2.75
Youth 9v9	-0.5	-0.25	-1.5	-0.75
Mini-soccer 7v7	Balanced	0	-2.0	-0.5
Mini-soccer 5v5	-2.5	-0.5	-3.5	-1.0
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-1.55	-	-2.17

Figure 96: Current football pitch needs in Buntingford and surrounds

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	+3.0	+1.5	+1.0	+0.5
Youth 11v11	-1.5	-0.75	-3.5	-1.75
Youth 9v9	-2.0	-1.0	-3.0	-1.5
Mini-soccer 7v7	+1.0	+0.25	+0.5	+0.25
Mini-soccer 5v5	+1.5	+0.75	+1.0	+0.25
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-1.57	-	-1.90

Figure 97: Current football pitch needs in Hertford and Ware

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	-2.0	-1.0	-3.0	-2.5
Youth 11v11	-4.0	-2.0	-2.5	-1.25
Youth 9v9	-2.0	-1.0	-4.0	-2.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	-1.5	-0.5	-6.5	-1.75
Mini-soccer 5v5	Balanced	0	-2.0	-0.5
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-5.30	-	-6.76

Figure 98: Current football pitch needs in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	+0.5	+0.25	Balanced	0
Youth 11v11	-	0	-1.5	-0.75
Youth 9v9	+0.5	+0.25	Balanced	0
Mini-soccer 7v7	-	0	-	0
Mini-soccer 5v5	-	0	-	0
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-0.48	-	-0.57

Figure 99: Current football pitch needs in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Pitch type	Expressed demand match equivalents	Expressed demand pitch equivalents	Total demand match equivalents	Total demand pitch equivalents
Adult	Balanced	0	-0.5	-0.25
Youth 11v11	-0.5	-0.25	-1.0	-0.5
Youth 9v9	+0.5	+0.25	+0.5	+0.25
Mini-soccer 7v7	+1.0	+0.5	Balanced	0
Mini-soccer 5v5	Balanced	0	-0.5	-0.25
'3G' football turf pitches	-	-0.31	-	-0.43

- 2.85 Whilst some additional usable pitch capacity might be created by bringing some of the 11 currently disused pitches back into use and/or negotiating access to some of the 63 grass pitches on school sites that currently have no community access, in practice most potential opportunities in this regard have already been explored so it is preferable to disregard the possible extra capacity that might be derived from this source.
- 2.86 For '3G' pitches, the FA guide figure of one pitch per 42 teams identified a deficit of 9.52 pitches.

Future grass pitch needs

- 2.87 Future grass pitch needs based on projected population increases are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the district are required to generate one team (including teams representing latent and unmet demand - see section 2.28). These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The population projections are based on the demographic profile typical of new housing developments, with a higher proportion of people in younger age groups.
- 2.88 The application of TGRs to projected population in each of the sub-areas in East Herts in 2033 produces the following results. The population figures include the residents of new housing in East Herts elements of the Sustainable Urban Extensions detailed in Part I of the study:

Figure 100: Future football pitch needs in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	33	8,617	1: 261	11,177	43	10
Adult female football	3	8,638	1: 2,879	11,198	4	1
Boys youth 11v11 football	27	1,179	1: 44	1,317	30	3
Girls youth 11v11 football	8	1,180	1: 148	1,318	9	1
Boys youth 9v9 football	12	515	1: 43	672	16	4
Girls youth 9v9 football	3	535	1: 178	692	4	1
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	20	1,006	1: 50	1,354	27	7
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	14	986	1: 70	1,374	20	6

Figure 101: Future football pitch needs in Buntingford and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	21	4,244	1: 202	5,058	25	4
Adult female football	2	4,264	1: 2,123	5,078	2	0
Boys youth 11v11 football	11	490	1: 45	586	12	2
Girls youth 11v11 football	2	511	1: 256	606	2	0
Boys youth 9v9 football	10	245	1: 25	292	12	2
Girls youth 9v9 football	1	265	1: 265	315	1	0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	9	520	1: 58	619	11	12
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	10	500	1: 50	595	12	2

Figure 102: Future football pitch needs in Hertford and Ware

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	71	12,855	1: 181	13,788	76	5
Adult female football	5	12,875	1: 2,575	13,810	5	0
Boys youth 11v11 football	52	1,504	1: 29	1,613	56	4
Girls youth 11v11 football	13	1,524	1: 117	1,635	14	1
Boys youth 9v9 football	37	761	1: 21	816	39	2
Girls youth 9v9 football	8	781	1: 98	838	9	1
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	55	1,501	1: 27	1,610	60	5
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	54	1,481	1: 27	1,589	59	5

Figure 103: Future football pitch needs in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	10	2,984	1: 298	4,679	16	6
Adult female football	2	3,004	1: 1,502	4,710	3	1
Boys youth 11v11 football	3	342	1: 114	536	5	2
Girls youth 11v11 football	0	363	-	569	0	0
Boys youth 9v9 football	1	174	1: 174	281	2	1
Girls youth 9v9 football	0	185	-	290	0	0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	3	369	1: 123	579	5	2
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	1	349	1: 349	547	2	1

Figure 104: Future football pitch needs in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	2	1,476	1: 738	2,118	3	1
Adult female football	1	1,497	1: 1,497	2,148	1	0
Boys youth 11v11 football	2	170	1: 85	244	3	1
Girls youth 11v11 football	0	180	-	258	0	0
Boys youth 9v9 football	2	87	1: 44	125	3	1
Girls youth 9v9 football	0	91	-	131	0	0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	3	183	1: 61	263	4	1
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	3	173	1: 58	248	4	1

2.89 In addition to increased demand based upon population growth, the effects of projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum are modelled below. When added to population growth, the number of teams are as follows:

Figure 105: Projected increase in football teams in East Herts due to participation growth

Age group	Bishop's Stortford	Buntingford	Hertford and Ware	Sawbridgeworth	Watton-at-Stone
Adult male football	47	27	82	17	3
Adult female football	4	2	5	3	1
Boys youth 11v11 football	32	13	61	5	3
Girls youth 11v11 football	10	2	15	0	0
Boys youth 9v9 football	17	12	42	2	3
Girls youth 9v9 football	4	1	10	0	0
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	29	12	65	5	4
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	22	13	64	2	4

2.90 The impact of the combined effects of increased population and increased demand for pitches in each sub-area in East Herts is projected as follows. Additional pitch needs are calculated based on the capacity of 'standard' quality grass pitches

Figure 106: Future football pitch needs in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Adult football	36	47	51	7.5
Youth 11v11 football	35	39	42	3.5
Youth 9v9 football	15	20	21	3.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	20	27	29	2.5
Mini-soccer 5v5	14	20	22	2.0

Figure 107: Future football pitch needs in Buntingford and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Adult football	23	27	29	2.0
Youth 11v11 football	13	14	15	1.0
Youth 9v9 football	11	13	13	1.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	9	11	12	1.0
Mini-soccer 5v5	10	12	13	1.0

Figure 108: Future football pitch needs in Hertford and Ware

Age group	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Adult football	76	81	87	5.5
Youth 11v11 football	65	70	76	4.5
Youth 9v9 football	45	48	52	3.5
Mini-soccer 7v7	55	60	65	2.5
Mini-soccer 5v5	54	59	64	2.5

Figure 109: Future football pitch needs in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Adult football	12	19	20	4.0
Youth 11v11 football	3	5	5	1.0
Youth 9v9 football	1	2	2	0.5
Mini-soccer 7v7	3	5	5	0.5
Mini-soccer 5v5	1	2	2	0.5

Figure 110: Future football pitch needs in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Age group	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Adult football	3	4	4	0.5
Youth 11v11 football	2	3	3	0.5
Youth 9v9 football	2	3	3	0.5
Mini-soccer 7v7	3	4	4	0.5
Mini-soccer 5v5	3	4	4	0.5

- 2.91 The total spatial requirements of the additional grass pitch needs in each sub area are as follows. The calculations include an allowance for pitch run-offs, changing facilities and car parking based upon the following spatial provision:

Figure 111: Spatial requirements for different types of football pitch

Pitch type	Spatial allowance
Adult football	0.82ha
Youth 11v11 football	0.72ha
Youth 9v9 football	0.62ha
Mini-soccer 7v7	0.52ha
Mini-soccer 5v5	0.42ha
'3G' pitch	0.82ha

Figure 112: Total spatial requirements for extra pitches by sub-area in East Herts

Sub-area	Spatial requirements
Bishop's Stortford	15.20ha
Buntingford	4.70ha
Hertford and Ware	14.72ha
Sawbridgeworth	5.48ha
Watton-at-Stone	1.86ha
East Herts	41.96ha

Future '3G' pitch needs

- 2.92 Based upon the FA guideline that there should be one '3G' football turf pitch per 42 teams, there will be a requirement for the following provision by 2033, based upon the same projections as for grass football pitches:

Figure 113: Future '3G' football turf pitch needs in East Herts

Sub-area	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth	Additional pitch needs
Bishop's Stortford	107	153	165	1.38
Buntingford	66	77	82	0.38
Hertford and Ware	295	318	344	1.17
Sawbridgeworth	20	33	34	0.33
Watton-at-Stone	13	18	18	0.12
East Herts	514	599	643	3.07

Key findings and issues

What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

2.93 The key characteristics of current supply and demand for football in East Herts are as follows:

- 407 affiliated teams play football in East Herts and most local match demand can be accommodated within the district. A further 107 teams are attributable to unmet and latent demand. Only 4.8% of players in East Herts teams live outside the district.
- Football is very buoyant in the district, with several large clubs with 20 teams or more based in the main centres of population.
- Almost all clubs have experienced growth in the past three years, particularly in the youth and mini age groups. However, the main factor inhibiting growth is a shortage of pitches, which was cited by 71.4% of club respondents.
- The activities of several of the larger FA Charter Standard clubs in the district are curtailed by the quantity and/or quality of pitch and ancillary facilities provision, in particular:
 - Bishop's Stortford Community FC plays at seven different sites, three of which have poor quality or no changing facilities. The Club is currently seeking to identify a site where it can develop a home base comprising two '3G' pitches, some grass pitches and a clubhouse.
 - Bengoe Tigers FC are operating at full capacity and are currently investigating the feasibility of developing additional pitches at a new site in Hertford.
 - Wodson Park FC have very poor quality changing facilities at their Crouchfields site, which it would like to improve.
 - Buntingford Cougars FC are currently playing at five different sites and would like to develop a '3G' pitch at The Bury, to create additional capacity.

- Five adult pitches are currently unused, which reflects the reduction in affiliated teams in this age group.
- 24 youth and 23 mini-soccer pitches are on school sites with no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage, given the resurgent demand for football in these age groups and the waiting lists being operated by several clubs at present.
- Only 3.8% of grass pitches in the district are rated as 'poor' quality, although a number of others score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range and could easily become poor quality if grounds maintenance regimes are allowed to deteriorate any further.
- 35.1% of all pitches in East Herts are served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities, including those at key sites like Grange Paddocks, Crouchfields and Hartham Common.
- Demand for floodlit '3G' football turf pitches significantly outstrips supply, with many teams having to access pitches in neighbouring areas. Based on the FA calculation that there should be one full-sized '3G' pitch per 42 teams, there should be 12.24 pitches in East Herts, compared with the one current full-sized facility. However, construction has commenced on another full-sized pitch at Richard Hale School (Hertford).
- Pitch hire charges in East Herts are comparable to those in neighbouring areas, so prices should have no influence on imported or exported demand.
- Grounds maintenance expenditure is at or below the lower end of the levels recommended by Sport England, although the provision of voluntary labour by clubs to support pitch maintenance is not costed within the local figures.
- More than 80% of pitches in East Herts have secured community access and access to the remaining pitches on school sites could, in theory, be withdrawn in the absence of a formal community use agreement.

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet current demand?

2.94 The situation for each type of football pitch is as follows:

- **Adult pitches:** There is collective peak time surplus of 1.0 match equivalents and this figure changes to a deficit of 1.0 match equivalent if the site with unsecured community access (Freman College) is discounted.
- **Youth 11v11 pitches:** There is a collective peak time deficit of 6.5 match equivalents. This figure increases to 11.5 match equivalents if the sites with unsecured community access are discounted.

- **Youth 9v9 pitches:** There is collective peak time deficit of 3.0 match equivalents and this figure would increase to 11.0 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:** Supply and demand are balanced at peak time and but figure would become a deficit of 6.0 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:** There is a collective peak time surplus of 4.0 match equivalents, although this figure would be a deficit of 2.0 match equivalents if sites with unsecured community access are discounted.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There is collective deficit of 9.52 '3G' football turf pitches based upon the FA's one pitch per 42 teams' formula.
- **Sub-area shortfalls:** Sub-area shortfalls are particularly prevalent in the Bishop's Stortford and Hertford and Ware sub-areas.

Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained?

2.95 The current situation on pitch quality and maintenance is as follows:

- **Grass pitch quality:** Only 3.8% of grass pitches in the district are rated as 'poor' quality, although a number of others score towards the lower end of the 'standard' quality range and could easily become poor quality if grounds maintenance regimes are allowed to deteriorate any further.
- **Pitch maintenance:** Only 16.7% of responding clubs feel that the maintenance of the pitches they use is 'good' 66.7% believe that it is 'adequate' and 16.7% believe that it is 'unsuitable'.
- **Pitch quality:** 54.5% of respondents believe that pitch quality has deteriorated since last season, although all pitches still meet league standards.
- **Changing facilities:** 35.1% of all pitches in East Herts are served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities, including those at key sites like Grange Paddocks, Crouchfields and Hartham Common.

What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

2.96 The main characteristics of future supply and demand are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population of East Herts is estimated to be 179,558 by 2033. This represents an increase of 17.7% in the period. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 114: Effects of population growth on football team numbers in East Herts

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male football	163	21
Adult female football	15	1
Boys youth 11v11 football	106	15
Girls youth 11v11 football	25	13
Boys youth 9v9 football	82	8
Girls youth 9v9 football	14	1
Mini-soccer 7v7 (mixed)	107	20
Mini-soccer 5v5 (mixed)	97	17

- **Changes in demand:** Projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum will lead to a compound increase in demand of 8.3% by 2033. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 115: Effects of participation growth on football team numbers in East Herts

itch type	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult football	178	15
Youth 11v11 football	131	11
Youth 9v9 football	96	8
Mini-soccer 7v7	107	9
Mini-soccer 5v5	97	8

- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing pitch sites, including those that are currently disused. However, there is no secured community use of any of the pitches on school sites and so access could, in theory, be withdrawn at any time. There are a number of pitch development proposals in the district at present, many of which involve the development of education provision with dual use by the community.
- **Grass pitch spare capacity:** Whilst some additional usable pitch capacity might be created by bringing some of the currently disused pitches back into use and/or negotiating access to some of the grass pitches on school sites that currently have no community access, in practice most potential opportunities in this regard have already been explored so it is preferable to disregard the possible extra capacity that might be derived from this source.
- **'3G' pitch spare capacity:** The current calculated deficit for '3G' pitches in the district is 9.52 full-sized facilities.
- **Future pitch needs:** The additional pitch requirements arising from increases in population and participation in each sub-area by 2033 have been assessed as follows, based upon the capacity of 'standard' quality pitches:

Figure 116: Additional future football pitch needs in East Herts

Sub-area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	'3G'
Bishop's Stortford	7.5	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.38
Buntingford	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.38
Hertford and Ware	5.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.5na	1.17
Sawbridgeworth	4.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.33
Watton-at-Stone	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.12
East Herts	19.5	10.0	8.5	7.0	6.5	3.07

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet future demand?

2.97 The situation at community accessible pitches in each sub-area is as follows. Where a fraction of a pitch is calculated, the figure should be round up to the nearest whole number. The total spatial requirement is 41.96ha for additional grass pitches and 11.64ha for '3G' football turf pitches

Figure 117: Additional future football pitch needs in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Pitch type	Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
Adult football	9	-0.5 matches	9.5 pitches	7.5 pitches	17 pitches	8 pitches
Youth 11v11	7	-1.5 matches	8.5 pitches	3.5 pitches	12 pitches	5 pitches
Youth 9v9	3	-0.5 matches	3.5 pitches	3.0 pitches	6.5 pitches	3.5 pitches
Mini 7v7	4	Balanced	4.0 pitches	2.5 pitches	6.5 pitches	2.5 pitches
Mini 5v5	4	+1.5 matches	2.5 pitches	2.0 pitches	4.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
'3G'	1	-1.55 pitches	2.55 pitches	1.38 pitches	3.93 pitches	2.93 pitches

Figure 118: Additional future football pitch needs in Buntingford and surrounds

Pitch type	Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
Adult football	12	+3.0 matches	9.0 pitches	2.0 pitches	11.0 pitches	None
Youth 11v11	5	-0.5 matches	5.5 pitches	1.0 pitch	6.5 pitches	1.5 pitches
Youth 9v9	4.5	-2.0 matches	6.5 pitches	1.0 pitch	7.5 pitches	3 pitches
Mini 7v7	5.5	+0.5 matches	5.0 pitches	1.0 pitch	6.0 pitches	0.5 pitches
Mini 5v5	6.5	+1.5 matches	5.0 pitches	1.0 pitch	6.0 pitches	None
'3G'	0	-1.57 pitches	1.57 pitches	0.38 pitches	1.95 pitches	1.95 pitches

Figure 119: Additional future football pitch needs in Hertford and Ware

Pitch type	Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
Adult football	16	-2.0 matches	18.0 pitches	5.5 pitches	23.5 pitches	7.5 pitches
Youth 11v11	12.5	-4.0 matches	16.5 pitches	4.5 pitches	21.0 pitches	8.5 pitches
Youth 9v9	9	-2.0 matches	11.0 pitches	3.5 pitches	14.5 pitches	5.5 pitches
Mini 7v7	8	-1.5 matches	9.5 pitches	2.5 pitches	13.0 pitches	5 pitches
Mini 5v5	7	+1.0 match	6.0 pitches	2.5 pitches	8.5 pitches	1.5 pitches
'3G'	1.71	-5.3 pitches	7.01 pitches	1.17 pitches	8.18 pitches	6.47 pitches

Figure 120: Additional future football pitch needs in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Pitch type	Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
Adult football	4	+0.5 matches	3.5 pitches	4.0 pitches	7.5 pitches	3.5 pitches
Youth 11v11	0	Balanced	0 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
Youth 9v9	1	+0.5 matches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	1.0 pitch	None
Mini 7v7	0	Balanced	0 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
Mini 5v5	0	Balanced	0 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
'3G'	0	-0.48 pitches	0.48 pitches	0.33 pitches	0.81 pitches	0.81 pitches

Figure 121: Additional future football pitch needs in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Pitch type	Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
Adult football	2	Balanced	2.0 pitches	0.5 pitches	2.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
Youth 11v11	1	-0.5 matches	1.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	2.0 pitches	1.0 pitch
Youth 9v9	2	+0.5 matches	1.5 pitches	0.5 pitches	2.0 pitches	None
Mini 7v7	2	+1.0 match	1.0 pitch	0.5 pitches	1.5 pitches	None
Mini 5v5	1	Balanced	1.0 pitch	0.5 pitches	1.5 pitches	0.5 pitches
'3G'	0	-0.31 pitches	0.31 pitches	0.12 pitches	0.43 pitches	0.43 pitches

The options for securing additional accessible and secured pitch capacity

2.98 The options for securing the additional pitches are as follows:

- **Protect:** Protecting existing pitch sites through the Local Plan will be key both to maintaining the current stock and to increase secured local capacity by:
 - Securing access to at least some of the 63 existing grass pitches on school sites.
 - Reinstating some or all of the 11 un-used pitches, with conversion to smaller pitches where appropriate.

- **Provide:** Ensuring that new pitch and related changing provision is made in conjunction with new housing developments, either on site or through developer contributions that reflect the additional pitch demand arising from the increased population.
 - The FA's highest regional facilities priority is to secure a home base for Bishop's Stortford Community FC. The preferred option is for a site with two '3G' full-sized football turf pitches and a clubhouse. East Herts Council should take a proactive approach to assisting the club with acquiring a site, which might include purchasing the land and leasing it to the club to develop and operate the facilities.
 - Bengeo Tigers FC and Hertford Town FC are investigating the feasibility of developing pitches at a site near Hertford currently owned by Lafarge.
 - Several pitch developments on new and existing education sites have potential to meet additional community needs, providing access is secured through the planning process.
- **Enhance:** Improving the carrying capacity of existing pitches will accommodate additional play. The options include improved drainage and maintenance to grass pitches, floodlighting to extend usage periods and providing more '3G' surfaces in lieu of grass pitches.

Policy recommendations

- 2.99 The recommendations in relation to football are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:
- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
 - The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.
- 2.100 The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide'.

2.101 Protect:

- **Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision:** The East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for football in the district. The Strategy has identified a need for all current and disused football pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Herts both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- **Recommendation 2 - Community access to education facilities:** 24 youth and 23 mini-soccer pitches are on school sites with no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage, given the resurgent demand for football in these age groups and the waiting lists being operated by several clubs at present.
 - Efforts are made to secure community use agreements at existing education pitches.
 - Community use agreements become a standard condition of planning consent at all new education pitches, along with a design and specification that is consistent with maximising school and community use.

2.102 Enhance:

- **Recommendation 3 - Capacity improvements:** Some current demand for football in East Herts can be accommodated by enhancing existing provision. It is recommended that the priorities identified in the site-specific action plan in the East Herts PPS be used as the basis for prioritising pitch and ancillary facility enhancements that will help to alleviate some of the current identified deficits.
- **Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements):** Some of the additional demand for football arising from housing development in East Herts, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the priorities identified in the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123, unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

2.103 Provide:

- **Recommendation 5 - Strategic hub site solutions:** Several of the larger, strategically important clubs in East Herts currently experience operational difficulties, with teams playing on scattered sites and frequently on poor quality pitches. It is therefore recommended that in line with FA guidance strategic hub site solutions involving two '3G' pitches, grass pitches and clubhouse facilities be investigated for the following clubs and locations:
 - Bishop's Stortford Community FC.
 - Bengeo Tigers and Hertford Town FC.
 - Buntingford Cougars FC.
 - Wodson Park Sports Trust/North Ware extension.
 - Gilston Garden Village.
- **Recommendation 6 - '3G' football turf pitches:** There is a particularly large deficit of '3G' pitches in East Herts, amounting to a current shortfall of 9.5 pitches, with projected needs for an additional 3 pitches to meet future demand. It is therefore recommended that existing proposals for '3G' pitches be assessed in the context of the identified shortfalls and encouraged where appropriate. Where there are no active plans, the Strategy Implementation Group should seek local solutions on a proactive basis.
- **Recommendation 7 - Developer contributions (new provision):** Most of the extra demand for football arising from housing developments in East Herts, will need to be accommodated through new provision. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts PPS be used to determine which proposed provision demonstrably relates to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover their capital and revenue cost implications. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions. Some of the facility solutions are likely to involve provision in neighbouring areas (e.g. the developments east of Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage) and provision should be made for cross-border coordination and financial contributions.

