



# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

## STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN JANUARY 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**

Company No: 9145032 (England)

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF

T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)



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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
BNG	Bio Diversity Net Gain
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and 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
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LBH	London Borough of Havering
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
PPC	Playing Pitch Calculator
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been appointed by London Borough of Havering Council (LBH) to deliver a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) covering all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Borough to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, this Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan review). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.
- ◀ Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision.
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy.
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if updated.

The ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◀ Application: Application of an assessment.

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should, where appropriate, be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises.

The PPOSS replaces the existing study (2016) for LBH whilst also now covering a wider scope and additional sports.

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The PPOSS is part of a wider series of inter-related documents for sport and recreation that include an indoor built facility strategy and an open space and recreation study. The inter-relationship between the portfolio of documents must be noted as some sports covered by the PPOSS also access indoor facilities for matches/training or use such areas on an informal basis.

The Action Plan (Part 6) recommends a number of priority projects relating to sports provision which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

Partner organisations in LBH have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In some instances, LBH will not be the organisation which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not solely just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

### Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Sports included within the project are as follows:

- ◀ Football pitches (grass and third generation turf (3G) and ancillary provision).
- ◀ Rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Cricket pitches.
- ◀ Hockey pitches (artificial grass pitches (AGPs)).
- ◀ Other grass pitches as relevant including rugby league, baseball/softball, Gaelic football etc.
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts.
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens.
- ◀ Golf courses.
- ◀ Athletic tracks (and running).
- ◀ Other outdoor sports facilities include outdoor gyms.

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league). Furthermore, other grass pitch sports are also included within the study where supply and/or demand is identified (e.g. rugby league, Gaelic football, baseball/softball).

Where a sport has not been included, this is because its presence has not been evidenced. However, that is not to say that the sports are not played informally, or that localised demand does not exist.

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, rugby union, cricket and hockey as well as the other grass pitch sports identified. ANOG guidance applies to the remaining 'non-pitch' sports.

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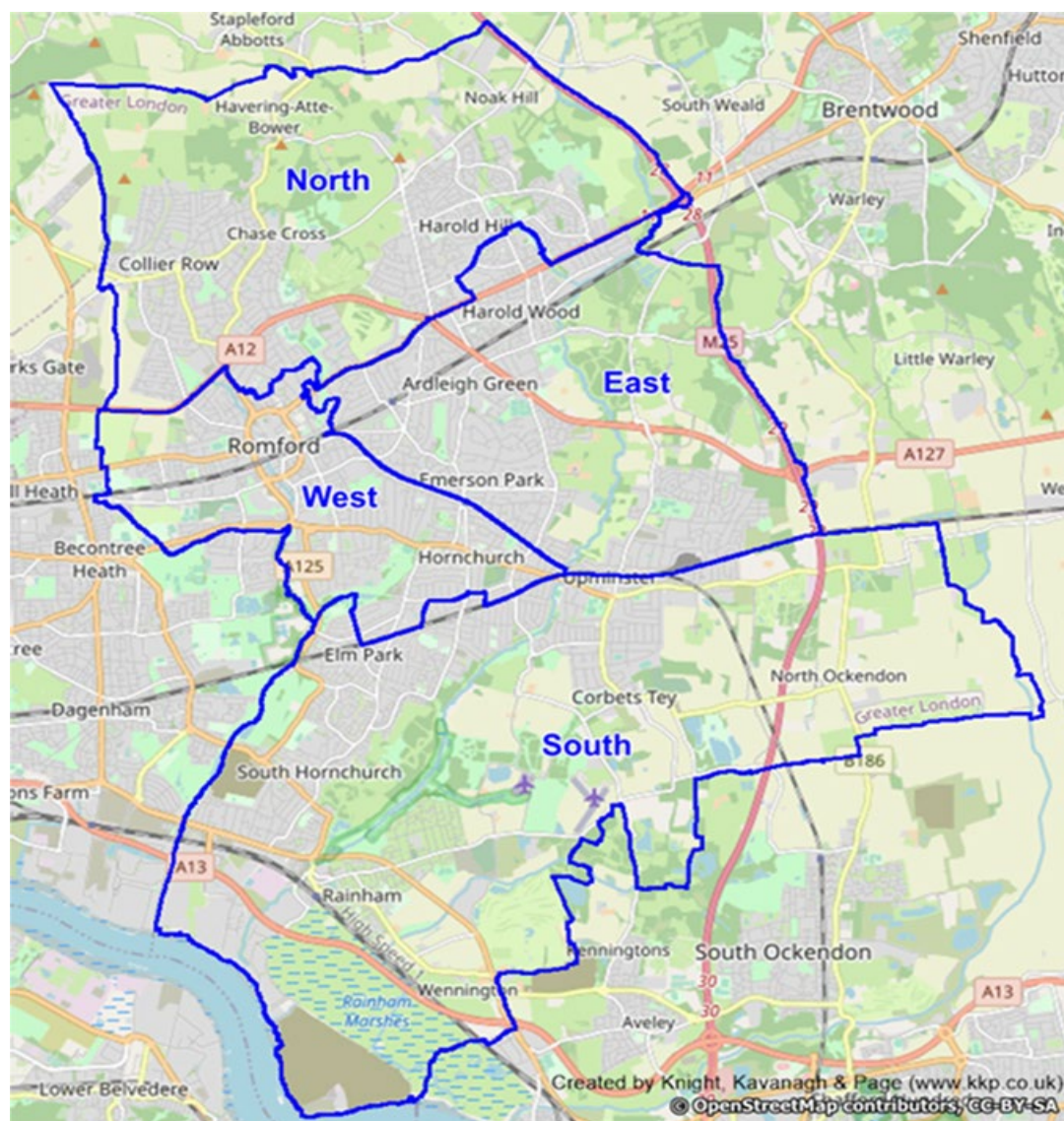
## Study area

The study area comprises of the full local authority area, with analysis areas (sub areas) used to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

It is proposed that LBH is divided into four analysis areas, which better reflects the population split within the Borough and the analysis areas have seen been changed since the previous study. This entails splitting the Council's area into the four analysis areas made up of the following wards:

- ✦ **East Area** – Cranham, Emerson Park, Harold Wood, Squirrels Heath.
- ✦ **North Area** – Gooshays, Havering-atte-Bower, Heaton ,Marshalls & Rise Park, Mawneys.
- ✦ **South Area** – Beam Park, Elm Park, Hacton, Rainham & Wennington, South Hornchurch, Upminster.
- ✦ **West Area** – Hylands & Harrow Lodge, Rush Green & Crowlands, St Alban's, St Andrew's, St Edward's.

Figure 1.1: Study Area map



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### Local context

#### Havering Local Plan (2016 – 2031)

The Local Plan sets out the Council's ambitious vision and strategy for future growth and sustainable development over the next 15 years up to 2031. The vision for the Local Plan is to create a clean, safe and proud Borough for people to live and visit. To achieve this vision, the Authority has set out 20 key objectives which it hopes to deliver over the course of the time period for the Local Plan.

This sets out the Council's ambitious vision and strategy for future growth and sustainable development over the period to 2031. The vision for the Local Plan is to create a clean, safe and proud Borough for people to live and visit. To achieve this, LBH has set out a series of objectives which it hopes to deliver over the time period for the Plan.

The plan focusses on creating high quality, safe neighbourhoods where local people want to live. To accommodate future population growth, a minimum of 18,930 dwellings of various sizes will be built in the Authority over the plan period. Ensuring that current and future residents of Havering can live healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities is a priority in the Local Plan.

To promote healthier lifestyles, the Local Plan set out the following key ambitions:

- ◀ Replacement of Hornchurch Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Provision of a new leisure centre in the south of the Borough.
- ◀ Enhanced facilities and a wider range of uses of Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre.
- ◀ New leisure provision within the Rainham and Beam Park Strategic Development Area.

Since the publication of the Local Plan, Hornchurch Leisure Centre has been replaced by Harrow Lodge leisure Centre and a new leisure centre has been built in Rainham.

In addition to enhancing the current sport and physical activity offer, LBH will protect and enhance cultural provision, provide increased training and employment opportunities with modern workspaces, and support sustainable transport options to improve accessibility from and within Havering.

Whilst working towards the objectives set out in the Local Plan, LBH will protect and enhance the Borough's Green belt and improve the quality, quantity and accessibility of public open spaces.

#### London Plan 2021

Policy S5, sports and recreation facilities, states that Development Plans should be "informed by a needs assessment for sports and recreation facilities". "By their nature, sports facilities often form a part of open space, so sports and open space needs assessments should have regard to one another" (paragraph 5.5.3.).

#### LBH financial position statement

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Havering which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.

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Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations; the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon, it applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved. This is particularly important given the Council's current financial position which is set out below.

The Council applied for, and obtained, a Capitalisation Order from Government for £54m in this financial year (2024/25). The financial difficulties the Council faces is not through mismanagement but a structural lack of funding year on year due to the demographic shift within the Borough. Havering has the second oldest population profile in London and the fourth highest growth in children in young people in the UK.

The increases in the cost of living coupled with a reduction in available housing has also led to a significant increase in temporary accommodation costs. These pressures are being experienced by many boroughs but the changes in Havering's demographic profile is proportionally higher than most other London boroughs. The Government's freezing of the grant distribution formula has resulted in our demographic changes not being matched to the funding the Council receives.

Figures independently produced by LG Futures, show Havering's estimated spend per resident for 2023/24, in comparison to our near neighbours, are the lowest service costs and are well below the national average spend.

### **National context**

Paragraph 102 of the NPPF states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate as relevant.

Paragraph 102 of the NPPF states that access to a network of high quality open space and opportunities for sports and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.

Paragraph 103 of the NPPF outlines that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields should not be built on unless the following three parameters are met. Firstly, there has been an assessment undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms or quantity and quality; and the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

An up-to-date PPOSS will form a key element of the Council's key evidence base to support its emerging health and well-being policies and the Local Plan as a whole.



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This may provide opportunities to develop new playing pitches or improve the quality of existing playing pitches in LBH in response to housing developments that create additional demand for pitches and the accompanying ancillary facilities. Any requirement would be calculated by using the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator<sup>1</sup>. Where possible, this will be aligned to existing community sport clubs in LBH which already play an integral part in providing sport and physical activities to the local community.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/playing-pitch-calculator>

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## PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

The vision of the PPOSS in LBH is:

“To ensure that there is a sound evidence base upon which to make informed decisions about the provision of quality and adequate sports playing pitches in Havering for the life of the strategy”.

In addition, the following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that these are also adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all relevant stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

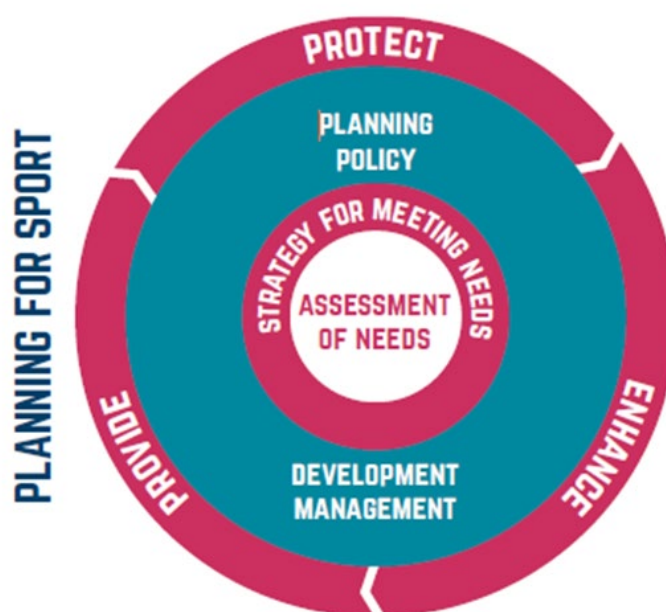
### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so and where this is possible.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

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## PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf 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 for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For artificial surfaces, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis. This is pertinent to 3G and hockey (sand/water-based pitches).

