



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## FULL ASSESSMENT REPORT JULY 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England & Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB(s)	National Governing Body (of sport)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFC	Rugby Football Club
U	Under

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

### 1.1: Introduction

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned by the Surrey Heath Borough Council to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Surrey Heath. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision across the local authority area.

The PPS is delivered in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance, which details five stages of development:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing once the work has been approved.

### 1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

#### *Why the Strategy is being developed*

The PPS will replace the existing study, which was adopted in 2016 and is therefore at the end of its lifespan.

The aim of the new PPS is to help to deliver the health and quality of life aims within the Council's Five Year Strategy by underpinning a portfolio of work that will help to make Surrey Heath an even better place to live and where residents can live active and healthy lifestyles. It is intended that the study will provide sufficiently robust evidence to inform the following:

- ◀ The 'Regulation 19' and 'Submission' versions of the emerging Local Plan.
- ◀ An updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- ◀ The justification of the collection of developer contributions to open space, sports and recreation provision.
- ◀ The spending of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts.
- ◀ Other sport and open space strategies pursued by the Council.

A primary purpose of producing the PPS is to provide the Council with a strategy to fulfil effectively the Sport England objectives relating to promoting, protecting, enhancing and providing sports facilities as appropriate and as set out in Sport England's Planning for Sport Guidance. It will achieve this by:

- ◀ Accurately auditing the supply of pitches and ancillary facilities, and the demand for pitches, within Surrey Heath (from which deficiencies and surpluses in provision can be measured).
- ◀ Assessing whether the current supply (in terms of the quantity, quality, and accessibility of the provision) in Surrey Heath is adequate to meet both current and future demand.
- ◀ Developing a clear, succinct and deliverable strategy, in the form of a set of recommendations and an Action Plan which addresses deficiencies and surpluses in provision; taking into account that:
  - ◀ Most development coming forward in the borough is small-scale.

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- ◀ Land supply is relatively constrained and opportunities to provide new open space, sport and recreational facilities are extremely limited.
- ◀ Identifying possible thresholds above which developers should be required to provide on-site provision.
- ◀ Identifying whether there are ways of making more effective use of existing sports and recreation facilities to address any deficiencies.

In addition, the PPS will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout Surrey Heath. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), updated in 2021, is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. Paragraphs 101 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sports facilities.

### *Emerging Local Plan*

The Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan that will guide development in Surrey Heath up to 2038. The emerging local plan has recently been subject to the ‘Regulation 18’ consultation stage and the Council are currently preparing the ‘Regulation 19’ draft version of the plan. It is anticipated to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in April 2024 before adoption in February 2025.

The draft local plan includes policies on Green Space (IN6) and Indoor and Built Sports and Recreational facilities (IN7). Part of the evidence base that supports the emerging local plan includes the existing PPS, with Sport England commenting that a new study is required to ensure that evidence base is robust and based on up-to-date information.

A key strategic objective within the emerging Local Plan is to promote healthy, sustainable and cohesive local communities through good design and access to homes, employment, and community and recreational facilities. The Regulation 18 Plan also highlights the important role of sports and recreational facilities in maintaining people’s health and providing opportunities to participate in sport and exercise.

The Council’s current Local Plan sets out the Council’s current strategic approach to open space, sport and recreation. The overall strategy, which is established in Policies CP12, CP13, DM15 and DM16 of the CS&DMP DPD, is to ensure that the local community can be more active with improved access to leisure and recreation facilities and a network of green infrastructure by:

- ◀ Ensuring sufficient physical, social and community infrastructure is provided to support the level of development set out.
- ◀ Planning for a network of accessible and integrated green infrastructure
- ◀ Resisting the loss of green spaces and existing formal recreational facilities.
- ◀ Encouraging the provision of new opportunities for formal and informal recreation.

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## **Management arrangements**

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the study from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue to meet once the study has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the work.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study.
- ◀ Ensure that the study is kept up to date.

## **Scope**

The scope of the PPS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the study are as follows:

- ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Hockey (sand/water based pitches)

In addition, other grass pitch sports are also ordinarily included within a PPS where supply and/or demand has been identified; however, no such activity has been evidenced in Surrey Heath. For example, rugby league is normally covered as standard, but it has not been included within this study as no supply or demand has been found. That being said, where no activity has been identified for a particular grass pitch sport, that is not to say that it is not played informally or that it has not been played historically.

## **Study area**

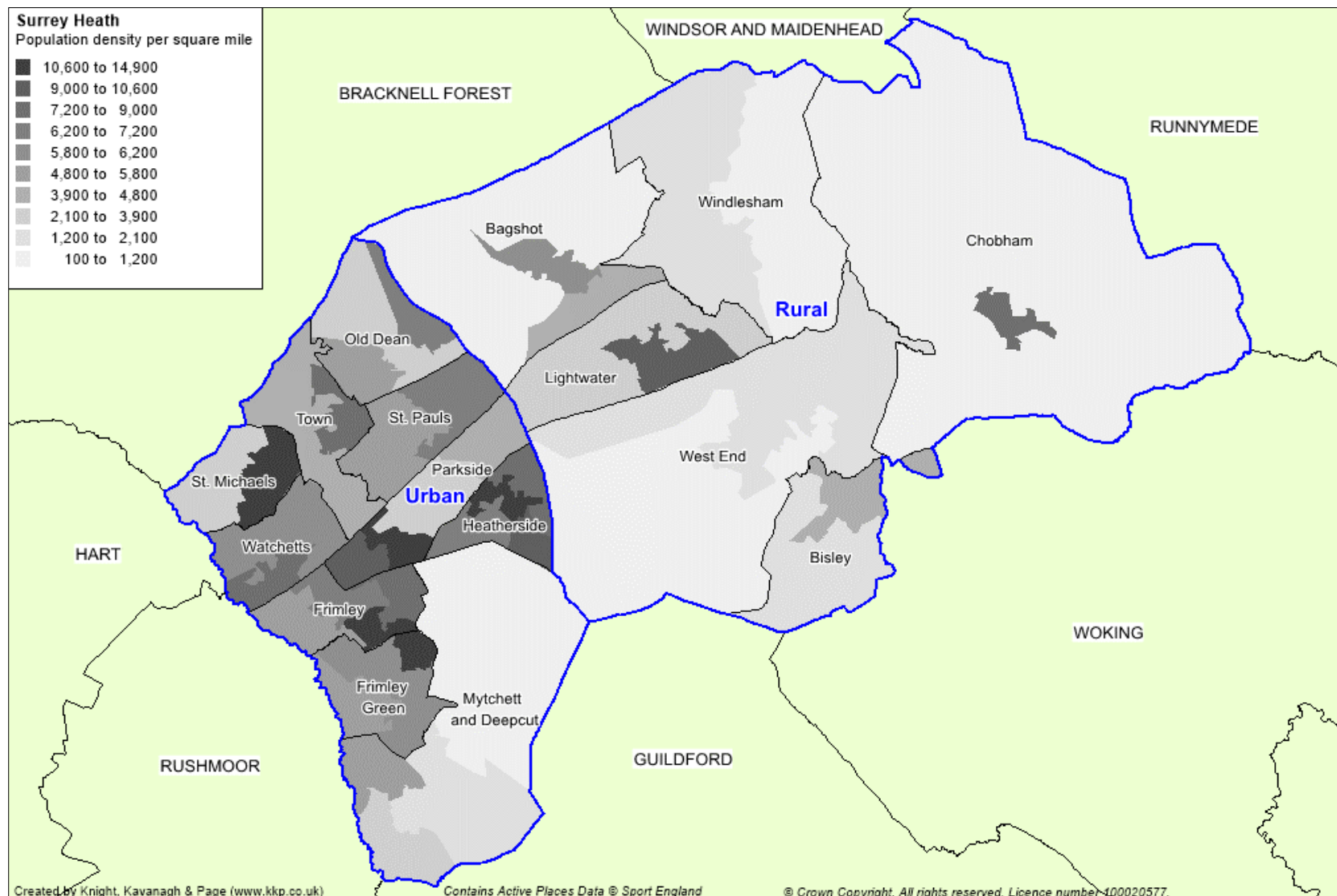
The study area is the entire local authority area, with analysis areas (or sub areas) also used to allow for a more localised analysis in addition to the analysis for Surrey Heath as a whole. For this purpose, the Borough has been split into two distinct areas (Urban and Rural) based on grouping together ward boundaries. The breakdown can be seen in the table below and the figure overleaf.

*Table 1.1 Analysis area breakdown*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>Wards</b>
Rural	Bisley, West End, Lightwater, Bagshot, Windlesham, Chobham
Urban	Old Dean, St Pauls, Parkside, Heatherside, Mytchett & Deepcut, Frimley Green, Frimley, Watchetts, St Michaels, Town

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Figure 1.1 Map of Surrey Heath and its analysis areas



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In addition, cross-boundary aspects are also recognised in regard to neighbouring local authorities including Bracknell Forest, Windsor & Maidenhead, Runnymede, Woking, Guilford, Rushmoor and Hart. This will include reference to imported and exported demand into and from Surrey Heath as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

### 1.3: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision (Stage B)

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches in Surrey Heath is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This has been achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

#### ***Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision***

##### *Quantity*

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order'.

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, the PPS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

Where known, all playing pitch facilities are included within the PPS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.

For each site, the following details are recorded in the project database:

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Community availability
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of provision
- ◀ Usage levels

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches within Surrey Heath; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g., affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.



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### *Accessibility*

Not all playing pitch facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use. As such, each site included in the PPS is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as lapsed sites.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the assessment but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use is put against each site.

### *Quality*

The capacity of provision to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances, it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

The quality of all provision identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed as part of a PPS, regardless of ownership, management and availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each pitch/facility. These ratings are then used to help estimate the capacity (aligned to NGB guidance) to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the PPS refers to playing facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites may have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces and that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, females and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking. The age of the facilities can also have a significant bearing on the overall quality rating.

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Standard quality refers to playing provision that has, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and the provision of toilets, although some level of improvement/modernisation may be required.

Poor quality refers to playing provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage, whilst for ancillary facilities it may relate to changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. They are often unsuitable for mixed gender use.

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter (i.e., football, rugby union and hockey) are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer (i.e., cricket) have assessments carried out between July and August.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality as well as the Council and relevant NGBs. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an “agreed quality rating”).

### ***Gather demand information and views***

#### *Current demand*

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in Surrey Heath tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play
- ◀ Unofficial use

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified).

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitches (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

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A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues from each sport (as identified by the Council and the relevant NGBs), thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and further interrogation of key issues. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including leisure providers and charities as well as schools and further/higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools and colleges, with an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

### *Future demand*

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. Using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for the relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication as to how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group). This ratio can then be applied to predicted population and housing growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPS cover the period up until 2038, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

### **1.4: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Stage C)**

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Surrey Heath and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

#### ***Understanding the situation at individual sites***

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

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As a guide, the relevant NGBs all have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and rugby union, per day for hockey and per season for cricket and is further detailed in the table below.

*Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

## ***Develop the current and future picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on a Borough-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity or whether there is a shortfall of capacity.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity), or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilising the existing stock, such as through quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can then also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as any unmet, latent and exported demand.

## ***Identify the key findings and issues***

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

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Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included playing pitch facilities. Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

### **1.5: Develop the strategy (Stage D)**

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◀ Headline findings
- ◀ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPS
- ◀ Sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations
- ◀ Strategic recommendations
- ◀ A site-by-site and area-by-area Action Plan
- ◀ Housing growth scenarios

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

Surrey County FA is the primary organisation overseeing the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Surrey Heath. It is responsible for growing participation, promoting diversity and regulating the sport for everyone to enjoy.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation, which is a charity, linked to the Premier League, the FA and the Government, that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to the table below for more detail relating to this.

*Table 2.1: Football grass pitch formats*

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U15s-U16s	91 x 55
	U13s-U14s	82 x 50
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

### **Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)**

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy, the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which has now been completed. As part of this, a LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (the FA, Premier League and Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)) and is delivered through the Football Foundation to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP builds upon PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small-sided football (including recreational and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to using football for behavioural change, plus groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

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The LFFP is a 'live' document that should be updated following the completion of a PPOSS as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment will be identified via LFFPs.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

The LFFP for Surrey Heath was produced in 2019 and identifies priority projects for investment. This should be refreshed following the PPOSS based on its findings and recommendations.

### Consultation

A total of 29 football clubs currently play in Surrey Heath, with 17 responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 59% and a team response rate of 90%. Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams.

Emphasis has been placed on larger clubs that are considered key by Surrey County FA. The responsive clubs therefore include:

- ◀ Bagshot FC
- ◀ Camberley Town FC
- ◀ Camberley Town Youth FC
- ◀ Mytchett Athletic FC
- ◀ Windlesham United FC
- ◀ Camberley Town Youth Girls FC
- ◀ Curley Park Rangers FC
- ◀ Frimley Green FC
- ◀ West End Village FC
- ◀ Windlesham United Youth FC

## 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 80 football pitches across 36 sites in Surrey Heath. Of these, 62 pitches are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 27 sites. The majority of unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

The Urban Analysis Area contains a significantly higher number of community available pitches than the Rural Analysis Area, with 44 pitches. The Rural Analysis Area provides 18.

Table 2.2: Summary of pitches available for community use

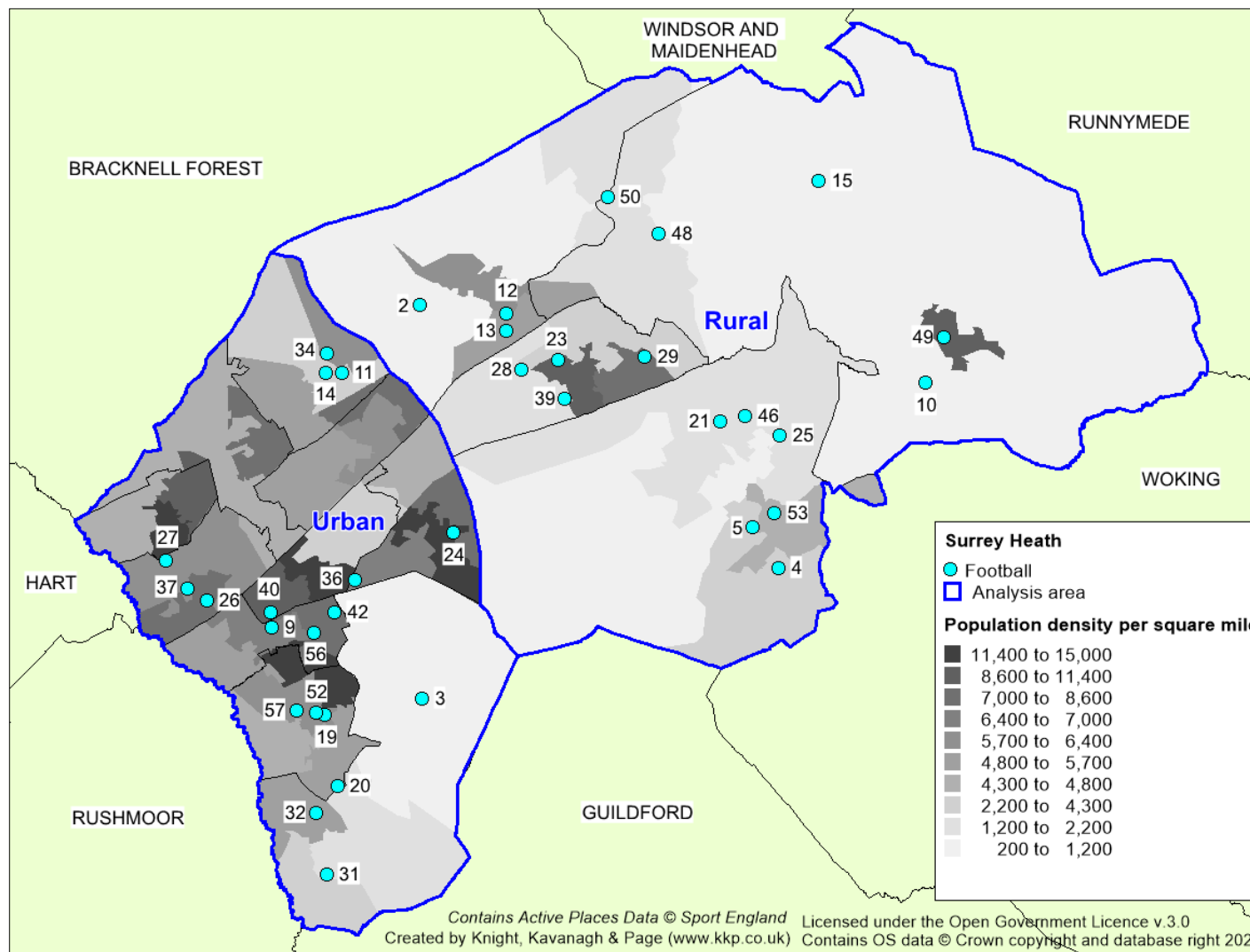
Analysis area	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Rural	3	5	3	4	3	18
Urban	5	11	8	7	13	44
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>62</b>

The number of pitches is relatively split across each pitch type, yet the largest number are identified as youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 (16 pitches respectively). The least common pitch type is adult (eight pitches).