Scenario testing

2.104 Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

2.105 Accommodating matches on '3G' pitch provision:

- **Rationale:** The FA has a target to play 50% of all youth football and mini-soccer matches on '3G' pitches by 2019. However, it has also developed a model to calculate the effect of transferring all matches for teams who currently play on grass pitches to '3G'. The results of applying this in East Herts are as below:

Figure 122: Scenario showing the effect of playing all football matches on '3G' pitches

Format of the game	Total number of teams	Number of teams playing at peak time	Fixture Equivalents	Matches per full size AGP	Number of match sessions	Duration of session (inc. changeover)	Hours of play on 3G AGP	Assumptions
5v5	65	64	32	4	8.0	1	8.0	Assumes that 5v5 and 7v7 fixtures are programmed on the hour
7v7	73	73	37	2	18.5	1	18.5	
9v9	64	64	32	2	16.0	1.5	24.0	Assumes that 9v9 fixtures are programmed every 90 minutes
Youth 11v11	85	85	43	1	43.0	2	86.0	Assumes that 11v11 fixtures are programmed every 120 minutes
Adult 11v11 Sat	122	57	29	1	29.0	2	58.0	
Adult 11v11 Sun		65	33	1	33.0	2	66.0	
Total	409	351	176	-	147.5	-	250.5	Hours of 3G play per weekend

- **Advantages:** Accommodating matches on '3G' pitches would ensure that play could take place on high-quality all-weather surfaces that would eliminate the fixture postponements that are a feature of grass pitches during the winter months.
- **Disadvantages:** Based on the FA's modelling, there would be a need for more than 250 hours of weekend '3G' pitch availability to accommodate all matches currently played on grass in East Herts, which is equivalent to almost 21 full-sized '3G' pitches (assuming 12 hours of weekend peak-time availability) just to meet existing needs. The provision of 21 additional '3G' pitches would be costly, amounting to around £15.75 million at current prices.

- **Conclusions:** Whilst the strategic hub site solutions outlined in recommendation 5 above should be purposed as a priority, the provision of '3G' pitches to meet all competitive football needs would not be feasible.

Action plan

2.106 In the context of the recommendations above, the tables below set out the football action plan by sub area to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EHC - East Herts Council, IOG - Institute of Groundsmanship and FA - Football Association. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016' (2016).

Figure 123: Football key strategic actions

Issue	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Strategic hub site solution in Bishop's Stortford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure a suitable site • Feasibility study • Develop the site 	EHC	BSCFC Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Strategic hub site solution in Hertford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure a suitable site • Feasibility study • Develop the site 	EHC	Bengeo Tigers FC Hertford Town FC Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Strategic hub site solution in Buntingford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure a suitable site • Feasibility study • Develop the site 	EHC	Buntingford Cougars FC Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Strategic hub site solution in Ware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure a suitable site • Feasibility study • Develop the site 	EHC	Wodson Park Trust Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Strategic hub site solution in Gilston Garden Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and secure a suitable site • Feasibility study • Develop the site 	EHC	Developer Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Community access to education pitches	Pursue Community Use Agreements at existing high priority sites and all future proposed pitches on education sites.	EHC	Schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	Medium
Developer contributions	Secure developer contributions for new and improved pitch provision related to new development.	EHC	Developers	TBC	High

Figure 124: Football site-specific actions in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Albury Football Ground	Poor quality adult pitch and changing facility.	Improve pitch quality and new pavilion.	Albury FC	Albury Parish Council	£20,000 for pitch £200,000 for pavilion	Medium
Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	Good quality pitch on cricket outfield. Trust wants to improve pavilion.	New pavilion	BS Sports Trust	EHDC	£500,000 for pavilion	Low for football
Braughing Playing Fields	Pitch and changing facilities towards the higher end of 'standard' quality.	Maintain current provision	Braughing Parish Council	-	-	Low
Brewery Field	Very poor quality pitch, no on-site changing. Site currently for sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP. • Ensure retention of site as a pitch. 	Rayments Brewery Furneux Pelham PC	IOG	£20,000 for pitch	Low
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields	Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard', but changing is 'poor'.	Improve changing facilities as an interim measure prior to developing a hub site.	Bishop's Stortford Town Council	BS Community FC	£50,000 for upgraded changing	High
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Pitch quality varies within the 'standard' range. Changing is rated as 'poor'. Could designate site for adult pitches once hub site provided elsewhere locally Proposals for a '3G' pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GaNTIP. • Provide new changing facility as part of site developments. • Review needs in the context of the wider '3G' pitch strategy for BS 	EHC	IOG	£150,000 for changing as part of the leisure centre development	Medium
Pearce House	Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard' but no on-site changing.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	Birchwood HS	EHC	-	Low
Prokit Stadium	Pitch and changing very 'high' quality.	Maintain current provision	Bishop's Stortford FC	-	-	High
Silverleys Trust	The adult pitch and changing are 'high' quality, but the youth pitch is in the mid-range of 'standard'.	Investigate relocating BS Swifts FC to the proposed Hoggates Park site nearby.	Silverleys Trust	Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	-	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Bishop's Stortford High School	No community access to Jobbers Wood pitches. Proposed relocation of the main school site	Initiate dialogue with the school to explore community use potential.	EHC	Herts FA BSHS	-	Medium
Birchwood High School	Proposals for a second '3G' pitch	Review needs in the context of the wider '3G' pitch strategy for BS	EHC	Herts FA BSHS	-	Medium
Herts and Essex High School	Proposals for a new playing field on Beldam's Lane	Secure Community Use Agreement and explore Hub Site potential.	EHC	Herts FA BSHS	-	Medium
Bishop's Stortford North	New school pitches to be provided on a site north of the A120	Secure Community Use Agreement and explore Hub Site potential.	EHC	Herts FA Herts CC	-	Medium
Bishop's Stortford South	New school pitches to be provided at the secondary school	Secure Community Use Agreement and explore Hub Site potential.	EHC	Herts FA Herts CC	-	Medium

Figure 125: Football site-specific actions in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
All Saints Primary School	Pitch at the lower end of 'standard'. No changing for community users.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	All Saints Primary School	-	Low
Aston Park	Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard', but no on-site changing.	Maintain current provision	Datchworth Parish Council	-	-	Low
Aston St. Mary's Junior School	Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard'. No changing for community users.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Aston St. Mary's Junior School	-	Low
Benington Recreation Ground	Changing facilities are not fit for purpose.	Support the self-build project	Benington Parish Council	Football Foundation	£50,000	High
Cottered Playing Field	Pitch at the lower end of 'standard' but changing at the upper end of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	Cottered Parish Council	-	-	Low

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Edwinstree Middle School	Pitch at the high end of 'standard'. No changing for community users.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Edwinstree Middle School	-	Low
Freman College	Pitch quality at the high end of standard. Changing rated 'good'. Proposals to extend playing field.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Freman College	-	Medium
Horseman's Meadow	'Standard' quality pitch with no on-site changing provision.	Maintain current provision	Little Munden Parish Council	-	-	Low
London Road Playing Field	Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard', but changing is 'poor'.	Review the future of the site in the context of a Hub Site at The Bury	Buntingford Cougars FC	Buntingford Relief in Need Charity	-	High
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Pitch quality is 'poor' with a severe slope and uneven surface, but changing is 'good'.	Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP.	Buntingford Town Council	IOG	-	Medium
Ralph Sadleir School	Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard', but changing is 'good'.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Ralph Sadleir School	-	Low
Seth Ward Community Centre	Adult pitch is 'poor' and the youth pitch at the lower end of 'standard'. Changing is high end of 'standard'	Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP.	Buntingford Town Council	IOG	-	Medium
Standon Playing Field	Pitch quality and changing both in the mid-range of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	Standon Parish Council	-	-	Low
The Bury	Pitch quality and changing both in the mid-range of 'standard'.	Feasibility study to provide a Hub Site with '3G' pitch and improved pavilion	Buntingford Town FC	FA Football Foundation	£20,000 for feasibility study	High
Thundridge Playing Fields	Pitch towards the lower end of 'standard', but changing is in the mid-range of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	Thundridge Parish Council	-	-	Low

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Thundridge Sports Ground	Pitch quality at the high end of 'standard', but changing is in the mid-range of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	EHC	Ware Youth FC	-	Low
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	Pitch quality is in the mid-range of 'standard', but changing is 'high' quality.	Maintain current provision	Walkern Parish Council	-	-	Low
Westmill Recreation Ground	Pitch quality is at the high end of 'standard', but changing is at the low end of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	Westmill Parish Council	-	-	Low
East of Stevenage development	600 new homes to be built east of Stevenage.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance pitch provision in Stevenage	EHC	Stevenage BC Developers	TBC	High

Figure 126: Football site-specific actions in Hertford and Ware

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	Very high quality pitches, changing at the high end of 'standard' quality.	Maintain current provision	Allenbury Sports and Social Club	-	-	Low
Bengeo Sports Field	Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard'. 'Good' quality changing.	Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP.	Bengeo Parish Council	IOG	£20,000 for pitch	Medium
County Hall Sports Ground	Pitches and changing both at the lower end of 'standard' quality.	Make improved provision elsewhere via a new hub site.	Hertford Town YFC	Herts County Council	-	Low
Hartham Common/ Leisure Centre	Pitch quality at the lower end of 'standard', but changing is 'poor'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new changing facilities. • Could designate site for adult pitches once hub site provided elsewhere locally 	EHC	Leisure centre operator	£500,000 for pavilion	Medium

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Hertford Football Club	High quality pitch and changing facilities in an enclosed ground.	Maintain current provision	Hertford FC	-	-	High
Hertford Heath Playing Fields	Pitch quality and changing both at the lower end of 'standard'.	Maintain current provision	Hertford Heath Parish Council	-	-	Low
Presdales Recreation Ground	Pitches and changing both at the lower end of 'standard' quality which is not acceptable at a key multi-pitch site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP. • Provide new changing facilities. 	Bury Rangers FC	IOG EHC Football Foundation	£150,000 for pitches £500,000 for pavilion	High
Sacred Heart Primary School	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard'.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Sacred Heart Primary School	-	Low
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Pitches and pavilion are high quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current provision • Provide small-sided '3G' pitch 	SMSSC	-	£150,000 for small-sided '3G' pitch	High
St. Mary's Junior School	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard'.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	St. Mary's Junior School	-	Low
Simon Balle School	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard'.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Simon Balle School	-	Low
The Sele School	Pitch quality high end of 'standard, changing low end of 'standard'	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	The Sele School	-	Low
Trinity Playing Fields	Pitch quality varies slightly but all are at the high end of 'standard' and changing is 'good'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current provision • Protect site against disposal by Herts CC 	Ware Youth FC	-	-	High
Ware Football Club	Pitch and changing both very 'high' quality.	Maintain current provision	Ware FC	-	-	Medium
West Street Playing Field	Pitch quality towards the lower end of 'standard'. No on-site changing.	Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP.	Hertford FC	IOG	£10,000 for pitch	Medium
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Pitch and changing both 'high' quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current provision • Feasibility study for hub site 	Wodson Trust	-	£20,000 for feasibility study	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Chauncy School	Pitches formerly has community use	Investigate potential to reinstate community use	EHC	Chauncy School	-	Medium
Richard Hale School	'3G' pitch opened in 2017.	Review the role of the pitch in the context of the wider '3G' pitch strategy for H&W	EHC	Herts FA RHS	-	Medium
Haileybury College	Proposed provision of three '3G' pitches	Review the role of the pitches in the context of the wider '3G' pitch strategy for H&W	EHC	Herts FA HC	-	High
Ware North development	1,000 - 1,500 new homes to be built north of Ware.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to develop Hub Site at Wodson Park	EHC	Wodson Trust Developers	TBC	High

Figure 127: Football site-specific actions in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Pitch quality in the mid-range of 'standard', but changing is 'good'.	Maintain current provision	Much Hadham Parish Council	-	-	Low
St. George's Playing Field	Pitch quality in the low end of 'standard', but changing is very 'poor'.	Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP.	High Wych Parish Council	IOG	£20,000 for pitch	Medium
Sawbridgeworth Town FC	Pitch and changing both 'high' quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review grounds maintenance regime with GaNTIP. Provide new changing facilities. 	STFC	Herts County Council IOG Football Foundation	£50,000 for pitches £200,000 for changing	High
Widford Playing Field	Pitch quality high end of 'standard'. No changing.	Maintain current provision	Angels Saviours FC	-	-	Low
Leventhorpe Academy	No community use of existing pitches. Land to the north allocated for pitches in the Local Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate potential to secure community use Include site in the BS Hub Site feasibility study 	EHC	Herts FA Leventhorpe Academy	-	Medium

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Gilston Garden Town	3,050 new homes to be built in Gilston by 2033	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Hub Site in Gilston, co-ordinating needs with Hub Site feasibility studies in Harlow. • Provide community accessible pitches at the secondary school. 	EHC	Harlow DC Developers	TBC	High

Figure 128: Football site-specific actions in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Crouchfields	Pitch quality at the high end of standard, but changing very poor.	Make improved provision via a new hub site at nearby Wodson Park.	Wodson Park FC	Wodson Park Trust Herts FA Football Foundation	TBC	High
Watton-at-Stone Primary School	Pitch quality at the mid-range of 'standard'.	Secure use via a Community Use Agreement	EHC	Watton-at-Stone PS	-	Low
Watton-at-Stone Recn Ground	Pitch and changing are both 'standard' quality.	Maintain current provision	Watton-at-Stone PC	-		Low
East of Welwyn Garden City development	1,350 new homes to be built east of Welwyn Garden City.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make on site provision of '3G' and grass pitches • Enhance pitch provision in Welwyn Garden City in line with the findings of the emerging Welwyn Hatfield PPS 	EHC	Welwyn Hatfield DC Developers	TBC	High

SECTION 3: CRICKET PITCH NEEDS IN EAST HERTS

The key local stakeholders

- 3.1 **East Herts Council:** The council does not directly provide any cricket pitches in the district, but it has leased two sites which it owns to local clubs.
- 3.2 **Hertfordshire Cricket:** Hertfordshire Cricket administers the sport in the county.
- 3.3 **Affiliated clubs:** 26 cricket clubs, collectively comprising 100 teams, draw their playing membership from East Herts and are affiliated to Hertfordshire Cricket.
- 3.4 **Schools cricket:** Cricket is played at all the private schools and most of the secondary and middle schools in the district, with cricket pitches or artificial wickets available on nine school sites.

Strategic context

National Cricket Strategy

- 3.5 The England and Wales Cricket Board's strategy for 2016 -2020 '*Cricket Unleashed*' (2016) contains the following priorities of relevance to East Herts:
- **Clubs and leagues:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Promoting player-driven formats of the game in our leagues and clubs.
 - Providing more opportunities to play across the whole league structure.
 - Delivering a new club affiliation core offer.
 - Delivering new training opportunities for coaches, officials and grounds staff.
 - Delivering a volunteer offer to drive recruitment, retention and recognition.
 - **Kids:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Developing an ability-based pathway for children aged 5-12 for adoption in clubs, schools and youth organisations.
 - In partnership with Chance to Shine, expanding the reach of the game into all schools across the country through a combination of bat and ball opportunities, a national teacher ambassador program and curriculum-aligned classroom resources.
 - Creating a seamless transition across the age groups and different formats to reduce the current drop out at key ages.
 - Promoting shorter pitch lengths for younger age groups.

- **Communities:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Implementing inclusion and engagement strategies to deliver welcoming environments and opportunities for players of diverse backgrounds.
 - Prioritising additional investment in coaches for women's, girl's, multicultural groups and disability cricket.
 - Increasing the opportunities for people with a disability to take part and play cricket at all levels.
 - Maximising the impact of hosting ICC global events to inspire a more diverse participation base to play cricket.
 - Delivering and investing in cricket programmes that are designed to bring communities together and improve physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Casual:** The following will be prioritised:
 - Delivering simple and enjoyable casual cricket offers.
 - Developing a 5 or 6-a-side version of cricket, played on artificial wickets to engage players at all ages and levels.
 - Supporting innovation such as Last Man Stands, Indoor, Tape-ball and Beach Cricket.
 - Creating a year-round participation programme using artificial wickets, indoor centres and other indoor spaces to allow all-year round play.
 - Driving availability of bats and balls for unstructured play.

County Cricket Strategy

3.6 Responsibility for delivering the national strategy in East Herts lies with Hertfordshire Cricket. The organisation's guiding strategy is '*Bringing Cricket to Life*' (2013). Its priorities include creating a sustainable future for recreational cricket and one of its overarching strategic outcomes is to improve health and well-being. The facilities service outcomes are:

- Club facilities that are fit for purpose.
- Increased investment into facilities.
- Facilities that are used collectively by the club and the community.

Pitch strategies in neighbouring areas

3.7 Consultation with neighbouring local authorities identified the following key issues in relation to East Herts:

- **Harlow:** Harlow is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Sawbridgeworth sub-area. Accessibility towards Hertford is good via the A414 but links to Sawbridgeworth via the A1184 are slower. Harlow District Council is currently reviewing its playing pitch strategy but the emerging findings of relevance to cricket in East Herts suggest that current supply and demand are broadly in balance, with no exported demand to East Herts.
- **Uttlesford:** Uttlesford is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is good via the M11 and A120. The '*Uttlesford Sports Facilities Development Strategy*' (2016) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is collective spare capacity equivalent to 50 standard quality wickets (6 pitches). There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa. An assessment of future needs indicates that demand generated by population growth in Uttlesford by 2031 will require 67.5 standard quality wickets (8 pitches) to accommodate it. This will leave a shortfall equivalent to two standard quality pitches, once existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
- **Epping Forest:** Epping Forest district is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. The '*Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2012) is currently being updated by the council but pending the emergence of detailed findings, dialogue with the council and the Essex Cricket Board has identified that current provision is adequate to meet existing needs and there is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **Broxbourne:** Broxbourne is located to the south of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Ware sub-area. Accessibility is generally very good via the A10 corridor. The '*Broxbourne Leisure Facilities Strategy: Outdoor Facilities*' (2013) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is a current shortfall of two pitches in the borough. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **Welwyn Hatfield:** Welwyn Hatfield is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Watton-at-Stone sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A414 provides connections to Hertford. The '*Welwyn Hatfield Sports Facilities Strategy: A Vision to 2026*' (2010) is considered by Sport England to be out of date, but dialogue with the council and Herts Cricket has identified that there are no current shortfalls in the district and no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts or vice versa.

- **North Hertfordshire:** North Hertfordshire is located to the north and north-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A507 provides connections to Baldock and the A10 to Royston. The '*North Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is current spare capacity in the district equivalent to seven pitches and that this will be sufficient to accommodate all future demand in addition. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **Stevenage:** Stevenage is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, although the A602 provides connections to Watton-at-Stone. The '*Stevenage Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy*' (2014) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is current spare capacity in the borough which will be sufficient to accommodate all future demand to 2031 in addition. There is some evidence of exported demand to East Herts, with Knebworth Park Cricket Club's 5th and 6th teams playing 'home' fixtures at Aston Cricket Ground.

The implications for East Herts

3.8 The implications of the strategic context for cricket in East Herts are as follows:

- **Policy shifts:** The move in national policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for cricket to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. Recent innovations such as Last Man Stands, indoor cricket and Tape-ball cricket might prove more attractive to new participants.
- **Neighbouring areas:** There is limited imported demand from Stevenage, but otherwise there is no evidence of cross-border supply-demand movements.

Cricket pitch demand

Introduction

3.9 This section summarises the demand for cricket in East Herts and covers:

- Expressed demand.
- Displaced demand.
- Unmet demand.
- Latent demand.
- Demand trends.
- The views of stakeholders on cricket demand.

Expressed demand

- 3.10 **Expressed demand:** The following cricket clubs and teams are affiliated to Hertfordshire Cricket, Essex Cricket or Cambridgeshire Cricket and are based in East Herts:

Figure 129: Cricket clubs and teams in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams
Albury Cricket Club	Albury Sports Ground	1	-	-	-
Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club	Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	4	1	9	-
Braughing Cricket Club	Braughing Playing Fields	1	-	2	-
Hockerill Cricket Club	Hockerill Cricket Club	5	-	3	-
Little Hadham Cricket Club	Little Hadham Cricket Club	1	-	-	-
Thorley Cricket Club	Thorley Cricket Club	2	-	2	-
TOTALS	-	14	1	16	0

Figure 130: Cricket clubs and teams in Buntingford and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams
Ardley Walkern Cricket Club	Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	1	-	-	-
Aspenden, Standon and Puckeridge Cricket Club	Aspenden Playing Field	1	-	-	-
Buntingford Cricket Club	Norfolk Road Playing Fields	4	-	6	-
Datchworth Cricket Club	Datchworth Sports Club	6	-	7	-
Hare Street and Hornead Cricket Club	The Meads	1	-	-	-
Little Munden Cricket Club	Little Munden Cricket Club	1	-	-	-
Thundridge Cricket Club	Thundridge Sports Ground	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	15	0	13	0

Figure 131: Cricket clubs and teams in Hertford and Ware

Club	Match venue	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams
Allenbury's and County Hall Cricket Club	Allenbury's Sports & Social Club	2	-	-	-
Bengeo Cricket Club	Bengeo Sports Field	1	-	-	-
Hertford Cricket Club	Balls Park	7	-	10	-
Hertingfordbury Cricket Club	Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-
St. Margaretsbury Cricket Club	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Soc. Club	2	-	5	-
TOTALS	-	14	0	15	0

Figure 132: Cricket clubs and teams in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams
Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club	Town Fields Leventhorpe Academy	4	-	5	-
Ware Cricket Club	Widford Playing Field	2	-	2	-
TOTALS	-	6	0	7	0

Figure 133: Cricket clubs and teams in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Club	Match venue	Adult male teams	Adult female teams	Junior male teams	Junior female teams
Bayford and Hertford Cricket Club	Bayford and Hertford CC	2	-	-	-
Bramfield Cricket Club	Bramfield Playing Field	1	-	-	-
Little Berkhamsted Cricket Club	Lt. Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-
Tewin Cricket Club	Tewin Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-
Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club	Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	7	0	0	0

Displaced demand

- 3.11 Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. All cricket clubs and teams based in East Herts are currently able to accommodate their needs using facilities within the district. There is some limited imported demand, with Knebworth Park Cricket Club's 5th and 6th teams playing 'home' fixtures at Aston Cricket Ground.

Unmet demand

- 3.12 Unmet demand takes a number of forms:
- Teams may have access to a pitch for their matches but nowhere to train.
 - Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
 - The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.
- 3.13 Consultation with clubs in East Herts revealed that all respondents identified a shortage of pitches as an impediment to growth. Clubs identified unmet demand is equivalent to two extra adult male teams, one adult female team, one junior male and two junior girl's teams.