Table 3.1: Quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions <sup>2</sup> )	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
East	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	-
East	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3	-
East	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	-
East	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1	-
East	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	-
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	-
North	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	-
North	Youth 9v9	At capacity	-
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	-
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5	-
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	-
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	-
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	-
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	-
South	Mini 5v5	At capacity	-
West	Adult	At capacity	-

<sup>2</sup> Per week for rugby and football, per season for cricket

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Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions <sup>2</sup> )	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
West	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 3	-
West	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	-
West	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	-
West	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 4.5</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 4.5</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 12</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 1.5</b>
<b>Football – 3G pitches<sup>3</sup></b>	-	-	-
East	11v11	Shortfall of 1	-
North	11v11	Shortfall of 2	-
South	11v11	Shortfall of 3	-
West	11v11	Shortfall of 2	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8 pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5 pitches</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
East	Senior	Shortfall of 4.5	-
North	Senior	Played to capacity	-
South	Senior	Shortfall of 3	-
West	Senior	Shortfall of 5	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
<b>Hockey (sand AGPs)</b>	-	-	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Full size</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>	<b>Shortfall</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	-	-	-
East	Saturday	Shortfall of 91	-
East	Sunday	Shortfall of 91	-
East	Midweek	Shortfall of 91	-
North	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	-
North	Sunday	Shortfall of 13	-
North	Midweek	Spare capacity of 10	-
South	Saturday	Shortfall of 119	-
South	Sunday	Shortfall of 119	-
South	Midweek	Shortfall of 119	-
West	Saturday	Shortfall of 18	-
West	Sunday	Shortfall of 18	-
West	Midweek	Shortfall of 6	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 253</b>	<b>Shortfall of 289</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 206</b>	<b>Shortfall of 242</b>

For the remaining sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity. The current and future picture for each sport across LBH is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

<sup>3</sup> Shortfall calculated based on FA training model of one 3G pitch (11v11 size) accommodating 38 teams.

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Table 3.3: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is insufficient to satisfy club demand within the Borough. For non-club activity, LBH is seemingly well placed given the quality of most of its courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place, although there is a lack of sports lighting which could be limiting demand and use by additional club demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	The greens at Clockhouse BC (Upminster), Gidea Park BC and Upminster BC in LBH are operating at or slightly above recommended capacity guidelines, although, no issues are reported. With no other clubs reporting any capacity issues, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Athletics</b>	There is considerable demand for athletics and running within LBH most of which is serviced at Hornchurch Stadium. Qualitative improvements are required to take place within the lifespan of this strategy.
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	The provision for all other grass pitch sports (baseball/softball and American football) is adequate in isolation. It is, however, imperative that any demand that does exist for these sports is directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it is catered for.
<b>Golf</b>	There is a good level of provision with seven golf courses provided in the Borough; however, there is a lack of variety in what is offered and therefore segments of the golfing market are not being suitably catered for.
<b>Recreational spaces</b>	For outdoor gyms, with no demand information available, it is difficult to determine the need for more facilities. The spatial distribution of existing provision is more even and quality is higher, although there are areas particularly in the East Analysis Area that are likely to be unprovided for.

### Conclusions

The existing position for all sports is that there is a mixture of shortfalls, spare capacity and sufficient capacity. For most sports played on natural turf pitches there are identified current shortfalls albeit the extent of this differs between the sports. The future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some sports and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

For grass football pitches, most shortfall identified in East and South analysis areas albeit these are relatively small and are likely to be able to be addressed through quality improvements. For 3G pitches there are shortfalls (for football training) in all four analysis areas with the most in the South Analysis Area (three currently). This can only be addressed through new provision.

Rugby union has shortfalls apparent at all four rugby union club sites with most at Upminster Hall Playing Fields (Upminster RUFC) as the site's two pitches are overplayed by 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week. It is likely that a combination of measures will be required to fully address these shortfalls.

Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in LBH, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are issues to be resolved to adequately cater from existing demand. Further to this, when factoring in future demand, a shortfall of provision will be established.

Cricket is currently showing shortfalls for Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand across the Borough. This is due to overplay being created where clubs are utilising poor quality squares and the high quantity of demand present at larger club sites.

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For the non-pitch sports, tennis is showing identified shortfalls at two of the club sites and athletics provision is not sufficient to meet demand. However, demand for bowls is being accommodated with three clubs operating at or above recommended capacity levels.

Finally, demand for golf is being met as the Borough has a variety of courses and clubs for its residents to access albeit there is a lack of variety. This includes only two driving ranges and no Par 3 courses provided.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered a potential solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. In addition, there remain some area and site-specific issues that need resolving despite no overall capacity issues, such as those relating to quality and security of tenure.

Although there is value in improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, and enabling access to existing unused provision, capacity improvements may not offer significant capacity gains in the peak period to meet all shortfalls expressed, particularly for cricket and rugby union. A strategic solution is considered to be necessary involving new pitches to address this scale of shortfall. There is also an overall shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches identified across LBH and these shortfalls cannot be addressed unless this type of pitch is approved and constructed. This is further explored on a sport by sport basis within the scenarios.

In addition to population forecasts applied through future demand calculations, further calculations are made in relation to specific housing growth demand and this is presented in Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios.

## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the findings evidences in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified and how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can improve the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested.

### Football – grass pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Football – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 35 match equivalent sessions per week across 49 pitches, whereas 13 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- It is determined that there is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity, with spare capacity on adult and the mini pitches.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity still remains on adult and the mini pitches despite being reduced.

##### Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 170 grass football pitches within LBH across 78 sites, with 129 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 38 sites.
- Most community available pitches across LBH are managed by the Council (88 pitches), followed by pitches at education sites (24) and at sports club sites (18).
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, 27 are assessed as good quality, 87 as standard quality and 15 as poor quality.
- Rise Park, Spring Farm Park, The Gallows, Westlands Playing Fields are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision, whilst nine sites are without appropriate facilities.
- There is one club which plays within the football pyramid structure, with Hornchurch FC operating at Step 3, playing in the Isthmian Premier League (as of the 2022/23 season). The Club was promoted at the end of the 2023/24 season to Step 2 in the National League South. In addition, Harold Wood Athletic FC plays in the Essex Olympian Football League; these have to adhere to ground grading requirements.

##### Football – demand summary

- There are 394 affiliated teams from within 53 clubs based within LBH.
- Only 362 teams from across 46 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on pitches within LBH due to exported demand. This comprises of 62 adult men's, three adult women's, 125 youth boys', 16 youth girls' and 156 mini (mixed) teams.
- There has been a large increase in demand since 2016, with 56 additional teams now identified.
- 32 teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the Borough into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of six adult, seven youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, nine mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams.
- A total of five clubs identify latent and/or unmet in that they express they could field more teams if they had more capacity.

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- ◀ Future demand from population growth projects an increase of 13 teams, whilst a total of 12 clubs quantify growth aspirations, with this amounting to 44 teams.
- ◀ The Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario exploring the participation trends for football since the previous study was established as 56 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion and what impact this trend will have on demand if it continues locally.
- ◀ It must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a current focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality/addressing overplay

In total, there are 15 pitches in LBH across nine sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and consequently reduce both current and future shortfalls across the Borough.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitch quality	Adult matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Youth matches per week	Mini pitch quality	Mini matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Please note the current capacity rating column has been obtained from Table 2.23 in the capacity balance column from the Assessment Report. The good quality capacity rating column uses the good rating table above (three for adult, four for youth and six for mini pitches) against the total play for each of the sites to demonstrate whether each site is still overplayed or spare capacity being created.

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
6	Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Playing Field)	South	Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	3	3
36	Harold Wood Park	East	Adult	1	Standard	1	0
36	Harold Wood Park	East	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	3.5	0.5
36	Harold Wood Park	East	Mini (7v7)	1	Poor	1	3
40	Harrow Lodge Primary School	East	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	1	2
40	Harrow Lodge Primary School	East	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2



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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
46	Hilldene Primary School	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
49	Hylands Park	West	Mini (7v7)	2	Poor	1	3
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	North	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	North	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
52	Langtons Junior Academy	East	Mini (5v5)	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
83	The Champion School	East	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
95	Upminster Junior School	South	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality was improved. The only exceptions to this is the youth 11v11 pitch at Harold Wood Park. The pitch would continue to accommodate a small level of overplay (0.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

As a result of improving quality across the overplayed and poor quality pitches, shortfalls would be alleviated on youth pitches and spare capacity established. Whilst spare capacity would increase on adult and mini pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Current supply and demand if quality improved to good at overplayed sites

Pitch type	Current total	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	7.5	10.5
Youth 11v11	2	6
Youth 9v9	3	8
Mini 7v7	16.5	24.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	5

Although improving quality can have a positive impact, the potential capacity created will not necessarily be in the peak period and therefore may not fully meet demand. It should also be noted that if quality was improved, for this to be sustained over a long term period this will likely require existing maintenance budgets to be maintained or enhanced.

Further to the above, future shortfalls will be eradicated on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, and future actual spare capacity will increase on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches as shown in the table below.

Table 4.3: Future supply and demand if quality improved to good at overplayed sites

Pitch type	Future total	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	6.5	9.5
Youth 11v11	3.5	4.5
Youth 9v9	4	7
Mini 7v7	15	23
Mini 5v5	1	3.5

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Given the cost of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which cannot only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use. However, for sustainability, there also needs to be a sufficient level of midweek training demand taking place on the pitches.

## Addressing future demand through trend based growth

This scenario examines the effect of future demand based on forecasted growth from historical FA affiliation data. Please note that the Assessment Report only considered future demand from ONS population growth.

Using historic Essex FA affiliation data for LBH, the graph overleaf plots the forecasted growth for the upcoming 2024/25 season. It considers the following demand affiliated to LBH from previous seasons:

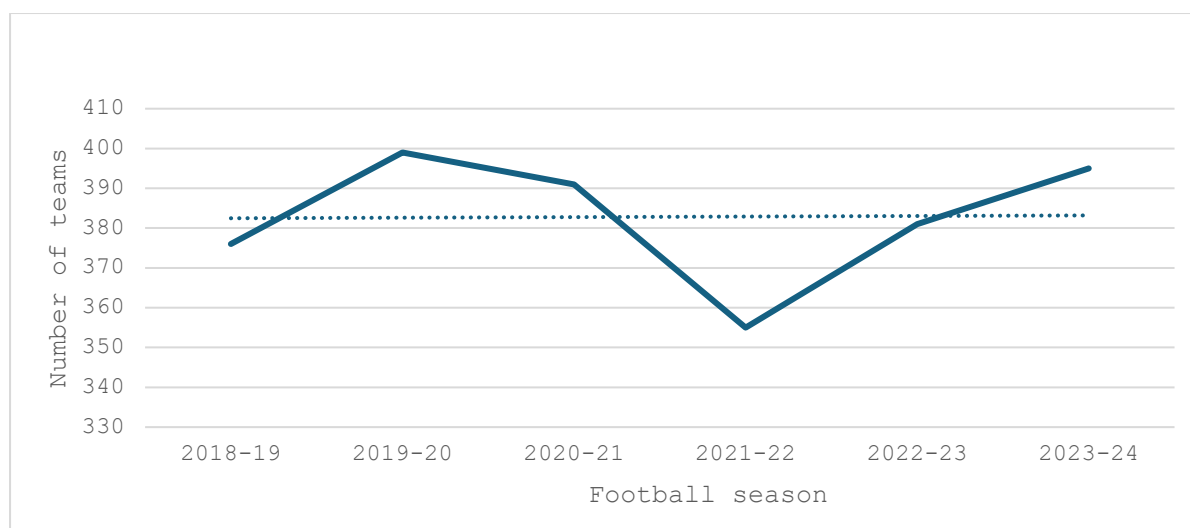
- ◀ 2018/19– 376 teams.
- ◀ 2019/20- 399 teams.
- ◀ 2020/21- 391 teams.
- ◀ 2021/22- 355 teams.
- ◀ 2022/23- 381 teams.
- ◀ 2023/24- 395 teams.