Figure 2.1 identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing Surrey Heath.

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Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Surrey Heath





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### Disused provision

Overall, there are 15 disused football pitches across six sites in Surrey Heath. This breaks down as five adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches. Exact details surrounding each site are referenced in the table below.

Table 2.3: Disused sites/provision within Surrey Heath for football

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Comments
7	Chobham Cricket Club	GU24 8AA	Site previously accommodated one youth 9v9 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017.
30	London Road Recreation Ground	GU15 3JG	Site previously accommodated one youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, last provided in the 2021/2022 season.
31	Mytchett Community Centre	GU16 6AA	Site previously accommodated a second youth 11v11 pitch overmarked by a mini 7v7 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017. This is no longer marked out and the grass is overgrown.
33	Mytchett Recreation Ground	GU16 6JP	Site previously accommodated one mini 5v5 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017.
41	The Princess Royal Barracks	GU16 6RW	Site previously accommodated two adult pitches, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017.
55	Deepcut Community Football Club	GU16 6GH	Site previously accommodated one adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017.
53	Lion Park	GU24 9EF	Site previously accommodated two adult pitches, last provided <i>circa</i> 2017.

### Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Surrey Heath is generally secure. A site is thought to provide secure tenure if access via a long-term lease or if there is another form of guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years. Most local authority sites ensure community use is available for this time period as part of an ongoing leisure commitment and are therefore considered to provide security of tenure.

Linked to the above, two clubs lease their current home grounds from the Council, with these being Curley Park Rangers FC (at Connaught Pavilion) and Frimley Green FC (at Frimley Green Recreation Ground). This provides both with security of tenure, whilst Camberley Town FC also has secure tenure through freehold of Krooner Park.

Many of the remaining clubs rent their pitches from the Council, such as Windlesham United Youth FC at Windlesham Field of Remembrance and Mytchett Athletic FC at Bellew Road Ground. Similarly, others rent from a parish council, such as West End Village FC at West End Recreation Ground.

Conversely, tenure is insecure at many other venues, most notably at education sites where long-term access is not guaranteed unless a robust community use agreement is in place. This even applies to schools currently receiving relatively high levels of external access, such as Tomlinscote School. Schools that are not governed by the Council (e.g., academies) are able to make their own decisions regarding community use, which can a particular issue given the large number of pitches provided by some.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In order to attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure. As an example, this is a requirement for Football Foundation investment.

### **Pitch quality**

The quality of football pitches across Surrey Heath has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA), PitchPower reports (see below), and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in Surrey Heath. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 39 being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 21 community available pitches assessed as poor quality and two assessed as good.

*Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)*

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Adult	2	6	-
Youth 11v11	-	13	3
Youth 9v9	-	6	5
Mini 7v7	-	4	7
Mini 5v5	-	10	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>21</b>

The two good quality community available pitches are located at Frimley Green Football Club and Krooner Park. Frimley Green FC and Bagshot FC are also the only clubs to report an improvement in pitch quality across recent seasons, with both attributing this to more rigorous maintenance procedures. The former states that major maintenance renovations have taken place over the most recent summer.

In contrast, poor quality pitches (community available) are located at:

- ◀ Bellew Road Ground
- ◀ Collingwood College
- ◀ Old Dean Recreation Ground
- ◀ The Grove Primary Academy
- ◀ Tomlinscote School

Additionally, Bisley C of E Primary School, Chobham St Lawrence C of E Aided Primary School, Mytchett Primary School and South Camberley Primary School (Junior Campus) offer poor quality pitches, none of which are available for community use.

Although some Council/Parish council-owned pitches are assessed as poor quality, located at Bellew Road Ground and Old Dean Recreation Ground, most are assessed as standard quality when considering the maintenance regime undertaken. As such, the main reasons for pitches being assessed as poor quality relates more so to waterlogging issues, with unofficial use also exacerbating problems due to the open access nature of the provision.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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At Bellew Road Ground, Mytchett Athletic FC reports that several community activities such as fairs and Parkrun are hindering the quality of the provision and preventing remedial work being carried out.

In addition, three other clubs, Camberley Town Youth FC, Curley Park Rangers FC and West End Village FC, who's home grounds are located at Tomlinscote School, Connaught Pavilion and West End Recreation Ground, all report a deterioration in pitch quality over recent years. All of which is attributed to inadequate maintenance, exacerbated by a long period of drought over summer months.

### *Pitch improvement*

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance.

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

The Football Foundation and the FA have also recently developed a new Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Whilst local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund, clubs, leagues and/or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Funding is awarded over a ten-year period for up to 66% of the total cost required to bring the pitches up to an appropriate standard, following a site assessment. The level of funding then decreases year on year, with the expectation that the Club is able to take on the works independently by the end of the term. This fund was initially available until the end of March 2020, although it has since been extended indefinitely due to ongoing circumstances surrounding Covid-19.

### ***Over marked pitches***

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

In Surrey Heath, there is currently only one site with overmarked pitches. At Windlesham Field of Remembrance, two adult pitches are overmarked by two mini 7v7 pitches.

Where over marking is present, only the larger pitch size is included as part of the audit. This is to ensure that there is no double counting of supply and demand.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

As with pitch quality, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across Surrey Heath has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. To that end, ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing.

Overall, four sites in Surrey Heath are not serviced by ancillary provision, identified at:

- ◀ Bagshot Playing Fields
- ◀ Bellew Road Ground
- ◀ Connaught Pavilion

The following sites are identified as having poor quality ancillary facilities:

- ◀ Bisley Recreation Ground
- ◀ Lightwater Recreation Ground
- ◀ South Camberley Primary School
- ◀ Frimley Green Recreation Ground
- ◀ Old Dean Recreation Ground

All of the above-mentioned sites are serviced with poor quality changing rooms. For example, the changing room facilities at Old Dean Recreation Ground are poorly maintained and outdated.

Contrastingly, the following sites are identified as having good quality ancillary facilities:

- ◀ Connaught Pavilion
- ◀ Frimley Lodge Park
- ◀ Mytchett Community Centre
- ◀ West End Recreation Ground
- ◀ Frimley Green Football Club
- ◀ Lightwater Leisure Centre
- ◀ Tomlinscote School
- ◀ Windlesham Field of Remembrance

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition to site assessments, of the clubs that responded to consultation requests, 50% report they have access to adequate ancillary provision at their respective home venues, whilst 25% of clubs report poor quality ancillary facilities and the remaining 25% no access. This is a relatively high amount.

The clubs without access to ancillary provision are:

- ◀ Camberley Town Youth FC at Tomlinscote School
- ◀ Mytchett Athletic FC at Bellew Road Ground
- ◀ Curley Park Rangers FC at Bagshot Playing Field & Connaught Pavilion

Whilst there are ancillary facilities provided at Tomlinscote School, Camberley Town Youth FC reports not gaining access to such provision. The remaining clubs report having no ancillary provision at their home grounds.

In regards to car parking facilities, Connaught Pavilion and West End Recreation Ground are reported to have inadequate car parking facilities during peak times when several matches are scheduled at the same time. In addition, Bellew Road Ground is the only ground identified as not offering any parking facilities.

### **Football pyramid demand**

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men’s football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. These are then supported by regional feeder leagues, which were previously at Step 7 of the pyramid but are now not included.

The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements.

Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with ‘A’ being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs.

In Surrey Heath, Bagshot FC, Frimley Green FC and Camberley Town FC each operate within the football pyramid, with the latter two clubs playing in the Combined Counties Premier Division South (Step 5) and the former playing in the Combined Counties Division One (Step 6) level. This is summarised below.

*Table 2.5: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure*

Team	League	Level
Camberley Town FC	Combined Counties Premier Division South	Step 5
Frimley Green FC		
Bagshot FC	Combined Counties Division One	Step 6

The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31<sup>st</sup> of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 6 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## **Women’s National League System**

Correspondingly there is a Women’s National League System similar to the adult men’s which provide structure to the women’s game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Although women’s clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men’s National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women’s National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four of the men’s National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

No clubs in Surrey Heath play within the Women’s National League System.

## **2.3: Demand**

Through the audit and assessment, a total of 215 teams across 29 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Surrey Heath, as of data recorded from the 2022/23 season. This consists of 41 senior men’s, one senior women’s, 86 youth boys’, 11 youth girls’ and 76 mini soccer teams (including any designated girls only mini teams).

*Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Surrey Heath*

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total	2016 PPS Study
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5		
Rural	6	20	17	17	17	77	55
Urban	36	38	22	21	21	138	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>171</b>

As seen in the table above, the Urban Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 138, whilst the Rural Analysis Area has the fewest with 77. There are more youth 11v11 teams (58) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 teams (38 respectively) being the least represented.

## **Women’s and girls’ demand**

The FA’s current four-year strategy, ‘Time for Change’ has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities. As intimated above, there are currently 12 dedicated female teams playing within Surrey Heath, representing 6% of the total number of teams, which is a comparatively high number.

To assist with growing female demand, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres receive a £900 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl’s participation.

There is currently one Wildcats centre in Surrey Heath, hosted by Mytchett Athletic FC.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## **Participation trends**

Since the previous PPS Study produced in 2016, the total number of teams in Surrey Heath has increased from 171 teams to 215 teams in 2023. This is broken down as an overall increase of 20%, consisting of two additional adult teams, one additional youth 11v11 team, 11 additional youth 9v9 teams and 15 additional mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 teams respectively.

Of the responding clubs, 14% report an increase in the number of adult teams over the previous three years, with 43% reporting a decrease. This suggests that there has been an overall decline in adult participation, especially when considering that the figures do not account for the number of adult-only clubs that have folded over this time period.

For clubs providing youth football teams, 50% of clubs have seen an increase in team numbers, whilst 33% have experienced a decrease, whilst 80% state that mini demand has increased, with none reporting a decrease. This suggests an overall growth of youth and particularly mini football.

## **Imported/exported demand**

There is a high level of exported demand identified from Surrey Heath-based football clubs. In total, 22 teams currently travel outside of the Borough to fulfil match demand, with this consisting of five adult teams, four youth 11v11 teams, five mini 7v7 teams and eight mini 5v5 teams.

The largest proportion of exported demand comes from Mytchett Athletic FC, fielding 15 teams outside of the Borough. The Club reports that it exports such a high degree of demand due to a lack of good quality pitches available to the Club within Surrey Heath. All exported demand is summarised in the following table.

*Table 2.7: Summary of exported match play demand playing in other local authorities*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Exported demand (teams)</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Local authority</b>
A.S. Camboli FC	1 x adult	Eversley Sports Association	Hart
Curley Park Rangers FC	2 x youth 11v11	The Army Ground	Rushmoor
Deepcut Community FC	1 x adult	The Army Ground	Rushmoor
Mytchett Athletic FC	1 x youth 11v11	Ash Vale	Guildford
	8 x mini 5v5	Holly Lodge Primary School	Guildford
	5 x mini 7v7		
	1 x youth 11v11	King George V Playing Fields	Rushmoor
Pavil Rovers FC	1 x adult	Hale Recreation Road	Waverley
Someone's House FC	1 x adult	King George V Playing Fields	Rushmoor
Windlesham United FC	1 x adult	Virginia Waters Football Club	Runnymede

No imported demand has been identified.

## **Latent/unmet demand**

Of responding clubs, four indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches. An example of this is Mytchett Athletic FC, which states that an additional six training slots could be filled if it had access to an adequate number of facilities.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The full list of responsive clubs which signify latent demand are:

- ◀ Bagshot FC
- ◀ Curley Park Rangers FC
- ◀ Frimley Green FC
- ◀ Mytchett Athletic FC

### **Future demand**

Future demand can be defined via two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing developments within Surrey Heath.

### *Population growth*

Data collated from the Surrey Heath Housing Needs Assessment 2020 has been used to project the additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is via using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

In Surrey Heath, the total current population in 2023 of 89,204, is projected to increase to 101,405 by 2038. The table below shows the number of new teams that may be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions this will create.

*Table 2.8: Borough-wide team generation rates*

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent session <sup>1</sup>
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:365	5.62	6	3
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:14508	0.14	0	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:46	7.14	7	3.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:378	0.82	1	0.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:36	4.67	5	2.5
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:250	0.68	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:57	5.21	5	2.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:59	5.07	5	2.5

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of six adult, eight youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 teams.

Notwithstanding the above, team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, there is current a focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally (as part of the FA's Grow the Game initiative) which is likely to lead to more female teams in the future and therefore further increased pitch demand. Such targeted work is not captured through population projections.

<sup>1</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Participation increases

From respondents, four clubs report aspirations to increase the amount of teams that they provide and quantify this potential growth. This equates to a predicted growth of 36 teams, which is substantial from this number of clubs. These 36 teams are broken down, four adult men's, two adult women's, ten youth 11v11 boys', three youth 11v11 girls', five youth 9v9 boys', three youth 9v9 girls', three mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 teams.

Table 2.9: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand (teams)	Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions <sup>2</sup>
Bagshot FC	Urban	1 x youth 11v11 boys'	Youth	0.5
		1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
Camberley Town Youth FC	Urban	3 x mini 5v5	Mini	1.5
		1 x mini 7v7	Mini	0.5
		2 x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth	1
		1 x youth 9v9 boys'	Youth	0.5
		2 x youth 11v11 girls'	Youth	1
		1 x youth 11v11 boys'	Youth	0.5
		1 x adult women's	Adult	0.5
Mytchett Athletic FC	Urban	3 x mini 5v5	Mini	1.5
		2 x mini 7v7	Mini	1
		4 x youth 9v9 boys'	Youth	2
		1 x youth 9v9 girls'	Youth	0.5
		8 x youth 11v11 boys'	Youth	4
		1 x youth 11v11 girls'	Youth	0.5
		2 x adult men's	Adult	1
		1 x adult women's	Adult	0.5
West End Village FC	Rural	1 x adult men's	Adult	0.5
<b>Total</b>				<b>18</b>

The total future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 18 match equivalent sessions per week, the majority of which is identified in the Urban Analysis Area (17.5 match equivalent sessions). By pitch type, it is highest for youth 11v11 football (6.5 match equivalent sessions) and lowest for mini 7v7 football (1.5 match equivalent sessions).

Table 2.10: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Rural	0.5	-	-	-	-	<b>0.5</b>
Urban	2.5	6.5	4	1.5	3	<b>17.5</b>
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>

The Strategy Report will contain a scenario that will consider the impact on the existing pitch stock if this demand is realised, in addition to considering other factors and initiatives. At this stage, the future demand identified is only considered aspirational so therefore is not considered any further as part of this report.

<sup>2</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis. Therefore 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its current quality. Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity, the following ratings were used in Surrey Heath:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.13 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### ***Match equivalent sessions***

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

### ***Education sites***

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For school sites which are available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

### **Informal use**

A number of football pitches in the Borough, such as Bisley Recreation Ground and Frimley Green Recreation Ground are on open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of, for example, dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime and reduced capacity.

### **Peak time**

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time, which can differ for each pitch type depending on when leagues operate for each format of play. In Surrey Heath, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for adult, whilst all other pitch type's is Saturday AM. The breakdown of peak time by playing format can be seen in the table below.

*Table 2.11: Summary of peak time for playing formats*

<b>Playing format</b>	<b>Peak time</b>
Adult	Sunday AM
Youth 11v11	Saturday AM
Youth 9v9	Saturday AM
Mini 7v7	Saturday AM
Mini 5v5	Saturday AM

On occasion, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than the overall spare capacity that exists. This is because most or all of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period. Where this is the case, given that peak time usage should not be utilised over and above overall capacity, adjustments have been made.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The table below identifies the way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.13.

*Table 2.12: Spare capacity examples*

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable in the peak period. If it was to be made available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

**SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analyse

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
2	Bagshot Playing Fields	GU19 5ET	Rural	Community Organisation	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
3	Bellew Road Ground	GU16 6QJ	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
4	Bisley C of E Primary School	GU24 9DF	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes-unused	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	GU24 9EN	Rural	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
						Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	GU16 8PD	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes-unused	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
10	Chobham St Lawrence C of E Aided Primary School	GU24 8AB	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
11	Collingwood College	GU15 4AE	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	-	Overplayed.
12	Connaught Junior School	GU19 5JY	Rural	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	2	8	6	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
13	Connaught Pavilion	GU19 5QE	Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	2	12	8	4	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
14	Cordwalles Junior School	GU15 4DR	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
15	Coworth Flexlands School	GU24 8TE	Rural	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	GU16 9FF	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	3	8.5	6	2.5	-	Overplayed.
20	Frimley Lodge Park	GU16 6HY	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	3	2.5	6	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
						Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
21	Gordons School	GU24 9PT	Rural	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
23	Hammond Junior School	GU18 5TS	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
24	Heatherside Recreation Ground	GU15 1RE	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
						Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.

**SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Management	Type of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	Available for community use?	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)	Comments
25	Holy Trinity C of E Primary School	GU24 9JQ	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
26	Kings International College	GU15 2PQ	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	2	2.5	8	5.5	2	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						Adult		Yes	Standard	1	5	2	3	-	Overplayed.
27	Krooner Park	GU15 2QP	Urban	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	3	3	0	0	Played to capacity.
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	GU18 5RG	Rural	Commercial	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	5.5	2	3.5	-	Overplayed.
29	Lightwater Recreation Ground	GU18 5SX	Rural	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	2	0	No actual spare capacity in the peak period.
31	Mytchett Community Centre	GU16 6AA	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
32	Mytchett Primary School	GU16 6JB	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
34	Old Dean Recreation Ground	GU15 4BD	Urban	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	1	0	1	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
36	Ravenscote Junior School	GU16 9RE	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	8	8	32	24	8	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
37	South Camberley Primary School (Junior Campus)	GU15 2QB	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	4	8.5	8	0.5	-	Overplayed.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	4	6	8	2	4	Discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
39	The Briars Centre	GU18 5PF	Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	-	Overplayed.
40	The Grove Primary Academy	GU16 8PG	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	1	2	1	1	Discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.
42	Tomlinscote School	GU16 8PY	Urban	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Poor	2	3	2	1	-	Overplayed.
						Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Poor	1	6	1	5	-	Overplayed.
46	West End Recreation Ground (Woking)	GU24 9JP	Rural	Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity.
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	GU20 6DT	Rural	Private	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	Yes	Standard	1	6.5	2	4.5	-	Overplayed.
						Adult		Yes	Standard	1	5	2	3	-	Overplayed.
49	Wishmore Cross Academy	GU24 8NE	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
50	Woodcote House School	GU20 6PF	Rural	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Standard	1	1	4	3	1	Discounted due to unsecure tenure.
52	Frimley Green Football Club	GU16 6JX	Urban	Council	Secure	Adult		Yes	Good	1	0.5	3	2.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
56	Lakeside Primary School	GU16 8LL	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
57	Frimley Church of England School	GU16 6JX	Urban	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	No	Poor	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Surrey Heath. Actual spare capacity totals nine match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 12 pitches at eight sites.

Table 2.14: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
2	Bagshot Playing Fields	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	Rural	Youth (9v9)	1	1
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (9v9)	1	1
13	Connaught Pavilion	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	1
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	Youth (11v11)	3	1.5
			Adult	1	0.5
24	Heatherside Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (9v9)	1	1
			Adult	1	0.5
46	West End Recreation Ground (Woking)	Rural	Adult	1	1
52	Frimley Green Football Club	Urban	Adult	1	1
<b>Total</b>					<b>9</b>

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, actual spare capacity is split between adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, each offering spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions per week. Actual spare capacity is most prevalent in the Urban Analysis Area, amounting to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.15: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Rural	1	1.5	1	-	-	3.5
Urban	2	1.5	2	-	-	5.5
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>

## Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In Surrey Heath, 21 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 31 match equivalent sessions per week.

Eight of the 21 overplayed pitches in Surrey Heath, located at Collingwood College, South Camberley Primary School and Tomlinscote School, reflect a shortfall due to their poor quality, whilst the remaining 13 pitches are overplayed due to the degree of demand accommodated.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.16: Summary of overplay by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
11	Collingwood College	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
13	Connaught Pavilion	Rural	Mini (5v5)	2	4
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	3	2.5
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
24	Heatherside Recreation Ground	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	1
26	Kings International College	Urban	Adult	1	3
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	3.5
31	Mytchett Community Centre	Urban	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
37	South Camberley Primary School (Junior Campus)	Urban	Mini (5v5)	4	0.5
39	The Briars Centre	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	0.5
42	Tomlinscote School	Urban	Youth (9v9)	2	1
			Youth (11v11)	1	5
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	Rural	Youth (11v11)	1	4.5
			Adult	1	3
				<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 11v11 pitches (19 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst there is an even split of overplay across both analysis areas (15.5 match equivalent sessions per week each).

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Rural	3	8.5	-	-	4	15.5
Urban	3	10.5	1.5	-	0.5	15.5
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>31</b>

## 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables overleaf identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is then also considered, based on future growth identified through population increases. Furthermore, future demand aspirations identified by clubs will be featured in the preceding strategy document to identify what impact this could have on supply if realised.

### Adult football

Overall, in Surrey Heath there is a current shortfall of three adult match equivalent sessions per week. When accounting for exported demand, the shortfall is exacerbated to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.



## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 2.18: Supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Rural	1	3	2	-	2
Urban	2	3	1	2.5	3.5
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>

When accounting for future demand through population growth, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week), leading to overall shortfall of 8.5 match equivalent session per week as seen below.

Table 2.19: Future supply and demand position for adult pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>5.5</b>	3	<b>8.5</b>

### Youth 11v11 football

The table below shows that for youth 11v11 pitches, there is currently a large shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions per week to accommodate demand. When accounting for exported demand, this shortfall is exacerbated to 18 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.20: Supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Rural	1	8.5	7.5	1	8.5
Urban	2	10.5	8.5	1	9.5
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>

When accounting for future demand, eight additional teams are expected to be generated (four match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of 22 match equivalent sessions per week across the Borough, as shown below.

Table 2.20: Future supply and demand position for youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>18</b>	4	<b>22</b>

### Youth 9v9 football

There is current spare capacity of youth 9v9 pitches equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, which remains at this level when considering exported demand.

Table 2.21: Supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Rural	1	-	1	-	1
Urban	2	1.5	0.5	-	0.5

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Surrey Heath	3	1.5	1.5	-	1.5

When accounting for future demand, six additional teams are expected to be generated (three match equivalent sessions per week), leading to a future shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week across the Borough, as shown below.

Table 2.22: Future supply and demand position for youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Surrey Heath	1.5	3	1.5

### Mini 7v7 football

As seen in the table below, mini 7v7 pitches are currently operating at capacity. However, when accounting for exported demand, an overall shortfall arises equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week albeit the Rural Analysis Area remains at capacity.

Table 2.23: Supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Rural	-	-	0	-	0
Urban	-	-	0	2.5	2.5
Surrey Heath	-	-	0	2.5	2.5

When accounting for future demand of five additional teams (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week), there is a future shortfall of five match equivalent sessions per week, as shown below.

Table 2.24: Future supply and demand position for mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Surrey Heath	2.5	2.5	5

### Mini 5v5 football

For mini 5v5 pitches, there is a current shortfall amounting to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When accounting for exported demand, this shortfall is exacerbated to 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.25: Supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Total
Rural	-	4	4	-	4
Urban	-	0.5	0.5	4	4.5
Surrey Heath	-	4.5	4.5	4	8.5

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

When accounting for future demand of five additional teams (2.5 match equivalent sessions per week), there is a future shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions per week, as shown below.

Table 2.26: Future supply and demand position for mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Surrey Heath	8.5	2.5	11

### 2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, the table below summarises the overall Surrey Heath supply and demand balance by pitch type.

Table 2.27: Summary of supply and demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Current total	Exported demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	3	6	3	2.5	3	8.5
Youth 11v11	3	19	16	2	4	22
Youth 9v9	3	1.5	1.5	0	3	1.5
Mini 7v7	-	-	0	2.5	2.5	5
Mini 5v5	-	4.5	4.5	4	2.5	11

Overall, it is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions. There is overall spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches, and the picture is evenly balanced for mini 7v7 provision.

After factoring in exported demand, shortfalls worsen on adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches, whilst shortfalls are created on mini 7v7 pitches. Mini youth 9v9 pitches no longer offer spare capacity and a future shortfall is evident.

Based on the above, with clear capacity shortfalls existing for most pitch types, there is clear deficit of supply to meet current and future football demand within Surrey Heath.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### **Football – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ In total, actual spare capacity equates to nine match equivalent sessions and is identified across 12 pitches at eight sites.
- ◀ There are 21 pitches across 12 sites overplayed by a combined total of 31 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions, meaning that there is clear deficit of supply to meet existing football demand within Surrey Heath.

### **Football – supply summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 80 football pitches across 36 sites in Surrey Heath.
- ◀ Of the pitches, 62 are available at some level for community use across 27 sites.
- ◀ There are 15 disused pitches across six sites, which broken down equates to five disused adult pitches, two youth 11v11 pitches, one youth 9v9 pitches, four mini 7v7 pitches and three mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ Tenure is generally secure, although this is not the case at most education sites, such as Tomlinscote School.
- ◀ Most pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 39 being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 21 community available pitches assessed as poor quality and two assessed as good.
- ◀ A total of five sites are identified as being serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, whilst three sites are without provision.
- ◀ Three clubs (Camberley Town, Frimley Green and Bagshot football clubs) play within the football pyramid and therefore need to be serviced by appropriate ground grading requirements.

### **Football – demand summary**

- ◀ A total of 215 teams across 29 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on football pitches within Surrey Heath.
- ◀ Broken down, the teams consist of 41 senior men's, one senior women's, 86 youth boys', 11 youth girls' and 76 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ Since the previous PPS Study produced in 2016, the total number of teams in Surrey Heath has increased from 171 teams to 215 teams in 2023.
- ◀ In total, 22 teams travel outside of the Borough to fulfil their match demand, consisting of five adult teams, four youth 11v11 teams, five mini 7v7 teams and eight mini 5v5 teams (exported demand).
- ◀ Four clubs indicate that they could field more teams if they had access to more pitches, which represents high levels of latent demand.
- ◀ Team generation rates project a growth of six adult, eight youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 teams by 2038; whereas four clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 36 teams.

### **PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)**

#### **3.1: Introduction**

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliancy for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

#### **3.2: Current provision**

The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g. a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.

There are three full size 3G pitches in Surrey Heath across the same number of sites. Each pitch is sports lit and available for community use.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.1: Full size 3G pitches in Surrey Heath

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
20	Frimley Lodge Park	GU16 6HY	Urban	Yes	Yes	105 x 70
21	Gordon's School	GU24 9PT	Rural	Yes	Yes	100 x 75
42	Tomlinscote School	GU16 8PY	Urban	Yes	Yes	105 x 70

Two pitches are located in the Urban analysis area, whilst the remaining pitch is located in the Rural Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of full size 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Full size pitches
Rural	1
Urban	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

As well as the full size pitches, there are also three smaller sized 3G pitches across the same number of sites in Surrey Heath. Of these, two are available for community use (the pitch at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is not), and all three are sports lit.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision

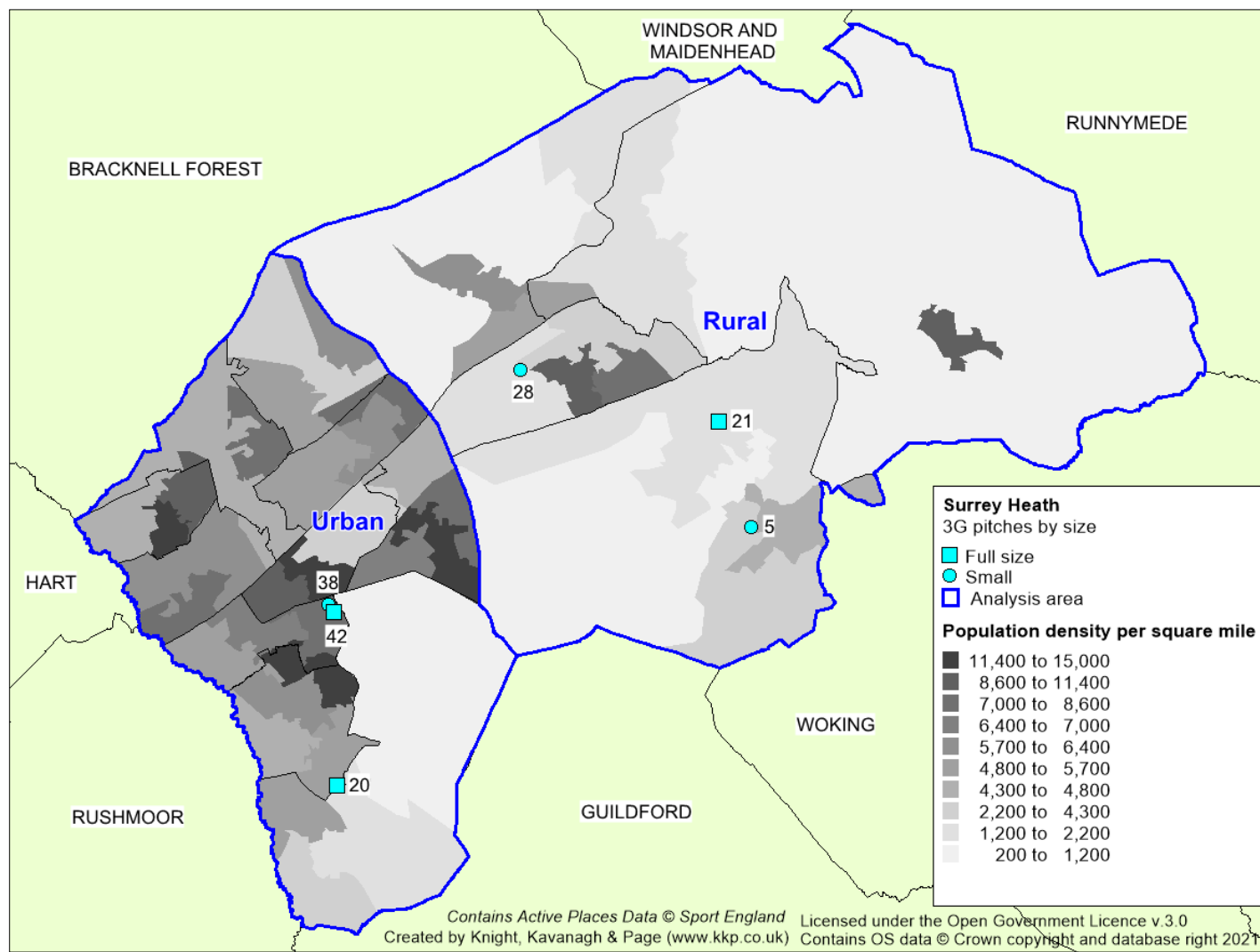
Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	GU24 9EN	Rural	Yes	Yes	36 x 18
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	GU18 5RG	Rural	Yes	Yes	37 x 26
38	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	GU16 8PY	Urban	No	Yes	43 x 32

Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

Figure 3.1 overleaf identifies the location of all 3G pitches in Surrey Heath, regardless of size.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Surrey Heath



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***FA pitch register***

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

In Surrey Heath, all three of the full size pitches are FA/FIFA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case.

The smaller size pitch located at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is also FA approved. It is large enough to accommodate mini 5v5 matches but not big enough to cater for any other playing format.

### ***World Rugby compliant pitches***

To enable 3G pitches to accommodate competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces can replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

An indoor 3G pitch is provided at Penny Hill Park, the RFU's National Sports Centre; yet this facility offers no community use.

In Surrey Heath, none of the outdoor 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant.

### ***Management/Ownership***

For full size provision, the two full size pitches at Gordon's School and at Tomlinscote School are owned by education providers, whilst the remaining full size pitch at Frimley Lodge Park is owned by the Council.

At Bisley Recreation Ground, Lightwater Leisure Centre and St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, the smaller size pitches are owned by the Council, a commercial organisation and an education provider, respectively.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Availability

The availability of the full size 3G pitches across Surrey Heath is good, with Frimley Lodge available throughout each day and Gordon's School and Tomlinscote School available outside of times required for curricular and extra-curricular usage.

The availability at each venue providing a full size pitch is summarised in the table below.

*Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability*

Site ID	Site	Availability
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Available to the community from 08:00 to 22:00 during the week, from 08:00 to 22:00 on Saturdays and from 08:00 to 20:00 on Sundays.
21	Gordon's School	Available to the community from 17:30 to 22:00 during the week and from 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends.
42	Tomlinscote School	Available to the community from 17:30 to 22:00 during the week and from 09:00 to 18:00 at weekends.

The picture is comparable for smaller size pitches. The provision at Bisley Recreation Ground and Lightwater Leisure is available throughout each day, whereas the pitch at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School offers no community use.

## Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The full size pitches at Gordon's School and Tomlinscote School are assessed as good quality, with both installed fairly recently in 2020.

The full size pitch at Frimley Lodge Park is assessed as standard quality, with no major issues identified. However, it is approaching its recommended lifespan of ten years and there imminent resurfacing is recommended to ensure that its condition does not deteriorate.

*Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ last resurfaced	Quality
20	Frimley Lodge Park	2014	Standard
21	Gordon's School	2022	Good
42	Tomlinscote School	2020	Good

The smaller size pitch at Lightwater Leisure Centre has exceeded its recommended lifespan and is assessed as poor quality. In addition, the pitch at Bisley Recreation Ground is also assessed as poor quality due to several rips being present in the surface. This is despite it being within its 10-year recommended lifespan.

The remaining smaller size pitch at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is assessed as good quality, having been installed in 2019.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.6: Age and quality of smaller sized 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ last resurfaced	Quality
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	1995 / 2016	Poor
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	2005 / 2012	Poor
38	St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	2019	Good

## Ancillary facilities

Ancillary provision servicing one of the full size pitches, located at Frimley Lodge Park, is deemed good quality, offering an all-encompassing facility. The full size pitch at Gordon's School is also serviced by good quality ancillary provision.