Latent demand

- 3.14 Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is some evidence of latent demand in East Herts at present, with Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club planning an additional junior pitch to meet latent demand in the town equivalent to three junior male and one junior girl's teams.

Demand trends

- 3.15 Local and national demand trends in East Herts indicate the following:
- **Active People Survey:** Based upon the national results of Sport England's 'Active People' survey, adult (16+) participation in cricket has fallen over the period since 2005 as follows:

Figure 134: National cricket participation rates

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
0.48%	0.49%	0.49%	0.41%	0.51%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	0.32%	0.42%	-0.06%

- **National Cricket Playing Survey:** The ECB's most recent '*National Cricket Playing Survey*' (2015) identified a 7% decrease in player numbers between 2013 and 2014. Of the 850,000 players nationally, 250,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 times per season), 400,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 times per season) and 200,000 are 'cameo' players (playing once or twice per season). 5% of all organised fixtures were cancelled in 2014 because at least one of the teams was unable to field eleven players.
- **Local membership trends:** The survey of East Herts clubs shows a small decrease in the number of teams over the past three years. One local club - Furneux Pelham Cricket Club has become inactive in the same period.
- **Future trends:** East Herts clubs expect collectively to increase their membership over the next three years, by an estimated ten teams.

The views of stakeholders

3.16 **Hertfordshire Cricket:** Consultation with Hertfordshire Cricket's Head of Development and Operations, identified that the district has a good geographical spread of clubs that reflects population distribution, particularly in the A10 corridor.

3.17 **Local clubs:** A questionnaire survey circulated by Hertfordshire Cricket to all clubs in the district that are affiliated to the ECB, produced responses from four clubs, collectively representing 38 of the 100 teams in East Hertfordshire (a 38.0% response rate). This was followed up with dialogue with the key clubs, to explore additional issues. The following clubs responded:

- Bayford and Hertford Nondescripts Cricket Club
- Bishops Stortford Cricket Club
- Hertford Cricket Club
- Ware Cricket Club
- Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club

3.18 **Key issues:** Clubs identified the following key issues in relation to demand:

- **Membership trends:** There has been a general trend towards declining membership in most local clubs.
- **Future trends:** Three clubs expect to increase their membership over the next three years, collectively projecting two extra adult male teams, one adult female team, four junior male and three junior girl's teams.
- **Area of origin of players:** Clubs identified that collectively just over 90% of their players originate from within East Herts.

The implications for cricket in East Herts

3.19 Analysis of local demand for cricket in East Herts indicates the following:

- 100 affiliated teams play cricket in East Herts and all local match demand can be accommodated within the district. Only 9% of players in East Herts teams live outside the district.
- Demand for cricket in East Herts has decreased slightly in the past three years, which is consistent with national trends. One local club, Furneux Pelham Cricket Club, became inactive in the same period.
- Unmet demand due to lack of pitches is equivalent to a total of two extra adult male teams, one adult female team, one junior male and two junior girl's teams.
- Latent demand based upon information supplied by local clubs is equivalent to three junior male teams and one junior female team.

3.20 The table below summarises the above figures for the purposes of calculating team equivalents in East Herts:

Figure 135: Effective cricket team numbers in East Herts

Age group	Expressed demand	Unmet demand	Latent demand	Total demand
Adult male cricket	56	2	0	58
Adult female cricket	2	1	0	3
Junior male cricket	51	2	3	56
Junior female cricket	0	1	1	2

Cricket pitch supply

Introduction

3.21 This section summarises the supply of cricket pitches in East Herts and covers:

- Pitch quantity.
- Pitch quality.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Ownership, management and security of access.
- The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply.

Cricket pitches

3.22 The cricket pitches with community use and used are as follows.

Figure 136: Cricket pitches with community use and used in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Albury Sports Field	The Bourne, Albury SG11 2JR	1	4	0
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2SR	2	24	1
Braughing Playing Fields	Green Lane, Braughing SG11 2QN	1	8	0
Hockerill Cricket Club	Beldam's Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5LG	2	13	0
Little Hadham Cricket Club	Millfield Lane, Bury Green SG11 2ED	1	8	0
Thorley Cricket Club	Thorley Lane East, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4BH	1	10	0
TOTALS	-	8	67	1

Figure 137: Cricket pitches with community use and used in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	Aspenden Road, Buntingford SG9 9PB	1	10	0
Aston Cricket Ground	Aston Lane, Aston SG2 7EJ	1	6	0
Datchworth Sports Club	Datchworth Green, Knebworth SG3 6TL	2	16	0
Freman College	Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford SG9 9BT	1	5	0
Little Munden Cricket Club	Green End, Little Munden SG12 0NY	1	6	0
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Norfolk Road, Buntingford SG9 9AN	1	8	0
The Meads	B1368, Hare Street SG9 0DY	1	5	0
Thundridge Sports Ground	Cambridge Road, Thundridge SG12 0SU	1	8	0
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	High Street, Walkern SG2 7NP	1	8	0
TOTALS	-	10	72	0

Figure 138: Cricket pitches with community use and used in Hertford and Ware

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	Harris's Lane, Ware SG12 0DJ	1	10	0
Bengeo Sports Field	New Road, Hertford SG14 3JL	1	6	0
Hertford Cricket Club	Mangrove Road, Hertford SG13 8AJ	2	21	1
Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	St. Mary's Lane, Hertford SG14 2LD	1	10	0
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Lakes Court, Stansted Abbots SG12 8EH	2	23	1
TOTALS	-	7	70	2

Figure 139: Cricket pitches with community use and used in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Leventhorpe Academy	Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY	1	8	1
Town Fields	Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AN	1	12	0
Ware Cricket Club	Ware Road, Widford SG12 8RF	1	12	0
TOTALS	-	3	32	1

Figure 140: Cricket pitches with community use and used in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	Bayford Green, Hertford SG13 8PU	1	10	0
Bramfield Playing Field	Bury Lane, Bramfield SG14 2QL	1	8	0
Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	Church Road, Little Berkhamsted SG13 8LY	1	8	0
Tewin Recreation Ground	Upper Green Road, Tewin AL6 0LE	1	10	0
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	School Lane, Watton-at-Stone SG14 3SB	1	8	0
TOTALS	-	5	44	0

3.23 The cricket pitches with community use but unused are as follows.

- Bishop's Stortford and surrounds: None.

Figure 141: Cricket pitches with community use but unused in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Cottered Playing Field	Baldock Road, Cottered SG9 9QW	1	6	0
TOTALS	-	1	6	0

Figure 142: Cricket pitches with community use but unused in Hertford and Ware

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
County Hall Sports Ground	Leahoe, Hertford SG13 8EH	0	0	1
Presdales Recreation Ground	Walnut Tree Walk, Ware SG12 9PB	0	0	1
TOTALS	-	0	0	2

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds: None.
- Watton-at-Stone and surrounds: None.

3.24 The cricket pitches with no community use are as follows.

Figure 143: Cricket pitches with no community use in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Rd., Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	7	28	0
Bishop's Stortford High School	Jobbers Wood Sports Ground, Great Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford SG10 6FB	2	16	2
TOTALS	-	9	44	3

Figure 144: Cricket pitches with no community use in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Edwinstree Middle School	Norfolk Rd, Buntingford SG9 9AW	0	0	1
Ralph Sadleir School	Station Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TF	0	0	1
TOTALS	-	0	0	2

Figure 145: Cricket pitches with no community use in Hertford and Ware

Site	Address	Grass Squares	Grass wickets	Artificial wickets
Chauncy School	Park Road, Ware SG12 0DP	0	0	1
Haileybury College	Hertford SG13 7NU	3	32	0
Richard Hale School	Hale Road, Hertford SG13 8EN	1	6	0
St. Edmund's College	Old Hall Green, Ware SG11 1DS	2	18	1
The Sele School	Welwyn Road, Hertford SG14 2DG	1	6	0
TOTALS	-	7	62	2

- Sawbridgeworth and surrounds: None.
- Watton-at-Stone and surrounds: None.

Pitch quality

3.25 The qualitative analysis of pitches in East Herts involved visits to all cricket pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the ECB for Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' (2013). The assessment generated 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:

3.26

- **Grass wickets:** This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.

- **Outfield:** This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities:** This includes the presence or absence of umpires provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, surface quality, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

3.27 The assessment generates a 'score' for each site by evaluating the condition of the wickets, outfield, ancillary facilities and practice nets. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 81% or more (shown in green below), 'Standard' for scores of 80% - 51% (shown in yellow) and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below (shown in red). Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question. The scores for each cricket pitch site in East Herts are as follows:

Figure 146: Cricket pitch quality in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets		Comments
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	
Albury Sports Field	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	40%	Poor	-	-	Outfield is very uneven Pavilion in poor state of repair
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	A high quality, well-maintained facility in all respects.
Braughing Playing Fields	83%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	80%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitch.
Hockerill Cricket Club	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	-	-	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Little Hadham Cricket Club	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	92%	Good	-	-	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Thorley Cricket Club	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	40%	Poor	-	-	Pavilion is very poor quality.

Figure 147: Cricket pitch quality in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets		Comments
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	
Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	80%	Standard	75%	Standard	Changing facilities are ageing and practice nets show signs of wear.
Aston Cricket Ground	83%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	-	-	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Datchworth Sports Club	100%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Freman College	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitch.
Little Munden Cricket Club	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	92%	Good	-	-	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	100%	Good	-	-	63%	Standard	100%	Good	75%	Standard	Outfield shared with football pitch. Pavilion subject to vandalism.
The Meads	100%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	72%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitches.
Thundridge Sports Ground	100%	Good	-	-	87%	Good	92%	Good	-	-	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	83%	Good	-	-	87%	Good	100%	Good	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitches.

Figure 148: Cricket pitch quality in Hertford and Ware

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets		Comments
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Bengeo Sports Field	87%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football. Pavilion shows some vandalism.
Hertford Cricket Club	100%	Good	71%	Standard	100%	Good	100%	Good	100%	Good	Artificial turf wicket shows signs of vandalism.
Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	83%	Good	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	100%	Good	43%	Poor	100%	Good	100%	Good	75%	Standard	Artificial turf wicket needs replacing. Outfield shared with football pitch.

Figure 149: Cricket pitch quality in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets		Comments
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	
Leventhorpe Academy	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitch.
Town Fields, Sawbridgeworth	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	83%	Good	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Ware Cricket Club	100%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	92%	Good	-	-	'Uneven outfield with a few lumps and bumps. The wicket has variable bounce' - Ware CC

Figure 150: Cricket pitch quality in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Wicket		Non-turf		Outfield		Changing		Practice nets		Comments
	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	
Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	100%	Good	-	-	100%	Good	100%	Good	75%	Standard	A high quality, well-maintained facility.
Bramfield Playing Field	83%	Good	-	-	93%	Good	80%	Standard	-	-	Changing facilities are ageing.
Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	100%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	60%	Standard	42%	Poor	Pavilion shows signs of wear. Very poor quality practice nets are barely usable.
Tewin Recreation Ground	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	100%	Good	-	-	Some damage to the outfield.
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Standard	80%	Standard	-	-	Outfield shared with football pitch.

Pitch maintenance

3.28 Cricket pitch maintenance in East Herts is organised as follows:

- **Cricket clubs** - The pitches owned or managed by cricket clubs are generally maintained by the clubs' own groundstaff, usually with substantial support from volunteers.
- **Council-owned pitches** - Town and parish councils make individual arrangements with commercial grounds maintenance contractors.
- **School pitches** - Schools make individual arrangements for cricket pitch maintenance, although the County Council has a contract with Serco that is utilised by some schools.

Ownership management and security of access

3.29 The ownership, management and security of access to all cricket pitches in East Herts is set out below by sub-area.

Figure 151: Cricket pitch ownership, management and security of access in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Albury Recreation Ground	Albury Parish Council	Albury Parish Council	Secured
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	East Herts District Council	Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club	Secured
Braughing Playing Fields	Braughing Parish Council	Braughing Parish Council	Secured
Hockerill Cricket Club	Hockerill Cricket Club	Hockerill Cricket Club	Secured
Little Hadham Cricket Club	Little Hadham Parish Council	Little Hadham Cricket Club	Secured
Thorley Cricket Club	East Herts District Council	Thorley Cricket Club	Secured

Figure 152: Cricket pitch ownership, management and security of access in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	Aspenden Parish Council	Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	Secured
Aston Cricket Ground	Aston Parish Council	Aston Parish Council	Secured
Datchworth Sports Club	Datchworth Parish Council	Datchworth Sports Club	Secured
Freman College	Freman College	Freman College	Unsecured
Little Munden Cricket Club	Little Munden Parish Council	Little Munden Cricket Club	Secured
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Buntingford Town Council	Buntingford Town Council	Secured
The Meads	Hormead Parish Council	Hormead Parish Council	Secured (Fields in Trust)
Thundridge Sports Ground	Thundridge Parish Council	Thundridge Parish Council	Secured
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	Walkern Parish Council	Walkern Sports and Community Centre	Secured

Figure 153: Cricket pitch ownership, management and security of access in Hertford and Ware

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	Glaxo Smith Kline	Allenbury Sports and Social Club	Secured
Bengeo Sports Field	Bengeo Parish Council	Bengeo Parish Council	Secured
Hertford Cricket Club	Hertford Cricket Club/ Herts County Council	Hertford Cricket Club	Secured
Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground Trustees	Hertingfordbury Cricket Club	Secured
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Secured

Figure 154: Cricket pitch ownership, management and security of access in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Leventhorpe Academy	Leventhorpe Academy	Leventhorpe Academy	Unsecured
Town Fields	Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club	Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club	Secured
Ware Cricket Club	Private owner	Ware Cricket Club	Secured

Figure 155: Cricket pitch ownership, management and security of access in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	Secured
Bramfield Playing Field	Bramfield Parish Council	Bramfield Parish Council	Secured
Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	Little Berkhamsted Parish Council	Little Berkhamsted Recreation Committee	Secured
Tewin Recreation Ground	Tewin Parish Council	Tewin Parish Council	Secured
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	Secured

The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply

- 3.30 **Hertfordshire Cricket:** Consultation with Hertfordshire Cricket's Head of Development and Operations, identified the following key issues in relation cricket supply in East Herts:

- **Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club:** The development of a new junior ground and pavilion improvement proposals at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site are one of the facilities priorities in East Herts. There are however complexities around this project due to Section 106 funding and also the progress of phases one and two of this multi sports project.
- **Hertford Cricket Club:** The club recently extended its pavilion and their four-lane non-turf practice nets with support from Hertfordshire Cricket and the ECB.
- **Datchworth Cricket Club:** The club installed a brand new three-lane non-turf practice net facility with support from Hertfordshire Cricket and the ECB.
- **Buntingford Cricket Club:** The club is planning to make a small development to its existing club house to prevent some persistent anti-social behaviour and vandalism from local youths. The development will not extend the existing footprint, but it will take away the current accessible open porch area along the front of the club house, moving the external wall out to the edge of the porch and in turn, eventually extending the changing rooms and toilets.
- **St. Margaretsbury Cricket Club:** The club has a project plan to re-furbish both existing Non-Turf Practice Facilities (two-lane net facility) and non-turf match strip which have been identified as poor and satisfactory. This is a priority for club in terms of facility development over the next 12-15 months.
- **Thorley Cricket Club:** The club has started discussions to develop a new club house to replace the current structure that is rated poor. This is a priority of the club in terms of facility development.

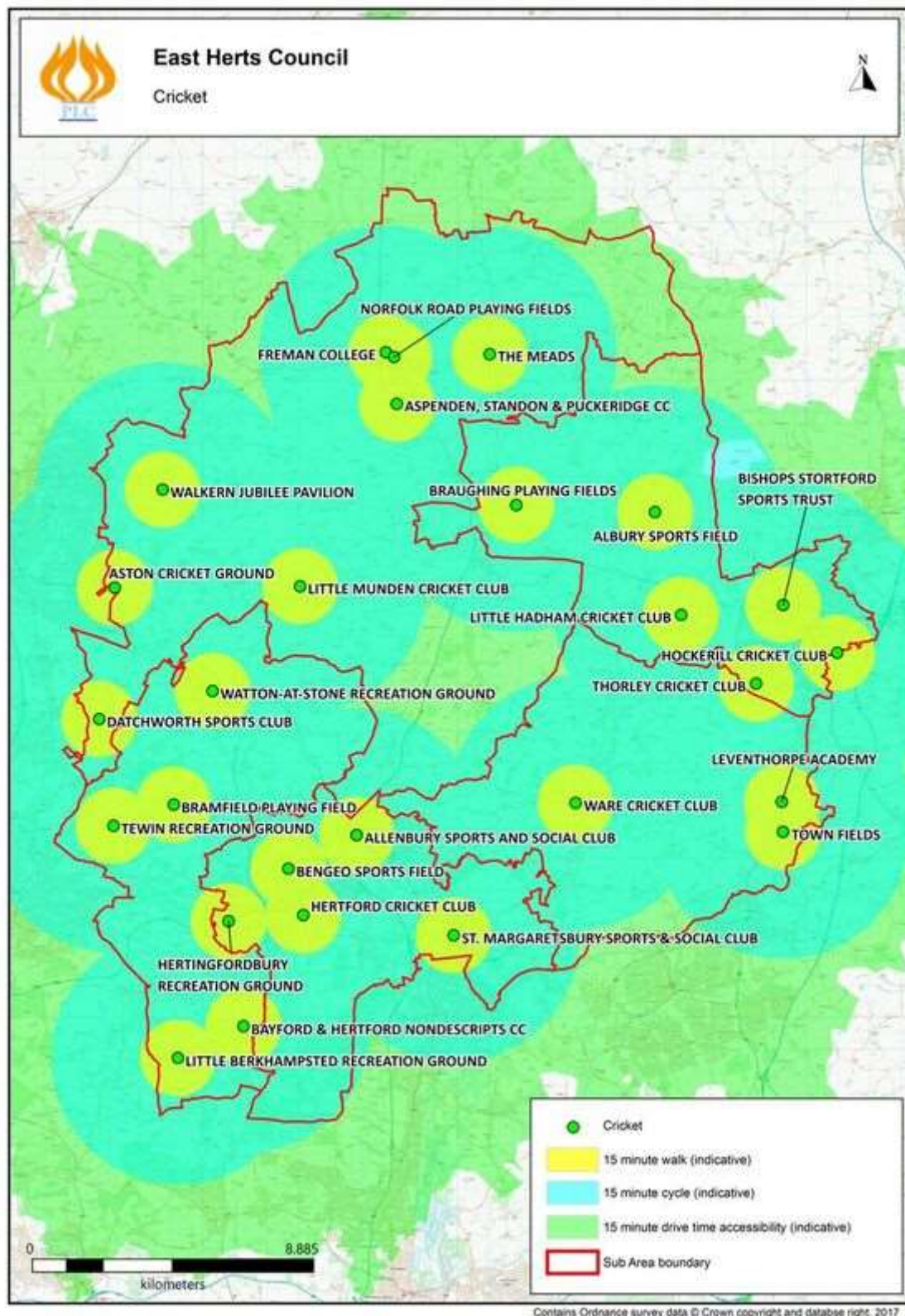
3.31 **Affiliated clubs:** The clubs' consultation identified the following key issues in relation to pitch supply East Herts:

- All clubs are playing at their preferred locations.
- Several facilities are in exposed locations and as a result have suffered from vandalism and thefts, including grounds maintenance equipment.

Geographical distribution

- The geographical spread of cricket pitches in East Herts is good, with the whole population is within 15-minutes drive of the closest pitch and a good distribution of provision between the five sub-areas.

Figure 156: Geographical coverage of Cricket pitches in East Herts



The implications for cricket in East Herts

3.32 Analysis of local supply of cricket pitches in East Herts indicates the following:

- There are 33 cricket squares with community use and used, collectively comprising 285 grass and four artificial turf wickets.
- There are a further three sites that are currently disused, collectively comprising one square, six grass and two artificial turf wickets. 16 squares on school sites, collectively comprising 86 grass and six artificial turf wickets have no community use.
- The quality of all grass wickets in the district is rated as good, but the artificial turf wicket at St. Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club is poor quality, as are the nets at Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground and the changing facilities at Albury Sports Field and Thorley Cricket Club.
- There is security of access to all but two of the sites with community use and used.

Assessment of current needs

3.33 To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during the cricket season.

3.34 The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

3.35 In line with ECB guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

- Overall capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.
- The number of wickets at each site is shown below. Artificial turf wickets are listed in brackets.
- In line with the guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a 'standard' quality wicket will accommodate four and a 'poor' quality wicket will accommodate three matches per season.
- Adult teams account for an average of 0.5 'home' games per week and junior teams for 0.35 'home' games per week.
- Artificial turf wickets will accommodate 35 matches per season.

3.36 Provision by sub-area is as follows:

Figure 157: Supply-demand balance of cricket pitches in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Albury Sports Field	4	Albury Cricket Club	20	10	+10	1	0.5	+0.5
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	24(1)	Bishop's Stortford CC Representative matches	155	140	+15	2	2.5	-0.5
Braughing Playing Fields	8	Braughing Cricket Club	40	30	+10	1	0.5	+0.5
Hockerill Cricket Club	13	Hockerill Cricket Club	65	40	+25	2	1.5	+0.5
Little Hadham Cricket Club	8	Little Hadham Cricket Club	40	10	+30	1	0.5	+0.5
Thorley Cricket Club	10	Thorley Cricket Club	50	40	+10	1	1	Balanced
TOTALS	67	-	370	270	+100	8.0	6.5	+1.5

Figure 158: Supply-demand balance of cricket pitches in Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	10	Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	50	10	+40	1	0.5	+0.5
Aston Cricket Ground	6	Knebworth Park Cricket Club	30	20	+10	1	1	Balanced
Datchworth Sports Club	16	Datchworth Cricket Club	80	130	-50	2	2.5	-0.5
Freman College	5	Buntingford Cricket Club	30	40	-10	1	1.5	-0.5

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Little Munden Cricket Club	6	Little Munden Cricket Club	30	10	+20	1	0.5	+0.5
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	8	Buntingford Cricket Club	40	60	-20	1	2	-1.0
The Meads	5	Hare Street & Hornead Cricket Club	25	10	+15	1	0.5	+0.5
Thundridge Sports Ground	8	East Hertfordshire Ladies Cricket Club Thundridge Cricket Club	40	20	+20	1	1	Balanced
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	8	Ardley Walkern Cricket Club	40	10	+30	1	0.5	+0.5
TOTALS	35	-	365	310	+55	10.0	10.0	Balanced

Figure 159: Supply-demand balance of cricket pitches in Hertford and Ware

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	10	Allenbury Sports and Social Club	50	20	+30	1	1	Balanced
Bengeo Sports Field	6	Bengeo Cricket Club	30	10	+20	1	0.5	+0.5
Hertford Cricket Club	21(1)	Hertford Cricket Club Representative matches	140	170	-30	2	3	-1.0
Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	10	Hertingfordbury Cricket Club	50	20	+30	1	1	Balanced
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	23(1)	St. Margaretsbury Cricket Club	150	70	+80	2	2	Balanced
TOTALS	50(2)	-	420	290	+130	7.0	7.5	-0.5

Figure 160: Supply-demand balance of cricket pitches in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Leventhorpe Academy	8(1)	Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club	75	50	+25	1	1	Balanced
Town Fields	12	Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club	60	40	+20	1	1	Balanced
Ware Cricket Club	12	Ware Cricket Club	60	40	+20	1	1	Balanced
TOTALS	32(1)	-	195	130	+65	3.0	3.0	Balanced

Figure 161: Supply-demand balance of cricket pitches in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Wickets	Users	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	10	Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	50	20	+30	1	1	Balanced
Bramfield Playing Field	8	Bramfield Cricket Club	40	10	+30	1	0.5	+0.5
Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	8	Little Berkhamsted Cricket Club	40	10	+30	1	0.5	+0.5
Tewin Recreation Ground	10	Tewin Cricket Club	50	20	+30	1	1	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	8	Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club	40	10	+30	1	0.5	+0.5
TOTALS	44	-	220	70	+150	5.0	3.5	+1.5

3.37 The key findings are:

- There are small peak time deficits at Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club, Freman College, Datchworth Sports Club, Hertford Cricket Club and Norfolk Road Playing Field, but at all other sites, peak time usage is balanced or there is spare capacity. The collective peak time spare capacity amounts to 1.5 match equivalents.
- There is seasonal spare capacity at all sites other than Datchworth Sports Club Freman College, Hertford Cricket Club and Norfolk Road Playing Field. The collective seasonal spare capacity is 500 match equivalents. If sites without secured community use are excluded, the collective seasonal surplus reduces to 395 match equivalents.
- There is significant seasonal spare capacity in all sub-areas.
- Peak usage capacity on Saturdays is much more limited, with a small deficit in Hertford and Ware and peak supply and demand balanced in Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth.