With an average increase in demand of 1.15% per year between 2018 and 2024, trend forecasting predicts an increase of five teams for 2024/25 season. This will give a total of 407 teams affiliated to LBH equating to the need for a further 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week across the Borough.

For comparison with club aspirations captured within the Assessment Report, (as this is over a five year time period), this would equate to an additional 25 teams and a need for 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Please also note that future demand through forecasted growth (25 teams) is substantially higher than through population projections (13 teams) even though this is for a much longer time period (to 2041).

Figure 4.1: Annual growth in football teams across LBH (2018-2024)



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If the above level of future demand through forecasted growth (25 teams) was to be realised, this would increase existing shortfalls on youth pitches. Whilst actual spare capacity would still remain on adult and mini pitches, although at a reduced level.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand if future demand through trend based growth realised

Pitch type	Current total	Future total
Adult	7.5	5.5
Youth 11v11	2	4.5
Youth 9v9	3	4.5
Mini 7v7	16.5	15
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5

### Addressing future demand through club aspirations

During consultation, 12 clubs reported aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 44 teams over the next five years. This has not currently been considered within the future demand outlined (which is currently based on population growth) as such demand is considered more aspirational than what has been set out. However, if it was to be realised, shortfalls would significantly worsen for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst shortfalls would be created on mini 5v5 pitches. Spare capacity would still remain on adult and mini 7v7 pitches but at a reduced level as shown below.

Table 4.5: Current supply and demand with club future demand aspirations accounted for

Pitch type	Current total	Future total
Adult	7.5	6
Youth 11v11	2	5
Youth 9v9	3	8
Mini 7v7	16.5	11.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	2

It should be noted that national FA trend data is anticipating an 48% increase in female participation and a 26% increase in disability football participation. As such the Borough should be anticipating a notable increase in demand during the lifespan of the PPOSS. Efforts should be made to ensure the growth of both women's and girls' football and disability football is being facilitated by suitable access to 3G training and coaches with required qualifications.

Since the 2016 PPS, there has been growth of 56 teams in the Borough. It is anticipated that this figure will be significantly higher for the next 3-5 years, with the FA anticipating potential growth of 25 teams by 2030. It is unknown at this point how many of these will be dedicated women's and girls' teams.

### Priority sites for improved pitch quality<sup>4</sup>

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving specific strategic sites. To that end, the 2019 Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies 10 sites for grass pitch improvements that need investment and that are key to the development of football across LBH. This improvement will be led by the County FA and FF with local clubs playing a role in the activation of projects.

<sup>4</sup><https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/havering/havering-local-football-facility-plan/#tab-section-improved-grass-pitches>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The LBH LFFP (2019) identified 10 sites for pitch improvements. These remain priority sites in LBH and as such the impact of improving these is shown in the below.

Table 4.6: Impact of quality improvements at LFFP sites (in match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Youth (11v11)	9	Standard	0	0
7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Youth (9v9)	4	Standard	0	0
7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Mini (7v7)	5	Standard	5	5
7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Mini (5v5)	6	Standard	0	0
8	Brittons Playing Field	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0	1
8	Brittons Playing Field	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0	0.5
8	Brittons Playing Field	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1
26	Emerson Park Academy	Adult	2	Standard	0	1
36	Harold Wood Park	Adult	2	Standard	1	2
36	Harold Wood Park	Adult	1	Standard	0	1
36	Harold Wood Park	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2.5	0.5
36	Harold Wood Park	Youth (9v9)	1	Good	0.5	0.5
36	Harold Wood Park	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0	1
36	Harold Wood Park	Mini (7v7)	1	Good	0	0
36	Harold Wood Park	Mini (5v5)	1	Good	0.5	0.5
39	Harrow Lodge Park	Mini (7v7)	3	Standard	3	3
39	Harrow Lodge Park	Mini (5v5)	2	Standard	2	2
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	2
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	Mini (5v5)	2	Standard	0	2
71	Rise Park	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	0	2
71	Rise Park	Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	0	2
71	Rise Park	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1
78	Spring Farm Park	Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	0	2
78	Spring Farm Park	Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	1	1
84	The Forest Row Centre	Adult	3	Good	0.5	0.5
84	The Forest Row Centre	Youth (11v11)	1	Good	0	0
84	The Forest Row Centre	Youth (9v9)	1	Good	0	0
84	The Forest Row Centre	Mini (7v7)	2	Good	2	2
84	The Forest Row Centre	Mini (5v5)	2	Good	0.5	0.5
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	Adult	3	Standard	1	3

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Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 21 equivalent sessions of additional capacity per week.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table. Note the table below is presented on a peak time model, and therefore, improving sites in the table above, may not necessarily generate capacity within the peak periods, albeit it will create an improved quality experience for users.

Based on improvements, shortfalls for youth pitches would be eradicated with actual spare capacity established. Whilst actual spare capacity would increase on adult and mini pitches.

Table 4.7: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at chosen sites

Pitch type	Current capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	7.5	12
Youth 11v11	2	6.5
Youth 9v9	3	2
Mini 7v7	16.5	16.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	4.5

Similarly, future shortfalls would be eradicated and actual spare capacity established. Whilst actual spare capacity would be increased on adult and mini pitches.

Table 4.8: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at chosen sites

Pitch type	Future capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	6.5	11
Youth 11v11	3.5	5
Youth 9v9	4	1
Mini 7v7	15	15
Mini 5v5	1	3

In summary, the sites in Table 4.6 remain a priority for investment as they do a positive impact upon the supply and demand.

In addition to the projects already within the LFFP, there is scope to add further projects based on the findings of the PPOSS.

## Loss of tenure at education sites

As highlighted in the Assessment Report, most community accessible pitches in LBH are managed by education providers. The table below outlines the education sites which are accessed by community clubs.

Table 4.9: Demand taking place on grass pitches at education sites

Site	Security of tenure	Club	Teams
Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Lane Playing Field)	Unsecure	Upminster Park Rovers FC	Three teams
Coopers Company & Coburn School	Unsecure	Old Cooperians FC	One team
Emerson Park Academy	Unsecure	Emerson Park FC Upminster Town United	Two teams Two teams
Hilldene Primary School	Unsecure	Romford Colts FC	Five teams

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site	Security of tenure	Club	Teams
Marshalls Park Academy	Unsecure	Elite Colts FC	Two teams
Upminster Junior School	Unsecure	Upminster Town United	Two teams

In instances where clubs do not have formal tenure agreements in place, clubs could theoretically be asked to vacate at any time which would result in each requiring alternate provision to service existing levels of demand.

There are 18 teams from seven clubs accessing education sites. The impact of community access being removed is highlighted in the table below. Please note that the total does not include teams accessing 3G pitches at education sites.

If community access to all unsecure education sites was to be lost, shortfalls would be exacerbated on youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches, whilst spare capacity would still remain on the mini pitches, although it would be reduced.

Table 4.10: Impact of loss of access to sites without secure tenure on supply and demand balance

Pitch type	Current capacity	Potential capacity
Adult	7.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	2	3.5
Youth 9v9	3	4.5
Mini 7v7	16.5	14.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	1.5

As shown above, to avoid the risk of the supply and demand balancing worsening, it is necessary to try and ensure that grass pitches at education sites continue to stay open to community use, given the reliance upon school sites across LBH.

Whilst not always possible, particularly at the secondary school sites listed in Table 4.10, formalising and securing community use agreements would ensure that demand continues to be accommodated in the long-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB, Sport England, the Council or through s106 funding, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can mandate the implementation of a community use agreement as part of the planning stipulations.

As an example, achieving secure access to the grass pitches at Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Lane Playing Field), Coopers Company & Coburn School, Emerson Park Academy and Marshalls Park Academy, which all provide two pitches each. These provide suitable sites to accommodate football demand and would help to meet some of the current shortfalls identified. Furthermore, there are three pitches provided at Hilldene Primary School, however, the youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed and spare capacity discounted on the mini 7v7 pitches due to unsecure tenure.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### Alternative management models

Most teams/clubs in LBH access pitch provision associated with the Council. Whilst there comes a commitment from the local authority to continue to provide this sites, tenure agreements are often rolling 12-month agreements or in some instances shorter still and clubs often feel at risk of losing access on a season by season basis. It also makes it difficult for new or younger clubs to establish use due to historic bookings.

The Council should explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT). Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

In addition, the Football Foundation has developed a programme called the Home Advantage Programme<sup>5</sup>, which is designed to encourage clubs to take on Community Asset Transfers of local authority sites through 100% grant funding of up to £250k. The funding will help to support both capital and revenue projects that will help clubs to enhance the value of their assets and generate their own income, including site security fencing, storage units, grounds maintenance machinery and catering cabins.

Clubs such as Harold Wood Cougars and Upminster Park Rovers already have long-term lease agreements at their home grounds at Harold Wood Park and Upminster Hall Playing Fields respectively, which are both owned/managed by the Council. These clubs and sites have been identified as potential options for CAT consideration and could provide an opportunity through the Home Advantage Programme.

### Accommodating exported demand

Currently, there are 32 teams across nine clubs consisting of six adult, seven youth 11v11, six youth 9v9, nine mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 teams which have been identified as being exported from LBH to play in neighbouring authorities:

- ◀ BJM Youth FC.
- ◀ Byron Red Star FC.
- ◀ Elite Colts FC.
- ◀ FC Mexico.
- ◀ Hornchurch Urchins FC.
- ◀ Hornchurch Vets FC.
- ◀ Kit Out London FC.
- ◀ Redbridge Youth.
- ◀ West Ham United Development.

The level of exported demand is relatively high, however, it should be noted that due to the Borough's proximity to London and less travel time to access provision in neighbouring authorities such as Barking and Dagenham, to some extent this is to be expected and not seen as an issue to many clubs.

Notwithstanding the above, Byron Red Star FC, Elite Colts FC and Hornchurch Urchins FC indicate, through consultation, that demand is exported out of LBH due to a lack of facilities and capacity at sites within the Borough. For Elite Colts FC, it reports it being a particular issue as it wishes to field all teams within LBH but is currently unable to due to a lack of pitch capacity.

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<sup>5</sup><https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/home-advantage-programme>

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Therefore, the impact of all demand returning is shown in the following table. Shortfalls would be increased on youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches whilst spare capacity would still remain on adult and mini pitches although at reduced levels.

Table 4.11: Current supply and demand if all exported demand returned to the Borough

Pitch type	Current total	Potential total
Adult	7.5	4.5
Youth 11v11	2	5.5
Youth 9v9	3	6
Mini 7v7	16.5	12
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5

The above illustrates a reason as to why such a level of exported demand exists, however, this is only the case for youth pitches, with the remaining pitch types displaying actual spare capacity, although at reduced levels. Of the clubs identified as exporting demand, only Byron Red Star FC, Elite Colts FC and Hornchurch Urchins FC are impacted by the shortfalls on youth pitches. For Byron Red Star and Elite Colts FC, they field the majority of its demand in the West Analysis, which has spare capacity across all pitch types and could facilitate these clubs fielding its demand in the West Analysis Area (four teams are currently exported outside of the Borough).

Therefore, shortfalls need to be alleviated and spare capacity needs to be created, as set out within the other scenarios (e.g., via quality improvements and securing community use). Additionally, the creation of additional 11v11 3G pitches will also assist as this will enable the transfer of demand from grass pitches, thus creating further spare capacity.

Notwithstanding the above, Byron Red Star and Elite Colts FC only export a collective four teams (1 x adult, 1 x youth 11v11, 1 x youth 9v9 and 1 x mini 7v7), which is minimal. Whereas Hornchurch Urchins export all its demand (21 teams) into Redbridge and were unresponsive during consultation so additional work to engage with the Club is required to fully understand why they are exporting demand outside of LBH.