In contrast, the full size pitch at Tomlinscote School is considered to be serviced by inadequate ancillary provision, with no dedicated changing facilities provided. Instead, provision within the main school building is used, of which are deemed as good quality.

## 3.3: Demand

The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Surrey Heath is reported to offer a considerable amount of spare capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies to both mid-week training demand and weekend usage given that the community available stock is also FA approved to host competitive matches.

Currently, it is considered that all of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related. The large majority of capacity is being taken up by clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

Across the Country, there are also often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G provision, such as Soccersixes. This is also the case in Surrey Heath, with a league operating out of the pitch at Tomlinscote School on Monday nights. In addition, a Powerplay soccer league runs on Monday evening at Frimley Lodge Park.

The table below summarises usage levels of the full size 3G provision in Surrey Heath based on booking sheets supplied by the operators. This is compared against availability at peak time, using Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). This applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 3.7: Current usage of full size 3G pitches during peak time across Surrey Heath<sup>3</sup>

Site ID	Site name	Midweek availability (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend availability (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)
<b>Peak time</b>					
20	Frimley Lodge Park	18	18	16	11.5
21	Gordon's School	15.5	15.5	16	16
42	Tomlinscote School	18	18	12	10

<sup>3</sup> Availability is considered to exist if any booking slots are available, either for a whole pitch or part of a pitch (based on pitches being divided into thirds or quarters for training and recreational usage).

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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In regards to spare capacity within the peak period, the full size pitches at Frimley Lodge Park does not offer any hours of midweek spare capacity, as during the week it is used to capacity. However, 4.5 hours of peak time spare capacity at the weekend does exist on Sundays at 08:00-10:30, 12:30-13:00 and 14:30-17:00.

At Gordon's School, booking information could not be acquired despite multiple attempts, but the School reports that the 3G pitch has been operating at capacity for the last couple of seasons. Therefore, the pitch at Gordon's School is not deemed to offer any hours of midweek or weekend spare capacity during the peak period.

The full size pitch at Tomlinscote School does not offer any hours of midweek spare capacity during the peak period. However, two hours of weekend spare capacity in the peak period is available on Sundays between 09:00-10:00 and 14:00-15:00.

Booking sheets for the smaller sized pitches could not be acquired.

### ***Unmet/latent demand***

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In Surrey Heath, six clubs (124 teams) that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand. Some of these are training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based pitches or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.

A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is identified by Camberley RFC and Chobham RFC, both of which, identify that access to a 3G pitch would alleviate overplay of their grass pitches. Whilst both clubs did not quantify such unmet demand; as both clubs report that all training demand could be transferred onto any potential new 3G provision, it would be expected that six and 6.5 match equivalent sessions would be transferred onto 3G provision from Chobham RFC and Camberley RFC respectively.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

Frimley Green FC travels to Alderwood Leisure Centre in Rushmoor to fulfil some of its training requirements, training on Thursday evenings from 20:00 to 21:00. It states that this is due to lack of suitable and available provision within Surrey Heath.

### ***Future demand***

As set out in Part 2 of this report, population growth projects an increase of 30 teams by 2038; when factoring in this growth in demand, and if all teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it may increase the number of 3G pitches required.

The impact of Club's aspirational future demand on the number of 3G pitches required will be captured in the proceeding Strategy document.

In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with none suitable for such activity), it is clear that future access could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 4 of this report.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 3.4: Supply and demand analysis

### **Football**

To quantify the 3G shortfall for football, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one full size 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). It also has an aspiration for all teams to train once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based pitches to ensure the sustainability of them.

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller size pitches are also incorporated as many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a full size pitch (0.5 pitches), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a full size pitch (0.25 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted, as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

The contribution each pitch in Surrey Heath makes towards the modelling is summarised in the table below. This then informs the proceeding modelling tables.

*Table 3.8: Contribution of 3G pitches in meeting training requirements*

Site name	Analysis area	Size (meters)	Comments	Full size pitch equivalents
<b>Full size pitches</b>				
Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	105 x 70	Full size pitch full available to the community.	1
Gordon's School	Rural	100 x 75	Full size pitch full available to the community.	1
Tomlinscote School	Urban	105 x 70	Full size pitch full available to the community.	1
<b>Smaller size pitches</b>				
Bisley Recreation Ground	Rural	36 x 18	Too small for meaningful use.	0
Lightwater Leisure Centre	Rural	37 x 27	Pitch large enough for mini football.	0.25
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School	Urban	43 x 32	No community availability.	-

Using the above, with current demand totalling 215 teams, it is feasible that at least six full size community available 3G pitches are required in Surrey Heath (rounded up from 5.66). This means that there is an existing shortfall of 2.75 pitches, which could diminish to 2.5 pitches if community use is secured at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3.9: Current shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Current demand (number of teams)	Full size 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
215	6	3.25	2.75

To further this analysis, the table below explores where the 3G pitch shortfalls exist by analysis area, on the presumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. On this basis, there is a shortfall of 0.75 pitches in the Rural Analysis Area and two pitches in the Urban Analysis Area.

Table 3.10: Current shortfall for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available full size 3G pitches	Current shortfall
Rural	77	2	1.25	0.75
Urban	138	4	2	2
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>2.75</b>

Based on the above, it is clear that there is a need to develop full size 3G pitches in Surrey Heath. Whilst the existing smaller size pitches are capable of accommodating some demand, this provision should be seen as secondary supply as the size and nature of most is not ideal for the majority of demand.

When factoring in future demand, the overall requirement will remain the same, requiring six full size pitches (rounded down from 6.48), meaning a shortfall of 2.75 pitches.

Table 3.11: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Future demand (number of teams)	3G full size pitch requirement	Current number of full size 3G pitches	Future shortfall
245	6	3.25	2.75

## Rugby union

Providing World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Surrey Heath is a potential resolution to the grass pitch shortfalls identified in Part 4 of this report. This will therefore be further explored in the proceeding strategy document.

## Other sports

No demand for access to 3G pitches has been uncovered for any other sports in Surrey Heath.

## 3.5: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of 3G pitch provision in Surrey Heath to meet requirements, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified for football. As there are no other means to completely alleviating these shortfalls, as can be the case with grass pitches (e.g., capacity through improving quality), new provision is required. The strategy document that proceeds this report will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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For rugby union, as suggested by all three rugby clubs in the Borough, suitable 3G pitch provision may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches. This could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if it is adjudged that the provision would receive enough usage and be sustainable without football demand.

### **3G – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is a clear need for an increase in 3G pitch provision in Surrey Heath to meet requirements.
- ◀ With 215 football teams currently affiliated to Surrey Heath there is a potential shortfall of four full size 3G pitches to meet training demand.
- ◀ Suitable 3G provision may also provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass rugby union pitches.

### **3G - supply summary**

- ◀ There are three full size 3G pitches in Surrey Heath across the same number of sites (Frimley Lodge Park, Gordon's School and Tomlinscote School).
- ◀ Each pitch is sports lit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also three smaller size 3G pitches across Surrey Heath, although the pitch at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is unavailable to the community.
- ◀ All three full size pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches, whereas none are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The full size pitches at Gordon's School and Tomlinscote School are assessed as good quality, whereas the pitch at Frimley Lodge Park is standard quality.
- ◀ The smaller size pitches at Lightwater Leisure Centre and Bisley Recreation are assessed as poor quality.

### **3G - demand summary**

- ◀ The 3G pitch stock currently servicing Surrey Heath is reported to offer a considerable amount of spare capacity at peak times during midweek, especially in winter months for training demand.
- ◀ Six of the football clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand.
- ◀ A degree of unmet demand for rugby union is identified by Camberley RFC and Chobham RFC, which identify that access to a 3G pitch would alleviate overplay of their grass pitches.
- ◀ Frimley Green FC travels to Alderwood Leisure Centre in Rushmoor to fulfil its training demand, training on Thursday evening from 20:00 to 21:00 (exported demand).
- ◀ Frimley Lodge Park offers 4.5 hours of peak time spare capacity, principally at the weekend.
- ◀ The pitch at Gordon's School is not deemed to offer any hours of midweek or weekend spare capacity during the peak period.
- ◀ The full size pitch at Tomlinscote School does not offer any hours of midweek spare capacity during the peak period. However, two hours of weekend spare capacity in the peak period is available on Sundays between 09:00-10:00 and 14:00-15:00.
- ◀ Football clubs report potential growth equating to 36 football teams, which if realised increase the number of 3G pitches required in the future.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### PART 4: RUGBY UNION

#### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. It governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the O2 Touch programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

For traditional rugby union, there are generally three playing formats, based on the age of the players involved. These are now known as age grade mixed rugby (previously mini), age grade boys/girls rugby (previously junior) and senior rugby.

#### Consultation

A total of three rugby union clubs are identified as playing within Surrey Heath. Of these, all three have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as summarised in the table below.

Table 4.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Camberley RFC	Yes
Chobham RFC	Yes
Lightwater RFC	Yes

#### 4.2: Supply

There are 16 grass rugby union pitches identified in Surrey Heath across 11 unique sites. Of the pitches, 11 are available for community use across six sites. In the main, the pitches that are unavailable for community use are located at education sites.

As shown in the table below, the majority of the community available pitches are identified within the Urban Analysis Area (seven pitches).

Table 4.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
Rural	3	1	4
Urban	7	-	7
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

Of the pitches available for community use, ten are senior pitches and one is an age grade pitch. Traditionally, age grade rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this is the case throughout Surrey Heath, even at sites with smaller pitches.

For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to the table overleaf.

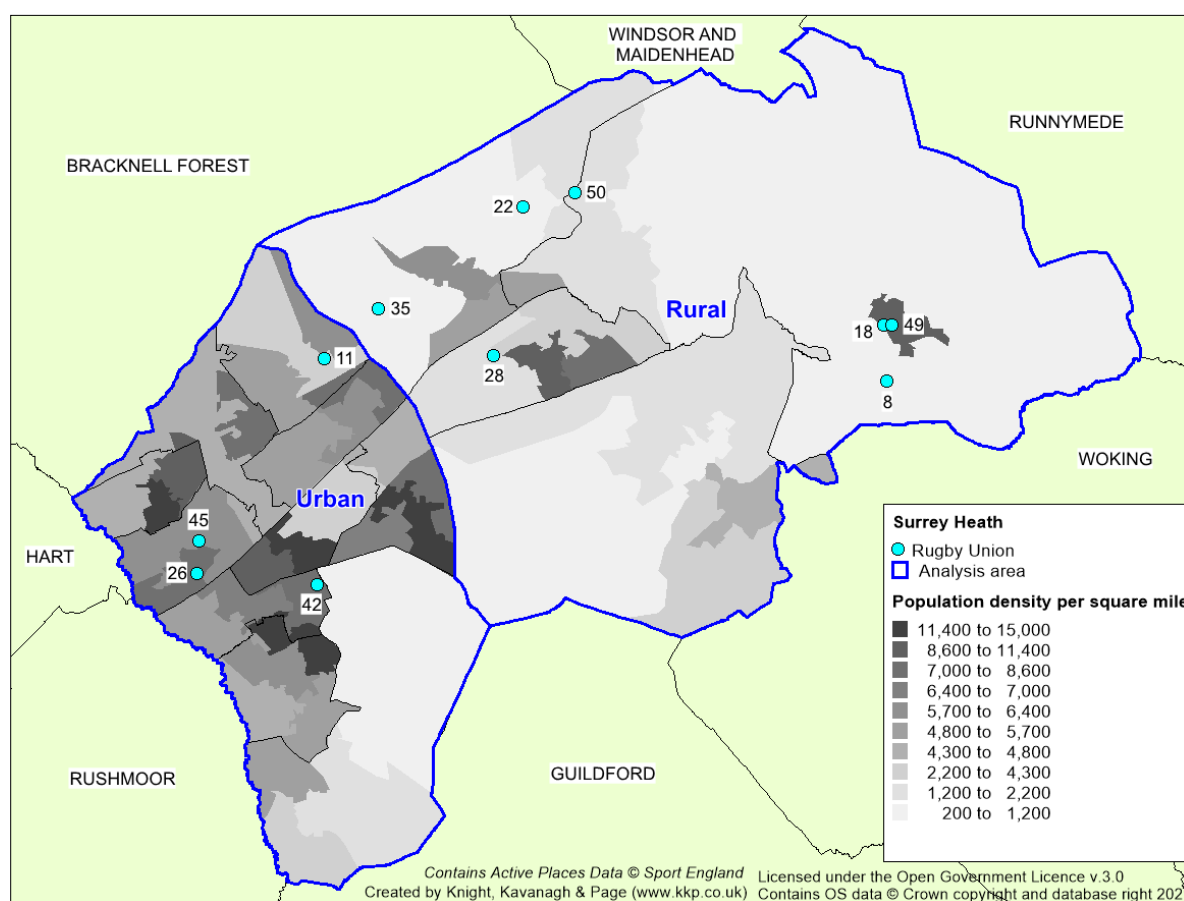
# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) <sup>4</sup>
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 <sup>5</sup>

The figure below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing Surrey Heath.

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Surrey Heath



<sup>4</sup> Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

<sup>5</sup> Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## **Future provision**

Chobham RFC identifies large scale aspirations to relocate to a new ground. However, as of yet, the Club has not identified an appropriate site for this to be proceeded with.

## **Ownership/management**

Two of the three rugby union clubs in the Borough are considered to have unsecure tenure at their home grounds. The exception, Chobham RFC, owns freehold of its home ground at Fowlers Wells, whilst Camberley RFC and Lightwater RFC rent the pitches at Watchetts Recreation Ground and Lightwater Leisure Centre from the Council and a commercial organisation respectively, with no long-term agreement in place for either club.

*Table 4.4: Ownership/management arrangements for rugby clubs in Surrey Heath*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
18	Fowlers Wells	Rural	Chobham RFC	Freehold	Secure
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	Rural	Lightwater RFC	Rent from a commercial organisation	Unsecure
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Urban	Camberley RFC	Rent from the Council	Unsecure

Longer term tenure for the clubs would be beneficial from a site development and funding perspective. Often, leases of over 25 years are required for any funding proposals to be supported.

In addition to the agreements above, Chobham RFC also access the pitch at Chobham Recreation Ground from the Council and rents the pitch at Wishmore Cross Academy from the School, both on a one year rolling arrangement. These are therefore used as secondary venues, although Chobham Recreation Ground is only used as a back-up option when other sites are at capacity or require rest and recovery. It is therefore unused most weekends.

## **Pitch quality**

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in the table below.

*Table 4.5: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.6: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below.

Table 4.7: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of pitches which are available for community use in Surrey Heath, none are good quality, two are standard quality and ten are poor quality. Penny Hill Park offers the only pitch rated as good quality; however, it is unavailable for community use.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in the table overleaf.

**SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Table 4.8: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
8	Chobham Recreation Ground	GU24 8AJ	Rural	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
11	Collingwood College	GU15 4AE	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
18	Fowlers Wells	GU24 8LD	Rural	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	2	Senior	No	M1 / D2	Standard
								Senior	Yes	M1 / D2	Standard
22	Hall Grove School	GU19 5HZ	Rural	Unsecure	School	No	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
26	Kings International College	GU15 2PQ	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	GU18 5RG	Rural	Secure	Commercial	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
35	Pennyhill Park	GU19 5EU	Rural	Secure	Private	No	1	Senior	No	M2 / D2	Good
42	Tomlinscote School	GU16 8PY	Urban	Unsecure	School	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	GU15 2SR	Urban	Secure	Council	Yes	4	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
								Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
49	Wishmore Cross Academy	GU24 8NE	Rural	Unsecure	School	Yes	1	Age grade	No	M0 / D1	Poor
50	Woodcote House School	GU20 6PF	Rural	Unsecure	School	No	2	Age grade	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Three community available pitches in Surrey Heath are assessed as standard quality, all of which are located at Fowlers Well. The site is home to Chobham RFC, which undertakes its own maintenance. A drainage system is also in place.

Chobham RFC reports that a high degree of its club demand is accommodated on its three pitches at Fowlers Well, with its sports lit pitch receiving particularly significant demand as the Club's designated training pitch. This has reportedly worsened the condition of the site over recent years.

The remaining nine community available pitches are assessed as poor quality. These are located at:

- ◀ Chobham Recreation Ground
- ◀ Kings International College
- ◀ Tomlinscote School
- ◀ Collingwood College
- ◀ Lightwater Leisure Centre
- ◀ Watchetts Recreation Ground

Camberley RFC reports that informal use and dog foul has historically damaged the pitches at Watchetts Recreation Ground. The Club also reports that all of its training and match demand is accommodated at the site, leading to overuse, particularly on the pitch designated for training. As with Chobham RFC, the Club consequently reports that quality has worsened recently.

### ***Sports lighting***

In total, four rugby union pitches across four sites in the Borough offer sports lighting, two of which, located at Fowlers Well and Watchetts Recreation Ground, are available for community use.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All clubs in Surrey Heath have access to changing room provision for home games, although the quality of these facilities varies from club to club. Camberley RFC is identified as having good quality ancillary provision, whilst Chobham and Lightwater rugby clubs' home grounds are serviced by poor quality provision. The latter travel to a facility in Bagshot for its social activities, deeming Lightwater Leisure Centre's ancillary provision as unfit.