Assessment of future needs

Population growth

3.38 Population growth to the end 2033 has been projected based upon housing supply targets. The population figures are as follows:

Figure 162: Population projections in East Herts to 2033

Population 2021	Population 2026	Population 2033
152,525	158,730	179,558

Location of growth

3.39 Housing targets and related population growth in each sub-area are projected as follows, based upon an average of 2.32 residents per dwelling:

Figure 163: Housing targets and population projections in East Herts to 2033

Sub-area	Housing target to 2033	Extra Population 2033	Total Population 2033
Bishop's Stortford	4,143	9,612	55,112
Buntingford	1,700	3,944	24,544
Hertford and Ware	1,950	4,524	66,824
Sawbridgeworth	3,550	8,236	22,736
Watton-at-Stone	1,350	3,132	10,332
East Herts	12,693	29,448	179,558

Potential changes in demand

3.40 In addition to the growth in population, potential increases in participation need to be factored in. estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments. Two alternative scenarios have therefore been considered, a 0% increase in participation and 0.5% increase in participation.

Potential changes in supply

3.41 The following cricket facility projects in East Herts are currently being proposed:

- Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club has planning consent for an additional junior pitch on land north of its current site, but has no funds to develop it at present.
- Herts and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford is expected to provide a new playing field at Beldam's Lane, adjacent to Hockerill Cricket Club. This may include an artificial turf wicket that would be available to the cricket club.
- Knebworth Park Cricket Club (which currently uses Aston Cricket Ground for home matches for two of its teams) has planning consent for a new cricket pitch in Old Knebworth (in Stevenage), which is likely to free up additional capacity at Aston Cricket Ground.
- Outline planning consent has been granted for grass pitches with provision for community use at a new secondary school at the Bishop's Stortford North development, which may include cricket provision.
- New secondary schools with dual use playing fields that may include cricket provision are proposed in the Local Plan to the north of Ware, the east of Welwyn Garden City and in the south of Bishop's Stortford.

3.42 There are no known threats to existing cricket pitch sites in the district.

Existing spare capacity

- 3.43 Whilst there is substantial seasonal collective spare capacity for cricket pitches in East Herts, spare capacity at peak times is as follows:

Figure 164: Current cricket pitch needs in East Herts

Sub-area	Seasonal capacity	Seasonal demand	Seasonal balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	370	270	+100	8.0	6.5	+1.5
Buntingford	365	310	+55	10.0	10.0	Balanced
Hertford and Ware	420	290	+130	7.0	7.5	-1.5
Sawbridgeworth	195	130	+65	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	220	70	+150	5.0	3.5	+1.5
East Herts	1,570	1,070	+500	33.0	30.5	+1.5

Future cricket pitch needs

- 3.44 Future cricket pitch needs based on projected population increases are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the district are required to generate one team (including teams representing latent and unmet demand - see section 3.21). These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The population projections are based on the demographic profile typical of new housing developments, with a higher proportion of people in younger age groups.
- 3.45 The application of TGRs to projected population in each of the sub-areas in East Herts in 2033 produces the following results. The population figures include the residents of new housing in East Herts elements of the Sustainable Urban Extensions detailed in Part I of the study:

Figure 165: Additional cricket teams in Bishop's Stortford and surrounds by 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male cricket	14	10,841	1: 774	14,061	18	4
Adult female cricket	1	11,060	1: 11,060	14,345	1	0
Junior male cricket	16	1,522	1: 95	1,974	21	5
Junior female cricket	2	1,492	1: 746	1,935	3	1

Figure 166: Additional cricket teams in Buntingford and surrounds by 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male cricket	15	5,307	1: 354	6,323	18	3
Adult female cricket	1	5,414	1: 5,414	6,451	1	0
Junior male cricket	13	745	1: 57	888	16	3
Junior female cricket	0	730	-	870	0	0

Figure 167: Additional cricket teams in Hertford and Ware by 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male cricket	15	16,148	1: 1,077	17,321	16	1
Adult female cricket	1	16,475	1: 16,475	17,671	1	0
Junior male cricket	17	2,268	1: 133	2,433	18	1
Junior female cricket	0	2,222	-	2,383	0	0

Figure 168: Additional cricket teams in Sawbridgeworth and surrounds by 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male cricket	6	3,753	1: 625	5,885	9	3
Adult female cricket	0	3,829	-	6,004	0	0
Junior male cricket	7	527	1: 75	826	11	4
Junior female cricket	0	516	-	809	0	0

Figure 169: Additional cricket teams in Watton-at-Stone and surrounds by 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult male cricket	8	1,857	1: 232	2,665	11	3
Adult female cricket	1	1,895	1: 1,895	2,719	2	1
Junior male cricket	0	261	-	375	0	0
Junior female cricket	0	256	-	367	0	0

- 3.46 In addition to increased demand based upon population growth, the effects of projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum are modelled below. When added to population growth, the number of teams are as follows:

Figure 170: Projected increase in cricket teams in East Herts due to participation growth

Age group	Bishop's Stortford	Buntingford	Hertford and Ware	Sawbridgeworth	Watton-at-Stone
Adult male cricket	21	19	17	10	11
Adult female cricket	1	1	1	0	2
Junior male cricket	23	17	17	11	0
Junior female cricket	3	0	0	0	0

3.47 The impact of the combined effects of increased population and increased demand for pitches in each sub-area in East Herts is projected as follows.

- Additional demand is based upon 10 home matches per season per team.
- Additional supply needs are calculated based on the capacity of 'good' quality grass wickets to accommodate 5 matches per season, hence each additional team will generate additional demand equivalent to two grass wickets.
- Pitch requirements have been calculated on the basis of 8 wickets per pitch.

Figure 171: Projected increase in cricket pitch needs in East Herts

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Total teams with population growth but no participation growth</i>	<i>Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth</i>	<i>Extra wicket needs</i>	<i>Extra pitch needs</i>
Bishop's Stortford	33	44	48	28	3.5
Buntingford	29	34	37	16	2
Hertford and Ware	33	35	38	10	1.25
Sawbridgeworth	13	20	21	16	2
Watton-at-Stone	9	13	13	8	1
<i>East Herts</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>9.75</i>

Key findings and issues

What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

3.48 The key characteristics of current supply and demand for cricket in East Herts are as follows:

- 100 affiliated teams play cricket in East Herts, plus a further nine teams attributable to unmet and latent demand.
- Demand for cricket in East Herts has decreased slightly in the past three years, which is consistent with national trends. One local club, Furneux Pelham Cricket Club, became inactive in the same period.
- There are 33 cricket squares with community use and used, collectively comprising 285 grass and four artificial turf wickets.
- A further three sites are currently disused, collectively comprising one square, six grass and two artificial turf wickets. 16 squares on school sites, collectively comprising 86 grass and six artificial turf wickets have no community use.
- There is security of access to all but two of the sites with community use and used.

- The whole population is within 10-minutes driving time of at least one cricket pitch.

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet current demand?

3.49 The current situation is as follows:

- There are small peak time deficits at Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club, Freman College, Hertford Cricket Club and Norfolk Road Playing Field, but at all other sites, peak time usage is balanced or there is spare capacity. The collective peak time spare capacity amounts to 2.5 match equivalents.
- There is seasonal spare capacity at all sites other than Freman College, Hertford Cricket Club and Norfolk Road Playing Field. The collective seasonal spare capacity is 500 match equivalents. If sites without secured community use are excluded, the collective seasonal surplus reduces to 395 match equivalents.

Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained?

3.50 The current situation on pitch quality and maintenance is as follows:

- **Quality:** The quality of all grass wickets in the district is rated as good, but the artificial turf wicket at St. Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club is poor quality, as are the nets at Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground and the changing facilities at Albury Sports Field and Thorley Cricket Club.
- **Maintenance:** There are no specific issues relating to cricket pitch maintenance in East Herts, with all grass wickets Rated as 'good' quality.

What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

3.51 The main characteristics of future supply and demand are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population of East Herts is estimated to be 179,558 by 2033. This represents an increase of 17.7% in the period. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 172: Extra cricket teams in East Herts by 2033 based on population increases

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	72	17
Adult females	5	1
Junior males	66	15
Junior females	3	1

- **Changes in demand:** Projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum will lead to a compound increase in demand of 8.3% by 2033. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 173: Extra cricket teams in East Herts by 2033 based on participation increases

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	78	5
Adult females	5	0
Junior males	71	5
Junior females	3	0

- **Changes in supply:** There are no known development threats to any existing cricket pitch sites. There are a number of pitch development proposals in the district at present, many of which involve the development of education provision with dual use by the community.
- **Existing spare capacity:** Existing seasonal and peak-time spare pitch capacity in each sub-area in the district are as follows:

Figure 174: Existing cricket pitch spare capacity in East Herts by sub-area

Sub-area	Seasonal balance	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford	+100	+1.5
Buntingford	+55	Balanced
Hertford and Ware	+130	-0.5
Sawbridgeworth	+65	Balanced
Watton-at-Stone	+150	+1.5
East Herts	+500	+2.5

- **Future pitch needs:** The additional pitch requirements arising from increases in population and participation by 2033 have been assessed as follows. The additional wicket needs are calculated on the basis of the capacity of a 'good' quality pitch and pitches on an assumed eight wickets per pitch:

Figure 175: Extra cricket pitch needs in East Herts by 2033 by sub-area

Sub-area	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth	Extra wicket needs	Extra pitch needs
Bishop's Stortford	33	44	48	28	3.5
Buntingford	29	34	37	16	2
Hertford and Ware	33	35	38	10	1.25
Sawbridgeworth	13	20	21	16	2
Watton-at-Stone	9	13	13	8	1
East Herts	109	146	157	78	9.75

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet future demand?

3.52 The seasonal match equivalent situation at community accessible pitches is below:

Figure 176: Additional secured cricket pitch needs in East Herts by 2033 by sub-area

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current secured pitches</i>	<i>Current secured peak spare capacity</i>	<i>Current peak needs</i>	<i>Extra peak needs by 2033</i>	<i>Total peak needs by 2033</i>	<i>Additional secured pitch needs</i>
Bishop's Stortford	8	+1.5 pitches	6.5 pitches	3.5 pitches	10.0 pitches	2.0 pitches
Buntingford	9	Balanced	9.0 pitches	2.0 pitches	11.0 pitches	2.0 pitches
Hertford and Ware	7	-0.5	7.5 pitches	1.25 pitches	8.75 pitches	1.75 pitches
Sawbridgeworth	2	Balanced	2.0 pitches	2.0 pitches	4.0 pitches	2.0 pitches
Watton-at-Stone	5	+1.5 pitches	3.5 pitches	1.0 pitch	4.5 pitches	None
East Herts	31	+2.5 pitches	28.5 pitches	9.75 pitches	38.25 pitches	7.25 pitches

The options for securing additional accessible and secured pitch capacity

3.53 The options for securing the additional and improved provision are as follows:

- **Protect:** Protecting existing pitch sites through the Local Plan will be key both to maintaining the current stock.
 - Reinstating some or all of the three un-used pitches in the district.
 - Securing access to at least some of the 16 existing grass pitches on school sites.
- **Provide:** Ensuring that new pitch and related changing provision is made in conjunction with new housing developments, either on site or through developer contributions that reflect the additional pitch demand arising from the increased population.
 - The development of a new junior ground and pavilion improvement proposals at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site are Hertfordshire Cricket's top facilities priority in East Herts.
 - Several pitch developments on new and existing education sites have potential to meet additional community needs, providing access is secured through the planning process.
- **Enhance:** The artificial turf wicket at St. Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club is poor quality, as are the nets at Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground and the changing facilities at Albury Sports Field and Thorley Cricket Club. Enhancements to the pavilion at Norfolk Road Recreation Ground in Buntingford to counter vandalism issues are also a priority.

Policy recommendations

3.54 The recommendations in relation to cricket are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

3.55 The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide'.

3.56 Protect:

- **Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision:** The East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for cricket in the district. The Strategy has identified a need for all current and disused cricket pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Herts both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- **Recommendation 2 - Community access to education facilities:** There are 16 pitches collectively comprising 86 grass and six artificial turf pitches on school sites with no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage.
 - Efforts are made to secure community use agreements at existing education pitches.
 - Community use agreements become a standard condition of planning consent at all new education pitches, along with a design and specification that is consistent with maximising school and community use.

3.57 Enhance:

- **Recommendation 3 - Capacity improvements:** Some of the current demand for cricket in East Herts, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts PPS be used as the basis for prioritising pitch and ancillary facility enhancements that will help to alleviate the current identified deficits.

- **Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements):** Some of the additional demand for cricket arising from the proposed housing development in East Herts, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

3.58 Provide:

- **Recommendation 5 - New cricket pitch provision:** New cricket pitch provision will be needed to meet some of the needs of the increased population of East Herts.
 - The development of a new junior ground and pavilion improvement proposals at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site are Hertfordshire Cricket's top facilities priority in East Herts.
 - Several pitch developments on new and existing education sites have potential to meet additional community needs, providing access is secured through the planning process.
- **Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision):** Most of the additional demand for cricket arising from the proposed housing development in East Herts, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining which proposed new facilities demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover their capital and revenue cost implications. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

Action plan

- 3.59 In the context of the recommendations above, the tables below set out the cricket action plan by sub area to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EHC - East Herts Council and ECB - England and Wales Cricket Board. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016' (2016).

Figure 177: Key cricket strategic actions

Issue	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Community access to education pitches	Pursue Community Use agreements at all existing high priority sites and all future proposed pitches on education sites.	EHC	Schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	Medium
Developer contributions	Secure developer contributions for new and improved pitch provision related to new development.	EHC	Developers	TBC	High

Figure 178: Cricket site-specific action plan for Bishop's Stortford and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Albury Sports Field	Outfield is very uneven Pavilion in poor state of repair	Improve outfield quality and new pavilion (also for football use).	Albury Cricket Club	Albury Parish Council	£20,000 for outfield £200,000 for pavilion	Medium
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	A high quality, well-maintained facility in all respects.	Provide a new junior ground and pavilion improvements.	BS Sports Trust	ECB	£100,000 for junior ground £500,000 for pavilion	High
Braughing Playing Fields	Outfield shared with football pitch.	Maintain current provision	Braughing Parish Council	-	-	Low
Hockerill Cricket Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Hockerill Cricket Club	-	-	Medium
Little Hadham Cricket Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Little Hadham Parish Council	-	-	Low
Thorley Cricket Club	Pavilion is very poor quality.	Provide a new pavilion.	Thorley Cricket Club	ECB	£200,000 for pavilion	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Bishop's Stortford North	3,250 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at BS Sports Trust and Hockerill CC	EHC	Developers BS Sports Trust Hockerill CC	-	Medium
Bishop's Stortford South	900 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at Thorley CC	EHC	Developers Thorley CC	-	Medium

Figure 179: Cricket site-specific action plan for Buntingford and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	Changing facilities are ageing and practice nets show signs of wear.	Pavilion improvements and new nets.	Aspenden, Standon & Puckeridge CC	ECB	£200,000 for pavilion £30,000 for nets	Medium
Aston Cricket Ground	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Aston Parish Council	-	-	Low
Datchworth Sports Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Datchworth Sports Club	Datchworth Parish Council	-	Low
Freman College	Outfield shared with football pitch.	Maintain current provision	Freman College	-	-	Low
Little Munden Cricket Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Little Munden Parish Council	-	-	Low
Norfolk Road Playing Fields	Outfield shared with football pitch. Pavilion subject to vandalism.	Extend the pavilion and install anti-vandal measures.	Buntingford Cricket Club	Buntingford Town Council	£100,000 for pavilion extension	High
The Meads	Outfield shared with football pitches.	Maintain current provision	Hormead Parish Council	-	-	Low
Thundridge Sports Ground	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Thundridge Parish Council	-	-	Low
Walkern Jubilee Pavilion	Outfield shared with football pitches.	Maintain current provision	Walkern Sports Club	Walkern Parish Council	-	Low
East of Stevenage development	600 new homes to be built east of Stevenage.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Datchworth Sports Club.	EHC	Datchworth Sports Club Developers	TBC	High

Figure 180: Cricket site-specific action plan for Hertford and Ware

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Allenbury Sports and Social Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Allenbury Sports and Social Club	-	-	Low
Bengeo Sports Field	Outfield shared with football. Pavilion shows some vandalism.	Maintain current provision	Bengeo Parish Council	-	£20,000 for pitch	Medium
Hertford Cricket Club	Artificial turf wicket shows signs of vandalism.	Provide new artificial turf pitch	Hertford Cricket Club	-	£20,000 for artificial turf pitch	Medium
Hertingfordbury Recreation Ground	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Recreation Ground Trustees	Hertingfordbury Cricket Club	-	Low
St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	Artificial turf wicket needs replacing. Outfield shared with football pitch.	Provide new artificial turf pitch	St. Margaretsbury Sports & Social Club	-	£20,000 for artificial turf pitch	Medium
Ware North development	1,000 - 1,500 new homes to be built north of Ware.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Hertford CC and St. Margaretsbury CC	EHC	Wodson Trust Developers	TBC	High

Figure 181: Cricket site-specific action plan for Sawbridgeworth and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Leventhorpe Academy	Outfield shared with football pitch.	Maintain current provision	Leventhorpe Academy	-	-	Low
Town Fields, Sawbridgeworth	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Sawbridge-worth Cricket Club	-	-	Low
Ware Cricket Club	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Ware Cricket Club	-	-	Low
Gilston Garden Town	3,050 new homes to be built in Gilston by 2033	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to establish a new cricket facility in the Garden Town	EHC	Developers	TBC	High

Figure 182: Cricket site-specific action plan for Watton-at-Stone and surrounds

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Bayford & Hertford Nondescripts CC	A high quality, well-maintained facility.	Maintain current provision	Bayford & Hertford NCC	-	-	Low
Bramfield Playing Field	Changing facilities are ageing.	Review the need for new changing facilities in 5 years.	Bramfield Parish Council	-	-	Low
Little Berkhamsted Recreation Ground	Pavilion shows signs of wear. Very poor quality practice nets are barely usable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the need for new changing facilities in 5 years. • Provide new practice nets 	Little Berkhamsted Parish Council	Little Berkhamsted Cricket Club	£30,000 for nets	Low
Tewin Recreation Ground	Some damage to the outfield.	Maintain current provision	Tewin Parish Council	-	-	Low
Watton-at-Stone Recreation Ground	Outfield shared with football pitch.	Maintain current provision	Watton-at-Stone Parish Council	-	-	Low
East of Welwyn Garden City development	1,350 new homes to be built east of Welwyn Garden City.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance pitch capacity in Welwyn Garden City	EHC	Welwyn Hatfield DC Developers	TBC	High

SECTION 4: RUGBY PITCH NEEDS IN EAST HERTS

The key local stakeholders

- 4.1 **The Rugby Football Union:** The RFU administers the sport in Hertfordshire.
- 4.2 **Rugby Clubs:** There are four RFU-affiliated rugby clubs in the district, which collectively field 69 teams.

Strategic context

National Rugby Strategy

- 4.3 The RFUs 'National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England 2013 - 2017' (2013) provides a framework for facility provision.
- **Current issues:** A clubs' survey identified areas of required facility development:
 - Over half of the clubs responding considered that their training facilities are not fit for purpose. Floodlighting was highlighted as a particular issue. Two-thirds of clubs stated that it is either 'very important' or 'important' for them to upgrade their floodlighting over the next four years.
 - 68% of respondents consider their playing pitches to be fit for purpose. However, over 57 per cent of respondent clubs stated that additional or improved grass pitches are either very important or important for them to develop over the next four years.
 - Almost a third of respondents consider that their changing facilities are not fit for purpose. New or improved changing facilities are the highest priority for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of clubs (50% of respondents), while 61% stated that it is either very important or important for them to address the state of their changing facilities over the next four years.
 - **Facility priorities:** These are as follows:
 - Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club.
 - Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches.
 - Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches.
 - Improve social, community and catering facilities, which can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues.

- Invest in facility upgrades which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs.

Pitch strategies in neighbouring areas

4.4 Consultation with neighbouring local authorities identified the following key issues in relation to East Herts:

- **Uttlesford:** Uttlesford is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is good via the M11 and A120. The '*Uttlesford Sports Facilities Development Strategy*' (2016) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is a collective shortfall equivalent to two pitches at present. There is some evidence of any exported demand to Bishop's Stortford. An assessment of future needs indicates that demand generated by population growth in Uttlesford by 2031 will require two further rugby pitches, in addition to the existing deficit.
- **Harlow:** Harlow is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Sawbridgeworth sub-area. Accessibility towards Hertford is good via the A414 but links to Sawbridgeworth via the A1184 are slower. Harlow District Council is currently reviewing its playing pitch strategy but the emerging findings indicate that the new site which Harlow Rugby Club is moving to in March 2017 will meet all local needs, with no exported demand to East Herts.
- **Epping Forest:** Epping Forest district is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. The '*Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2012) is currently being updated by the council but pending the emergence of detailed findings, dialogue with the council and the Essex RFU has identified that existing provision is adequate to meet current needs and that there is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **Broxbourne:** Broxbourne is located to the south of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Ware sub-area. Accessibility is generally very good via the A10 corridor. The '*Broxbourne Leisure Facilities Strategy: Outdoor Facilities*' (2013) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is a current shortfall of two pitches in the borough, with a further one to two pitches required to meet additional demand by 2021. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.