### New pitches at Baldwins Farm, Bramble Road

There is a planning application (P0995.23) at Baldwins Farm, Bramble Road in for 16 grass football pitches of varying sizes, consisting of four youth 11v11, four youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 pitches. On a borough wide level, this would increase capacity by 16 match equivalent sessions per week at peak times and alleviates shortfalls on youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches and further increase actual spare capacity on mini pitches. The impact of creating these pitches can be seen in the table below. These plans are subject to planning approval.

Table 4.12: Current supply and demand if additional pitches provided at Baldwins Farm

Pitch type	Current total	Potential total
Adult	7.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	2	2
Youth 9v9	3	1
Mini 7v7	16.5	20.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	6.5

Although the above table shows actual spare capacity across all pitch types, it is unknown at this stage whether the pitches being proposed will, if approved, operate as a multi-sport/community facility or exclusive access by Upminster Park Rovers.



# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Improving ancillary provision

As identified in the Assessment Report, four sites in LBH are serviced by poor quality (Rise Park, Spring Farm Park, The Gallows and Westlands Playing Field). These sites are serviced by dated facilities that require improving or replacing and have signs of wear and tear. Each requires a degree of modernisation to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the future.

Byron Red Star FC reports the pavilion at Westlands Playing Fields is often locked so is unable to get access. Although, the girls' toilets are in poor condition and are poorly maintained.

Poor quality ancillary provision is identified at The Gallows, where the changing rooms are outdated and poorly maintained.

If funding is to be invested into ancillary provision, improvements to poor quality sites such as Spring Farm Park and Westlands Playing Field would be appropriate priority projects given these sites accommodate a greater level of demand.

Table 4.13: Poor quality ancillary provision within LBH

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality	Clubs and number of teams accessing
71	Rise Park	Poor	Byron Red Star FC (13 teams)
78	Spring Farm Park	Poor	CFA Rainham FC (nine teams) Chafford FC (two teams) FC United Hornchurch (one team) United Amateurs FC (two teams)
86	The Gallows	Poor	Unused
98	Westlands Playing Fields	Poor	ACD United (one team) Barn Sports FC (one team) Byron Red Star FC (three teams) Elite Colts FC (10 teams) Hornchurch Oakmount (one team) Newham and Havering Borough FC (one team) Portville FC (one team) Top Tekkers FC (one team) Upminster Athletic (one team) Warren FC (one team)

## Summary of scenarios

Based on the above scenario testing it can be concluded that grass pitch quality improvements will significantly help to reduce overplay across all pitch types.

Improving all identified grass pitches is unlikely to be realistic, particularly in the short to medium term. On this basis to work to alleviate these shortfalls could be better alleviated via a combination of factors such as improving pitch quality, securing security of tenure at key education sites, and ensuring existing and new 3G pitches are used to accommodate match play demand.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing pitches in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality and utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Support eligible organisations to access funding to improve pitches at their sites, such as through the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF).
- ◀ Explore opportunities for more club-led management and community asset transfers for football clubs such as Harold Wood Cougars and Upminster Park Rovers to access external funding and to improve facilities to feasibly manage, sustain and improve provision, in line with an established criteria.
- ◀ Work with education sites to provide secured community use, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, with a focus on sites such as Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre and Westlands Playing Field which provide multiple pitches and accommodate high levels of demand, those directly managed by clubs and sites which are priorities for the growth of female participation.
- ◀ Work with Essex County FA and the Football Foundation to update the current LFFP for more up-to-date picture for the future of football in LBH.
- ◀ Work towards transferring some match play to new 3G pitches and new strategic football sites to provide space for expansion for meeting current needs as well as the needs of the growth.
- ◀ Ensure programming of all 3G pitches provide a minimum of 15% of peak time access to women's and girls' football in line with Football Foundation initiatives to support the development of women's and girls' football.
- ◀ Regularly monitor future growth levels to determine if additional pitches are required, particularly for adult and youth football – this can be done via the Stage E process (see Part 8).
- ◀ Experience from Sport England shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right. Using this, assess the need for new football provision linked to any large housing developments and assess this through the production of a sport needs assessment to determine on or off site requirements.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size (dwellings of 600 or less) to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, with priority placed on priorities and needs identified in the PPOSS Action Plan and the LFFP.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites with community use that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See Part 7 of this report for further information

## Third generation turf (3G) pitches

### Assessment Report summary

#### 3G – supply and demand summary

- ◀ There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision to meet requirements, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football.
- ◀ The FA training model suggest a current shortfall of seven 11v11 3G pitches, increasing to eight when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ For rugby union, the creation of suitable 3G pitches may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches, although this needs to be considered against grass pitch solutions.
- ◀ No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in LBH, suggesting that no other demand currently requires consideration.

#### 3G – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are three 11v11 and 11 smaller size 3G pitches identified in LBH, all of which are available for community use.
- ◀ All three of the 11v11 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting, although neither of the smaller sized pitches are.
- ◀ All three of the 11v11 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. None of the smaller size 3G pitches are on the FA pitch register.
- ◀ No pitches in LBH are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ For the 11v11 3G pitches, two are assessed as standard quality (Noak Hill Sports Complex and The Frances Bardsley School for Girls) and the pitch at The Brittons Academy as good quality.
- ◀ All the smaller size pitches have exceeded their recommended lifespans and have been assessed as poor quality.

#### 3G – demand summary

- ◀ The 3G pitches currently servicing LBH are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all three of the 11v11 3G pitches being FIFA/FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in LBH.
- ◀ Unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed, with eight responding football clubs as well as Champion RUFC and Romford & Gidea Park RUFC identifying that their training requirements are not currently being met.
- ◀ Several football clubs also currently export some training demand outside of LBH, primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Borough.
- ◀ If future demand predications are realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for both football and rugby union.

## Scenarios

### Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's scenario of one 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalent being able to cater for 38 community football teams) there is a need for 11 11v11 size equivalent 3G pitches to accommodate all training demand in LBH as seen below.

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Table 4.14: Current demand for 3G pitches in LBH (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G requirement <sup>7</sup>	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
East	72	2	1	1
North	113	3	1	2
South	136	4	1	3
West	73	2	-	2
<b>LBH</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

With 394 teams affiliated to clubs based in LBH, there is an overall need for 11 11v11 size 3G pitches. With three pitches currently provided and contributing to community use need, this leaves a shortfall of eight pitches. This not only identifies where the potential need may exist across LBH but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

As shown in the table above, the four analysis areas show a current shortfall of provision, with these most apparent in the South Analysis Area (three). As such there is the need to develop additional 11v11 pitches to better support the training needs of clubs across LBH.

The LBH LFFP (2019<sup>8</sup>) identifies three priority projects to provide four 11v11 size 3G pitches as follows:

- ◀ Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre (South)- Two 11v11 size 3G pitches.
- ◀ The Forest Row Centre (North)- One 11v11 size 3G pitch.
- ◀ The Brittons Academy (South)- One 11v11 size 3G pitch.

One of the South Analysis Area 3G pitches has been delivered with one pitch installed at The Brittons Academy. As such it is no longer considered a project for a future 3G pitch.

The North Analysis Area project has not been delivered and has a shortfall of two 11v11 size pitches are identified in the PPOSS Assessment Report.

Despite the South Analysis Area having one of the projects delivered, the two 11v11 size 3G pitches identified at Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre has not been delivered and has a shortfall of three 11v11 3G size pitches is identified. As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, the priority project list should be revisited following this study and updated/amended based on the findings.

The aforementioned project list has been matched against the table below to see how it potentially meets existing shortfalls. As the Brittons Academy has been delivered, the project is not included in the table below.

Table 4.15: Impact of delivering remaining LFFP 3G projects on PPOSS shortfalls

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Remaining shortfall
East	2	1	1	-	1
North	3	1	2	1	1
South	4	1	3	2	1
West	2	-	2	-	2

<sup>7</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>8</sup><https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/havering/havering-local-football-facility-plan/#tab-section-3g-football-turf-pitches-ftps>

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Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Remaining shortfall
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

Based on the existing portfolio of remaining viable projects identified in the LFFP, if the two projects were to be delivered, there would still be a theoretical shortfall, albeit reduced to five 11v11 size 3G pitches across the Borough.

When broken down by analysis area, the shortfalls identified in the North and South analysis areas would be reduced from two to one for the former and from three to one for the latter.

### Accommodating future demand

When factoring in future demand of 13 teams (from population growth to 2031), the pitch requirement would remain the same (11 – based on 407 teams).

Further to this, forecasted growth through trends based analysis using historic LBH affiliation data and over a five year period, would equate to an additional 25 teams and 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week. If this predicted growth were to be achieved there would be a total of 419 teams within LBH over a five year period. This would lead to a theoretical need for 11 pitches resulting in a shortfall of eight 11v11 3G pitches. This is shown in the table below.

Table 4.16: Impact of future demand positions for the overall 3G pitch position in LBH

Future demand positions	Future number of teams	11v11 3G requirement <sup>9</sup>	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
Population growth (to 2041)	407	11	3	8
Club aspirations (over next five years)	438	12	3	9
Trend based growth (over the next five years)	419	11	3	8

As seen in the table above, population growth and trend based growth present a similar picture with the same future shortfall of eight 11v11 3G pitches each. Whilst applying future demand through participation increases leads to a theoretical requirement of 12 11v11 3G pitches and a shortfall of nine.

The total potential shortfall equates to eight 11v11 3G pitches. This is made up of a shortfall of three in the South Analysis Area, two each in the North and West analysis areas and one in the East Analysis Area.

Future demand ambitions expressed by 12 clubs equates to the growth of 44 football teams. If this club ambition growth was to be achieved there would be a total of 438 teams playing within the Borough. As seen in the table below, the total potential future shortfall equates to eight 11v11 3G pitches, based on club aspirations.

<sup>9</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.17: Potential football training demand for 3G pitches incorporating club aspirations by analysis area

Analysis area	Potential future demand	Future 11v11 3G pitch requirement <sup>10</sup>	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Future 11v11 3G pitch shortfall
East	78	2	1	1
North	122	3	1	2
South	151	4	1	3
West	87	2	-	2
<b>LBH</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

## New site options

The table below identifies potential sites which could, in theory, may be suitable for future development to meet known shortfalls for 3G pitches. For the development of any 3G pitch at the sites below (and any other suggested sites in the future) there is a need to ensure that NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy is adhered to if there is any loss of grass provision. The sites listed have been identified by a combination of the findings from the Assessment Report, the 2019 LBH LFFP and the basic feasibility for installing a pitch due to having the available land and on-site management options.

Each of these sites will require a full feasibility to be undertaken to determine if they are suitable in meeting known need. Such a full feasibility would include a range of matters including site characteristics, sports, financial, planning and other issues. This should be done in consultation with Essex County FA, RFU and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs. It is crucial to recognise that this list is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage – E process.

Table 4.18: Potential 3G pitch site options in LBH

Analysis area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Site name	Comments
East	1	26	Emerson Park Academy	Site provides two adult pitches, which are assessed as standard quality. As it is based at a school it has on site management.
East	1	83	The Champion School	Site provides one adult pitch, which is assessed as poor quality and currently overplayed. In addition, Upminster RUFC are located within the vicinity (3.7 miles away) and are in need of additional training provision and could field some of the Club's training demand. As it is based at a school it has on site management.
North	2	5	Bower Park Academy	Site provides one mini 5v5 pitch, although it is currently not accessed by any football clubs. As it is based at a school it has on site management.
North	2	84	The Forest Row Centre	Site provides three adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, which are all assessed as good quality. It is accessed by Collier Row FC which have 23 teams and would benefit from a 3G pitch to better support its training. It has on-site management from the Council.