Chobham RFC expresses plans to extend the footprint of its current clubhouse (which it owns) and states that it wants to provide improved changing rooms for its women's demand, with portacabins currently accessed. However, the Club regards these plans as secondary to its larger scale aspirations to relocate to a new ground.

Similarly, Camberley RFC has aspirations to redevelop its clubhouse at Watchetts Recreation Ground. It also wants to provide easier wheelchair access for its disabled users.

Both Camberley and Chobham rugby clubs report that their car parking provision is inadequate to meet the level of demand facilitated at their sites.

The table overleaf provides a summary of the ancillary facilities provided at each club's home ground.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.9: Ancillary facilities offered at each rugby club's home ground

Site ID	Site name	Club/organisation	Clubhouse	Car parking	Dug outs	Stands	Fencing	Overall quality
18	Fowlers Wells	Chobham RFC	✓	✓	x	x	✓	Poor
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	Lightwater RFC	✓	✓	x	x	x	Poor
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Camberley RFC	✓	✓	x	x	x	Good

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 4.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Surrey Heath tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

### *Competitive demand*

There are three rugby clubs considered to be based in Surrey Heath, collectively providing a total of 47 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of ten senior men's, two senior women's, 16 age grade boys', six age grade girls' and 13 age grade mixed teams.

Clubs are mixed in terms of what they provide. There are two large clubs offering numerous senior and age grade teams, such as Camberley and Chobham rugby clubs. Conversely, Lightwater RFC is a significantly smaller club, providing just one senior men's team.

*Table 4.10: Summary of demand*

Club	Analysis area	No. of teams playing						2016 PPS Study
		Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total	
Camberley RFC	Urban	5	1	7	3	6	22	19
Chobham RFC	Rural	4	1	9	3	7	24	21
Lightwater RFC	Rural	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>

The demand is relatively evenly split across the two analysis areas with 25 teams in the Rural Analysis Area, whilst the Urban Analysis Area caters for 22 teams.

*Table 4.11: Summary of demand by analysis area*

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					
	Men's	Women's	Age grade boys'	Age grade girls'	Age grade mixed	Total
Rural	5	1	9	3	7	25
Urban	5	1	7	3	6	22
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>

Amidst all the rugby teams within the Borough, age grade boys' teams are the most-represented with 16 teams, whilst senior women's teams are the least represented with just two teams.

### *Additional club demand*

Chobham RFC fields one touch rugby team and a mixed ability team, both of which add demand at its site (Fowlers Wells).

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Participation trends

Since the previous PPS Study produced in 2016, the total number of teams in Surrey Heath has increased from 41 teams to 47 teams in 2023. This is broken down as an overall increase of 13%, consisting of two additional senior men's teams, two additional senior women's teams and one additional youth boys' team and youth girls' team respectively. The number of mini teams has remained the same (13).

Notwithstanding the above, Camberley RFC reports that it has been experiencing a reduction of demand at senior, colt and youth level in recent years, whilst Chobham RFC and Lightwater RFC state that they have seen demand remain static. The table below provides a club-by-club breakdown of participation trends over the previous three years, as reported by the clubs.

Table 4.12: Demand fluctuations expressed by clubs in the previous three years

Club	Analysis area	Senior teams	Colts teams (u18-u19)	Age grade boys/girls teams (U13-U17)	Age grade mixed teams (U7-U12)
Camberley RFC	Urban	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Chobham RFC	Rural	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	Stayed the same	Stayed the same
Lightwater RFC	Rural	Stayed the same	-	-	-

Camberley RFC does not attribute a reason for its decline. However, it cites that there has been a rise in recent years amongst its women's and age grade girl section, with a women's first team and three age grade girls teams added.

## Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of sports lighting.

Both Camberley RFC and Chobham RFC utilise a match pitch for training sessions, with both using a dedicated sports lit pitch at their respective home grounds. For Chobham RFC at Fowlers Wells, this is via the age grade pitch on site.

The extent of the training usage is summarised in the following table.

Table 4.13: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions
Camberley RFC	Watchetts Recreation Ground	One dedicated training area is used for training, with this accommodating six match equivalent training sessions per week. However, the grass area used is not considered an official pitch.	6

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions
Chobham RFC	Fowlers Well	One dedicated training pitch is used for training, with this accommodating 6.5 match equivalent training sessions per week.	6.5
Lightwater RFC	Lightwater Leisure Centre	One dedicated training area is used for training, with this accommodating 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. However, the grass area used is not considered an official pitch.	0.5

The senior pitch at Lightwater Leisure Centre is not serviced by sports lighting, hence Lightwater RFC instead trains on a separate area at the site, utilising lighting from the clubhouse. This is for two hours every Wednesday, from between 19:00 and 21:00.

### *Use of artificial pitches*

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs with access to 3G pitches for training utilise them as a method of protecting grass pitches for matches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play generally continues to take place on grass pitches, although there is occasional use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of grass pitch quality or capacity issues (especially during bad weather spells).

There are no World Rugby compliant outdoor 3G pitches currently in Surrey Heath. However, both Chobham RFC and Camberley RFC identify that such provision would be beneficial given existing overuse of their provision, alleviating 13 match equivalent sessions of overplay across both clubs.

In addition, an indoor 3G pitch is provided at Penny Hill Park, the RFU's National Sports Centre; yet this facility offers no community use.

### ***Exported/imported demand***

There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand in Surrey Heath.

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Chobham RFC reports that if more pitches and facilities were made available, it would be able to field more teams and expand its demand. However, the Club did not quantify this latent demand specifically.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Future demand

### Future competitive growth

Data collated from the Surrey Heath Housing Needs Assessment 2020 has been used to project the additional demand for rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth. This is via using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

In Surrey Heath, the total current population in 2023 of 89,204, is projected to increase to 101,405 by 2038. The table below shows the number of new teams that may be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions this will create.

Table 4.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions <sup>6</sup>
Men (19-45yrs)	1:1328	1.37	1	0.5
Women (19-45yrs)	1:6441	0.27	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:220	2.20	2	1
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:551	0.82	1	0.5
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:531	1.78	2	0.5

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of one senior men's team, two age grade boys' teams, one age grade girls' team and two age grade mixed teams.

### Future training demand

Similar to competitive demand referenced above, future levels of training demand can also be calculated via using Sport England's calculator. This demand is based upon access to a floodlit grass pitch equated into match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.15: Future training demand

Age group	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions)	Training demand generated per week by population growth (match equivalent sessions) - rounded figure <sup>7</sup>	Hour/s equivalent
Men (19-45yrs)	1.37	1.5	2 hours
Women (19-45yrs)	0.27	0	-
Boys (13-18yrs)	2.20	2	4 hours
Girls (13-18yrs)	0.82	1	2 hours
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1.78	2	4 hours

<sup>6</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.5 match equivalent session.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### *Participation increases*

Camberley RFC states that it is looking to acquire additional women's and age grade girls' teams, whilst Chobham RFC does not quantify any future demand given its current capacity issues (linked to the latent/unmet demand expressed above). It states that it will only be able to grow if provision is increased.

Lightwater RFC reports of no aspirational future demand.

### ***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior men's' teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior men's teams play at this time. For senior women's teams, it is considered to be Sunday PM, whilst peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

### **4.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are or could be used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated age grade pitches are provided and are known to be used as standard practice).
- ◀ From U13s upwards, teams play 15 v 15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6s-U12s) play on half of a senior pitch, meaning two matches and four teams can be accommodated at any one time; this means that play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a home and away basis.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Age grade boys/girls rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Age grade mixed rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.
- ◀ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out overleaf.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.16: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate or Pipe Drained (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

The table below identifies the way capacity and overplay is represented in Table 4.18.

Table 4.17: Spare capacity examples

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch(es) have actual spare capacity at peak time.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch(es) is/are played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality but can also be due to the site being unavailable to the community.
1	If the cell is highlighted in red with a number, it means that the pitch(es) are overplayed.

**SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Table 4.18: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Surrey Heath

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Security of tenure	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Quality rating	Sports lighting?	Pitch capacity	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
8	Chobham Recreation Ground	Rural	Council	Unsecure	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	-	-	1.5	Pitch is unused most weekends as it is only used as a back-up pitch by Chobham RFC.
11	Collingwood College	Urban	School	Unsecure	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1	-	0.5	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
18	Fowlers Wells	Rural	Sports Club	Secure	Yes	2	Senior	Standard	No	2.5	3	-	0.5	Overplayed through match demand from Chobham RFC.
								Standard	Yes	2.5	3	-	0.5	Overplayed through match demand from Chobham RFC.
22	Hall Grove School	Rural	School	Unsecure	No	1	Senior	Poor	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
26	Kings International College	Urban	School	Unsecure	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1	-	0.5	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	Rural	Commercial	Unsecure	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	0.5	-	1	Pitch is used for match demand from Lightwater RFC.
35	Pennyhill Park	Rural	Private	Unsecure	No	1	Senior	Good	No	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use.
42	Tomlinscote School	Urban	School	Unsecure	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Poor	No	1.5	1	-	0.5	Pitch is used for curricular demand.
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Urban	Council	Unsecure	Yes	1	Senior	Poor	Yes	.5	-	6	4.5	Overplayed through training demand from Camberley RFC.
				Unsecure		3	Senior	Poor	No	4.5	12	-	7.5	Overplayed through match demand from Camberley RFC.
49	Wishmore Cross Academy	Rural	School	Unsecure	Yes	1	Age grade	Poor	No	1.5	5.5	-	4	Overplayed through match demand from Chobham RFC and used by the School itself.
50	Woodcote House School	Rural	School	School	No	2	Age grade	Poor	Yes	-	-	-	-. <sup>8</sup>	Unavailable for community use.

<sup>8</sup> Community unavailable pitches are discounted as they have no capacity for further match equivalent sessions.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## **Actual spare capacity**

There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Furthermore, there are a number of rugby pitches in Surrey Heath at education sites that are unused by clubs despite being reported as available. Whilst these may theoretically provide some spare capacity, it would not be reasonable to equate this as actual spare capacity as school usage itself is likely to limit what additional activity should take place on the provision. Moreover, the nature of club rugby generally means that clubs are generally unwilling to utilise secondary venues, making community use unlikely.

In addition, any pitches that are used by clubs to capacity at peak time, that are poor quality or that provide unsecure tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity. As such, the table below ascertains whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' identified in Table 4.16 can be used to accommodate an increase in play on a site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch basis.

*Table 4.19: Actual spare capacity table*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches with spare capacity	Pitch type	Potential spare capacity	Actual spare capacity (peak period)	Comments
8	Chobham Recreation Ground	Rural	1	Senior	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
11	Collingwood College	Urban	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
26	Kings International College	Urban	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
28	Lightwater Leisure Centre	Rural	1	Senior	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor pitch quality.
42	Tomlinscote School	Urban	1	Senior	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.

As seen, of the five pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Surrey Heath, none are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in rugby provision.

## **Overplay**

There are seven pitches across three sites in Surrey Heath that are overplayed by a total of 17 match equivalent sessions per week.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.20: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Overplay
18	Fowlers Wells	Rural	2	1
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Urban	4	12
49	Wishmore Cross Academy	Rural	1	4
<b>Total</b>				<b>17</b>

Overplay is located at two club sites and one school site, which is predominately due to match demand from Chobham RFC.

The highest level of overplay is identified at Watchetts Recreation Ground (12 match equivalent sessions per week), followed by Wishmore Academy (four match equivalent sessions). In the main, this is a consequence of concentrated training demand on match pitches at the sites.

Overplay is more evident in the Urban Analysis Area (12 match equivalent sessions per week), whilst the Rural Analysis Area is overplayed by five match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.21: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
Rural	5
Urban	12
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>17</b>

## 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay of rugby union pitches in Surrey Heath based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.22: Supply and demand table

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)		
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total
Rural	-	5	5
Urban	-	12	12
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	-	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

As seen, there is a current overall shortfall of 17 match equivalent senior sessions per week, equating to 12 match equivalent sessions per week in the Urban Analysis Area and five match equivalent sessions per week in the Rural Analysis Area.

When accounting for future competitive and training demand, the overall shortfall is projected to increase to 26 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.23: Future supply and demand analysis

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)			
	Current total	Future competitive demand	Future training demand	Future total
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>17</b>	2.5	6.5	<b>26</b>

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## 4.6: Conclusion

There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity to meet current demand in Surrey Heath, with a significant shortfall identified and with two of the three clubs utilising overplayed provision. When factoring in population growth, the overall shortfall exacerbates.

### **Rugby union – demand and supply summary**

- ◀ Of the five pitches identified as having potential spare capacity in Surrey Heath, none are considered to offer actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in rugby demand.
- ◀ There are seven senior pitches across three sites in Surrey Heath that are overplayed by a total of 17 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current overall shortfall of 17 match equivalent senior sessions per week, which means that there is a clear deficit of capacity to meet demand.

### **Rugby union – supply summary**

- ◀ There are 16 grass rugby union pitches identified in Surrey Heath across 11 unique sites. Of the pitches, 11 are available for community use across six sites.
- ◀ Two of the three rugby union clubs in the Borough are considered to have unsecure tenure at their home grounds. The exception, Chobham RFC, owns freehold of its home ground at Fowlers Wells, whilst Camberley RFC and Lightwater RFC rent the pitches at Watchetts Recreation Ground and Lightwater Leisure Centre from the Council and a commercial organisation respectively, with no long-term agreement in place for either club.
- ◀ Chobham RFC also uses secondary venues via Chobham Recreation Ground and Wishmore Cross Academy.
- ◀ Of pitches which are available for community use in Surrey Heath, none are good quality, two are standard quality and ten are poor quality pitches.
- ◀ Two community available pitches are serviced by sports lighting (Fowler Wells and Watchetts Recreation Ground).
- ◀ Camberley RFC is identified as having good quality ancillary provision, whilst Chobham RFC is serviced by standard quality provision and Lightwater RFC is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.

### **Rugby union – demand summary**

- ◀ There are three rugby clubs considered to be based in Surrey Heath, collectively providing a total of 47 teams.
- ◀ Since the previous PPS Study produced in 2016, the total number of teams in Surrey Heath has increased from 42 teams to 47 teams in 2023.
- ◀ Both Camberley RFC and Chobham RFC utilise a match pitch for training sessions, with both using a dedicated sports lit pitch at their respective home grounds. For Chobham RFC at Fowlers Wells, this is via the age grade pitch on site.
- ◀ There is no known exported or imported rugby union demand in Surrey Heath.
- ◀ Unmet/latent demand is expressed by Chobham RFC, which reports that it cannot grow its demand due to a lack of capacity.
- ◀ Through population growth, there will be a growth of one senior men's team, two age grade boys' teams, one age grade girls' team and two age grade mixed teams. Furthermore, although Camberley RFC has plans to further increase its women's and girls' teams.
- ◀ Increased female demand from the RWC 2025 is to be expected and associated development initiatives are in place to meet this future demand, e.g., 100,00 participants targeted, Inner Warrior, Legacy funding, social space, toilet and sanitary provision funding.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 5: HOCKEY

### 5.1 Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH).

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

*Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey*

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
EH Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey - Training and matches	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
EH Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
EH Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
EH Category 4	All 3G surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For senior teams, a full-size hockey pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with sports lights.

## Consultation

Camberley & Farnborough HC is the only hockey club identified as playing within Surrey Heath and was consulted to inform this section of the report.

## 5.2: Supply

There is one full size hockey suitable pitch with sports lighting in Surrey Heath which is provided at Kings International College and is available for community use.

Table 5.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
26	Kings International College	Urban	1	Yes	Yes	103 x 65

The pitch at Kings International College is also one of the few water-based pitches supplied nationally (making it suitable for elite level play). It is situated in the Urban Analysis Area.

## Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there are also four smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Surrey Heath, three of which are available for community use. All four are serviced by sports lighting.