- **Welwyn Hatfield:** Welwyn Hatfield is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Watton-at-Stone sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A414 provides connections to Hertford. The '*Welwyn Hatfield Sports Facilities Strategy: A Vision to 2026*' (2010) is considered by Sport England to be out of date, but dialogue with the council and the RFU has identified that existing rugby pitches are used to full capacity, but there is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **North Hertfordshire:** North Hertfordshire is located to the north and north-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A507 provides connections to Baldock and the A10 to Royston. The '*North Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) has been adopted by the council and identifies that whilst there is current collective spare capacity in the district, two key sites in Letchworth and Hitchin are used to over-capacity. There is some evidence of exported demand to Datchworth Rugby Club, which draws 5% of its membership from the district.
- **Stevenage:** Stevenage is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, although the A602 provides connections to Watton-at-Stone. The '*Stevenage Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy*' (2014) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is current spare capacity in the borough which will be sufficient to accommodate all future demand to 2031 in addition. There is some evidence of exported demand from Stevenage to Datchworth Rugby Club, which draws 25% of its overall membership from the town.

The implications for East Herts

4.5 The implications of the strategic context for rugby in East Herts are as follows:

- **Policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for rugby to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. Recent innovations such as walking rugby and tag rugby might prove more attractive to new participants.
- **Neighbouring areas:** There are shortfalls in rugby pitch provision in two neighbouring areas and some evidence of imported demand.

Rugby pitch demand

Introduction

4.6 This section summarises the demand for rugby in East Herts and covers:

- Expressed demand.

- Displaced demand.
- Unmet demand.
- Latent demand.
- Demand trends.
- The views of stakeholders on rugby demand.

Expressed demand

- 4.7 The following rugby clubs and teams are affiliated to the RFU and are based in East Herts. Because of the small number of teams, no sub-area analysis has been undertaken.

Figure 183: Rugby clubs and teams in East Herts

Club	Match venue	Adult teams	Junior teams	Mini teams
Bishop's Stortford RFC	Silverleys	5	12	6
Black Horse RFC	Hertford Rugby Club	1	0	0
Datchworth RFC	Datchworth Sports Club	3	6	6
Hertford RFC	Hertford Rugby Club	6	10	14
TOTALS	-	15	28	26

- 4.8 Because rugby clubs typically draw their membership from a wider catchment than football and cricket, a more balanced assessment of geographical variations across the district can be made by combining some sub-areas. The results are tabulated below:

Figure 184: Rugby clubs and teams by grouped sub-area in East Herts

Age group	Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	Hertford and Ware
Adult male teams	5	3	7
Adult female teams	0	0	1
Junior male teams	12	6	10
Junior female teams	0	0	0
Mini teams	6	6	14

Displaced demand

- 4.9 Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. All competitive play is currently accommodated on pitches in East Herts, but Datchworth RFC regularly uses a '3G' pitch in Hatfield for training purposes.

Unmet demand

- 4.10 Unmet demand takes a number of forms:
- Teams may have access to a pitch for their matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
 - Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
 - The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.
- 4.11 Consultation with clubs in East Herts revealed that all respondents identified a shortage of pitches as an impediment to growth. Clubs identified unmet demand is equivalent to one extra adult male team, one adult female team and three junior girl's teams.
- 4.12 The main source of unmet demand for Rugby in East Herts is not the poor quality of pitches *per se* (although a number do suffer from poor drainage), but rather the current levels of use which exceed sustainable capacity. Bishop's Stortford RFC has a membership waiting list equivalent to four to five teams.

Latent demand

- 4.13 Overall sports and physical activity rates in East Herts are so relatively high, in particular the club membership and organisation figures, that it is reasonable to assume that additional rugby demand would be apparent if the pitch capacity existed to accommodate it.

Demand trends

- 4.14 Local and national demand trends in East Herts indicate the following:
- **Active People Survey:** Based upon the national results of Sport England's 'Active People' survey, adult (16+) participation in rugby has fluctuated over the period since 2005 as follows, but currently shows no net gains or losses:

Figure 185: National rugby union participation rates

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
0.46%	0.56%	0.50%	0.46%	0.42%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	0.40%	0.46%	0.00%

- **Local membership trends:** Contrary to the national trends, all the local clubs have increased their memberships in the past three years.

- **Future trends:** The local clubs expect to increase their collective memberships over the next three years, by adding one adult men's team and two junior girl's teams, but scale of these aspirations relates more to known available pitch capacity rather than a lack of demand or organisational logistics.

The views of stakeholders

4.15 **The Rugby Football Union:** Consultation with the RFU's Area Facilities Manager and the Hertfordshire RFU's Rugby Development Officer, identified the following issues in East Herts:

- **Women's rugby:** There is limited women and girl's rugby at the clubs in East Herts, although Bishop's Stortford RFC has some mixed Touch Rugby activity at adult and age group levels and all clubs run mixed mini-rugby. The main limiting factor is a lack of pitch capacity.
- **Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club:** The club has 23 teams across all age groups. Its pitches are currently operating at full capacity and it has a waiting list equivalent to four or five teams. The club has good links with local schools, in particular Bishop's Stortford College and Bishop's Stortford High School.
- **Hertford Rugby Club:** The club has 30 teams across all age groups and is also operating at full capacity, including hosting school's events.
- **Datchworth Rugby Club:** The club has 15 teams across all age groups and is based at Datchworth Sports Club.
- **Black Horse Rugby Club:** The club has a single adult male team and plays at Hertford Rugby Club.

4.16 **Local clubs:** A questionnaire survey was circulated to the four clubs in the district that are affiliated to the RFU. Two three largest clubs responded (Bishop's Stortford Hertford and Datchworth), collectively representing 68 of the 69 teams in East Herts (a 98.6% response rate). This was followed up with dialogue with the key clubs, to explore additional issues.

- **Membership trends:** All clubs have increased their membership over the past three years.
 - **Bishop's Stortford RFC:** 'Senior men's rugby has increased, probably due to publicity surrounding the Rugby World Cup in 2015, to allow us to run five sides again. Women have increased due to the creation of our Touch Rugby section. Youth boys and mini-rugby have grown as a result of the success of the club at youth level'.
 - **Datchworth RFC:** 'We have increased in the youth structure by two teams, which we originally lost due to lack of numbers and coaches stepping down at short notice, these were male sides at 14 and 16 age groups, but through hard work we are now back up to full allocation of age groups'.

- **Hertford RFC:** 'The men's senior teams were in danger of dropping to just four senior sides. A recruitment drive in 2014/15 added some 35 players to the pool of senior players. The women's and girl's sides became defunct around 2011/12 Season but since 2015/16, girls (around 20) and women (around 15) been recruited'.
- **Future trends:** All clubs expect to increase their membership over the next three years, collectively projecting one extra adult men's team, one adult female team and three junior girl's teams.
- **Issues inhibiting expansion:** Clubs indicated that the main impediments to expansion are facilities related, as opposed to a lack of coaches or volunteers.
- **Area of origin of players:** Datchworth RFC imports 30% of its overall membership from outside the district (principally from Stevenage and North Hertfordshire) and Bishop's Stortford around 15% (principally from Uttlesford).

The implications for rugby in East Herts

4.17 Analysis of local demand for rugby in East Herts indicates the following:

- **Rugby demand:** Demand for rugby in East Herts is very buoyant, with the main limiting factor on further growth being a shortage of pitch capacity.
- **Women and girl's rugby:** The main factor inhibiting rugby development for women and girls in the district is a lack of pitch capacity.
- **Facilities provision:** Current provision is inadequate at all sites.
- **Neighbouring areas:** Some demand is imported from neighbouring areas.
- **Unmet demand:** Unmet demand is equivalent to a total to one extra adult male team, one adult female team and three junior girl's teams.
- **Latent demand:** Latent demand based upon information supplied by local clubs is equivalent to two adult male teams, three adult female teams, five junior male teams, two junior female teams and eight mini-rugby teams.

4.18 The table below summarises the above figures for the purposes of calculating team equivalents in East Herts:

Figure 186: Effective rugby team numbers in East Herts

Age group	Expressed demand	Unmet demand	Latent demand	Total demand
Adult male teams	15	1	2	18
Adult female teams	1	1	3	5
Junior male teams	28	0	5	33
Junior female teams	0	3	2	5
Mini teams	26	0	8	34

Rugby pitch supply

Introduction

4.19 This section details the supply of rugby pitches in East Herts and covers:

- Pitch quantity.
- Pitch quality.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Ownership, management and security of access.
- The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply.

Rugby pitches

4.20 Provision of rugby pitches in East Herts is as follows. Because of the small number of pitches, no sub-area analysis has been undertaken.

- **Full-sized pitches:** Full-sized pitches with community use and used are below:

Figure 187: Rugby pitches with community use and used in East Herts

Site	Address	Floodlit pitches	Non-floodlit pitches
Bishop's Stortford RFC	Hadham Rd, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2QE	2	2
Datchworth Sports Club	Datchworth Green, Knebworth SG3 6TL	1	2
Hertford Rugby Club	Hoe Lane, Ware SG12 9NZ	2	3
TOTALS	-	5	7

- **Mini-rugby pitches:** In addition to the full-sized, permanently marked pitches above, each club provides a number of mini-rugby pitches, normally marked with cones and laid out on a temporary basis either on the adult pitches or using other suitable areas on the main pitch surrounds.
 - **Bishop's Stortford RFC:** The club creates five mini-rugby pitches on grass areas at its main site and has access to a green space at Bishop's Stortford College that it uses for mini-rugby training only.
 - **Datchworth RFC:** The club creates eight mini-rugby pitches on its two non-floodlit adult pitches and the surrounding areas.
 - **Hertford RFC:** The club creates six mini-rugby pitches on its two non-floodlit adult pitches and the surrounding areas.

- **Pitches without community use:** Full-sized pitches without community use are below.

Figure 188: Rugby pitches with no community use in East Herts

Site	Address	Non-floodlit pitches
Birchwood High School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD	2
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Rd., Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	7
Bishop's Stortford High School	Great Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford SG10 6FB	4
Chauncy School	Park Road, Ware SG12 0DP	1
Edwinstree Middle School	Norfolk Rd, Buntingford SG9 9AW	1
Freman College	Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford SG9 9BT	2
Haileybury College	Hertford SG13 7NU	6
Hockerill Anglo-European College	Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HX	2
Leventhorpe Academy	Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY	2
Richard Hale School	Hale Road, Hertford SG13 8EN	2
Simon Balle School	Mangrove Road, Hertford SG13 8AJ	2
St. Edmund's College	Old Hall Green, Ware SG11 1DS	2
The Sele School	Welwyn Road, Hertford SG14 2DG	1
TOTALS	-	34

Pitch quality

4.21 The qualitative analysis of pitches in East Herts involved visits to all rugby pitches during the playing season, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the RFU for Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). The assessment involved evaluating the condition of:

- **Pitch drainage:** Inadequately naturally drained (scores D0), adequately naturally drained (scores D1) pipe drained (scores (D2) and pipe and slit drained pitches (scores D3).
- **Grounds maintenance:** Frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing. This generates scores of 'Poor' (M0), 'Adequate' (M1) and 'Good' (M2)

4.22 The scores for rugby pitches in East Herts are as follows. 'Good' ratings are shown in green, 'Standard' in yellow and 'Poor' in red.

Figure 189: Rugby pitch quality assessment in East Herts

Site	Pitch	Drainage	Maintenance
Bishop's Stortford RFC	1	D3	M2
	2	D2	M2
	3	D2	M2
	4	D2	M2
Datchworth Sports Club	1	D3	M2
	2	D2	M2
	3	D0	M2
Hertford Rugby Club	1	D2	M2
	2	D2	M2
	3	D2	M2
	4	D2	M2
	5	D2	M2

- 4.23 The carrying capacity of pitches depends on their quality and is expressed as the number of 'match equivalents' that can be accommodated each week. The 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' indicates the following weekly carrying capacities:

Figure 190: Rugby pitch carrying capacity calculations

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor	Standard	Good
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0
Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

- 4.24 The carrying capacity in weekly match equivalents of each rugby pitch in East Herts is as follows:

Figure 191: Rugby pitch carrying capacity in East Herts

Site	Pitch	Carrying capacity
Bishop's Stortford RFC	1	3.5
	2	3.25
	3	3.25
	4	3.25
Datchworth Sports Club	1	3.5
	2	3.25
	3	2.0
Hertford Rugby Club	1	3.25
	2	3.25
	3	3.25
	4	3.25
	5	3.25

Ancillary facilities

4.25 The quality of changing facilities at each site was assessed as follows:

Figure 192: Quality of rugby changing facilities in East Herts

Site	Rating	Comments
Bishop's Stortford RFC	Good	The capacity of the changing facilities is inadequate if all pitches are in use.
Datchworth Sports Club	Good	The changing facilities are ageing, with no separate male and female changing rooms
Hertford Rugby Club	Good	'There are some problems with officials' changing provision because as showers are communal, if the referee is female no changing rooms are available. For Youth rugby, for safeguarding reasons, changing rooms and showers are unavailable to adult referees' - Hertford RFC.

4.26 The presence and quality of floodlights affects midweek training capacity. The assessment of floodlight quality is as follows:

Figure 193: Quality of floodlights at rugby pitches in East Herts

Site	Pitch	Rating
Bishop's Stortford RFC	1	Good
	2	Good
Datchworth Sports Club	1	Good
Hertford Rugby Club	1	Good
	2	Good

Pitch Maintenance

4.27 The pitches at all the rugby sites in East Herts are all maintained by the clubs.

Ownership management and security of access

4.28 The ownership, management and security of access to all rugby pitches with community use and used in East Herts is set out below.

Figure 194: Ownership management and security of access of rugby facilities in East Herts

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Bishop's Stortford RFC	Bishop's Stortford RFC Silverleys Trust	Bishop's Stortford RFC	Secured
Datchworth Sports Club	Datchworth Parish Council	Datchworth Rugby Club	Secured
Hertford Rugby Club	Hertford Regional College East Herts Council Richard Hale Association	Hertford RFC	Secured

The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply

4.29 **The Rugby Football Union:** Consultation with the RFU's Area Facilities Manager and the Hertfordshire RFU's Rugby Development Officer, identified the following issues:

- **Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club:** The RFU provided funding towards floodlights to enhance capacity and whilst the club has considered a World Rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch, it concluded that extra grass pitch space is the preferred option. In 2010, the club lost its licence to use a rugby pitch at an adjacent site south of Hadham Road, owned by Hertfordshire County Council, because the Council was keen to sell the land for housing. East Herts Council has allocated the site for community use in the emerging Local Plan, so there may be some potential for the club to regain use of the pitch in the future.
- **Hertford Rugby Club:** The land ownership situation at its site is complicated. The Club has 17 acres of existing grounds. 10 acres is owned indirectly by the Club, through the Richard Hale Association. The remaining 7 acres are leased from East Herts Council and Hertford Regional College (approximately 3.5 acres each). There are about three years left to run on each lease. The club has procured a 30-acre site to the west and north of its current location and plans to develop this for additional pitches, a clubhouse and car parking.
- **Datchworth Rugby Club:** The club is based at Datchworth Sports Club. This is a village site in the Green Belt, which places limitations on expansion and development. Its pitches are operating at full capacity and whilst the club would like to provide a World Rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch, this is unlikely to be permissible in planning terms. The club would also like to develop its clubhouse.
- **RFU Artificial Grass Pitch Strategy:** The RFU is currently undertaking a strategy which will identify any potential sites in East Herts.

4.30 **Local clubs:** Local clubs expressed the following views:

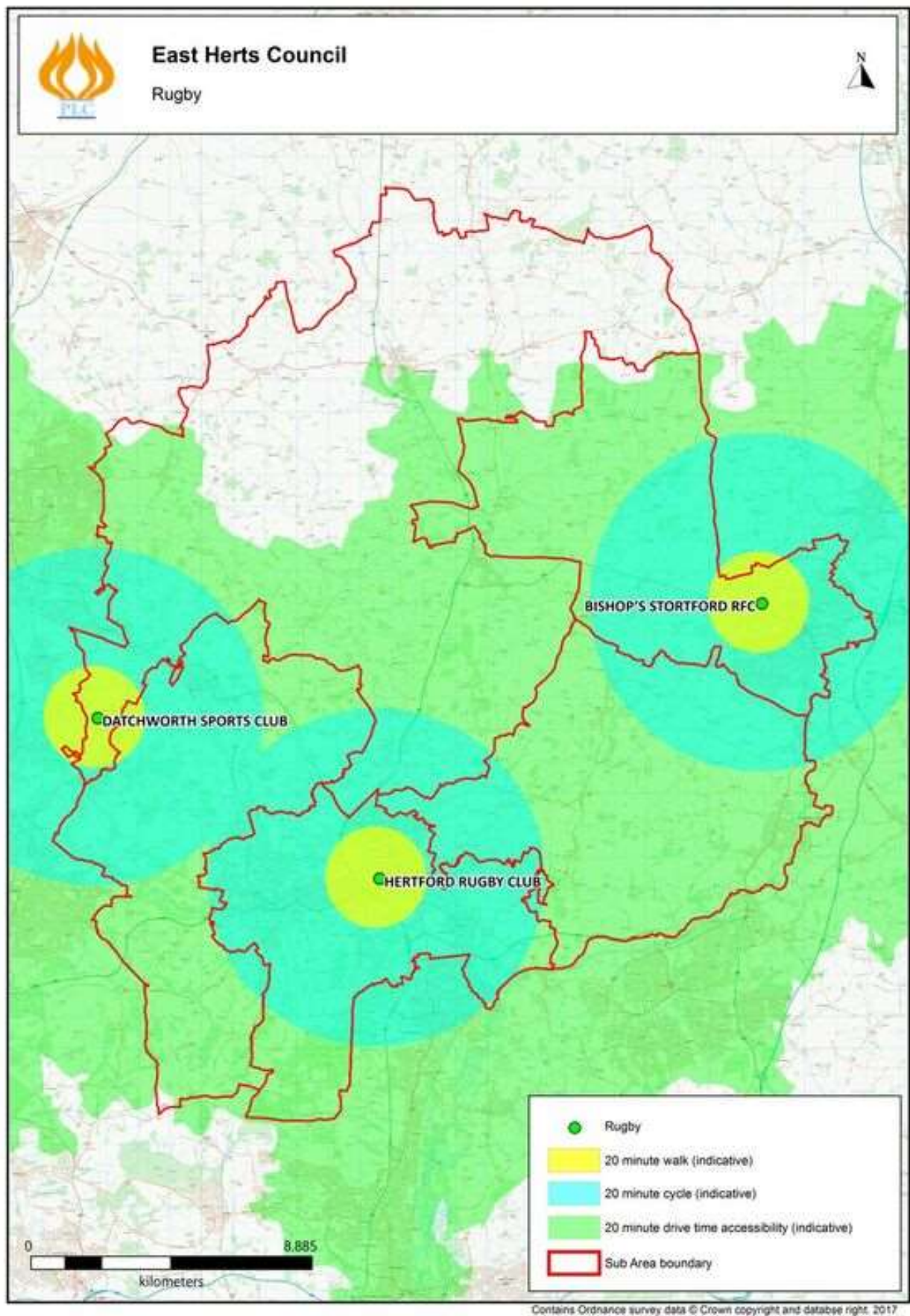
- **Pitch capacity:** The following comments were made on rugby pitch capacity:
 - **Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club** - The club stated that 'we have a 'temporary' arrangement with Bishop's Stortford College to use green space at their sports grounds to accommodate four of our teams (around 200 mini players) because we do not have enough space at our main Silver Leys site. Our long-stated aim is to bring the whole club back together on our main site'.
 - **Datchworth Rugby Club** - The club stated that 'now that we are up to full age limits we are struggling Sunday mornings with organising space on our playing surfaces and are having to offset youth games to later kick off times'.

- **Hertford Rugby Club** - The Club stated that ‘we bought 30 acres of new land immediately adjacent to the current club site, with the plan to use this for new pitches. This was primarily to cope with current numbers but also to safeguard against the loss of part of current land which is not owned by the club and for which there may be plans for development. Planning permission has been denied to convert agricultural land to playing pitches. This land is green belt land. Planning permission has been given however for the conversion of part of that land to a car park for 90 cars’.
- **Pitch quality:** Datchworth Rugby Club stated that ‘for the last two-three years our two pitches on the back fields have been waterlogged due to the severe weather in the winter months. Although we have laid drainage under one pitch it is inadequate for the severe weather’.
- **Training facilities:** The following comments were made on training facilities:
 - **Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club** - The club hires the floodlit artificial turf pitches at Bishop’s Stortford College (sand-filled) and Birchwood High School (‘3G’) for a collective 12 hours per week.
 - **Datchworth Rugby Club** - The club hires the ‘3G’ pitch at Hertfordshire Sports Village in Hatfield on a weekly basis.
 - **Hertford Rugby Club** - ‘The floodlit training pitch suffers from overuse although has been significantly improved recently’.
- **Changing facilities:** The following comments were made on changing facilities:
 - **Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club** - The capacity of the changing facilities is inadequate if all pitches are in use.
 - **Datchworth Rugby Club** - The changing facilities are ageing, with no separate male and female changing rooms.
 - **Hertford Rugby Club** - ‘For Youth rugby, for safeguarding reasons, changing rooms and showers are unavailable to adult referees’.

Geographical distribution

- 4.31 The geographical spread of rugby pitches in East Herts is set out in the map below. It shows that the north of the district around Buntingford is more than 20-minutes drive from the nearest rugby pitch.

Figure 195: Geographical coverage of rugby pitches in East Herts



The implications for rugby in East Herts

4.32 Analysis of local pitch supply for rugby in East Herts indicates the following:

- There are 12 pitches with community use and used, five of which are floodlit. There are supplemented by 19 temporarily marked mini-rugby pitches. There are a further 34 full-sized pitches on school sites that might offer some potential for community use.
- The quality of pitches is generally good, but all are used up to or just beyond their full carrying capacity at present, which is not sustainable in the longer term.
- Hertford Rugby Club has complex security of tenure issues to address with its site.

Assessment of current needs

4.33 To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during the peak periods.

4.34 The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- ***Being overplayed:*** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- ***Being played to the level the site can sustain:*** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- ***Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:*** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

4.35 In line with RFU guidance, rugby pitch capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions, both weekly and at peak times.