<sup>10</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Analysis area	Current shortfall	Site ID	Site name	Comments
South	3	7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	Site provides 24 pitches of various sizes that are accessed by Tigers with 52 teams and Essex Minors Hornchurch FC (31 teams). A long term lease agreement would need to be drawn up to secure tenure of the site. Both clubs could use the 3G pitch to better support its training (pitches are currently assessed as standard quality). It has on-site management from the Council.
South	3	29	Gaynes School Language College	Site provides one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9, which are assessed as poor quality. As it is based at a school it has on site management.
South	3	82	The Brittons Academy	Site provides two grass youth 11v11 pitches, which are assessed as standard quality. The site could benefit from an additional 3G pitch to better support the training pitches.
South	3	-	Hub site (Brittons Academy)	Given the shortfall of three pitches in the South Analysis Area and the challenges with the on-site management, the site has great potential for a hub site. Two 11v11 3G pitches could be potentially delivered on site plus an ancillary/community facility to provide a significant solutions to the significant shortfalls and enable an on-site management and operation and provide a financially sustainable hub that has potential to generate surpluses for investment into wider grassroots football facilities. There is sufficient space for pitches, pavilion, parking etc., and no challenges in terms of detrimental impact on other sports uses.
West	2	1	Abbs Cross Academy & College	Site provides one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9, which are assessed as standard quality. The School is currently unavailable for community use but work is ongoing between Essex County FA and the School to open up facilities for community use.

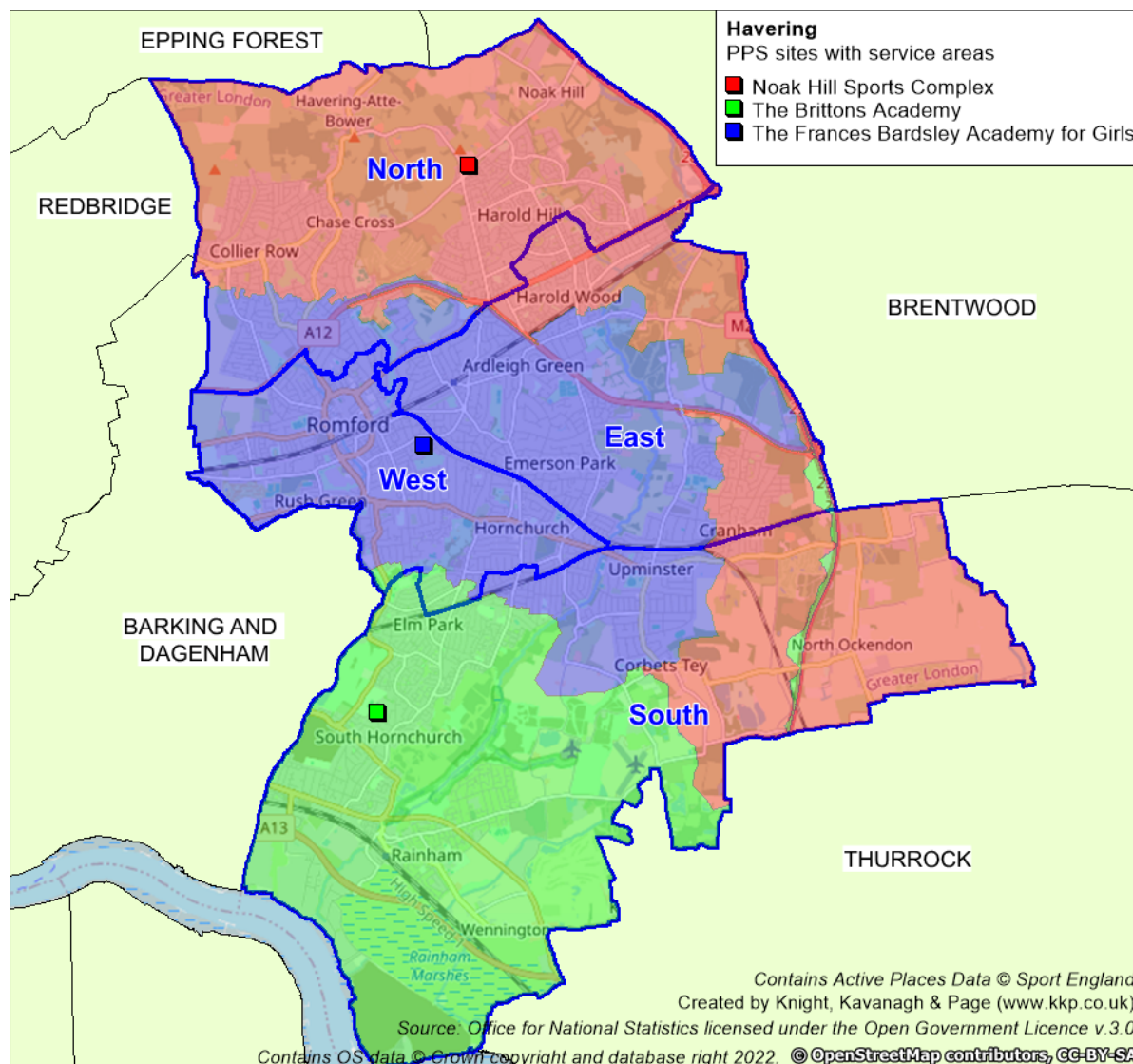
Please note in the South Analysis Area has the most significant shortfall (three currently) and could potentially be able to bring back exported demand from clubs such as Elite Colts FC who are currently playing in Barking & Dagenham.

Figure 4.2 below illustrates the service areas of all 11v11 sized 3G pitches across LBH using the underlying road network to present the catchment area for each pitch. This allows the steering group to visualise which locations should be prioritised for new 3G pitch developments.

As can be seen the pitch at Noak Hill Sports Complex services a very large catchment area and attracts demand from three of the four analysis areas in LBH (East, North and South). The pitch is predominantly accessed by Harold Wood FC (anchor club) meaning all remaining clubs in the North Analysis Area have longer drive times to access suitable training provision.

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Figure 4.2: LBH 3G service area map



The recommended dimensions for an 11v11 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.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 106 x 68 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter.

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.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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

### Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches in addition to training demand is supported by the FA, which is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for 11v11 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are presently played on council pitches be transferred. This is due to a recognition that councils often have budget restraints, with improving and maintaining pitches to an appropriate standard not always possible.

Table 4.19: Number of teams currently using council pitches at peak time in LBH

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	33
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	66
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	42
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	58
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	60
-	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>

Within LBH, there are currently 259 teams playing at local authority sites at peak time across the formats of play. The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of 11v11 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.20: 11v11 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	No. of 3G units required per match <sup>11</sup>	Total 3G units required	No. of 3G pitches required
Adult	33	16.5	32	528	8.25
Youth 11v11	66	33	32	1,056	16.5
Youth 9v9	42	21	10	210	3.28
Mini 7v7	58	29	8	232	3.63
Mini 5v5	60	30	4	120	1.88

In total, 33 (rounded up from 33.54) 11v11 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches played on council pitches. In LBH, there are currently three 11v11 3G pitches provided and a shortfall of eight pitches identified to meet training requirements.

However, as this is significantly more than the number of pitches required for training demand, it is not considered practical to provide this many as sustainability would then become questionable. Pitches generally need high levels of midweek usage to be operationally viable.

An alternative approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. The FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created for LBH to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this.

<sup>11</sup> Based on how pitches are split within a 11v11 3G pitch

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As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 4.21: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for 12 11v11 3G pitches (rounded down from 12.33) to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 80 teams playing 7v7 football and 76 teams playing 5v5 football.

As the number needed to accommodate mini football is much less than the number required for training, this again could be carried out in conjunction. Furthermore, considerable spare capacity would also remain to accommodate other formats of play across the facility stock.

### World Rugby compliant 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.

The RFU generally support the development of 3G pitches which support rugby union where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments. There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in LBH, meaning no clubs are utilising the provision for training (or matches).

Given the level of shortfall on grass rugby union pitches in LBH (currently 12.5 match equivalent sessions currently and 13.5 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population growth), the creation of World Rugby compliant provision would be warranted as a means to reducing the shortfalls.

Where new pitches are to be sought, focus should therefore be placed on accommodating demand from sites with shortfalls such as Cottons Park, Romford and Gidea Park RFC and Upminster Hall Playing Fields. Given this and given that it is unrealistic to provide each club with their own 3G pitch, a central location (or locations) should be considered that can service multiple clubs. For this, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be developed at a rugby specific site (i.e. a club site) or via a partnership approach with the FA at a multi-sport site.

When establishing the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision, this could be through developing provision primarily for rugby union. Alternatively, the provision could be established in conjunction with reducing 3G shortfalls for football, although this may necessitate the need for more pitches as the outcomes for football would be reduced.

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### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches (including smaller sized) in line with national (i.e. the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy) and local planning policy.
- ◀ Work with relevant partners to deliver additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls, with priority placed on establishing pitches in the South Analysis Area.
- ◀ Carry out further work to identify the best possible locations for 3G provision and ensure this is done in consultation with the relevant County FA's and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Any new 3G pitches should be based on the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for (as detailed earlier).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- ◀ Ensure all current and future 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek to resurface provision when it is required.
- ◀ Given the growth in women's and girls' football, efforts should be made to ensure facilities maximise opportunities to accommodate women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA 3G Pitch Guidance and quality performance standards.
- ◀ Ensure all new 3G pitches are tested and added to the FA 3G Pitch Register to allow for match play use.
- ◀ Look to transfer mini demand from grass pitches to 3G in line with the FA ambition for 50% of all mini match play to take place on 3G pitches (where it is appropriate to do so).
- ◀ For any pitches built to RFU specifications, seek World Rugby compliancy so that they can be used for full contact activity and ensure re-testing when it is required (every two years).
- ◀ Seek to resurface provision when it is required and ensure suitable infill containment is retro-fitted (there are various infills for 3G pitches and alternatives to rubber crumb should be explored).
- ◀ Ensure all existing 3G pitches without rubber infill containment mitigation have containment measures retrofitted within three years of the PPOSS lifecycle.
- ◀ Support all 3G pitch providers where possible to improve the sustainability of running the facility, e.g. conversion to LED sports lighting.
- ◀ Any proposals for 3G pitches will need to carry out a pre-application submission with Sport England's planning function.
- ◀ Ensure any proposals for 3G pitches are accommodated with the Bio Diversity Net Gain (BNG).
- ◀ Update the LBH LFFP so it aligns to the findings of the PPOSS and further explore potential site options.

## Rugby union - grass pitches

### Assessment Report summary

#### Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ◀ No rugby union pitches in LBH are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time.
- ◀ There are 10 senior pitches across four sites in LBH that are overplayed by a total of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week on rugby union pitches, increasing to 13.5 when accounting for future demand.

#### Rugby union - supply summary

- ◀ There are 24 grass rugby union pitches identified across 11 sites, with 19 pitches available for community use across seven sites.
- ◀ One disused senior rugby union pitch is identified at Hornchurch High School.
- ◀ Tenure is unsecure for Old Cooperians RUFC due to it renting the pitches at Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ◀ Of pitches that are available for community use in LBH, there are nine assessed as standard quality and seven as poor. None are good quality.
- ◀ Upminster RUFC is currently in the process of obtaining planning permission to further extend the clubhouse and sourcing the funding to carry out the required work.

#### Rugby union - demand summary

- ◀ There are four rugby clubs considered to be based in LBH, collectively providing a total of 43 teams (9 senior men's, one senior women's, 17 age grade boys', four age grade girls' and 12 age grade mixed teams).
- ◀ Participation in LBH has increased slightly since previous data was collected in 2016. In total, four additional teams are now registered across the clubs. There are eight additional age grade boys' and girls' teams and two additional age grade mixed teams.
- ◀ All four clubs currently use match pitches to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in LBH. The nearest is located at Orsett Heath Academy in Thurrock which was installed in 2022. None of the rugby clubs within LBH currently access any artificial pitches for training activity.
- ◀ Upminster RUFC report latent demand in that they would field more teams if they had access to increased pitch provision.
- ◀ Three clubs (Campion, Romford & Gidea Park and Upminster rugby clubs) report future aspirations for additional teams, whilst population projections predict a growth of one senior men's, three age grade boys' and three age grade mixed teams.