Table 5.3: Smaller size AGPs in Surrey Heath

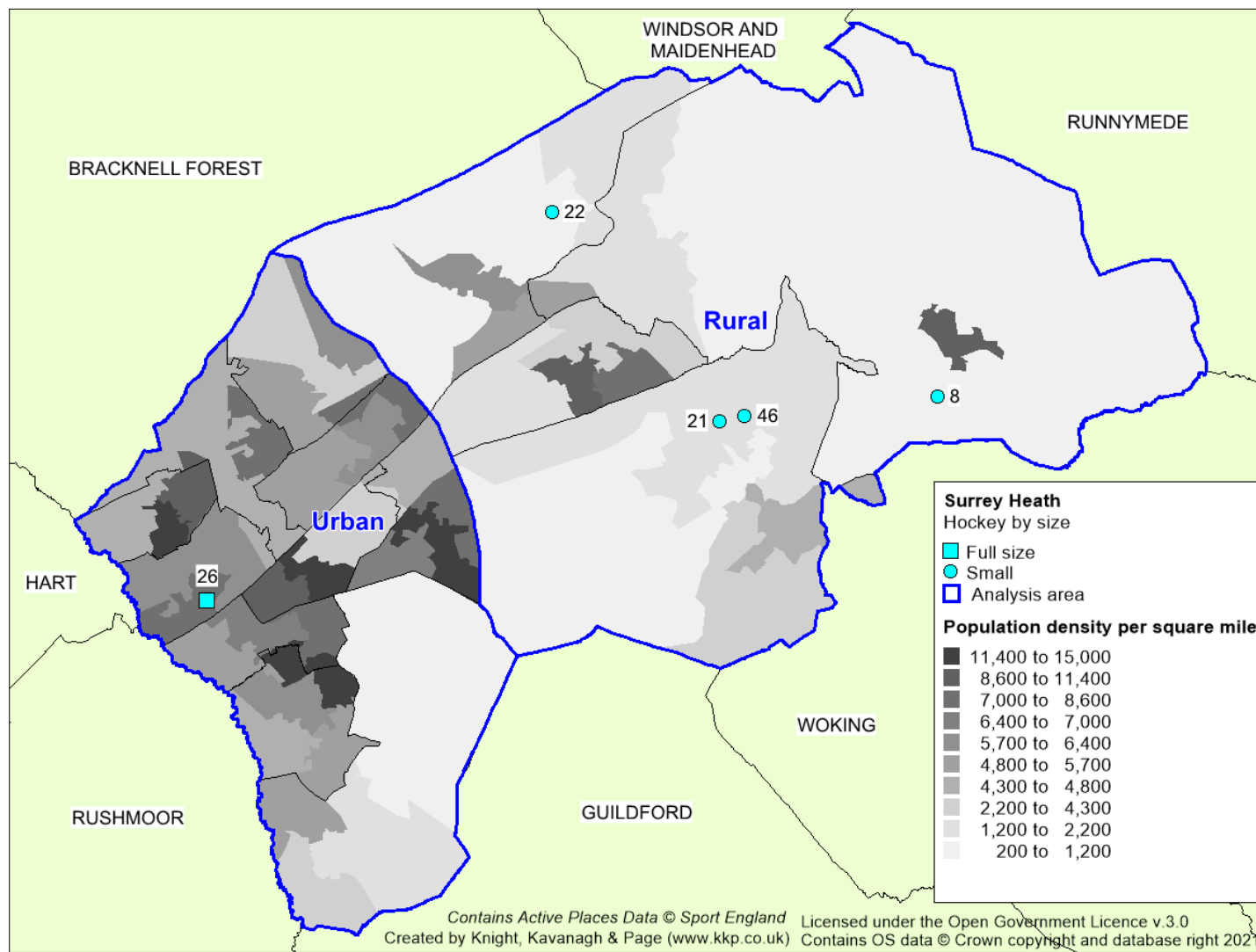
Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (meters)
8	Chobham Recreation Ground	Rural	1	Yes	Yes	37 x 18
21	Gordon's School	Rural	1	No	Yes	90 x 57
22	Hall Grove School	Rural	1	Yes	Yes	75 x 49
46	West End Recreation Ground	Rural	1	Yes	Yes	37 x 19

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. In Surrey Heath, this would be the case at Gordon's School given its larger size; however, it does not meet match requirements (97.4m x 59m) and is currently unavailable for community use and therefore cannot be accessed.

Based on the above, the smaller size hockey suitable pitches are discounted from this point forward as none can presently be used for purposeful play.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 5.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in Surrey Heath



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Security of tenure

Camberley & Farnborough HC rents the full size AGP at Kings International College from the School via an annual agreement. As such, with no long-term access arrangement in place, the Club's utilisation of the pitch is considered to be unsecure.

## Availability

England Hockey applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 18:00-22:00; Friday 18:00-20:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). On this basis, the full size AGP at King International College is considered to be fully available to the community within the peak period, offering approximately 34 hours of peak time availability.

Table 5.4: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Actual usage
26	Kings International College	34	Available to the community from 17:30 to 22:00 during the week and from 09:00 to 18:00 on weekends.	<p><b>Spare capacity</b> for midweek training on Monday and Thursday evenings.</p> <p><b>No spare capacity</b> for matches on weekends.</p>

## Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that some providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed, leading to many pitches now being poor quality.

For the PPS, the AGP at Kings International College has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessment. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The pitch was installed in 1998 and resurfaced as a water-based pitch in 2021. As such, it is considered to be good quality, with no major issues identified. However, Camberley & Farnborough HC reports occasional incidents relating to maintenance carried out by the School.

Table 5.5: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGP

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
26	Kings International College	1	1998 / 2021	Good

Based on the guidance of a ten-year carpet life, the pitch at Kings International College will not need to be resurfaced until 2031. However, a sinking fund should be in place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when required.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## ***Ancillary provision***

The ancillary facilities at Kings International College are believed to be of good quality, with changing room refurbishment currently ongoing. The Club also reports that the site's car parking is sufficient even at peak time.

## **5.3: Demand**

Camberley & Farnborough HC is the only hockey club currently playing in Surrey Heath. The Club consists of 13 teams. This equates to five senior men's, three senior women's and five junior teams. In total, it has a current playing membership of 341.

*Table 5.6: Summary of demand*

Name of club	No. of members (and teams)			
	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior (under 17)	Total
Camberley & Farnborough HC	108 (five teams)	71 (three teams)	162 (five teams)	341 (13 teams)

As seen in the table above, the Club's most populated age group is its junior boys and girls, whilst its least populated age group is its senior women's section.

## ***Participation trends***

Camberley & Farnborough HC reports an overall increase in membership across the previous three years, with this affecting each of its age groups.

*Table 5.7: Summary of club membership over the previous three years*

Club	Years	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys & girls (Under 17)	Total
Camberley & Farnborough HC	2020/21	74	51	201	326
	2021/22	75	47	166	288
	2022/23	108	71	162	341

As seen in the table above, the Club has witnessed a 16% increase in playing members over the previous 12 months rising from 288 members in the 2021/22 season to 341 members in 2022/23 season. However, it should be noted that the decrease in participation from 326 members to 288 members between 2020/21 and 2021/22 can be attributed to Covid-19 and that England Hockey did not formally ask clubs to report their membership numbers during this time.

## ***Imported/exported demand***

There is no known displaced hockey demand into or from Surrey Heath.

## ***Latent/unmet demand***

No latent demand is identified from Camberley & Farnborough HC. It states that all existing demand can be met via the pitch at Kings International College.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Future demand***

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations, Camberley & Farnborough HC aspires to field one additional senior men's team and one additional senior women's team in the future. Regarding its junior teams, the Club's principal focus is to maintain its current number of teams and its membership levels.

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

### ***England hockey initiatives***

#### ***Hockey Heroes***

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in Surrey Heath, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in Hart.

#### ***Back to Hockey***

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- ◀ More members
- ◀ More casual players
- ◀ Additional income
- ◀ Extra publicity
- ◀ New volunteers

There are currently no Back to Hockey courses operating in Surrey Heath, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in Spelthorne.

#### ***Walking hockey***

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in Surrey Heath, with the nearest offering identified outside of the Borough in neighbouring Epsom and Ewell.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## *In2Hockey*

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

Camberley & Farnborough HC participates in the In2Hockey initiative.

## **Peak time demand**

All senior hockey matches in Surrey Heath are played on a Saturday, whereas all junior hockey matches are played on a Sunday. Conversely, peak time for hockey training demand tends to be midweek evenings, with preference often given to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mondays and Fridays are less preferred due to their proximity to weekend matchdays.

## **Usage**

Camberley & Farnborough HC requires significant usage of the pitch at Kings International College and accesses it for all its training and match demand. For training, the Club's senior women's train on Tuesday evenings, whilst its senior men's train on Wednesday evenings. Its junior section is split across Friday evenings for its older members and Sunday mornings for its younger members.

As for the Club's match demand, its senior men's and senior women's teams play matches on Saturdays, whilst some of the older junior players are encouraged to participate in senior matches also. Junior matches are also scheduled on Sundays when possible, leading to full pitch access generally being needed across the weekend.

Outside of usage by Camberley & Farnborough HC, there is also use of the pitch at Kings International College by football teams for training demand any by other recreational football users. However, this is less prominent on many AGPs due to hockey usage being given clear priority. As a result, eight hours of spare capacity remains during the peak period for further bookings, during midweek evenings when no hockey activity currently takes place (i.e., Mondays and Thursdays).

*Table 5.8: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGP*

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Usage comments	Peak time spare capacity
26	Kings International College	34	<p>Camberley &amp; Farnborough HC use the pitch midweek on Tuesday evenings between 19:00 to 20:30, on Wednesday evenings from 20:00 to 21:30, on Friday evenings from 19:00 to 20:30. The Club also uses the pitch between 10:00 to 18:00 on the weekend.</p> <p>The pitch is available for hockey/football usage on Monday and Thursday evenings.</p>	The pitch has eight hours of spare capacity in the peak period, between 18:00 to 22:00 on Monday and Thursday evenings.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Although as identified, some spare capacity does exist for additional hockey demand (Monday and Thursday evenings), these timeslots do not reflect traditional hours of hockey use; for example, Sunday mornings are typical for junior hockey training sessions, of which there is no spare capacity for increased demand.

## 5.4: Supply and demand analysis

### *Match play analysis*

It is suggested that a full size pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there is one full size AGP which can accommodate hockey matches in Surrey Heath, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to eight hockey teams across the Borough.

*Table 5.9: Summary of capacity at peak time for senior hockey (Saturdays)*

Site ID	Site	Peak time availability (Saturday)	Capacity	
			Match equivalent sessions	Teams
26	Kings International College	09:00-17:00	4	8
<b>Total</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>

With eight senior teams currently provided, this suggests that current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand; however, no growth in demand is able to be facilitated unless this takes place outside of the peak period. This is pertinent given Camberley & Farnborough HC's future demand aspirations for two additional senior teams.

The current supply is also sufficient to meet demand for junior hockey matches. With only five teams currently being fielded, this also leaves some capacity for growth.

### *Training analysis*

There is sufficient capacity at Kings International College to accommodate all current training demand from Camberley & Farnborough HC, with the Club reporting no issues with its current booking slots. Some capacity is also considered to exist for growth, with some evening capacity remaining outside of current lettings.

## 5.5 Conclusion

The current supply of hockey provision in Surrey Heath is sufficient to meet current demand. However, any growth in teams generated from population growth or if future aspirations from Camberley & Farnborough HC are realised, capacity pressures will be created and a need for an additional full size pitch will exist. In addition, an issue also exists regarding there being no long-term security of tenure provided at Kings International College; therefore, a longer-term agreement should look to be sought for the Club.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### **Hockey – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ For senior hockey, current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand; however, no additional capacity exists for growth despite future demand being expressed from Camberley & Farnborough HC and the potential for further growth through population increases.
- ◀ Should future demand be realised through either means of growth, additional pitch stock would be required.
- ◀ Capacity is sufficient to meet junior demand and midweek training demand, with availability also existing for increased activity; although these hours are typically undesirable for hockey demand.

### **Hockey – supply summary**

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable pitch in Surrey Heath, located at Kings International College; it is one of the few water-based pitches supplied nationally, making it suitable for elite level play.
- ◀ The pitch is available for community use and has sports lighting.
- ◀ There are also four smaller size hockey suitable pitches in Surrey Heath, although three are not large enough for suitable hockey demand and the remaining one is unavailable for community use (at Gordon's School).
- ◀ The full size AGP at King International College is considered to be fully available to the community within the peak period, offering approximately 34 hours of peak time community use.
- ◀ The pitch is accessed by Camberley & Farnborough HC via a yearly rental agreement, meaning no long-term security of tenure is provided.
- ◀ The pitch is assessed as good quality following a resurface in 2021 and it is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.

### **Hockey – demand summary**

- ◀ Camberley & Farnborough HC is the only hockey club currently playing in Surrey Heath.
- ◀ The Club consists of 13 teams, equating to five men's teams, three women's teams and five junior teams, and has a membership of 341.
- ◀ The Club has witnessed a 16% increase in playing members over the previous 12 months.
- ◀ There is no known displaced demand from into or outside of Surrey Heath.
- ◀ No latent demand is identified, with Camberley & Farnborough HC stating that all demand can be adequately accommodated.
- ◀ Camberley & Farnborough HC aspires to field one additional men's team and one additional senior women's team in the future.
- ◀ The AGP currently has eight hours of spare capacity in the peak period, on Monday and Thursday evenings.



# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 6: CRICKET

### 6.1: Introduction

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within Surrey Heath. Working closely with the Surrey Cricket Foundation (SCF), the ECB is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. The SCF is currently working with the ECB on delivering and laying the foundations for its Strategy, “Inspiring Generations”, which has been live since 2020.

For senior cricket in Surrey Heath there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week.

#### Consultation

In total, seven affiliated cricket clubs are identified as playing within Surrey Heath. Of these, six responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 86% and as shown below. The unresponsive club is Frimley Green CC.

Table 6.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Analysis area	Club response?
Bagshot CC	Rural	Yes
Camberley CC	Urban	Yes
Chobham CC	Rural	Yes
Frimley CC	Urban	Yes
Frimley Green CC	Urban	No
Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	Yes
Valley End CC	Rural	Yes

### 6.2: Supply

In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Surrey Heath provided across 13 sites. Of this provision, 12 squares are available for community use and there is an even split across the Borough’s two analysis areas, with both offering seven cricket squares and six that are available to the community.

Table 6.2: Summary of grass wicket squares across Surrey Heath

Analysis area	Number of squares		Total
	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use	
Rural	6	1	7
Urban	6	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>

The two unavailable squares are found at school sites, located at King’s International College and Woodcote House School. Major issues with geese droppings at King’s International College have rendered the site unusable to the community.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Excluding London Road Recreation Ground and Watchetts Recreation Ground, all remaining squares that are available for community use are in active use by clubs. Previously, the squares at London Road Recreation Ground and Watchetts Recreation Ground squares were used by Camberley CC, until quality reportedly deteriorated, resulting in the Club moving its demand elsewhere. In addition, the now unavailable square at Kings International College has previously been used by Camberley CC until major issues with geese made the square unusable.

When compared to the previous Surrey Heath PPS (completed in 2016), there are three fewer squares currently provided. This is due to Hall Grove School no longer providing grass wicket provision (although it still hosts an artificial wicket).

## **Junior pitches**

In addition to the main square at Woodcote House School, the site also provides four additional junior squares. These are not large enough for competitive senior cricket due to their limited size (i.e., boundary length), but they can be used for junior play and for curricular and extra-curricular activity.

As with the main square, the junior squares are unavailable for community use.

## **Non-turf pitches**

There are non-turf pitches (NTPs) accompanying three grass wickets squares across three sites. These are as follows:

- ◀ Chobham Cricket Club
- ◀ Chobham Road Recreation Ground
- ◀ Windlesham Field of Remembrance

All three sites are available for community use.

In addition, there are four standalone NTPs currently provided. However, of these, only one is available to the community, located at Bisley Recreation Ground. The unavailable standalone NTPs are provided at:

- ◀ Collingwood College
- ◀ Hall Grove School
- ◀ Ravenscote Junior School

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches.

*Table 6.3: Summary of NTPs in Surrey Heath*

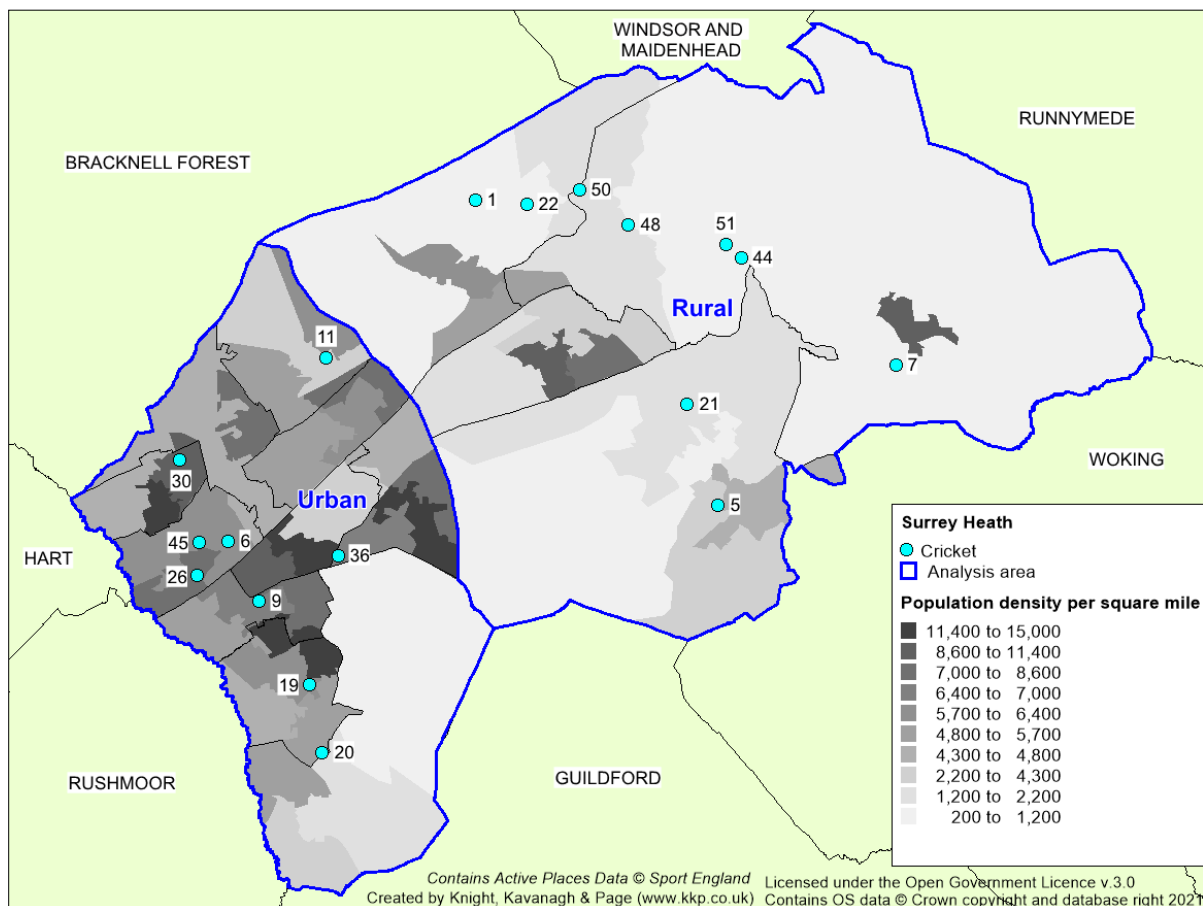
Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Number of NTPs	Position
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	Yes	1	Standalone
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Yes	1	Square
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Yes	1	Square
11	Collingwood College	No	1	Standalone
22	Hall Grove School	No	1	Standalone

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Number of NTPs	Position
36	Ravenscote Junior School	No	1	Standalone
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	Yes	1	Square

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Surrey Heath. For a key to the map, see Table 6.4 overleaf.