Figure 196: Supply-demand balance of rugby pitches in East Herts

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford RFC	4	Bishop's Stortford RFC	13.25	17.5	-4.25	4.0	4.0	Balanced
Datchworth Sports Club	3	Datchworth RFC	8.75	10.5	-1.75	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Hertford Rugby Club	5	Hertford RFC Black Horse RFC	16.25	16.5	-0.25	5.0	5.0	Balanced

Sub-area analysis

- 4.36 The analysis of the current supply-demand balance in terms of match equivalents by sub-areas is as follows:

Figure 197: Supply-demand balance of rugby pitches in East Herts by grouped sub-area

Site	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	13.25	17.5	-4.25	4.0	4.0	Balanced
Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	8.75	10.5	-1.75	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Hertford and Ware	16.25	16.5	-0.25	5.0	5.0	Balanced
East Herts	38.25	44.5	-6.25	12.0	12.0	Balanced

- 4.37 The key findings match the clubs' assessment above, that there is a weekly deficit in all three sub-areas, the largest of which is in Bishop's Stortford, which results in the pitches being used to beyond their sustainable capacity. Peak time usage is balanced, but this reflects the fact that pitch usage is at full capacity, rather than a lack of additional demand.

Assessment of future needs

Population growth

- 4.38 Population growth to the end 2033 has been projected based upon housing supply targets. The population figures are as follows:

Figure 198: Population projections in East Herts to 2033

Population 2021	Population 2026	Population 2033
152,525	158,730	179,558

Location of growth

- 4.39 Housing targets and related population growth in each rugby sub-area are projected as follows, based upon an average of 2.32 residents per dwelling:

Figure 199: Housing targets and population projections in East Herts to 2033

Sub-area	Housing target to 2033	Extra Population 2033	Total Population 2033
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	7,693	17,848	77,858
Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	3,050	7,076	34,876
Hertford and Ware	1,950	4,524	66,824
East Herts	12,693	29,448	179,558

Potential changes in demand

- 4.40 In addition to the growth in population, potential increases in participation need to be factored in. estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments. Two alternative scenarios have therefore been considered, a 0% increase in participation and 0.5% increase in participation.

Site-specific pressures

- 4.41 The security of tenure issue at Hertford Rugby Club is the only known threat to existing rugby pitch sites in the district.

Potential changes in supply

- 4.42 The following potential additions to current pitch provision are both dependent on planning outcomes:
- The land acquired by Hertford Rugby Club would accommodate a net increase in pitches, even if the parts of the current site owned by East Herts Council and Hertford Regional College were lost.
 - The site of the former pitch south of Hadham Road in Bishop's Stortford could be re-instated subject to the final provisions of the Local Plan.

Existing spare capacity

- 4.43 There is no existing spare rugby pitch capacity in East Herts, with the current collective weekly deficit across all sites calculated at 6.25 match equivalents.

Future rugby pitch needs

- 4.44 Future rugby pitch needs based on projected population increases are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the district are required to generate one team (including teams representing latent and unmet demand - see section 4.18). These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The population projections are based on the demographic profile typical of new housing developments, with a higher proportion of younger people.

- 4.45 The application of TGRs to projected population in each of the sub-areas in East Herts in 2033 produces the following results. The population figures include the residents of new housing in East Herts elements of the Sustainable Urban Extensions detailed in Part I of the study:

Figure 200: Extra rugby teams in Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and Surrounds to 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	6	9,747	1: 1,625	13,314	8	2
Adult females	2	9,975	1: 4,988	13,625	3	1
Junior males	14	1,989	1: 142	2,717	19	5
Junior females	2	1,864	1: 932	2,546	3	1
Mini/Midi	10	5,615	1: 562	7,769	14	4

Figure 201: Extra rugby teams in Buntingford, Watton-at-Stone and Surrounds to 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	4	4,754	1: 1,189	5,964	5	1
Adult females	1	4,865	1: 4,865	6,103	1	0
Junior males	7	970	1: 139	1,218	9	2
Junior females	1	909	1: 909	1,140	1	0
Mini/Midi	8	2,738	1: 342	3,454	10	2

Figure 202: Extra rugby teams in Hertford and Ware to 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	8	10,653	1: 1,332	11,627	9	1
Adult females	2	10,903	1: 5,452	11,694	2	0
Junior males	12	2,174	1: 181	2,332	13	1
Junior females	2	2,037	1: 1,019	2,185	2	0
Mini/Midi	16	6,137	1: 384	6,582	17	1

- 4.46 In addition to increased demand based upon population growth, the effects of projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum are modelled below. When added to population growth, the number of teams are as follows:

Figure 203: Projected increase in rugby teams in East Herts due to participation growth

Age group	Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	Hertford and Ware
Adult males	9	5	10
Adult females	3	1	2
Junior males	21	10	14
Junior females	3	1	2
Mini/Midi	15	11	18

4.47 The impact of the combined effects of increased population and increased participation demand for pitches in East Herts is projected as follows:

- One adult or junior team generates a requirement for 0.5 adult pitches.
- One mini team generates a demand for 0.25 adult pitches.

Figure 204: Projected increase in rugby pitch needs in East Herts

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Total teams with population growth but no participation growth</i>	<i>Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth</i>	<i>Extra adult pitch needs</i>
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	34	47	51	5.5
Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	21	26	28	2.75
Hertford and Ware	40	43	46	2.5
<i>East Herts</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>10.75</i>

Key findings and issues

What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

4.48 The key characteristics of current supply and demand for rugby in East Herts are as follows:

- The demand for rugby in East Herts is very buoyant, with the main limiting factor on further growth being a shortage of pitch capacity.
- The main factor inhibiting rugby development for women and girls in the district is a lack of pitch capacity.
- There is evidence of imported rugby demand from neighbouring areas.
- There are 12 pitches with community use and used, five of which are floodlit. There are supplemented by 19 temporarily marked mini-rugby pitches. There are a further 34 full-sized pitches on school sites that might offer some potential for community use.
- The quality of pitches is generally good, but all are used to beyond their full carrying capacity at present, which is not sustainable in the longer term.
- Hertford Rugby Club has complex security of tenure issues to address with its site.

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet current demand?

- 4.49 There is a weekly deficit at all three club sites which results in the pitches being used to beyond their sustainable capacity. Peak time usage is balanced, but this reflects the fact that pitch usage is at full capacity and staggered fixture scheduling for junior and mini matches rather than a lack of additional demand.

Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained?

- 4.50 All existing pitches are adequately maintained, although the quality is compromised by overuse at present.

What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- 4.51 The main characteristics of future supply and demand are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population of East Herts is estimated to be 179,558 by 2033. This represents an increase of 17.1% in the period. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 205: Extra rugby teams in East Herts by 2033 based on population increases

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	22	4
Adult females	6	1
Junior males	41	8
Junior females	6	1
Mini/Midi	41	7

- **Changes in demand:** Projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum will lead to a compound increase in demand of 8.3% by 2033. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 206: Extra rugby teams in East Herts by 2033 based on participation increases

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	24	2
Adult females	6	0
Junior males	45	4
Junior females	6	0
Mini/Midi	44	3

- **Changes in supply:** The lack of long-term security of tenure over Hertford Rugby Club's site may threaten pitch supply there.

- **Spare capacity:** There is no spare capacity at the existing rugby pitch sites, with the collective weekly deficit across all sites calculated at 6.25 match equivalents.
- **Future pitch needs:** An additional 10.75 full-sized grass rugby pitches will be required to meet additional needs to 2033.

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet future demand?

4.52 The situation at community accessible pitches is as follows:

Figure 207: Extra rugby pitch needs in East Herts by 2033

Current secured pitches	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional secured pitch needs
12	-6.25 matches	15.5 pitches	10.75 pitches	26.25 pitches	14.25 pitches

The options for securing additional accessible and secured pitch capacity

4.53 The options for securing the additional pitches are as follows:

- **Protect:** Protecting the existing pitches through the Local Plan will be key to maintaining the current stock. This will include retaining the former pitch south of Hadham Road in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Provide:** Additional pitch capacity would most appropriately be developed at the existing club sites. The site-specific capacity issues could be addressed as follows:
 - Bishop Stortford RFC's immediate pitch needs would be met by converting the existing football pitches at the Silverleys site to two additional rugby pitches, following the relocation of Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC to new pitches on the adjacent housing development site. Further pitch provision should be made on the adjacent site south of Hadham Road. Consideration should be also given to providing an artificial grass pitch.
 - Datchworth Rugby Club's pitch capacity could be expanded with improved drainage and pitch construction on the existing pitch on its 'back field'.
 - Hertford Rugby Club's pitch capacity could be expanded with planning consent for provision on the additional land that it has acquired.
- **Enhance:** Pavilion improvements at all three sites, particularly in relation to better provision for women and girls (players, coaches and match officials) would improve the overall user experience and facilitate further participation growth.

Policy recommendations

4.54 The recommendations in relation to rugby are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

4.55 The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide'.

4.56 Protect:

- **Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision:** The East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby in the district. The Strategy has identified a need for all current rugby pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Herts both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- **Recommendation 2 - Community access to education facilities:** There are 34 pitches on school sites with no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage, given the waiting lists being operated by several clubs at present.
 - Efforts are made to secure community use agreements at existing education pitches close to the existing rugby club sites.
 - Community use agreements become a standard condition of planning consent at all new education pitches, along with a design and specification that is consistent with maximising school and community use.

4.57 Enhance:

- **Recommendation 3 - Capacity improvements:** Some of the current demand for rugby in East Herts, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. In particular:

- Bishop Stortford RFC's immediate pitch needs would be met by converting the existing football pitches at the Silverleys site to two additional rugby pitches, following the relocation of Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC to new pitches on the adjacent housing development site. Further pitch provision should be made on the adjacent site south of Hadham Road. Consideration should be also given to providing an artificial grass pitch.
- Datchworth Rugby Club's pitch capacity could be expanded with improved drainage and pitch construction on the existing pitch on its 'back field'.
- Hertford Rugby Club's pitch capacity could be expanded with planning consent for provision on the additional land that it has acquired.

It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for prioritising pitch and ancillary facility enhancements that will help to alleviate the current identified deficits.

- **Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements):** Some of the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in East Herts, can be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

4.58 Provide:

- **Recommendation 5 - New rugby facilities provision:** New rugby facilities provision will be needed to meet some of the needs of the increased population of East Herts. In particular
 - Bishop Stortford RFC should consider making further pitch provision on the adjacent site south of Hadham Road. Consideration should be also given to providing an artificial grass pitch.
 - Pavilion improvements at all three rugby club sites, particularly in relation to better provision for women and girls (players, coaches and match officials) would improve the overall user experience and facilitate further participation growth.

- **Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision):** Most of the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in East Herts, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining which proposed new facilities demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover their capital and revenue cost implications. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

Action plan

4.59 In the context of the recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby action plan by sub area to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EHC - East Herts Council and RFU - Rugby Football Union. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016' (2016).

Figure 208: Rugby action plan for East Herts

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Bishop's Stortford RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of pitch capacity. • Additional changing provision needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert and upgrade the on-site football pitches if BS Swifts relocate. • Reinstate pitches on the site south of Hadham Road. • Reconsider providing an artificial grass pitch. • Expand changing facilities. 	Bishop's Stortford RFC	RFU EHC	£20,000 for pitch upgrade £10,000 to reinstate pitches. £10,000 for AGP feasibility study. £1.22 million for AGP. £250,000 for expanded changing.	High
Datchworth RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of pitch capacity. • Additional changing provision needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve drainage on the 'Back Pitch'. • Expand changing facilities. 	Datchworth RFC	RFU EHC	£20,000 for pitch upgrade. £250,000 for expanded changing.	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Hertford RFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of tenure issues. • Shortage of pitch capacity. • Additional changing provision needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure planning consent for converting adjacent land to pitches. • Provide new clubhouse on adjacent site. 	Hertford RFC	RFU EHC	£500,000 for clubhouse	High
Bishop's Stortford North	3,250 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at BS Rugby Club	EHC	Developers BSRFC	TBC	High
Bishop's Stortford South	900 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at BS Rugby Club	EHC	Developers BSRFC	TBC	High
East of Stevenage development	600 new homes to be built east of Stevenage.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Stevenage RFC.	EHC	Developers Stevenage RFC	TBC	Medium
Ware North development	1,000 - 1,500 new homes to be built north of Ware.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Hertford RFC.	EHC	Developers Hertford RFC	TBC	High
Gilston Garden Town	3,050 new homes to be built in Gilston by 2033	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Harlow RFC.	EHC	Developers Harlow RFC	TBC	Medium
East of Welwyn Garden City development	1,350 new homes to be built east of Welwyn Garden City.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance pitch capacity at Welwyn RFC	EHC	Developers Welwyn RFC	TBC	Medium
Education pitches	Potential to access additional pitch capacity at sites close to clubs.	Investigate access to pitches at: BS College Jobbers Wood Haileybury College	BSRFC Hertford RFC	-	TBC	Medium

SECTION 5: HOCKEY PITCH NEEDS IN EAST HERTS

The key local stakeholders

- 5.1 **England Hockey:** England Hockey administers the sport in Hertfordshire.
- 5.2 **Hockey Clubs:** Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club and Hertford Hockey Club are affiliated to England Hockey and respectively field 29 and 24 teams drawn from East Herts.

Strategic context

National Hockey Strategy

- 5.3 England Hockey's strategic plan 2013 - 2017 '*A Nation Where Hockey Matters*' (2016) contains the following priorities of relevance to East Herts:
- **Adults:** The number of adults playing regularly in the club network will be increased by:
 - Working with universities, schools and colleges to deliver quality playing experiences and clear pathways to club hockey.
 - Working with regional and local leagues and affiliated clubs, to deliver the highest quality playing experience and appropriate competition frameworks.
 - Developing more opportunities for over 40s to play hockey.
 - Delivering a quality programme of competitions that meet the needs of players and clubs.
 - **Young people:** The number of young people playing hockey in schools and clubs will be increased by:
 - Developing more relationships between clubs and primary and secondary schools.
 - Working with clubs to increase the number of junior hockey sessions being provided.
 - Delivering a quality programme of competitions that meet the needs of players, schools and clubs.
 - Developing an ability-based pathway for children aged 5-12 for adoption in clubs, schools and youth organisations.

- **Informal hockey:** The numbers of adults and young people playing informal hockey will be increased by:
 - Setting up opportunities to play Quicksticks in community sites.
 - Increasing the opportunities to play Rush Hockey at schools, colleges, universities, clubs and community sites.
 - Increasing the opportunity for women to take part in Back to Hockey sessions at clubs and community sites.

National Hockey Facilities Strategy

5.4 England Hockey's '*Facilities Strategy*' (2016) contains the following key elements:

- **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.
- **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.
- **Objectives:** The objectives are as follows:
 - **Protect - To conserve the existing hockey provision:** There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) The current provision must be retained where appropriate, to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
 - **Improve - To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively):** The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers and education around owning an asset.
 - **Develop - To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain:** The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all their provision catered for at one site.

Pitch strategies in neighbouring areas

5.5 Consultation with neighbouring local authorities identified the following key issues in relation to East Herts:

- **Uttlesford:** Uttlesford is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is good via the M11 and A120. The '*Uttlesford Sports Facilities Development Strategy*' (2016) has been adopted by the council. The strategy concludes that there is no effective spare capacity to accommodate additional demand at the existing pitches. Projected additional population growth to 2031 suggests extra demand equivalent to 0.6 synthetic turf hockey pitches.
- **Harlow:** Harlow is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Sawbridgeworth sub-area. Accessibility towards Hertford is good via the A414 but links to Sawbridgeworth via the A1184 are slower. Harlow District Council is currently reviewing its playing pitch strategy but the emerging findings identify that there is exported demand from Harlow to East Herts, with Harlow Hockey Club using the sand-filled artificial turf pitch at Leventhorpe Academy as its home base, in the absence of a specialist facility within Harlow.
- **Epping Forest:** Epping Forest district is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Sawbridgeworth sub-areas. Accessibility is generally via minor roads so is relatively limited. The '*Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment*' (2012) is currently being updated by the council but pending the emergence of detailed findings, dialogue with England Hockey has identified that existing provision is adequate to meet current needs.
- **Broxbourne:** Broxbourne is located to the south of East Herts and therefore borders the Hertford and Ware sub-area. Accessibility is generally very good via the A10 corridor. The '*Broxbourne Leisure Facilities Strategy: Outdoor Facilities*' (2013) has been adopted by the council and identifies that existing pitch capacity can meet all current and future needs. However, it also notes that there is significant imported demand from neighbouring areas, including East Herts.
- **Welwyn Hatfield:** Welwyn Hatfield is located to the south-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Watton-at-Stone sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A414 provides connections to Hertford. The '*Welwyn Hatfield Sports Facilities Strategy: A Vision to 2026*' (2010) is considered by Sport England to be out of date, but dialogue with England Hockey identified that existing pitch capacity can meet current needs in the district, but there is significant exported demand from Hertford Hockey Club teams to use pitches in Welwyn Hatfield district.

- **North Hertfordshire:** North Hertfordshire is located to the north and north-east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, via minor roads, although the A507 provides connections to Baldock and the A10 to Royston. The '*North Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2015) has been adopted by the council and identifies that there is a current shortfall of three artificial turf hockey pitches, although there are active proposals to provide two additional facilities. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.
- **Stevenage:** Stevenage is located to the east of East Herts and therefore borders the Buntingford sub-area. Accessibility is generally limited, although the A602 provides connections to Watton-at-Stone. The '*Stevenage Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategy*' (2014) has been adopted by the council and identifies that the two existing artificial hockey pitches in the borough will be sufficient to accommodate all current and future demand to 2031. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts, or vice versa.

The implications for East Herts

5.6 The implications of the strategic context for hockey in East Herts are as follows:

- **Policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for hockey to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. Recent innovations such as Rush Hockey and Quick Sticks might prove more attractive than the more traditional model.
- **Neighbouring areas:** There is no effective spare hockey pitch capacity in two neighbouring areas.

Hockey pitch demand

Introduction

5.7 This section summarises the demand for hockey in East Herts and covers:

- Expressed demand.
- Displaced demand.
- Unmet demand.
- Latent demand.
- Demand trends.
- The views of stakeholders on hockey demand.

Expressed demand

5.8 Expressed demand for hockey in East Herts is as follows:

Figure 209: Hockey club and teams in East Herts

Age group and gender	Bishop's Stortford HC		Hertford HC	
	No. Teams	No. Members	No. Teams	No. Members
Adult males	6	110	5	69
Adult females	5	70	6	79
Junior males	4	58	2	66
Junior females	6	100	4	76
Mixed mini	8	50	6	83
TOTALS	29	388	24	373

5.9 Because hockey clubs typically draw their membership from a wider catchment than football and cricket, a more balanced assessment of geographical variations across the district can be made by combining some sub-areas. The results are tabulated below:

Figure 210: Hockey club and teams by grouped sub-area in East Herts

Age group	Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	Hertford and Ware, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone
Adult males	6	5
Adult females	5	6
Junior males	4	2
Junior females	6	4
Mixed mini	8	6

Pitch usage

5.10 The sand-filled artificial turf pitch usage by the two clubs in East Herts is below:

Figure 211: Hockey pitch usage by clubs in East Herts

Club	Facility	Hours of use per week
Bishop's Stortford HC	Hockerill Anglo-European College	25
	Bishop's Stortford College	3
Hertford Hockey Club	Simon Balle School	12
	Sir Frederick Osbourne School	10
TOTALS	-	50

Displaced demand

5.11 Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. Displaced demand for hockey in East Herts at present is as follows.

- **Hertford Hockey Club:** All the club's junior activity is currently based at Sir Frederick Osbourne School in Welwyn Garden City, which involves about 10 hours of use per week. The club would, prefer to meet this demand within East Herts.
- **Harlow Hockey Club:** Harlow Hockey Club is currently based at the sand-filled pitch at Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth, which is uses for about 4.5 hours of use per week. The Club would prefer to meet this demand in Harlow.

Unmet demand

5.12 Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for their matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

5.13 Both clubs in East Herts have identified that if more pitch time was available, there is unmet demand for one additional adult men's team, one adult women's team, one junior male team and one junior female team. The extra pitch time requirements are as follows:

- Additional 10 hours a week for junior training and matches.
- Additional 2 hours a week for disability hockey.
- Additional 5 hours a week for adult hockey.

Latent demand

5.14 Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Both clubs in East Herts have identified that following the success of the women's hockey team at the 2016 Olympic Games, there is latent demand locally for at least two adult women's teams and four junior girl's teams.

Demand trends

5.15 Local and national demand trends in East Herts indicate the following:

- **Active People Survey:** Based upon the national results of Sport England's 'Active People' survey, adult (16+) participation in hockey has fluctuated over the period since 2005 as follows, but currently shows a small fall:

Figure 212: National hockey participation rates

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
0.23%	0.23%	0.24%	0.23%	0.21%	0.19%	0.25%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	-0.03%

- **National participation data:** National affiliation data for hockey club members provided by England Hockey reveals a different picture from the 'Active People' survey, recording successive increases in the period since 2010 as follows:

Figure 213: National hockey affiliation data

Year	No. players	Annual % increase
2010/11	102,313	-
2011/12	106,665	4.3%
2012/13	114,642	7.5%
2013/14	113,575	-0.9%
2014/15	120,404	6.0%
2105/16	129,857	7.9%

- **Local membership trends:** Membership trends at both local clubs over the past six years have been as follows. The figures show some annual fluctuations but there is growth of 4.2% since 2010/11. Evidence from the local clubs suggests that the main factor inhibiting growth is a lack of available pitch time:

Figure 214: Local hockey participation trends in East Herts

Club	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Bishop's Stortford HC	479	328	374	424	431	388
Hertford HC	251	251	260	321	340	373
TOTALS	730	579	634	745	771	761

- **Future trends:** Both clubs expect to increase their membership over the next three years, by a collective total of at least four teams.

The views of stakeholders

5.16 **Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club:** Consultation with Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club identified the following issues.

- **Membership trends:** The club currently fields six adult men's teams, five adult women's teams, one mixed adult team and 21 junior teams. It has 388 members in total. The number of junior sides in each age group has been increased over the past three years to enable more junior members the opportunity to play in competitive hockey in addition to training. However, the men's section reduced from 6 Saturday sides to 5 in 2015/16.
- **Membership catchment:** 90% of the club's membership is drawn from within East Herts, so there is relatively little imported demand.
- **Future trends:** The club hopes to expand over the next three years, by adding one adult men's team, one adult women's team and an unspecified number of junior teams dependent upon access to additional facilities.
- **Hockey development proposals:** The club has an active hockey development programme which includes the following:
 - Primary School coaching for interested primary schools in the area building on a session run at the Birchwood Games.
 - A Satellite Club, supported by England Hockey and Herts Sports Partnership to provide weekly sessions after school at Birchwood High School for 13-17 year olds who may not come initially to a club.
 - Guest coaching sessions involving prominent players and coaches.
 - Back to Hockey sessions during the summer to attract lapsed players, interested parents, those transferring from other sports and any other interested people. The club would like to run these throughout the season too but are limited by pitch availability.
 - 'Club Fun Days are run as part of the national 'Hockeyfest' initiative, we hold a very successful annual fun day in September, together with several smaller events in the course of the year'.
 - Membership Incentives, including free subscriptions for recent graduates and half-priced subscriptions for new members.
 - The club maintains an active social media presence.