## Scenarios

### Improving pitch quality

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand throughout the season. Locally, there are four sites which are identified as being overplayed and the following scenario explores what impact improving both the level of maintenance and installation of drainage solutions would have on the capacity of provision. It would alleviate overplay on eight of the 10 overplayed pitches across LBH.

The table below illustrates the RFU pitch quality scoring methodology which ascertains the capacity of pitches based on the scoring criteria.

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Table 4.22: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

Drainage	Maintenance Poor (M0)	Maintenance Adequate (M1)	Maintenance Good (M2)
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 looks at what capacity benefits would be ascertained through improvement of both maintenance and drainage solutions to good quality (M2/D3) improvements to both drainage and maintenance to explore maximum benefits.

Table 4.23: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality improved to good (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Sports lighting?	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	Senior	1	Standard (M1/D1)	No	2	0.5
14	Cottons Park	Senior	2	Standard (M1/D1)	No	2	1
74	Romford and Gidea Park RFC	Senior	1	Poor (M1/D0)	Yes	1.5	0.5
74	Romford and Gidea Park RFC	Senior	3	Standard (M1/D1)	No	1.5	3
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	Senior	1	Standard (M1/D1)	Yes	3	1.5
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	Senior	2	Standard (M1/D1)	No	1.5	1.5

Overall, this would reduce eradicate current shortfalls from 12 match equivalent sessions per week to three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity across LBH, whilst future shortfalls would also be eradicated from 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week to four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.

Table 4.24: Supply and demand balance of rugby union pitches with quality improvements

Demand	Current capacity balance	Potential total
Current	12.5	3
Future	13.5	4

Although overall in LBH there would be actual spare capacity, the pitches located at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Upminster Hall Playing Fields would still remain overplayed even if quality was maximised, although at reduced levels. This is predominately due to a mixture of the training demand on the provision and the school usage at Coopers Company & Coburn School. Therefore, there is a need to provide additional provision as a means of reducing overplay.

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## Increasing access to training provision (sports-lit grass pitches)

An alternative method of addressing capacity issues is through increasing the number of sports lit pitches.

Of the pitches that would remain overplayed despite quality improvements, Upminster RUFC has two pitches at Upminster Hall Playing Fields, which only one is serviced by sports lighting. The Club has four match equivalent sessions of training demand per week on the fully sports lit pitch. If the Club was to have two fully sports lit pitches this would allow demand to be spread more evenly across the entire site whilst also improving the user experience by not training on a partially sports lit pitch. Although this would not reduce shortfalls at the site, it would instead ensure that it was more appropriately spread (rather than being concentrated on one pitch). Access to additional pitch provision is required (or 3G pitch access) to fully address the shortfalls.

At Coopers Company & Coburn School (Old Cooperians RUFC), installing sports lighting would increase capacity and eradicate overplay, as it is only minimal with 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week identified following quality improvements.

## Increasing pitch stock

In addition to maximising pitch quality and sports lighting, additional pitch provision is required to fully alleviate identified shortfalls at Upminster Playing Fields. The table below therefore explores how many pitches are needed.

Table 4.25: Number of new pitches required to alleviate overplay

Site ID	Site name	Current capacity rating	Good quality rating	Club users	No. of pitches required
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	3	1.5	Upminster RUFC	1

As seen, one additional pitch at Upminster Hall Playing Fields is required, providing it is established at a good quality (and that existing pitches are also improved).

In addition, if quality improvements and/or increased sports lighting is not possible at sites used by Old Cooperians RUFC (based on previous demand levels), each of these would also require one additional pitch to eradicate existing overplay.

## Accommodating future demand from club aspirations

Future demand expressed through club aspirations and by the RFU based on its own targets projects the number of rugby union teams to grow by eight teams across LBH, which broken down equates to four teams in the West Analysis Area and four teams in the East Analysis Area. This has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth; however, if such demand is realised, it will increase shortfalls throughout the Borough, as shown in the following table.

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Table 4.26: Supply and demand balance with future demand aspirations accounted for

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
East	4.5	6.5
North	-	-
South	3	3
West	5	7
<b>LBH</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>

This growth would further amplify the need to action other scenarios featured and in particular the need for additional pitches and/or access to World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision.

In addition, especially for clubs with future demand for women's and girls' activity, it is imperative that the accompanying ancillary facilities are adequate in quality and inclusive. All rugby clubs which have a target to create female teams yet are currently serviced by only standard quality or poor quality provision.

The table explores the impact of the future demand on a club-by-club basis and how it can be sufficiently accommodated.

Table 4.27: Summary of provision required to accommodate future demand aspirations

Club	Future team aspirations	Future demand (match sessions)	Comments
Campion RUFC	2 x age grade boys	1	This demand could be accommodated one existing stock through improving quality.
Romford & Gidea Park RUFC	1 x senior men's 1 x age grade girls	1	The demand could be accommodated through improving quality of its current pitch stock.
Upminster RUFC	1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 1 x age grade girls	2	To accommodate current demand, the Club needs to improve its current pitch stock and access an additional pitch. This future demand would entail a further pitch being required (or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch).

### World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

Alternatively, as previously set out, creating new pitches in the form of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches is required. If a WR compliant pitch was provided in LBH, it could offer a theoretical solution to the overplay.

Both Old Cooperians and Upminster rugby clubs would benefit from accessing a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch given the existing grass pitch shortfalls. As such, if a pitch was provided that they could access, this could offer a solution to the overplay experienced by the clubs. The following table further explores this and potential capacity impact it could have if all training demand from the clubs was to be transferred to a 3G pitch in addition to maximising quality.

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Table 4.28: Capacity if training demand was transferred onto a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Quality	Capacity rating	Capacity balance with training demand moved to 3G pitch
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	1	Standard (M1/D1)	2	0.5
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	1	Standard (M1/D1)	3	1

Table 4.29: Capacity if quality was maximised and all training demand transferred onto a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Quality	Capacity rating	Capacity balance with training demand moved to 3G pitch
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	1	Good (M2/D3)	0.5	1
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	1	Good (M2/D3)	1.5	2.5

As the above tables show, all shortfalls would be alleviated with this. Furthermore, however, be referenced that some rugby clubs can be reluctant to access World Rugby compliant 3G provision, particularly if provided off-site (e.g., because of financial implications). Further engagement may therefore be required, and it should be ensured that only appropriate locations are sought.

### The impact of losing access to unsecure education sites

The PPOSS Assessment Report identifies Coopers Company & Coburn School as providing community accessible rugby provision that is accessed by Old Cooperians RUFC.

Through training and fixtures at Coopers Company & Coburn School there are four match equivalent sessions of demand from Old Cooperians RUFC taking place on site. Therefore, if access to the site was to be lost this would cause the club's already overplayed site to have to accommodate a further four match equivalent sessions of demand.

As such there is the need to retain the access to the site for Old Cooperians RUFC to allow the Club to continue to sustain its current demand and not worsen the overplay at its site. The Club should also seek to secure a community use agreement to protect its long-term access to the site.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of rugby union pitches including those used for curricular and extra-curricular demand
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ◀ Support clubs in taking part in the GMA pitch advisory service to explore technical requirements to improve pitch quality to address overplay.



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- ◀ Increase level of sports lighting at sites used by clubs to further alleviate overplay and to better accommodate training demand, such as at Upminster Hall Playing Fields (Upminster RUFC) and Coopers Company & Coburn School (Old Cooperians RUFC).
- ◀ Where pitch quality improvements and increased sports lighting cannot fully alleviate overplay, explore opportunities to supply affected clubs with increased pitch provision and/or World Rugby compliant 3G provision.
- ◀ Where World Rugby compliant 3G provision is provided, seek the transfer of demand from overplayed grass pitches.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs and ensure facilities are inclusive and have appropriate segregation.
- ◀ Seek to provide increased security of tenure for clubs at their home grounds where it is required.
- ◀ Encourage the replacement of dated sports lighting heads with more energy efficient LED light heads.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### Hockey - artificial grass pitches

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Hockey – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in LBH, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are significant issues to be resolved to adequately cater from existing demand.
- ◀ When factoring in future demand, a shortfall of provision will be established.
- ◀ In terms of training, capacity issues are identified for two of the three hockey clubs.

##### Hockey – supply summary

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in LBH located across five sites.
- ◀ Each pitch is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ In addition to the full size AGPs, there is one smaller size hockey suitable pitch at The Forest Row Centre. However, the pitch is not suitable for purposeful hockey demand due to a lack of sports lighting and its size.
- ◀ The full size AGP at Bower Park Academy is subject to potential 3G conversion.
- ◀ All five full size AGPs are owned and managed by schools.
- ◀ Security of tenure is limited at all sites, with clubs only accessing the pitches through short-term arrangements only.
- ◀ Three of the full size pitches have relatively good availability during the peak period, with only Drapers Academy slightly restricted as midweek usage is not enabled until 18:00. Furthermore, Bower Park Academy is not available for community use on Sundays, further limiting its peak period usage.
- ◀ Of the full size pitches, four are assessed as poor quality and the remaining pitch at Emerson Park Academy is assessed as standard.

##### Hockey – demand summary

- ◀ There are currently three community hockey clubs in LBH (Havering HC, Romford HC and Upminster HC), collectively catering for 602 members and 45 teams.
- ◀ Since the 2016 study, Romford HC is now included within the study using Drapers Academy. Between the two other clubs, there has been an increase of three senior men's teams, five senior women's and two junior teams.
- ◀ Havering and Upminster hockey clubs report plans to grow their demand in the future.
- ◀ Upminster HC reports latent/unmet demand in that current pitch capacity is impacting on demand and potential growth.
- ◀ Based on current demand, pitches at Coopers Company and Coburn School, Drapers Academy and Emerson Park Academy do not have the capacity for an increase in demand, although the pitch at The Champion School does.

### Scenarios

#### Accommodating current and future match play demand

One full size hockey pitch with sports lighting is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day, which equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time based on them playing on a home and away basis (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' pitch).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently five full size AGPs in LBH, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 40 hockey teams across the Borough at peak time (on Saturdays). However, limited availability at some sites reduces the overall capacity further. This results in the overall capacity in LBH being reduced to 28 teams and 14 match equivalent sessions.

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Table 4.29: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch quality	Number of teams		Comments
				Potential capacity	Actual capacity	
5	Bower Park Academy	North	Poor	8	0	Unavailable to the community at weekends.
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	South	Poor	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends.
20	Drapers Academy	North	Poor	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends.
26	Emerson Park Academy	East	Standard	8	4	Availability is slightly reduced.
83	The Champion School	East	Poor	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends.
<b>Total</b>				<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	-

Based on 28 senior teams currently provided, this suggests that the supply is sufficient to cater for peak time demand. However, Bower Park Academy does not receive any hockey demand due to it being heavily used for football demand. This therefore detracts from the capacity available to hockey clubs.

The table below further explores requirements, this time on a club-by-club basis.

Table 4.30: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play on a club-by-club basis

Club name	Site/s used	Comments
Havering HC	The Champion School	The pitch at The Champion School has some spare capacity on Sunday afternoons for match play but is poor quality.
Romford HC	Drapers Academy	The pitch at Drapers Academy has some spare capacity on Sundays for match play but is poor quality.
Upminster HC	Coopers Company & Coburn School/ Emerson Park	The pitch at Coopers Company & Coburn School is used to capacity by the Club, whereas the pitch at Emerson Park Academy has some spare capacity on Sundays for match play but is poor quality. This leads to the Club expressing latent demand.