Figure 6.1: Location of cricket squares within Surrey Heath



## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 6.4: Key to map of cricket provision

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Number of squares	No. of wickets	
						Grass	Non-turf
1	Bagshot Park	GU19 5HS	Rural	Yes	1	13	-
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	GU24 9EN	Rural	Yes	1	-	1
6	Camberley Cricket Club	GU15 2JL	Urban	Yes	1	20	-
7	Chobham Cricket Club	GU24 8AA	Rural	Yes	1	17	1
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	GU16 8PD	Urban	Yes	1	14	1
11	Collingwood College	GU15 4AE	Urban	No	1	-	1
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	GU16 9FF	Urban	Yes	1	5	-
21	Gordons School	GU24 9PT	Rural	Yes	1	-	1
20	Frimley Lodge Park	GU16 6HY	Urban	Yes	1	9	-
22	Hall Grove School	GU19 5HZ	Rural	No	1	-	1
26	Kings International College	GU15 2PQ	Urban	No	1	9	-
30	London Road Recreation Ground	GU15 3JG	Urban	Yes	1	10	-
36	Ravenscote Junior School	GU16 9RE	Urban	No	1	-	1
44	Windlesham Road	GU24 8SN	Rural	Yes	1	16	-
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	GU15 2SR	Urban	Yes	1	8	-
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	GU20 6DT	Rural	Yes	1	6	1
50	Woodcote House School <sup>9</sup>	GU20 6PF	Rural	No	1	7	-
51	Valley End Cricket Club	GU24 8SN	Rural	Yes	2	13	-
						11	-

<sup>9</sup> The senior square at Woodcote House School is accompanied by four junior squares.

# SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### **Management and security of tenure**

Of clubs in Surrey Heath, all are considered to have security of tenure of their main sites, either through ownership of their home ground or via a long-term lease agreement. The arrangement for each club is summarised in the table below.

*Table 6.5: Ownership/management arrangements for cricket clubs in Surrey Heath*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Arrangement	Tenure
1	Bagshot Park	Rural	Bagshot CC	Freehold	Secure
6	Camberley Cricket Club	Urban	Camberley CC	Freehold	Secure
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Rural	Chobham CC	Freehold	Secure
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Frimley CC	Lease from the Council	Secure
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Urban	Frimley Phoenix CC	Rent from the Council	Secure
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	Frimley Green CC	Lease from the Council	Secure
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Rural	Valley End CC	Freehold	Secure

In addition to use of their main sites, both Bagshot CC and Valley End CC also use secondary venues due to a lack of capacity. Bagshot CC accesses Windlesham Field of Remembrance, whilst Valley End CC has freehold of Windlesham Road.

Camberley, Frimley and Frimley Green cricket clubs also use additional squares; however, they do this outside of Surrey Heath (see exported/imported demand section).

### **Pitch quality**

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the Surrey Cricket Foundation) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. As an example, if a square is poor quality, a ball can bounce erratically on a wicket and become a danger to players.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Surrey Heath found four squares to be good quality (33%), four to be standard quality (33%) and the remaining four to be poor quality (33%).

The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site name	Number of squares	Analysis area	Square quality	2016 PPS square quality
1	Bagshot Park	1	Rural	Standard	Standard
6	Camberley Cricket Club	1	Urban	Good	Good
7	Chobham Cricket Club	1	Rural	Standard	Good
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	1	Urban	Standard	Standard
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	1	Urban	Poor	Standard
20	Frimley Lodge Park	1	Urban	Poor	Standard
30	London Road Recreation Ground	1	Urban	Poor	Standard
44	Windlesham Road	1	Rural	Good	Standard
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	1	Urban	Poor	Standard
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	1	Rural	Standard	Standard
51	Valley End Cricket Club	2	Rural	Good	Standard

As seen in the table above, the good quality squares are identified at Camberley Cricket Club, Windlesham Road and Valley End Cricket Club.

Bagshot CC also regards its square at Bagshot Park as good quality. However, non-technical assessment yielded a standard quality assessment, finding that improvements are needed to the grass coverage of the square and outfield.

The square at Camberley Cricket Club is good quality despite accommodating a large amount of demand. The Club is exploring options to transfer a proportion of this onto an NTP which would accompany the square's grass wickets.

The poor quality squares are located at Frimley Green Recreation Ground, Frimley Lodge Park, London Road Recreation Ground and Watchetts Recreation Ground. All four are maintained by the Council; it is common for Council-maintained sites to be of poorer quality as less time and resource can be put into the maintenance regime.

The non-technical assessments completed for the previous PPS study are comparably different to this latest version, with only four squares evidencing similar results. Five squares have worsened in quality since the previous PPS study, four of which have dropped from standard to poor quality. In relation to these four squares, it is believed that the low levels of demand accommodated at these squares has led to these sites becoming a lower maintenance priority.

The square at Chobham Cricket Club has worsened from good to standard quality reportedly due to increased demand at the site and difficulties in providing sufficient maintenance to match this. The Club also notes that the downturn is partly due to a lack of water supply, creating further difficulties in carrying out the required level of maintenance.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The two squares at Valley End Cricket Club and the singular square at Windlesham Road have increased from standard to good quality. All three of these squares are owned by Valley End CC, which reports that it has recently attributed more attention to its maintenance regime. In addition, five of the six responding clubs report that quality has improved over the last 12 months, whilst only one reports that quality has worsened.

Frimley CC reports that its square at Chobham Road Recreation Ground has improved in the previous few years, despite remaining as standard, thanks to working alongside Glendale Local to provide improvements to the wickets and outfield. In addition, the Club also recently received a grant from the Council to replace its existing outdated roller with a newer model. However, despite this, the Club can currently only use half of its wickets due to previous issues with balls being hit over perimeter netting, leading to complaints. Consequently, the wickets nearest to the netting can only be used for junior fixtures.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the required standards, which are benchmarked by the GMA.

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive, mini or verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

*Table 6.7: Performance Quality Standard ratings*

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Of the standalone NTPs, the provision at Bisley Recreation Ground and Hall Grove School are standard quality, whilst the wicket at Ravenscote Junior School is considered to be poor quality. This is due to the age of the surface and significant signs of wear and tear.

### *PitchPower assessments*

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England via the launch of PitchPower. Established in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union provision, an app has been created for the purpose of enabling a digital self-assessment tool. This allows reports and recommendations to be made quickly and more easily once details have submitted for review by regional pitch advisors.

The tool works across mobile devices and desktop and is open to access by all providers including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their provision.

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The functionality of the app for cricket is set to be trialled in early 2023 and has therefore not been factored into the current quality scores. It is also at this stage unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPS process moving forward, although it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved. As a result, the aforementioned quality scores and resultant recommendations within the PPS should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments and information, when available.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Most sites with grass wicket squares in Surrey Heath are accompanied by changing room facilities, although quality varies. This is summarised in the table below.

*Table 6.8: Quality of ancillary facilities servicing community available grass wicket squares*

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Analysis area	Ancillary facility quality
1	Bagshot Park	Bagshot CC	Rural	Good
5	Bisley Recreation Ground	N/A	Rural	Standard
6	Camberley Cricket Club	Camberley CC	Urban	Good
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Chobham CC	Rural	Good
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Frimley CC	Urban	Good
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	Poor
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Frimley Green CC	Urban	Standard
30	London Road Recreation Ground	N/A	Urban	Standard
44	Windlesham Road	Valley End CC	Rural	Standard
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	Bagshot CC	Rural	Good
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	N/A	Urban	Good
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Valley End CC	Rural	Good

Frimley Green Recreation Ground, Frimley Phoenix CC's home square, is the only square to be serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.

Of the remaining sites, seven are serviced by good quality ancillary provision, with six of these accommodating club-competitive demand. Watchetts Recreation Ground is the only non-club site accompanied by good quality ancillary provision. Whilst not being used by an affiliated club, the site's clubhouse does service regular recreational cricket during the summer period.

Camberley CC reports that its clubhouse regularly accommodates private hire events in addition to its club-use. However, whilst no plans for refurbishment are currently in place, the Club is fearful that in the coming years, renovations may have to be made to the facility.

Chobham CC reports no pressing issues with its clubhouse facilities, accommodating a small amount of private hire events as well as its club-use. However, since the resurgence of the Club's junior girls offering, it is considering adding a separate changing room to its pavilion. Furthermore, the Club has a reoccurring problem with its parking facilities, meaning that its members and other visitors often have to park in the local village.



## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Frimley CC reports that a substantial degree of refurbishment has taken place on its site in recent years, with investment put towards the acquisition of CCTV surrounding the facility and construction of metal shutters, preventing any future break ins. Further renovations were also made to its shower facilities and its roof due to leakages. The Club also invested in its social provision on-site.

In 2020, upon celebrating the Club's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Valley End CC unveiled a new, all-encompassing pavilion<sup>10</sup>. This services its two squares and its main site, with Windlesham Road serviced by a standard quality building.

Frimley Lodge Park is the only other site which offers standard quality ancillary provision to a site facilitating club-competitive demand, with this being via Frimley Green CC.

### **Training facilities**

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Surrey Heath, the table below summarises the dedicated provision that is currently provided for each club.

*Table 6.9: Summary of Surrey Heath clubs' training facilities*

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Training facilities
1	Bagshot Park	Bagshot CC	2 artificial practice nets
6	Camberley Cricket Club	Camberley CC	3 artificial practice nets; 1 roll-on net
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Chobham CC	2 artificial practice nets; 1 roll-on net
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Frimley CC	2 artificial practice nets
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Frimley Phoenix CC	N/A
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Frimley Green CC	N/A
44	Windlesham Road	Valley End CC	2 artificial practice nets
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	Bagshot CC	N/A
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Valley End CC	5 artificial practice nets

Whilst this represents a relatively large supply, two clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities, with these being Frimley Phoenix and Valley End cricket clubs. However, neither state specifically what they require.

All other responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although several report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls out of the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times. This is generally due to year-round block bookings being given priority.

The table overleaf summaries existing indoor facility access. Bagshot and Frimley Green cricket clubs do not use any indoor provision to facilitate its demand.

<sup>10</sup> Planning application reference: 18/0353

## SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 6.10: Summary of Surrey Heath clubs' indoor access

Club name	Indoor facilities accessed
Bagshot CC	N/A
Camberley CC	Wellington College and Collingwood College
Chobham CC	Gordon's School
Frimley CC	Cove School
Frimley Green CC	N/A
Frimley Phoenix CC	Fernhill School
Valley End CC	Gordon's School and Lightwater Leisure Centre

In addition, The Eversley Indoor League is prominent around Surrey Heath and Camberley, Frimley and Frimley Phoenix cricket clubs all compete within this currently. Both Camberley and Frimley cricket clubs play in the Tuesday edition of the League, whilst Frimley Phoenix CC plays in its Sunday League. Matches are played at Eversley Indoor Cricket Centre, in Hart.

### 6.3: Demand

There are seven affiliated cricket clubs in Surrey Heath which collectively provide 103 cricket teams. This equates to 42 senior men's, six senior women's and 55 junior teams.

The makeup of the clubs is mixed, with most providing various teams within several formats, with the largest being Valley End CC with 35 teams. For these clubs, there are a number of local cricket leagues operating across the County which service teams in the Borough, including:

- ◀ Berkshire Cricket League
- ◀ I'Anson League
- ◀ Surrey County League
- ◀ Berkshire Youth Cricket League
- ◀ Surrey Championship
- ◀ Thames Valley Cricket League

In contrast, Frimley Green CC provides just one team and is not affiliated to any league. Instead, it plays in friendly matches only.

There are four clubs in Surrey Heath offering a women's team (Bagshot, Camberley, Frimley and Frimley Phoenix cricket clubs) and five clubs (including Chobham CC) offering junior girls' teams. Demand by club is summarised in the following table.

Table 6.11: Summary of teams by club

Club name	Analysis area	Number of teams					2016 PPS total number of teams
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total	
Bagshot CC	Rural	7	1	4	2	14	12
Camberley CC	Urban	8	1	6	1	16	13
Chobham CC	Rural	4	-	4	2	10	8
Frimley CC	Urban	7	1	10	-	18	14
Frimley Green CC	Urban	1	-	-	-	1	1
Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	4	3	1	1	9	-

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Club name	Analysis area	Number of teams					2016 PPS total number of teams
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys	Junior girls	Total	
Valley End CC	Rural	11	-	20	4	35	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>64</b>

As seen in the table below, the Rural Analysis Area has the greatest number of current teams within the Borough (59 teams), whereas the Urban Analysis Area has 44 teams.

Table 6.12: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Rural	22	1	36	59
Urban	20	5	19	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>103</b>

### Participation trends

Overall, since the previous study in 2016, Surrey Heath has seen a growth of 39 teams, which represents substantial growth. Furthermore, the Borough has acquired a new cricket club with Frimley Phoenix CC. The largest increase is seen at Valley End CC, which has increased its offering by 54%.

Since the previous 2016 study, women's and girl's cricket in Surrey Heath has seen a particularly significant increase in demand, as is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.13: Summary of women's and girl's growth in teams by club

Club name	Analysis area	Number of teams		
		Demand (2016)	Demand (2022)	Change since 2016 study %
<b>Senior women</b>				
Bagshot CC	Rural	-	1	+1
Camberley CC	Urban	-	1	+1
Chobham CC	Rural	-	-	-
Frimley CC	Urban	-	1	+1
Frimley Green CC	Urban	-	-	-
Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	-	3	+3
Valley End CC	Rural	-	-	-
<b>Junior girls</b>				
Bagshot CC	Rural	-	2	+2
Camberley CC	Urban	1	1	-
Chobham CC	Rural	-	2	+2
Frimley CC	Urban	-	-	-
Frimley Green CC	Urban	-	-	-
Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	-	1	+1
Valley End CC	Rural	-	4	+4

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Overall, the Borough has seen a growth of an additional six senior women teams and nine junior girls' teams. The largest expansion in senior women's teams is identified at Frimley Phoenix CC, whilst the largest growth in junior girl's teams is identified at Valley End CC.

In addition, all six responding clubs report overall participation increases and no clubs report decreases in their offering of teams for any format of play. The table below provides a summary of recent increases in participation for each club in Surrey Heath and for each playing format, based on their consultation responses.

*Table 6.14: Demand fluctuations expressed by clubs in the previous three years*

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's teams	Senior women's teams	Junior teams
Bagshot CC	Rural	-	Increase	Increase
Camberley CC	Urban	Increase	Increase	Increase
Chobham CC	Rural	Increase	Increase	Increase
Frimley CC	Urban	Increase	Increase	Increase
Frimley Green CC	Urban	-	-	-
Frimley Phoenix CC	Urban	-	Increase	Increase
Valley End CC	Rural	Increase	Increase	Increase

### ***Latent/unmet demand***

Overall, three clubs express latent demand

- ◀ Camberley CC
- ◀ Chobham CC
- ◀ Frimley CC

All three report the potential to increase their offering of teams if an additional square to facilitate this surplus demand was identified. All state that their current grounds are at capacity.

### ***Imported/exported demand***

Three clubs currently export a proportion of demand outside of Surrey Heath, with these being Camberley, Frimley and Frimley Green cricket clubs. Frimley Phoenix CC is predominately based outside of Surrey Heath, with its primary venue being at Hawley CC in Hart, with Frimley Green Recreation Ground used as a secondary venue. The Club currently has a lease agreement for its use of the square at Hawley CC, which runs out in June 2023. Therefore, the Club's tenure at the ground is currently unsecure; however, discussions are ongoing to extend this.