5.17 **Hertford Hockey Club:** Consultation with Hertford Hockey Club identified the following issues.

- **Membership trends:** The club currently fields five adult men's teams, six adult women's teams and 13 junior teams. It has 373 members in total. Membership has increased by 44% in the past five years, with the main expansion to adult teams.
- **Membership catchment:** 90% of the club's membership is drawn from within East Herts, so there is relatively little imported demand.
- **Future trends:** The club has aspirations to increase its membership over the next three years, by adding one junior boys' team and one junior girls' team.
- **Hockey development proposals:** The club is currently organising 'Back to Hockey' sessions for adults, developing links with the schools whose pitches it uses and building links with Hertfordshire University.

The implications for hockey in East Herts

5.18 Analysis of local demand for hockey in East Herts indicates that:

- **Growth trends:** Membership has collectively increased by more than 4% since 2010/11. Although further expansion has been inhibited by a shortage of available pitch capacity.
- **Displaced demand:** Some demand is exported from the district to Welwyn Hatfield and some is imported from Harlow.
- **Unmet demand:** Unmet demand is equivalent to a total to one extra adult male team, one adult female team, one junior male team and one junior female team.
- **Latent demand:** Latent demand based upon information supplied by local clubs is equivalent to two adult female teams and four junior female teams.

5.19 The table below summarises the above figures for the purposes of calculating team equivalents in East Herts:

Figure 215: Effective hockey team numbers in East Herts

Age group	Expressed demand	Unmet demand	Latent demand	Total demand
Adult male teams	11	1	0	12
Adult female teams	11	1	2	14
Junior male teams	6	1	0	7
Junior female teams	10	1	4	15
Mini teams	14	0	0	14

Hockey pitch supply

Introduction

5.20 This section summarises the supply of hockey pitches in East Herts and covers:

- Pitch quantity.
- Pitch quality.
- Pitch maintenance.
- Ownership, management and security of access.
- The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply.

Hockey pitches

5.21 The synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts, all of which are on education sites, are as follows:

Figure 216: Synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts

Site	Address	Surface	Year Built/ re-surfaced
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	Sand-filled	2016
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	Sand-dressed	2012
Haileybury Sports Complex	Haileybury College, Hertford SG13 7NU	Sand-filled	2013
Haileybury Sports Complex	Haileybury College, Hertford SG13 7NU	Sand-filled	2005
Hockerill College	Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HX	Sand-filled	2016
Leventhorpe Academy	Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY	Sand-dressed	2011
Simon Balle School	Mangrove Road, Hertford SG13 8AJ	Sand-filled	2012
St. Edmund's College	Old Hall Green, Ware SG11 1DS	Sand-filled	2001

5.22 The availability for community use of pitches used for hockey in East Herts is below:

Figure 217: Availability of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts

Site	Peak availability	Hockey use	Football use	Unused
Bishop's Stortford College	3 hours per week	3 hours	No use	No use
Bishop's Stortford College	No public access	No use	No use	No use
Haileybury Sports Complex	25 hours per week	No use	18 hours	7 hours
Haileybury Sports Complex	25 hours per week	No use	18 hours	7 hours
Hockerill College	34 hours per week	25 hours	9 hours	0 hours
Leventhorpe Academy	25 hours per week	4.5 hours	16 hours	4.5 hours
Simon Balle School	30 hours per week	12 hours	13 hours	0 hours
St. Edmund's College	No public access	No use	No use	No use
TOTALS	137 hours	44.5 hours	74 hours	18.5 hours

Pitch quality

- 5.23 The quality of the synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts involved site visits to undertake the non-technical visual inspection produced by England Hockey for Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). The assessment generates an overall 'score' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 80% or more (highlighted in green) 'Standard' for scores of 79% - 51% (highlighted in yellow).

Figure 218: Quality of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts

Site	Rating	Comments
Bishop's Stortford College (older pitch)	Good	Good quality pitch, with adjacent changing.
Bishop's Stortford College (newer pitch)	Good	Good quality surface, no adjacent changing.
Haileybury Sports Complex (older pitch)	Standard	Pitch surface shows wear.
Haileybury Sports Complex (newer pitch)	Good	Good quality surface.
Hockerill College	Good	Good quality pitch recently re-furnished.
Leventhorpe Academy	Good	Good quality pitch with adjacent changing.
Simon Balle School	Good	Good quality pitch.
St. Edmund's College	Standard	Pitch surface shows wear, no adjacent changing facilities.

Pitch Maintenance

- 5.24 In all cases, the schools who own the pitches employ groundstaff to maintain them, with periodic specialist maintenance being carried out by specialist contractors.

Ownership management and security of access

- 5.25 The ownership, management and security of access of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts are as follows:

Figure 219: Ownership, management and security of access of hockey pitches in East Herts

Site	Ownership	Management	Security of Access
Bishop's Stortford College	Bishop's Stortford College	Bishop's Stortford College	Unsecured
Haileybury Sports Complex	Haileybury College	Haileybury College	Unsecured
Hockerill Anglo-American College	Hockerill Sports Trust	Hockerill Sports Trust	Secured
Leventhorpe Academy	Leventhorpe Academy	Nuffield Health and Fitness	Secured
Simon Balle School	Simon Balle School	Simon Balle School	Unsecured
St. Edmund's College	St. Edmund's College	St. Edmund's College	Unsecured

The views of local stakeholders on pitch supply

5.26 **England Hockey:** Consultation with England Hockey's Relationship Manager for the east of England, identified the following issues:

- Hertford Hockey Club's clubhouse is located next to Simon Balle School in Hertford, where the club is primary user of the sand-filled artificial turf pitch at the school. Pavilion facilities are shared with Hertford Cricket Club. The club also uses several pitches outside East Herts, including regular use at Sir Frederick Osbourne School and occasional use of Queenswood School (Welwyn Garden City) and Haileybury Turnford School (Broxbourne). The sand-filled artificial turf pitch that the club formerly used at Wodson Park in Ware was recently converted to a '3G' surface and was therefore lost to hockey use.
- Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club shares the clubhouse at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust with local cricket, tennis and squash clubs. It uses sand-filled pitches on school sites in the town at Hockerill Anglo-European College and Bishop's Stortford College. The club recently secured planning permission to provide one full-sized and one small-sided sand-filled artificial pitch at the Sports Trust site.

5.27 **Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club:** Consultation with the Club identified the following issues.

- **Facilities provision:** The club uses the sand-filled artificial turf hockey pitch at Hockerill Anglo-European College in Bishop's Stortford, which is owned by the Hockerill Sports Trust in which the club and school are equal partners. The clubhouse is at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust, which is shared with local cricket, tennis and squash clubs.
 - The club uses the pitch for a total of 25 hours per week. The club notes that the pitch is 'housed in a seven-day a week [boarding] school which creates some tensions relating to safety of the pupils and restrictions around social events and parking'.
 - Some junior activity is also accommodated at Bishop's Stortford College, which is only available on Sunday mornings. which involves about 3 hours of use per week.
 - The club states that 'due to lack of lettable pitches [in Bishop's Stortford] we have started to look further afield for additional pitches such as Dunmow and Sawbridgeworth'.
 - The club has identified the need for an additional 10 hours per week of pitch time for junior training and matches, two hours per week for disability hockey and five hours per week for adult hockey.

- **Facilities aspirations:** The club's current facilities are in good condition, with the Hockerill pitch re-surfaced in 2015. However, the club had plans to develop a full-sized pitch and a small-sided practice pitch at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site, to be co-located with the clubhouse. The club was awarded £500,000 from Sport England's Improvement Fund Grant, but was unable to claim the grant because the lack of agreement between a development consortium and the land owners, which precluded the Sports Trust from gaining ownership of the land for the proposed facilities. The club commented that:
 - 'The absence of a co-located clubhouse and playing facility along with the capacity issues relating to available hockey-compliant all-weather pitches, means that the potential for growing the membership and number of teams within the club is currently limited'.
 - 'In recent seasons, the ability to rent additional capacity on suitable pitches at the times required (particularly on a Saturday and Sunday morning) has become harder, in terms of the availability at either Leventhorpe or Bishop's Stortford College'.
- **Alternative proposals:** Herts and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford is developing proposals for a new sports complex at Beldam's Lane, which includes provision for a sand-filled artificial turf pitch. If provided, this will provide an alternative option to the proposed development at the Sports Trust site.

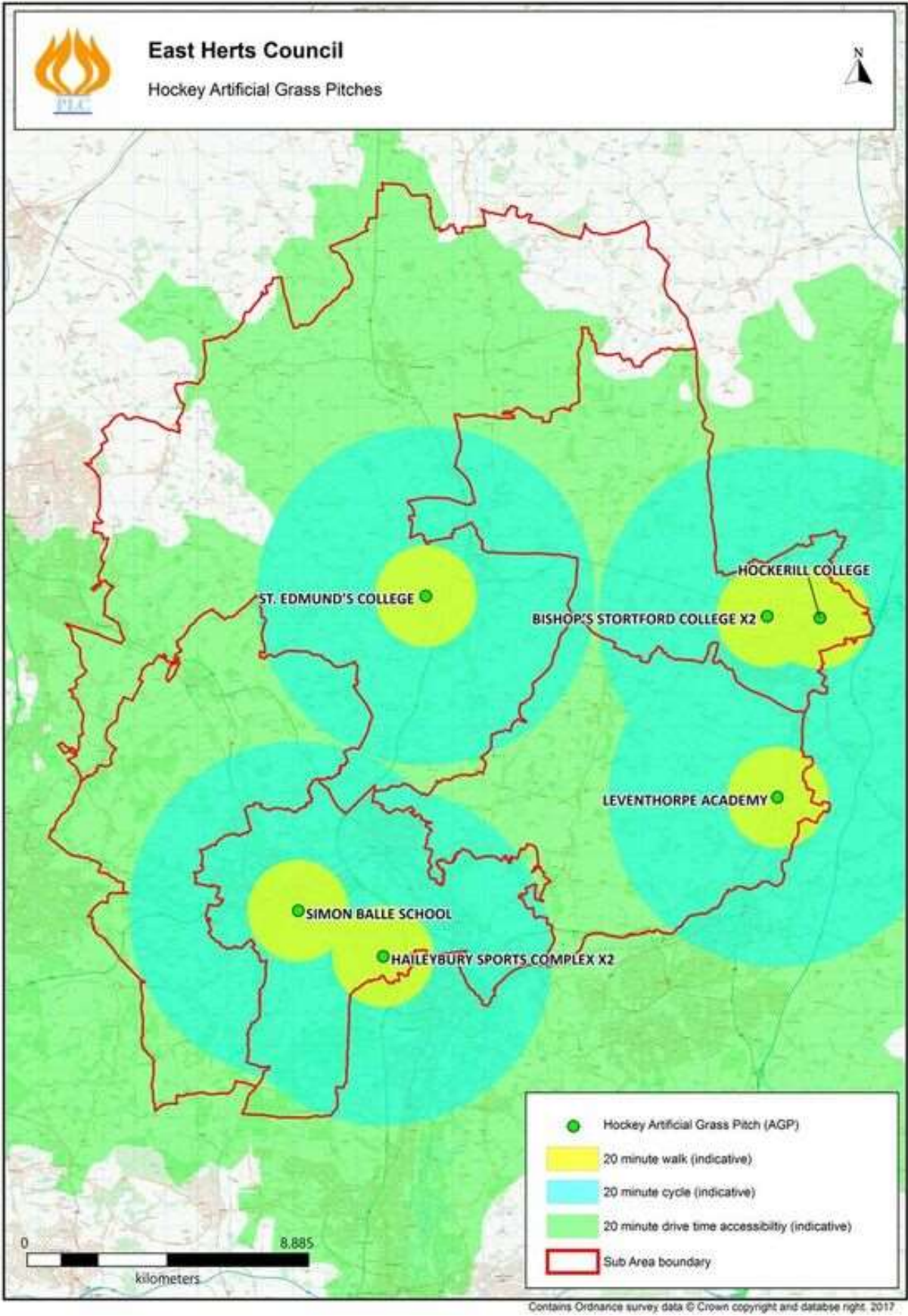
5.28 **Hertford Hockey Club:** Consultation with the Club identified the following issues.

- **Facilities provision:** The club hires the sand-filled artificial turf hockey pitch at Simon Balle School in Hertford for a total of 12 hours per week. It pays £20,000 per annum for this and the rental agreement with the school runs to 2019. Junior activity is mostly accommodated at Sir Frederick Osbourne School in Welwyn Garden City, which involves about 10 hours of use per week.
- **Facilities aspirations:** The club's current facilities are generally in good condition, but the club has aspirations to develop a clubhouse overlooking a pitch or pitches, with other facilities such as tennis courts, squash courts and a cricket pitch.

Geographical distribution

5.29 The geographical spread of artificial turf pitches for hockey shows that only two small rural areas are beyond 20-minute's drive time of the nearest pitch.

Figure 220: Geographical coverage of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts



The implications for hockey in East Herts

5.30 Analysis of the supply of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts indicates that:

- **Pitch quantity:** There are eight full-sized synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in the district, although only four are used by clubs from within the district, with one more being used by Harlow Hockey Club.
- **Pitch availability:** There is a total of 137 hours per week of community access to synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts. Hockey usage accounts for 44.5 hours per week (32.5% of the total available time), football usage for 74 hours (54.0%) whilst 18.5 hours (13.5% is unused). Of the eight pitches in the district, two have no community access and one further pitch has only three hours of week per use. Six of the pitches are on boarding school sites which places some limitations on availability and use.
- **Pitch quality:** The quality of all pitches is at least 'standard'.
- **Security of tenure:** All the pitches are on education sites and only two have formal community use agreements. Hertford Hockey Club's hire agreement with Simon Balle School is due to expire in 2019.

Assessment of current needs

5.31 The methodology for assessing the need for artificial grass pitches for hockey involves assessing information from three sources:

- The actual used capacity of artificial turf pitches is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.
- An assessment of the additional displaced, unmet and latent demand, that is not currently reflected in the actual used capacity.
- An assessment of the results of Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Facilities Audit 'run' for artificial turf pitches in East Herts.

5.32 **Actual used capacity:** In line with England Hockey guidance, pitch capacity is expressed in hours of peak time availability. Demand and the resultant balance are expressed as peak time usage.

- Pitches outside the district but used by East Herts clubs are shown in italics.
- Usage by football teams is also shown, although this demand is also influenced by the shortage of '3G' football turf pitches in East Herts, which is the preferred surface for football.

Figure 221: Supply-demand balance of synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts

Site	Users	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Bishop's Stortford College	Bishop's Stortford HC	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Bishop's Stortford College	No public access	0	0	Balanced
Haileybury Sports Complex	Football use only	25.0	18.0	+7.0
Haileybury Sports Complex	Football use only	25.0	18.0	+7.0
Hockerill College	Bishop's Stortford HC	34.0	25.0	Balanced
	Football use		9.0	
Leventhorpe Academy	Harlow HC	25.0	4.5	+4.5
	Football use		16.0	
Simon Balle School	Hertford HC	25.0	12.0	Balanced
	Football use		13.0	
St. Edmund's College	No public access	0	0	Balanced
Sir Frederick Osbourne School	Hertford HC	10.0	10.0	Balanced

5.33 **Additional demand:** The additional displaced, unmet and latent demand, that is not currently reflected in the actual used capacity above is as follows:

- **Displaced demand:** 10.0 hours per week of junior play by Hertford HC is currently displaced to Welwyn Hatfield, but the club's preference would be to accommodate this in Hertford instead. 4.5 hours per week of hockey demand is imported from Harlow HC to the Leventhorpe pitch, although the club's preference would be to accommodate this within Harlow instead. The net displaced demand is therefore currently 5.5 hours per week.
- **Unmet demand:** The local clubs have identified that there is unmet demand for one additional adult men's team, one adult women's team, one junior male team and one junior female team. The related pitch time requirements amount to 17 hours of pitch time per week.
- **Latent demand:** The local clubs have identified that there is latent demand locally for at least two adult women's teams and four junior girl's teams. The related pitch time requirements amount to 18 hours of pitch time per week.

5.34 **Facilities Planning Model:** Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a spatial assessment of artificial grass pitch provision based on the nature of demand within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity (hours of availability in the peak period) and accessibility. The key findings for artificial grass pitches in East Herts for the National Facilities Audit 'run' of the FPM in 2016 were as follows:

- The FPM includes 7 artificial grass pitches for hockey in East Herts, although this figure excludes the second pitch at Haileybury and includes as fully available (with 32 hours per week of peak-time availability) the pitches at Bishop's Stortford College and St. Edmund's College that collectively have only three hours of community use per week.

- The FPM calculates that satisfied demand is relatively high at 83%, and that only 14% of demand from within East Herts is exported to other areas.
- Unmet demand is assessed as only 17% of total demand, which is equivalent to only 0.15 pitches.
- Used capacity is assumed at 100% and all individual facilities are operating at 100% utilised capacity at peak times. 63% of used capacity is imported from other areas.
- Local share is a measure of which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100. East Herts has a local share of 123, which means that provision is 23% better than the national average.
- Aggregated unmet demand is highest in the A10 corridor around Hertford and Ware.
- The FPM concluded existing artificial turf pitches for hockey are at capacity but there is a need for only 0.15 additional pitches to meet unmet demand.

5.35 **Analysis:** The three measures of the adequacy of artificial grass hockey pitch provision in East Herts can be interpreted as follows:

- **Used capacity:** Actual usage data shows that collective peak capacity in East Herts is 139 hours per week, compared with an assumed 104 hours in the FPM modelling. However, there is 18.5 hours of spare capacity (equivalent to 0.74 pitches), suggesting that actual utilisation rates are 86.5% rather than the 100% assumed in the FPM.
- **Displaced demand:** Based upon actual usage data, 20% of East Herts demand (10 hours per week) is currently exported to neighbouring areas, rather than the 14% calculated by the FPM. Based upon a 25 hour per week peak period, this equates to 0.4 artificial grass pitches.
- **Unmet demand:** The responses to the clubs' survey indicate that there is 17 hours of unmet peak demand in East Herts. Based upon a 25 hour per week peak period, this equates to 0.68 artificial grass pitches.
- **Latent demand:** The responses to the clubs' survey indicate that there is 18 hours of unmet latent demand in East Herts. Based upon a 25 hour per week peak period, this equates to 0.72 artificial grass pitches.
- **Assessed deficiency:** Taking account of expressed, displaced, unmet and latent demand, there is a districtwide deficit of 1.8 artificial grass pitches for hockey. When offset against existing spare capacity equivalent to 0.74 pitches, this leave a net figure of 1.06 pitches.

Sub-area analysis

- 5.36 The analysis of the current supply-demand balance in terms of hours of peak use (including displaced, unmet and latent demand, that is not currently reflected in the actual used capacity) by sub-areas is as follows:

Figure 222: Effective supply-demand balance of hockey pitches by sub-area in East Herts

Site	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance	Pitch equivalent
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	62.0 hours	76.5 hours	-14.5 hours	-0.58
Hertford and Ware Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	75.0 hours	87.0 hours	-12 hours	-0.48
East Herts	137 hours	163.5 hours	-26.5 hours	-1.06

- 5.37 The sub-area analysis shows that the districtwide deficiency of 1.06 pitches is split fairly evenly between the two sub-areas, with a shortfall of around half a pitch in each area.
- 5.38 The key findings are:
- **Pitch quantity:** There are eight full-sized synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in the district, although only four are used by clubs from within the district, with one more being used by Harlow Hockey Club.
 - **Pitch availability:** Six of the pitches are on boarding school sites which places some limitations on availability and use.
 - **Pitch quality:** The quality of all pitches is at least 'standard'.
 - **Security of tenure:** All the pitches are on education sites and only one has any security of tenure. Hertford Hockey Club's hire agreement with Simon Balle School is due to expire in 2019.
 - **Assessed deficiency:** Taking account of expressed, displaced, unmet and latent demand, there is a districtwide deficit of 1.8 artificial grass pitches for hockey. When offset against existing spare capacity equivalent to 0.74 pitches, this leave a net figure of 1.06 pitches, split fairly evenly between the two sub-areas, with a shortfall of around half a pitch in each area.

Assessment of future needs

Population growth

- 5.39 Population growth to the end 2033 has been projected based upon housing supply targets. The population figures are as follows:

Figure 223: Population projections in East Herts to 2033

Population 2021	Population 2026	Population 2033
152,525	158,730	179,558

Location of growth

5.40 Housing targets and related population growth in each hockey sub-area are projected as follows, based upon an average of 2.32 residents per dwelling:

Figure 224: Housing targets and population projections in East Herts to 2033

Sub-area	Housing target to 2033	Extra Population 2033	Total Population 2033
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	7,693	17,848	77,858
Hertford and Ware, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	5,000	11,600	101,700
East Herts	12,693	29,448	179,558

Potential changes in demand

5.41 In addition to the growth in population, potential increases in participation need to be factored in. estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments. Two alternative scenarios have therefore been considered, a 0% increase in participation and 0.5% increase in participation.

Site-specific pressures

5.42 The security of tenure issue at Hertford Hockey Club where the existing usage agreement with Simon Balle School expires in 2019.

Potential changes in supply

5.43 The following potential additions to current pitch provision are both at the planning stages and it is likely that only the latter option will be developed:

- Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club achieved planning permission for one full-sized and one small-sided synthetic turf pitch for hockey at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site, but has been unable to progress the project.
- Herts and Essex High School is currently developing plans for a range of sports facilities at Beldham's Lane in Bishop's Stortford, which include an artificial turf pitch for hockey.

Existing spare capacity

- 5.44 There is a current peak time deficit (including displaced, unmet and latent demand) of 26.5 hours in East Herts at present, fairly evenly spread between the two hockey sub-areas. There may be scope for expanded use if proposed additional '3G' football turf pitch provision is able to accommodate some of the current 74 peak time hours of football use of sand-filled synthetic turf pitches in the district.