As seen, none of the clubs are being adequately provided for, with the clubs either experiencing capacity issues and/or accessing poor quality pitches.

Furthermore, two clubs (Havering HC and Upminster HC) have future demand to increase their number of teams. If realised, this will grow overall demand by four senior teams with Havering HC and Upminster HC aspiring to grow two senior teams each. If the future demand was to be realised, a shortfall will be established. In addition, Upminster HC reports it would need more hours at The Coopers Company & Coburn School and Emerson Park Academy to accommodate this as availability is limited at both venues.

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It is worth noting that the pitch at Coopers Company & Coburn School is operating at capacity through demand from senior teams at Upminster HC. Similarly, the pitches at Drapers Academy and The Champion School are used to capacity on Saturdays by Romford HC for the former and Havering HC for the latter, although it does have some spare capacity on Sundays. As such, the three above sites must continue to accommodate demand to meet the current need for hockey.

To adequately accommodate the current and future demand expressed, it is first and foremost clear that the following pitches are in need of improvement:

- ◀ Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ◀ Drapers Academy.
- ◀ The Champion School.

There is some potential spare capacity identified at Emerson Park Academy on Saturday afternoons, however, this is limited due to a combination of quality and restrictions on usage. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2015 and is therefore nearing the end of its recommended lifespan. In addition, it is only available for 17 hours in the peak period for community use. If the school was able to increase its opening hours both midweek and on weekends (it closes on 13:00 on Saturdays), the site would be able to accommodate more hockey demand across the Borough.

Although, this would not increase capacity as the above sites are used to capacity. To alleviate the shortfalls and increasing capacity pressures, an additional full size hockey suitable pitch is required. Furthermore, an increase in the number of 3G pitches in the Borough should be supported as this will enable the transfer of football demand from sand-based pitches, thus freeing up capacity for hockey.

### Accommodating training demand

In terms of capacity for training, most AGPs in LBH have high levels of existing usage, with spare capacity for growth minimal. This is exacerbated by additional usage from other sports, most predominately football, which further reduces availability for hockey clubs at desired times. The table below summarises the existing position for clubs at the sites they currently access.

Table 4.31: Hockey pitch training capacity by club

Club	Site/s used	Capacity summary
Havering HC	The Champion School	Spare capacity exists
Romford HC	Drapers Academy	No remaining spare capacity
Upminster HC	Emerson Park Academy	No remaining spare capacity
Upminster HC	Coopers Company and Coburn School	No remaining spare capacity

Capacity issues are present for two of the three hockey clubs, with this particularly pressing for Romford HC given that it currently only uses one venue (which is operating at capacity).

In addition, whilst theoretical spare capacity exists for Havering HC, it must be noted that this is minimal and only evident on Friday evenings. In addition, there is football activity that takes place on the pitch at The Champion School, which will further limit midweek training accessibility. Whilst the site has capacity for an increase in usage, this does not mean it could accommodate Havering HC.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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To free up capacity, the 3G pitch recommendations set out an increase in 3G pitch provision to enable football demand to be transferred away from the sand-based AGP stock. This will then help to free up some midweek capacity for hockey clubs.

Also, Upminster HC aspires to have its own facility, however, this is purely aspirational at this stage. However, if this came to fruition, it would provide a potential solution for addressing capacity pressures, although further investigation is required to ensure that it is warranted and that it will not impact on the sustainability of other provision.

### Securing tenure for hockey clubs

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee. In most cases in the Borough, clubs are tenants at education sites as opposed to asset holding clubs with freehold of provision.

All three hockey clubs in LBH rent their pitches at their respective education sites for senior matches. Therefore, it is important to try to secure community use for the clubs to sustain their current demand and not establish shortfalls. This should be established through a community use agreement where possible to help protect long term access.

### Recommendations

- ◀ As a priority, as part of the Stage E process, work with partners to investigate potential solutions to the current poor state of provision to ensure that hockey can continued to be played in LBH in the longer term.
- ◀ Protect all of the full size pitches to ensure that they can continue to accommodate hockey demand.
- ◀ As a priority Coopers Company & Coburn School, Drapers Academy and The Campion School should be the focus for resurfacing.
- ◀ Work with providers to explore funding options to improve the quality at Company & Coburn School, Drapers Academy and The Campion School.
- ◀ Carry out condition surveys at the above sites to fully understand the condition of the pitches and understand why the sites are poor quality.
- ◀ Ensure all providers of new AGPs have a sinking fund in place for the carpet replacement and recycling of the carpet and infill through planning conditions.
- ◀ Support upgrade of LED lighting of all multi-sport AGPs where necessary.
- ◀ Ensure all new AGPs have an appropriate infill containment measures in place, with existing AGPs to be retro-fitted (when resurfaced), where possible.
- ◀ Explore options to provide an additional pitch to alleviate future shortfalls.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for clubs through community use agreements. In conjunction look to develop the management and accessibility of provision to ensure its accessibility based on club requirements to allow demand to grow.
- ◀ Seek to increase capacity of pitches for hockey demand where capacity pressures exist through the transfer of football demand to existing and new 3G pitches.
- ◀ Only consider 3G conversion of hockey suitable pitches if the provision is not used for hockey and providing no hockey capacity issues exist in the area (please note that the conversion of sand-based AGPs to 3G is likely to require planning permission).
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required.
- ◀ Explore options for potential sites for a new hockey pitch and clubhouse that could be developed to service the growing demand from Upminster HC and provide long term security of tenure.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality (Coopers Company & Coburn School, Drapers Academy and The Campion School).

### Cricket squares

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Actual spare capacity is identified at peak time for senior men's cricket (Saturday and Sunday) and midweek cricket. This amounts to 24 match equivalent sessions on a Saturday, 36 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday and 71 match equivalent sessions exist midweek.
- ◀ In total, nine sites are overplayed by a total of 277 match equivalent sessions a season, which is significant.
- ◀ Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in LBH to cater for all forms of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

##### Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 16 grass wicket squares in LBH across 14 sites. Of these, all are available for community use.
- ◀ In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 14 NTPs across LBH, with four accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining 10 being standalone.
- ◀ Upminster Hall Playing Fields previously provided a cricket square with 10 wickets that was last active circa 2016. The square is no longer maintained but the site is still used for football and rugby union.
- ◀ Westlands Playing Field formerly provided a single NTP that is no longer maintained for use. The site is still actively used for football.
- ◀ Consultation with the Essex Cricket Board reports that it is working with Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC to explore options for a third ground in order to meet its demand as its current grounds are operating at capacity.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket squares in LBH found four to be good quality, 12 to be standard whilst none are poor quality.
- ◀ Most community available grass wicket squares in LBH are serviced by pavilions although quality varies. The provision servicing seven (44%) squares is assessed as standard quality and the remaining nine (56%) squares by poor quality provision. None of the squares are serviced by good quality provision.
- ◀ There are 10 sites supplying 24 practice net bays, whilst Gidea Park & Romford CC, Harold Wood CC, Hornchurch Athletic CC, Noak Hill Taverners CC and Upminster CC reportedly want provision at their sites.

##### Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are eight clubs in LBH which collectively provide 111 teams. This equates to 40 senior men's, four senior women's and 74 junior teams (including 13 dedicated junior girls' teams).
- ◀ There has been a large increase in demand over recent years with some clubs seeing significant participation increases.
- ◀ Hornchurch Athletic CC and Upminster CC both report latent/unmet demand.
- ◀ It must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in LBH. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy.
- ◀ A total of seven clubs undertake All Stars cricket, whilst five undertake Dynamo's and five have women's softball demand.
- ◀ Harold Wood CC runs its own disability team, with matches taking place at Harold Wood Park. It is estimated the team plays approximately eight matches per season, taking place on Sundays.
- ◀ Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of three senior men's, five junior boys' and one junior girls' teams (up to 2031), whereas seven clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation amounting to a total predicted growth of 35 teams.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Scenarios

### Improving quality/addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g., at Spring Farm Park), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

As such, attempts should be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there are capacity issues and are able to accommodate such excess demand. This means that they are not always open to potential solutions (e.g., NTP installation).

In LBH, overplay is identified at nine sites across 11 squares. The scenario below looks at the impacts of quality improvements as a solution to reducing or alleviating overplay. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is 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. No squares are rated as poor in LBH.

Please note Pitch Power Assessments are now in place across the Country. In due course, the assessments will be able to replace/update the non-technical assessments, and as and when they come on board over the next few years as part of the Stage E process.

Of the overplayed squares, two are already good quality, which means the position will not improve without a transfer of demand. The impact of improving quality at all the remaining sites, to good, where each wicket has a theoretical capacity of five match equivalent session per season is considered in the table below.

Table 4.32: Overplay if all squares were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Club	No. of squares	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	Upminster CC	1	Good	85	85
32	Gidea Park Sports Ground	Gidea Park CC	1	Standard	19	8
32	Gidea Park Sports Ground	Gidea Park CC	1	Standard	16	6
36	Harold Wood Park	Harold Wood CC	1	Standard	36	25
36	Harold Wood Park	Harold Wood CC	1	Standard	30	21
39	Harrow Lodge Park	Hornchurch CC	1	Standard	17	2
49	Hylands Park	Hornchurch Athletic CC	1	Good	13	13
57	Noak Hill Sports Ground	Noak Hill Taverners CC	1	Standard	2	7
78	Spring Farm Park	Rainham CC	1	Standard	2	10
83	The Champion School	Upminster CC	1	Standard	25	20
96	Upminster Park	Hornchurch CC	1	Standard	32	20

As seen in the table above, the squares provided at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Hylands Park would continue to be overplayed if quality were to be improved to good. This is due to the squares already being good quality.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The squares at Gidea Park Sports Ground, Harold Wood Park, Harrow Lodge Park, The Champion School and Upminster Park would also remain overplayed with shortfalls slightly reducing, the overplay remains due to the high levels of demand at the sites.

Noak Hill Sports Ground and Spring Farm Park would see overplay eradicated and spare capacity of seven match equivalent sessions per season created for the former and eight match equivalent sessions for the latter.

In total, 90 match equivalent sessions of overplay would be alleviated. This would reduce current shortfalls for all forms of cricket, although a significant level of overplay would still remain, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.33: Current supply and demand balance if overplayed squares improved to good

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Saturday	253	164
Sunday	241	151
Midweek	206	116

Although improving quality can have a positive impact, the potential capacity created will not necessarily be in the peak period and therefore may not fully meet demand. It should also be noted that if quality was improved, for this to be sustained over a long term period this will likely require existing maintenance budgets to be maintained or enhanced.

It would also reduce future shortfalls, as evidenced below.

Table 4.34: Future supply and demand balance if overplayed squares improved to good

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Future total	Potential total
Saturday	289	197
Sunday	241	151
Midweek	242	152

Cricket squares can be accompanied by non-turf pitches (NTPs), made of a synthetic material that allows users to play on a usable wicket all year round whilst not contributing towards playing demand on natural turf wickets (grass wickets). By the nature of its design, an NTP is able to accommodate significantly more demand than a natural cricket wicket, meaning it can contribute towards addressing overplay issues on grass cricket squares.

Most of the overplayed sites do not have an NTP and thus could theoretically benefit from such provision as a way of reducing identified overplay and allow the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets, providing sufficient space exists (further investigation is required to determine suitability). The following overplayed sites are without an NTP:

- ✦ Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ✦ Gidea Park Sports Ground (one square).
- ✦ Harold Wood Park (one square).
- ✦ Harrow Lodge Park.
- ✦ Noak Hill Sports Ground.
- ✦ Spring Farm Park.
- ✦ Upminster Park.



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At Harrow Lodge Park, there is viability for one NTP for open age cricket and one NTP for junior cricket.

Notwithstanding the above, the NTP's at Harold Wood Park and Upminster Park would only be viable for junior cricket. Both of these sites should be prioritised given the overplay that exists at the sites and to support recreational cricket demand.