Camberley CC exports two senior Saturday teams that play at the Army Ground in Aldershot, hiring the square on a seasonal basis; however, the Club's tenure at the Army Ground is deemed unsecure. Frimley CC also exports two Saturday teams as well as most of its junior teams. These play on the square at Brookwood Recreation Ground, in Woking; renting use of the square from Woking Borough Council, thus the Club's tenure is secure.

### ***ECB initiatives***

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfields, making squares unusable during these periods.

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### *All Stars cricket*

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for 5-8 year olds in the school and club environment.
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children to follow and play the game.

The following clubs in Surrey Heath are signed up to deliver All Stars for the 2022 season:

- ◀ Camberley CC
- ◀ Chobham CC
- ◀ Frimley CC
- ◀ Frimley Phoenix CC

Across the clubs, 167 participants are currently signed up.

### *Dynamos cricket*

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos Cricket programme for 8-11 year olds, which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars and will develop the pathway to retain juniors who progress.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition which also aimed to launch in 2020 (pre-Covid-19).

In Surrey Heath, just Frimley Phoenix CC currently partakes in Dynamo's. Further to this, Chobham CC reports that it caters for its own version of the initiative despite not officially being signed up.

### *Softball cricket*

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In Surrey Heath, Bagshot, Camberley, Chobham, Frimley, Frimley Phoenix and Valley End cricket clubs operate softball cricket, with the latter in particular offering two softball teams which regularly accommodate training sessions of up to 30 girls per session.

### *Summary*

Participation across All Stars, Dynamos and Softball is summarised in the table overleaf.

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Table 6.15: Summary of Surrey Heath All Stars, Dynamos and Softball participation

Site ID	Site name	Club/organisation	All Stars	2022 sign ups	Dynamos	2022 sign ups	Softball
1	Bagshot Park	Bagshot CC	x	-	x	-	✓
6	Camberley Cricket Club	Camberley CC	✓	40	x	-	✓
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Chobham CC	✓	60	x	-	✓
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Frimley CC	✓	50	x	-	✓
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Frimley Phoenix CC	✓	17	✓	28	✓
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Frimley Green CC	x	-	x	-	x
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Valley End CC	x	-	x	-	✓
<b>Total</b>			-	<b>167</b>	-	<b>28</b>	-

## School usage

In addition to schools using grass wickets and NTPs at their own sites, Frimley CC reports that it allows Hall Grove School to use its NTP practice wickets, free of charge. Historically, the Club has also undertaken outreach training programmes at Tomlinscote School & Sixth Form College and Ravenscote School.

No other school activity is registered at non-school sites. However, where squares are provided at school venues, curricular and extra-curricular activity needs to be taken into account as this reduces capacity for community demand, should it exist.

## Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development plans within Surrey Heath.

## Population forecasts

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from the forecasted growth (using ONS projections). This uses the current population within each of the relevant age groups together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that can then be applied to future population projections.

Using the above, it is predicted in Surrey Heath that there will be a growth of four senior men's, one senior women's and one junior team to 2038. This is shown in the table overleaf.

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Table 6.16: Future demand via population growth (2038)

Age group	Team generation rate (TGR)	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population <sup>11</sup>
Men (18-55yrs)	1:487	5.76	6
Women (18-55yrs)	1:3356	0.82	1
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:155	6.17	6
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:673	1.37	1

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of six senior men's teams, one senior women's team, six junior boys' teams and one junior girls' team.

Despite the above, it is important to be acknowledged that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would ordinarily suggest. This also applies to a likely growth in junior and female cricket, linked to the abovementioned initiatives.

In addition, the ECB's five-year media rights deal, from 2020-2024, includes a continuation of its relationship with Sky Sports. This now extends beyond broadcasting and acts as a partnership to secure investment and a commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. This could therefore see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS, meaning the impact should be reviewed over coming years.

### Participation increases

In summary, three clubs quantify their aspirations to increase their levels of participation in the future. This amounts to a total predicted growth of six teams, equating to two senior men's, three senior women's and one junior team.

Table 6.17: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior	Total
Bagshot CC	Rural	1	1	-	2
Chobham CC	Rural	1	1	1	3
Valley End CC	Rural	-	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

This is summarised by analysis area, below. All future demand is expressed in the Rural Analysis Area.

Table 6.18: Summary of future demand aspirations by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Rural	2	3	1	6
Urban	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>11</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

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In addition, Camberley, Chobham and Frimley cricket clubs also express desires to increase their number of teams but state that they would not be able to accommodate this at their current home grounds. As such, they are not able to quantify potential increases.

### ***Peak time demand***

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Surrey Heath is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both require consideration.

For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

### **6.4: Capacity analysis**

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report therefore presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive match equivalent sessions per season per square that is available and that currently takes place.

For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year, depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The capacity analysis assumes that all clubs rotate their wickets evenly. However, this may not be the case at all sites, with central wickets potentially used more commonly than outer wickets that are closer to a boundary, especially for senior matches. The idea of this is to showcase what the capacity is or could be if best practice was followed for the whole square, rather than doing it on a wicket-by-wicket basis.



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In addition to grass wickets, NTPs are considered to have capacity for 60 match equivalent sessions per season. However, please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are recorded as accommodating more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season, meaning all NTPs are considered to have spare capacity. Whilst this translates to actual spare capacity for junior play, where the provision is more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days, it is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Any squares not currently available for community use have also been discounted from the analysis as they are not presently providing any capacity.

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Table 6.19: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	Security of tenure	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
1	Bagshot Park	Rural	Bagshot CC	Secure	1	Standard	13	52	70	18	No	No	No
6	Camberley Cricket Club	Urban	Camberley CC	Secure	1	Good	20	100	59	41	No	No	No
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Rural	Chobham CC	Secure	1	Standard	17	68	98	30	No	No	No
9	Chobham Road Recreation Ground	Urban	Frimley CC	Secure	1	Standard	14	56	48	8	No	No	No
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Urban	Frimley Phoenix CC	Secure	1	Poor	5	0	12	12	No	No	No
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	Frimley Green CC	Secure	1	Poor	9	0	10	10	No	No	No
30	London Road Recreation Ground	Urban	-	Secure	1	Poor	10	0	0	0	No	No	No
44	Windlesham Road	Rural	Valley End CC	Secure	1	Good	8 <sup>12</sup>	40	67	27	No	No	No
45	Watchetts Recreation Ground	Urban	-	Secure	1	Poor	8	0	0	0	No	No	No
48	Windlesham Field of Remembrance	Rural	Bagshot CC	Secure	1	Standard	6	24	22	2	Yes	No	Yes
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Rural	Valley End CC	Secure	1	Good	14	70	71	1	No	No	No
					1	Good	10	50	101	51	No	No	No

<sup>12</sup> Number of wickets has been decreased from 16 to eight as the four most outer wickets on either side of the square cannot be used for competitive cricket as they are in such a poor condition.

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### ***Actual spare capacity***

Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format. It should, however, be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

### ***Saturday cricket***

Despite three squares having overall spare capacity in Surrey Heath, none have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday demand. This is because they are all either already used to capacity on a Saturday (i.e., already accessed by two teams), or they have insufficient capacity to accommodate additional demand without overplay being created or exacerbated (12 match equivalent sessions are required).

The poor quality squares at Frimley Green Recreation Ground, Frimley Lodge Park, London Road Recreation Ground and Watchetts Recreation Ground would all supply actual spare capacity if they were not poor quality.

### ***Sunday cricket***

Despite three squares having overall spare capacity in Surrey Heath, none have actual spare capacity for an increase in Sunday demand. This is because they are all either already used to capacity on a Saturday (i.e., already accessed by two teams), or they have insufficient capacity to accommodate additional demand without overplay being created or exacerbated (12 match equivalent sessions are required).

### ***Junior cricket (midweek)***

For junior midweek cricket, despite three squares having overall spare capacity in Surrey Heath, none have actual spare capacity for an increase in Midweek demand. Whilst Windlesham Field of Remembrance has additional spare capacity, it is not large enough to accommodate additional demand without overplay being created or exacerbated (six match equivalent sessions are required).

### ***Overplay***

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. On this basis, overplay in Surrey Heath is relatively high, with seven of the Borough's squares overplayed across seven sites by a total of 149 match equivalent sessions per season. This is summarised in the table below.

Two of the overplayed squares are assessed as poor quality (at Frimley Green Recreation Ground and Frimley Lodge Park) and two are assessed as standard quality (at Bagshot Park and Chobham Cricket Club). As such, quality improvements at these venues could reduce the identified shortfall as capacity would be increased.

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Table 6.20: Summary of overplay by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
1	Bagshot Park	Rural	1	18
7	Chobham Cricket Club	Rural	1	30
19	Frimley Green Recreation Ground	Urban	1	12
20	Frimley Lodge Park	Urban	1	10
44	Windlesham Road	Rural	1	27
51	Valley End Cricket Club	Rural	2	51
				1
<b>Total</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>149</b>

The majority of the overplay is seen in the Rural Analysis Area (127 match equivalent sessions) when compared to the Urban Analysis Area (22 match equivalent sessions).

Table 6.21: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (sessions per season)
Rural	127
Urban	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on the overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

## 6.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. This section therefore looks at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and identified future demand. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (12 matches for senior teams and between four and eight matches for junior teams, depending on age).

### Saturday supply and demand analysis

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday).

Table 6.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Rural	-	127	127	24	151
Urban	-	22	22	-	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>173</b>

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As seen in the table above, there is a significant overall shortfall of grass wicket squares in Surrey Heath on Saturdays amounting to 149 match equivalent sessions currently and 173 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand. This is principally evident in the Rural Analysis Area although a shortfall also exists in the Urban Analysis Area.

The lack of capacity on Saturday explains the high level of exported and unmet demand expressed by the likes of Camberley and Frimley cricket clubs. Incorporating this demand would significantly worsen the picture.

### ***Sunday cricket supply and demand analysis***

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

*Table 6.23: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for Sunday cricket*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Rural	-	127	127	36	163
Urban	-	22	22	-	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>185</b>

Similar to Saturday cricket, there is overall shortfall for Sunday cricket in Surrey Heath, amounting to 149 match equivalent sessions per season, escalating to 185 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

### ***Midweek cricket supply and demand analysis***

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance for midweek cricket, which is most appropriate for junior demand.

*Table 6.24: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for midweek cricket*

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Rural	-	127	127	6	133
Urban	-	22	22	-	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>155</b>

There is currently overall spare capacity for midweek cricket amounting to 149 match equivalent sessions per season. When accounting for future demand, this figure rises slightly to an overall shortfall of 155 match equivalent sessions.

## **6.6 Conclusion**

There is a large shortfall of capacity for cricket in Surrey Heath, with overall deficits existing currently across all formats of play and in both analysis areas. This is also projected to worsen based on future demand levels and when considering the level of unmet and exported demand identified.

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### **Cricket – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There are three squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets; however, none have actual spare capacity for increased Saturday demand, nor Sunday or Midweek demand.
- ◀ Seven squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 149 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is clear shortfall of capacity for cricket in Surrey Heath, with overall deficits existing currently across the playing formats and in both analysis areas.

### **Cricket – supply summary**

- ◀ In total, there are 14 grass wicket cricket squares in Surrey Heath, provided across 13 sites, with 12 squares available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying three grass wickets squares across three sites in addition to four standalone NTPs.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Surrey Heath found four to be good quality, four to be standard quality and four to be poor quality.
- ◀ All squares with ancillary facilities are serviced by good or standard quality provision apart from Frimley Green Recreation Ground, which is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Two clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities (Valley End and Frimley Phoenix cricket clubs).

### **Cricket – demand summary**

- ◀ There are seven affiliated cricket clubs in Surrey Heath which collectively provide 103 cricket teams, equating to 42 senior men's, six senior women's and 55 junior teams.
- ◀ Five of the seven clubs in Surrey Heath have increased their number of teams since the previous PPS study completed in 2016 and there has been an overall growth of 39 teams.
- ◀ Three clubs express unmet/latent demand due to a lack of existing capacity at sites used (Camberley, Chobham and Frimley cricket clubs).
- ◀ Three clubs export a proportion of demand outside of Surrey Heath (Camberley and Frimley cricket clubs), whilst Frimley Phoenix CC imports demand into the Borough.
- ◀ Four clubs in Surrey Heath form part of the All Stars initiative, whilst just Frimley Phoenix CC are running Dynamo's sessions and six clubs offer women's softball teams.
- ◀ In summary, three clubs indicate aspirations to increase their levels of participation, with potential growth equating to two senior men's, three senior women's and one junior team.
- ◀ Population growth projects the addition of 14 teams.

### APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

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

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### **Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021**

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

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In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2021)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ 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.



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- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents' (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ Support testing of technology and innovation, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ Grow and nurture the core
- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for Counties and County Cricket Boards
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ Inspire through elite teams
- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ Make cricket accessible
- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ Engage children and young people
- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ Transform women's and girls' cricket
- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment

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- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ Support our communities
- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards***

Through the strategy, the RFU aims to enrich lives, introduce more people to rugby union and develop the sport for future generations. The goal is to achieve this by strengthening and uniting rugby union in England and producing consistently winning England teams.

Eight key strategic priorities are identified with all investment decisions aligned to these. The strategy also outlines the RFU's core activities which form the backbone of its business operations and services to the game.

The priorities include four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives' as detailed below.

#### Game Objectives:

- ◀ Enjoyment – enable positive player experiences on and off the field
- ◀ Winning England – create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby
- ◀ Welfare – enhance player welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players
- ◀ Flourishing rugby communities – support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society

#### Driving Objectives:

- ◀ Diversity & Inclusion – drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society
- ◀ Understand – build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game
- ◀ Connect – connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences
- ◀ Commercial and operational excellence – ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013)***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

EH knows that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, it will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from its success and its occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

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Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH knows the importance of its volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and it is passionate about its role within the sport. It will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards its vision.

As a governing body, EH wants to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in the game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our participation
- ◀ Deliver international success
- ◀ Increase our visibility
- ◀ Enhance our infrastructure
- ◀ For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### *Club participation*

The club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in primary schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

The vision of the Strategy is for “every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players”, whilst its missions is for “More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.”

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

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There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision 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. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

### ◀ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

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## APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

### Grass football pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football							
Please complete one form per pitch							
Site reference:			Site Name:				
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s):				
Number of football pitches on site:			Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)			
Availability			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
			<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>				
Weather at time of visit & date of visit							
Pitch Issues:							
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)							
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments		
<b>Playing surface</b>							
Grass Cover	Good >80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate 60-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <60%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within FA recommended guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severe	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Length of grass	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	Too short	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - some	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes - lots	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some evidence of poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, poor drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)</b>						<b>Section total</b>	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, but not frequent enough	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Seeded	Yes, as required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not known	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once/ twice	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last 2 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<b>Section total</b>	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.							
PITCH SCORE			0.0%	RATING		Poor	

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## Cricket pitch non-technical assessment

Element	Rating			Guidance notes	Comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>					
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor	ECB falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even	Uneven		Ball should roll without deviation or stop	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	May also wish to refer to water survey; if yes, refer to water/surface manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to water survey; if yes, refer to water/surface manager	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required	eg from animal activity (rabbits), gulls and others etc may also wish to refer to water survey	
<b>Artificial wickets</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes	No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even	Uneven		There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes	No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes	No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes	No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes	No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes	No			
<b>Grass wickets</b>					
Presence of line markings	Yes	No			
Evidence of rolling - is wicket smooth and uniform	Yes	No			
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes	No		3mm or more wicket width/15mm oval of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes	No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes	No		ECB falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound?	Yes	No			
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>					
Umpires provision	Yes	No			
Toilets	Yes	No			
Hot/cold water	Yes	No			
Heating	Yes	No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention		
<b>NTP</b>					
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes	No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even	Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes	No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes	No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes	No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes	No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes	No			
Is the steel frame/posts upright?	Yes	No			
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes	No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes	No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes	No			
Is appropriate safety/supervisory signage present?	Yes	No			

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## Rugby pitch non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment				Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability				<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>					
<small>Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small>									
Weather at time of visit									
General comments/observations									
<b>Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)</b>									
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments		
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor		
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.		
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm		
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots				
<b>GOALPOSTS</b>									
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No						
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No						
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No						
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No						
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No						
<b>ANCILLARY</b>									
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No						
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No						
<b>Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below</b>									
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never		
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never		
<b>Drainage</b>									
	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0
<b>Natural (adequate)</b> = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season <b>Natural (inadequate)</b> = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a <b>pipe drained</b> system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a <b>slit drained</b> system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.									
<b>Pitch Maintenance Score</b>									



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## Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID					
Number of AGPs on site				Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)			Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)			Short Pile 3G (40mm)		
		Sand Dressed			Sand Filled			Water based	
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating					Guidance notes	Site comments		
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, w width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes				No				
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes				No				
Are there dug outs?	Yes				No				
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes				No				
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes				No				
Maximum score	93		Scoring:	Poor	<=50		Total Score	0	
				Standard	51-79		Potential Rating	Poor	
				Good	80+				