Future hockey pitch needs

- 5.45 Future hockey pitch needs based on projected population increases are modelled below using 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the district are required to generate one team (including teams representing latent and unmet demand - see section 5.19). These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future. The population projections are based on the demographic profile typical of new housing developments, with a higher proportion of younger people.
- 5.46 The application of TGRs to projected population in each of the grouped sub-areas in East Herts in 2033 produces the following results. The population figures include the residents of new housing in East Herts elements of the Sustainable Urban Extensions detailed in Part I of the study:

Figure 225: Extra hockey teams in Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and surrounds to 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	6	9,747	1: 1,625	13,314	8	2
Adult females	6	9,975	1: 1,663	13,625	8	2
Junior males	4	1,989	1: 497	2,717	5	1
Junior females	8	1,864	1: 233	2,546	11	3
Mini/Midi	8	4,056	1: 507	5,540	11	3

Figure 226: Extra hockey teams in Hertford and Ware, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone and surrounds to 2033

Age group	Current teams	Current population	TGR	Future population	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	6	15,407	1: 2,568	17,591	7	1
Adult females	8	15,768	1: 1,971	17,658	9	1
Junior males	3	3,144	1: 1,048	3,550	3	0
Junior females	7	2,846	1: 316	3,325	11	4
Mini/Midi	6	6,411	1: 1,069	7,490	7	1

- 5.47 In addition to increased demand based upon population growth, the effects of projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum are modelled below. When added to population growth, the effects on team numbers are as follows:

Figure 227: Extra hockey teams based on participation increases to 2033

Age group	Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	Hertford and Ware, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone
Adult males	9	7
Adult females	9	10
Junior males	5	3
Junior females	12	12
Mini/Midi	12	7

- 5.48 The impact of the combined effects of increased population and increased participation demand for hockey pitches in East Herts is projected as follows:

- One team has a requirement for 3.0 hours of peak time use per week.
- 3.0 hours of peak time use per week is equivalent to 0.12 of a pitch.

Figure 228: Additional hockey pitch needs in East Herts to 2033

Sub-area	Current teams	Total teams with population growth but no participation growth	Total teams with population and 0.5% annual participation growth	Extra pitch needs
Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth	32	43	47	1.8
Hertford and Ware, Buntingford and Watton-at-Stone	30	37	39	1.08
East Herts	62	80	86	2.88

Key findings and issues

What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- 5.49 The key characteristics of current supply and demand for hockey in East Herts are as follows:

- **Pitch quantity:** There are eight full-sized synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in the district, although only four are used by clubs from within the district, with one more being used by Harlow Hockey Club.

- **Pitch availability:** There is a total of 137 hours per week of community access to synthetic turf pitches used for hockey in East Herts. Hockey usage accounts for 44.5 hours per week (32.5% of the total available time), football usage for 74 hours (54.0%) whilst 18.5 hours (13.5% is unused). Of the eight pitches in the district, two have no community access and one further pitch has only three hours of week per use. Six of the pitches are on boarding school sites which places some limitations on availability and use.
- **Pitch quality:** The quality of all pitches is at least 'standard'.
- **Security of tenure:** All the pitches are on education sites and only one has any security of tenure. Hertford Hockey Club's hire agreement with Simon Balle School is due to expire in 2019.

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet current demand?

5.50 Taking account of expressed, displaced, unmet and latent demand, there is a districtwide deficit of 1.8 artificial grass pitches for hockey. When offset against existing spare capacity equivalent to 0.74 pitches, this leave a net figure of 1.06 pitches. Only 59 of the 137 hours of peak pitch time are at secured sites at present.

Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained?

5.51 All the pitches are at least 'standard' quality and all are well-maintained.

What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

5.52 The main characteristics of future supply and demand are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population of East Herts is estimated to be 179,558 by 2033. This represents an increase of 17.1% in the period. The effects of this in terms of additional hockey team generation are as follows:

Figure 229: Extra hockey teams based on population growth in East Herts by 2033

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	15	3
Adult females	17	3
Junior males	8	1
Junior females	22	8
Mini/Midi	18	4

- **Changes in demand:** Projected increases in participation of 0.5% per annum will lead to a compound increase in demand of 8.3% by 2033. The effects of this in terms of additional team generation are as follows:

Figure 230: Extra hockey teams based on participation growth in East Herts by 2033

Age group	Future teams	Extra teams
Adult males	16	1
Adult females	19	2
Junior males	8	0
Junior females	24	2
Mini/Midi	19	1

- **Changes in supply:** Hertford Hockey Club's hire agreement with Simon Balle School is due to expire in 2019. There are two current options for additional pitch provision in Bishop's Stortford, either at the Sports Trust site or Beldham's Lane.
- **Spare capacity:** Taking account of expressed, displaced, unmet and latent demand, there is a districtwide deficit of 1.8 artificial grass pitches for hockey. When offset against existing spare capacity equivalent to 0.74 pitches, this leave a net figure of 1.06 pitches.
- **Future pitch needs:** An extra 24 teams will collectively require 72 hours of peak time access per week, which is equivalent to 2.88 additional pitches

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet future demand?

5.53 The situation at community accessible pitches is as follows:

Figure 231: Additional hockey pitch capacity needs in East Herts by 2033

Current peak capacity	Current secured peak spare capacity	Current peak needs	Extra peak needs by 2033	Total peak needs by 2033	Additional capacity needs
137 hours	-26.5 hours	163.5 hours	72 hours	235.5 hours	98.5 hours

Is there enough accessible and secured use to meet future demand?

5.54 There is insufficient accessible pitch time to meet future needs, with the shortfall of 98.5 hours equivalent to 3.04 of a pitch. Only 59 of the 137 hours of peak pitch time are at secured sites.

The options for securing additional accessible and secured pitch capacity

5.55 The options for securing hockey provision are as follows:

- **Protect:** Protecting the existing pitches through the Local Plan will be key to maintaining the current stock. Resolving the Hertford HC's usage agreement with Simon Balle School will be important to secure continued usage.

- **Provide:** There are several options for new provision:
 - **Bishop's Stortford:** There are two options for the provision of a new pitch in Bishop's Stortford, either at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site or more likely at Beldam's Lane.
 - **Hertford:** The provision of the new '3G' football turf pitch at Richard Hale School in Hertford should free up additional peak capacity at the Simon Balle School pitch for hockey usage, although the current 13 hours of football use is only slightly more than the 10 hours of demand currently exported by Hertford HC. Efforts should therefore be made to identify a location for a second pitch in the vicinity.
- **Enhance:** The operators of all pitches should be encouraged to make financial provision for the replacement of the current carpet, to ensure that there is no threat to its replacement once the surface is worn out.

Policy recommendations

5.56 The recommendations in relation to hockey are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 74, which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to requirements, or;
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality, in a suitable location, or;
- The development is for alternative sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

5.57 The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide'.

5.58 Protect:

- **Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision:** The East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for hockey in the district. The Strategy has identified a need for all current hockey pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Herts both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

- **Recommendation 2 - Community access to education facilities:** There are three hockey pitches on school sites with very limited or no community access. These represent an opportunity to develop community usage, given the waiting lists being operated by several clubs at present.
 - Efforts are made to secure community use agreements at existing education pitches, in particular Haileybury College, where additional artificial grass pitch capacity may be created if current football use moves to the proposed '3G' football turf pitches at the site.
 - Community use agreements become a standard condition of planning consent at all new education pitches, along with a design and specification that is consistent with maximising school and community use.

5.59 Enhance:

- **Recommendation 3 - Pitch resurfacing:** All the hockey pitches in East Herts are currently rated as 'good' or 'standard' based in surface quality. However, the pitch carpets need periodic replacement to maintain quality, so it is recommended that all pitch providers make appropriate financial provision to enable resurfacing to be carried out when needed.

5.60 Provide:

- **Recommendation 4 - New hockey facilities provision:** New hockey facilities provision will be needed to meet some of the needs of the increased population of East Herts. In particular
 - The provision of a new pitch at Herts and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford.
 - The provision of a second pitch in Hertford.
- **Recommendation 5 - Developer contributions (new provision):** Most of the additional demand for hockey arising from the proposed housing development in East Herts, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Herts Playing Pitch Strategy be used as the basis for determining which proposed new facilities demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, using Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator tool, to cover their capital and revenue cost implications. To facilitate this, playing pitches should be listed as 'relevant infrastructure', under CIL Regulation 123 unless the Council considers it unlikely that CIL receipts would extend to delivering playing pitch projects, in which case they should be excluded and secured through planning obligations, having regard to the pooling restrictions.

Action plan

5.61 In the context of the recommendations above, the tables below set out the hockey action plan by sub area to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for EHC - East Herts Council and EH - England Hockey. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2016' (2016).

Figure 232: Hockey action plan in East Herts

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Bishop's Stortford HC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of pitch capacity. • Co-located clubhouse needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue proposals for an artificial turf pitch at Herts and Essex High School. • Explore potential for providing a clubhouse at the new pitch. 	Herts and Essex High School	Bishop's Stortford HC EHC EH	£760,000 for the pitch £500,000 for the clubhouse	High
Hertford HC	Shortage of pitch capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study to identify a site for an artificial turf pitch. • Provide an artificial turf pitch. 	Hertford HC	EHC EH	£10,000 for feasibility study £760,000 for the pitch	High
Bishop's Stortford North	3,250 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at BSHC	EHC	Developers BSHC	TBC	High
Bishop's Stortford South	900 new homes to be built by 2033.	Secure developer contributions for extra capacity at BSHC	EHC	Developers BSHC	TBC	High
East of Stevenage development	600 new homes to be built east of Stevenage.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Stevenage HC.	EHC	Developers Stevenage HC	TBC	Medium
Ware North development	1,000 - 1,500 new homes to be built north of Ware.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance capacity at Hertford HC.	EHC	Developers Hertford HC	TBC	High

Site	Issues	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Gilston Garden Town	3,050 new homes to be built in Gilston by 2033	Meet needs by securing developer contributions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pitch at the proposed leisure centre/ secondary school. • Re-instating the hockey pitch at the former Passmores School site in Harlow. 	EHC	Developers Harlow HC Harlow Council	TBC	High
East of Welwyn Garden City development	1,350 new homes to be built east of Welwyn Garden City.	Meet needs by securing developer contributions to enhance pitch capacity at Welwyn HC	EHC	Developers Welwyn HC	TBC	Medium
Haileybury College	Potential to access additional pitch capacity.	Investigate access to pitch at Haileybury College	Hertford HC	-	TBC	Medium

SECTION 6: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Securing additional pitch provision through development

- 6.1 A key output from the Playing Pitch Strategy is securing pitch provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master planning and planning obligations and securing developers contributions to off-site provision. These contributions can be secured through s106, or in the future may be via CIL.
- 6.2 EHC will be seeking contributions via section 106, but it will be necessary to meet the three tests set out in CIL reg. 122 and NPPF para 204:
- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.
 - Directly related to the development
 - Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development
- 6.3 It will therefore be important to ensure that any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using the Playing Pitch Strategy's evidence base (and/or other robust up-to-date planning policy) to justify the needs arising from the development and how these are to be met. A proactive approach should be taken to the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching specific developments to identified projects). This could be through an approved site master-plan, Development Briefs in the Local Plan, a Planning Obligations SPD, or other policy approach, where these are appropriate to the proposed development.

Assessing whether contributions are justified

- 6.4 The steps include:
- Identifying the development's expected population.
 - Assessing the demand from the development, based on the additional population, for different pitch types. This may, where appropriate, include the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator, or other robust methods which help identify demand and identify costs.
 - Identifying if the demand can be met by existing pitches (where these have a sufficient capacity, are accessible, and acceptable quality).
 - If the demand cannot be met by existing pitches, then use the local evidence base and/or consult with relevant stakeholders the best approach to meeting these needs.

- Identifying the costs of the new or extended facility, or other quality improvements to increase an existing pitches' capacity.
 - Applying the costs proportionate to the development's population.
- 6.5 Although the population of a single development (e.g. on a small site or an individual stage of a larger site) may not in itself generate the needs for a full pitch, it will still generate additional demand which should be quantified and be met.
- 6.6 The Team Generation Rates identified in the individual sports sections above should be used as the basis for calculating the additional pitch needs arising from individual developments and these should be used in conjunction with Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, or other robust methods which help identify costs.

Policy for contributions

- 6.7 Planning policy should ensure that provision of justified pitches and related changing and parking facilities is delivered, either on-site, or off-site. The cost for maintenance should be sought for both on-site and off-site provision, unless it can reasonably be argued that normal operational income should cover this. Where appropriate, for example '3G' football turf pitches where the carpet will require periodic replacement, costs towards a sinking fund and for land purchase should also be sought.
- 6.8 Given the close inter-relationship with the neighbouring areas of Harlow, Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield, there will be instances where financial contributions should be made on a cross-boundary basis, where this is the most appropriate way of meeting respective needs. This might include developer contributions from within East Herts to fund rugby and hockey pitch provision in particular in adjacent districts, but also contributions from neighbouring areas to fund facilities in East Herts, especially a hockey pitch as part of the Gilston development, that will serve all of Harlow's needs.
- 6.9 Where a pitch or pitches are required on-site, this may include requiring delivery through a planning policy and a masterplan approach for the whole area. This can ensure that enough suitable land is planned from the outset, and provided at no cost. This is particularly important where there is a need for a large land-take associated with pitches.
- 6.10 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the pitch provision is required on-site, that this provision is co-ordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for pitches serving all the development or all its phases can be required.

- 6.11 The timing and delivery of the pitches and related changing and parking facilities should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring provision is in place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities, and the financial viability of the development.
- 6.12 Where there are separate developments in close proximity that taken together generate a need for a whole pitch, contributions need to be made towards new provision or improving, existing pitches. For new pitches, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that pitch and related changing and parking facilities are to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it. This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic site serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.
- 6.13 Where there is an assessed deficit in the provision of a pitch type and there is an existing pitch with appropriate community access that could potentially meet the demands generated by the development but it needs to be upgraded or extended, then contributions may be sought towards such improvements. Contributions need to meet the CIL tests, and should not exceed or cover what could reasonably be expected to be paid for by normal operational income. The operator (including a school or a club) will need to be supportive of this and comfortable with the timescales for payment of contributions. There should be flexibility in the allocation of such a contribution in case the improvement or provision at such a pitch becomes implemented through other funding sources ahead of the time the contribution is due to be paid. If appropriate, the wording of the planning obligation/contribution should allow for the monies to be paid to an appropriate alternative pitch (where this is still justified and CIL compliant).
- 6.14 Suitable land needs to be provided by developments:
- Where the investment need is for a new pitch and related changing and parking facilities to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all these costs. These include provision, maintenance and land costs.
 - Where the demand is for the majority (50% or more) of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on site, suitable land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the pitch.
 - Where the demand is for less than 50% of a pitch and related changing and parking facilities, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources).

- Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this is CIL compliant.

6.15 In all cases, there may be reasons for the Council to choose to be flexible in how it applies these policies (e.g. where the need is for part of a facility the Council may require all the land but not ask for a contribution to its provision or maintenance). So long as this fits into wider planned approach to ensure deliverability and is CIL compliant.

Identifying the appropriate provision for contributions

6.16 Contributions need to be CIL Reg 122 compliant.

6.17 The pitches and related changing and parking facilities need to be identified in the Action Plan of this strategy.

6.18 Where there is flexibility, and where pooling restrictions may be a consideration, larger developments may be better targeted for certain contributions than smaller developments, so as to better deliver identified community priorities.

6.19 To ensure that a contribution can be delivered, there needs to be a realistic timescale for delivering the residential development and the playing pitch project, and a reasonable chance that any shortfall in the funding of the facility can be found from other sources.

6.20 Consideration should be given to including a clause in a planning obligation agreement to provide for alternative CIL compliant pitches to cater for unforeseen circumstances, particularly where they might be some uncertainty in securing the delivery of the preferred facility.

Calculating contributions

6.21 The Team Generation Rates identified in the individual sports sections above should be used as the basis for calculating the extra demand and related additional pitch needs arising from individual developments. These have been applied through a worked example of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator in Appendix A, to illustrate how developer contributions might be assessed.

6.22 To calculate the scale of a developer's financial contribution for the provision of pitches and related facilities the following should be used:

- Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, where available, should be used to assess pitch and related facilities needs arising from specific developments.

- If the Calculator (which is currently in development) is not available, then Sport England's latest facility costs for pitches and related facilities should be used, in conjunction with the Team Generation Rates arising from specific developments.
- Where there are robust and up-to-date local pitch and related facility costs, then these may be used instead, particularly where the project is to enhance the existing facility provision.
- The cost of maintenance and sinking funds, where justified, should be calculated using Sport England or NGB costs advice notes; or where there is known robust local cost, this may be used in preference.
- When a land cost is justified, this cost will be based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use.
- In addition to the costs identified above there may be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs, landscaping, acoustic fencing etc).
- Maintenance and sinking costs can be sought and Sport England's 'Lifecycle Costs' (Sport England, 2017) information provide what percentage of the capital value should be used as a guide.
- If the application is based on the maintenance (and any replacement) that is to be funded by a development's site management company or similar, this should be in perpetuity.
- Where known, if the NGB given costs or known local maintenance costs are lower than Sport England's costs, then these figures will normally be used as an alternative.
- All costs should date related and inflation needs to be taken into account (e.g. if a facility is to be delivered in 3 years' time the planning condition must apply an appropriate inflation index, such as Spons Building Costs Indices).

Reviewing and monitoring the Playing Pitch Strategy

- 6.23 Sport England's PPS guidance includes a Stage E, which involves delivering the strategy and keeping it robust and up-to-date.
- 6.24 The success of a PPS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the PPS should be led by the local authority, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the project steering group. The PPS has a number of applications:
- ***Sports Development Planning:*** The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for pitch sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area including NGBs.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.
- **Planning Policy:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with paragraph 73 of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
 - The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with paragraph 74 of the NPPF.
- **Planning Applications:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or propose new pitch provision.
 - Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to pitch sports and are developed in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy.
 - Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
 - Local Planning Authorities and others assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposing new playing pitch provision in line with national (e.g. NPPF paragraph 74) and local planning policy.
 - Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.
- The PPS can also be applied to help Local Planning Authorities, planning policies, applications and decisions meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs (NPPF paragraph 17 - Core Planning Principles).
 - Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs (NPPF paragraph 70).
 - Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework (NPPF paragraph 157).
 - Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being (NPPF paragraph 171).
- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Advocate the need for playing pitch provision to be taken into account when a local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to the CIL (Charging Schedule and Infrastructure Delivery Plan) and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
 - Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for playing pitch provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).
- **Funding Bids:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
 - Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.
- **Facility and Asset Management:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of pitches.
 - Inform the current management, strategies and plans of pitch providers e.g. Local Authorities (within the study area and neighbouring areas), Leisure Trusts and educational establishments.
 - Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.

- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.
- **Public Health:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Understand how the community currently participates in pitch sports, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
 - Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
 - Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
 - Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.
- **Co-ordinating Resources and Investment:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
 - Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
 - Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.
- **Capital Programmes:** The PPS can be applied to help:
 - Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
 - Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

6.25 **Monitoring delivery:** A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. As presented in Step 10 this should form an ongoing role of the steering group.

Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

- 6.26 Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.
- 6.27 Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 6.28 The annual review should highlight:
- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
 - How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
 - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
 - Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
 - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Strategy implementation

- 6.29 To support the delivery of the actions in all the sport-specific chapters, East Herts Council in consultation with stakeholders should prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the PPS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the PPS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.

APPENDIX A: WORKED EXAMPLE OF SPORT ENGLAND'S PLAYING PITCH CALCULATOR FOR EAST HERTS

The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator uses information from the East Herts playing pitch strategy assessment work to help estimate the demand for pitches that may be generated from a new population.

The calculator is based on a template provided by Sport England and can be used in two ways:

1) To estimate the demand from population growth within a given area so it can be fed into the development of a playing pitch strategy (e.g. to help assess how the demand from future population growth can be met to aid scenario testing and development of the strategy recommendations and action plan).

2) To estimate the demand from proposed developments after a playing pitch strategy has been completed (e.g. to aid assessment and discussion at the pre-application and planning application stages for proposed residential developments).

In line with Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance the calculator estimates demand in match equivalent sessions.

The user should look at the results alongside the playing pitch strategy assessment work, and relevant strategy recommendations and actions, to determine the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated demand.

It may be decided that the estimated demand should be met by the creation of new playing pitches on new sites. If this is the case then the calculator also provides an estimation of the number of pitches this may require along with associated indicative costs.

PART 1: First of all the calculator needs to know the following:

1. The name of your local authority	Answer =	East Herts	(Select from list of local authorities in the box)
2. The total population of your local authority	Answer =	145,872	
3. The new population you want to estimate the demand for (e.g. the additional population in an area or from a single development)	Answer =	33,686	

PART 2: Now the calculator needs some data from your PPS work

[Go to 'PPS Data' sheet](#)

PART 3: Using the data from Parts 1&2, the calculator suggests that within

East
Herts

33,686

people will
generate a
demand for:

Adult football of

17.33

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Youth football of

22.05

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Mini soccer of

19.84

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Rugby Union of

8.01

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Rugby League of

0.00

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Hockey of

5.60

match equivalent sessions a week during the peak period

Cricket of

245.12

match equivalent sessions a year

PART 4: You should now use your PPS work to determine the most appropriate way of meeting the demand.

To do so you should look at the location of the new population entered in Part 1 (e.g. the location of the development site) alongside the results of your PPS assessment work. This will enable you to understand the nature of the current playing pitch sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population and the issues in the area. This may lead to suggestions of one or more ways of meeting the estimated demand, such as:

- enhancing existing pitches to increase their capacity and ensure adequate maintenance to maintain the higher level of use
- securing greater community access to currently restricted provision and undertaking necessary works to allow such use to occur (e.g. enhanced changing provision)
- providing new playing pitches on new sites (natural or artificial grass pitches).

If may be decided that the demand should be met by the creation of new natural turf playing pitches on new sites for all sports, except hockey for which artificial grass pitches should be provided. If this is the case then Part 5 of the calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions presented in Part 3. Part 5 also presents an estimate of the associated costs for providing these new pitches. Please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs of any new pitches.

When deciding upon the most appropriate way of meeting the demand regard should be had to the Government's regulations and guidance regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the use planning obligations (e.g. the three tests and pooling restrictions). [Link here to CIL section of the Government's Planning Practice Guidance.](#)

PART 5: If the demand presented in Part 3 is to be met by new playing pitches on new sites then the calculator suggests its equates to a need for:

A total of	74.04	pitches at a capital cost of	£7,240,223	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£1,237,522
------------	-------	------------------------------	------------	--	------------

Breaking down the above total figures across the different sports suggest a need for:

Adult Football of	17.33	pitches at a capital cost of	£1,561,620	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£310,779
Youth Football of	22.05	pitches at a capital cost of	£1,636,137	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£324,140
Mini Soccer of	19.84	pitches at a capital cost of	£420,674	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£83,341
Rugby Union of	8.01	pitches at a capital cost of	£976,990	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£197,241
Rugby League of	0.00	pitches at a capital cost of	£0	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£0
Hockey of	1.40	pitches at a capital cost of	£1,128,547	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£33,005
Cricket of	5.40	pitches at a capital cost of	£1,516,615	and a total life cycle cost (per annum) of	£289,015

Source of costs:

Capital Cost - Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2016
Lifecycle Costs - Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012