Whilst an NTP at Spring Farm Park is theoretically viable if extension of outfield is carried out.

The squares provided at Gidea Park Sports Ground, Harold Wood Park, Hylands Park and The Champion School have recorded overplay without quality improvements or the addition of an NTP being possible solutions (as they are already serviced). Therefore, greater utilisation of the artificial provision should be encouraged as to reduce overplay. For the remaining above sites, installing NTPs to enable the transfer of demand from the grass wickets could therefore further reduce capacity issues.

The ECB highlights that non-turf pitches which follow its TS6<sup>12</sup> guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets. Typically, however, play would be more suited to junior teams as senior leagues typically stipulate the use of natural turf wickets.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that for NTPs to reduce the level of overplay set out above, this could be subject to league rules allowing usage, particularly for senior fixtures where play is generally not allowed. They can, however, potentially be used for lower league matches as well as junior cricket.

## Establishing new provision

Given the extent of the existing shortfalls across LBH, there is likely to be a need for additional grass wicket squares given that it may not be feasible to undertake all the quality improvements and NTP installations required (and with this likely to have minimal impact at some sites). The table below therefore explores exactly how many squares would be needed within each analysis area to fully address shortfalls, based on no other scenarios being undertaken and based on a site being able to provide an average of 10 good quality wickets.

Table 4.35: Number of squares potentially required to alleviate shortfalls

Analysis area	Current shortfall (match equivalent sessions)	No. of squares potentially required to meet shortfall
East	91	2
North	25	1
South	119	3
West	18	1
<b>LBH</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>7</b>

Conversations are ongoing between Essex Cricket and Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC to explore options for a third ground in order to meet its demand as its current grounds are operating at capacity. The ideal location is the North Analysis Area, given the Club is situated in this area and where the majority of its members reside. This could help to eradicate overplay and based on current shortfalls only a standard quality square would be required.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.cag.org.uk/docs/ecb-non-turf-pitches-ts6-final-328.pdf>

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Hybrid wickets

Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares.

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions things such as boundary length or ball strike.

For fine turf squares, a capacity of five match equivalent session per season is considered whereas for hybrid wickets this is doubled to 10 match equivalent sessions per season. It is suggested that this could potentially alleviate all the overplay at Harold Wood Park, Hylands Park and Upminster Park in LBH. Although, installing hybrid wickets works on the basis of the square already being rated as good quality. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. It should also be noted that this approach is currently a rather expensive means of reducing overplay.

## Accommodating exported demand

There are currently several clubs that field teams outside of LBH each week as demand cannot be accommodated on existing provision due to the lack of peak time capacity. This applies to two senior men's teams from St Andrews CC and one senior men's team from Maylands CC. The impact of accommodating this within LBH is evidenced in the table below.

Table 4.36: Supply and demand balance if exported demand returned to the Borough

Playing format	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)	
	Current total	Potential total
Saturday	253	289
Sunday	241	241
Midweek	206	206

As seen, shortfalls would significantly increase, and there is no clear means to accommodating all the demand without establishing new provision or bringing disused squares back into use. In total, two squares are required based on three senior teams needing to be accommodated at peak time (on a Saturday).

## Accommodating future demand

Population growth over the Local Plan period to 2031 is expected to see the population of the Borough rise from 262,066 to 279,413. This will lead to the creation of three senior men's teams, five junior boys' and one junior girls' team.

This future demand cannot be attributed to any one analysis area or club but is important to understand how this can be accommodated across LBH.

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The Assessment Report demonstrated that for men's Sunday cricket, senior women's and all formats of junior cricket there is insufficient capacity.

For senior men's cricket on Saturdays, there is a current shortfall of 251 match equivalent sessions. This will be exacerbated to a shortfall of 287 match equivalent sessions per season if all future demand is realised. However, dependent on where demand aligns itself to (i.e. club specific and analysis area specific) they may well be instances of pressure at certain clubs which have high levels of existing demand (i.e. Harold Wood CC).

In total, six cricket clubs in LBH express future demand, which if realised will further exacerbate existing shortfalls for all formats of play. The table below therefore studies the future demand on a club-by-club basis to better understand what can and cannot be accommodated on the existing level of supply.

Table 4.38: Accommodating future demand

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior	Comments
Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC	1	-	-	Site will become overplayed if demand is realised.
Gidea Park & Romford CC	1	1	4	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Harold Wood CC	1	-	5	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Hornchurch Athletic CC	1	2	2	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Hornchurch CC	-	1	1	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.
Upminster CC	1	2	6	Existing site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated.

As seen, none of the clubs could accommodate their future demand at the sites that they currently use. As such, increased provision is required, again through accessing currently unused sites or through new pitches being established.

It must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of junior girls' teams across the Country by 2026/2027, However, this is a current national figure and based on the number of girls' teams (13) in the Borough, it is more realistic that the figures will be doubled equating to 26 teams by 2026/2027.

If achieved, this will place further pressure on the shortfalls, particularly for Sunday and midweek cricket which is when peak time for women's and girl's demand is. Therefore, without improvements to existing provision or via the establishment of new provision this level of demand cannot currently be accommodated.

Furthermore, for female cricket to grow further in LBH, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. For example, no site in the Borough currently provides dedicated female changing facilities, which will negate any future demand that may exist. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access. This could affect the growth of women's and girl's cricket moving forward if it is not addressed. Therefore, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand.

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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### Recreational demand

A high level of recreational demand is reported to exist in LBH, with Coopers Company & Coburn School, Ardleigh & Havering Atte-Bower Cricket Club (Central Park), Hylands Park and Upminster Park have a presence of recreational activity. Whilst some of this is recorded from the affiliated clubs and by the Essex Cricket Board as part of sessions and social/friendly teams, a significant amount is also thought to take place outside of this on more of an informal basis, which is not recorded.

Of the above sites, Coopers Company & Coburn School and Hylands Park are assessed as good quality and overplayed and therefore recreational demand further impacts capacity and increases the shortfalls present. Whilst at Upminster Park the square is rated as standard quality and is overplayed by 32 match equivalent sessions, recreational demand further exacerbating the shortfalls. At Hylands Park and Upminster Park installing NTPs could provide a solution of reducing identified overplay and allow the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets, thus increasing the capacity for the recreational demand.

However, at Ardleigh Green & Havering Atte-Bower Cricket Club (Central Park) the square is rated as standard quality and has one match equivalent session of spare capacity. Therefore, installing the square to good quality and utilisation of the NTP should be encouraged for junior teams as to reduce overplay.

Priority should therefore be placed on Coopers Company & Coburn School and Hylands Park, which are already good quality and overplayed and ensuring the recreational demand can appropriately cater for the demand received.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good through partnership working with Essex Cricket.
- ◀ Install additional NTPs and/or hybrid wickets to accompany grass wicket squares (where space allows), particularly where overplay is present and where it cannot be eradicated via quality improvements and to support the recreational and informal game.
- ◀ Explore creation of additional squares in order to eradicate all shortfalls and to accommodate all expressed exported and future demand.
- ◀ Encourage facility operators to provide improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place such as Gidea Park CC.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.
- ◀ Review changes in participation over Stage E in case some of the recommendations need revising to account for growth in the women and girls' game.
- ◀ Continue to support the growth of women's and girl's cricket, which includes the new partnership between the ECB and Metro Bank with the purpose of increasing participation nationally by 2,000 clubs and 6,000 teams.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so e.g., at Gidea Park Sports Ground, Hylands Park, Spring Farm Park, Upminster Park and Fielders Sports Ground.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, to ECB regulations, where demand exists to do so and consider the creation of additional practice nets at publicly open sites (e.g., parks and recreation grounds) to encourage and increase recreational demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

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- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.

### Other grass pitch sports

#### Assessment Report summary

##### Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The pitch used for Gaelic football at The Champion School is sufficient to accommodate this demand in isolation; however, it is likely that capacity issues exist due to its multi-sport use.
- ◀ Considering there are no dedicated facilities nor any significant demand currently existing within LBH for baseball/softball, there is no requirement for any supply of pitches.
- ◀ With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, rugby league is not a priority in LBH. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in neighbouring boroughs to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., East London Dockers RLFC).

◀

##### Other grass pitch sports – supply summary

- ◀ Thomas McCurtain's GAA does not have access to a dedicated Gaelic football pitch and instead plays its competitive fixtures and trains on rugby union pitches at The Champion School.
- ◀ There are no dedicated baseball or softball diamonds provided within the Borough.

##### Other grass pitch sports – demand summary

- ◀ Thomas McCurtain's GAA is the key provider of Gaelic football within the Borough. It currently consists of 300-350 members.
- ◀ There are no formal baseball/softball club demand currently existing in LBH.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality

The pitches at The Champion School are used for Gaelic football and have a carrying capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The pitch is currently assessed as poor quality and is overplayed for rugby union. Therefore, this is insufficient to meet current demand for Gaelic football and further exacerbates the shortfalls. In addition, utilising the rugby union grass pitches for Gaelic football is not ideal as it can impact upon post season remedial work, despite the seasons running at separate times. As such, quality improvements and the transfer of some demand should be sought, as set out in the rugby union scenarios and recommendations.

#### Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure continued access to The Champion School to enable continued usage for all relevant sports.
- ◀ Improve quality to ensure demand can be adequately accommodated alongside rugby union usage.
- ◀ Any isolated demand that does exist for baseball/softball should be directed to Brentwood Baseball Club playing within Brentwood.
- ◀ Any demand that does exist for rugby league should be directed to clubs in neighbouring boroughs to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., East London Dockers RLFC).

### Tennis courts

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Tennis – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ For club-based tennis, there is a perceived shortfall of provision in LBH. In actuality, no clubs report any issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space. This should, however, be closely monitored, and improvements to the existing stock should be sought to ensure it remains the case.
- ◀ For non-club activity, LBH is seemingly well placed given recent improvements to park courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this to ensure a greater range of people can be accommodated and to improve the quality at more sites and ensure future sustainability of those park venues. In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.
- ◀ There are no padel courts within the Borough, so no activity is thought to be taking place. However, given the growing popularity of the format, it is likely that there will be further demand moving forward as it is thought that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established. This is a key reason as to why the Council is looking to establish provision at Noak Hill Sports Complex.
- ◀ LTA report 8% of total tennis demand across LBH potentially would like to play padel, with this equating to 3,796 people. This works on the basis of 200 players being accommodated per court with a minimum of 19 courts could be sustained across the Borough.
- ◀ LTA state this is a good ballpark figure for strategic planning but is conservative and based on padel being an emerging sport, and all likelihood is that further court provision could be sustained. The above figure is based on the current population in LBH and the current data that the LTA holds rather than a future projection.

##### **Tennis – supply summary**

- ◀ A total of 122 traditional tennis courts identified in LBH across 32 sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 102 are categorised as being available for community use at 25 sites compared to 20 that are unavailable at seven sites.
- ◀ Of the courts, 21 are operated by sports clubs, 46 by the Council, 51 by education providers and four are ran commercially.
- ◀ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold for their sites or long term lease agreements.
- ◀ Most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface; there are 94 of this type compared to 19 artificial courts, seven artificial clay courts and two clay courts.
- ◀ Only 36 courts are serviced by sports lighting, with 34 of these are available for community use. Furthermore, whilst the majority of clubs are serviced to some degree, no local authority courts are.
- ◀ 71 are assessed as good quality, 17 as standard quality and 34 as poor quality and included within the good quality stock are courts at Harold Wood Park, Haynes Park, Hylands Park, Raphael Park, Rise Park, Spring Farm Park and Upminster Park following recent improvements.

##### **Tennis – demand summary**

- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in LBH, with membership equating to 1,231, where known through consultation.
- ◀ Club-based demand has seemingly increased in recent years, aligned to national trends.
- ◀ Informal and recreational tennis demand is relatively high and participation is aided through the implementation of LTA products (e.g., ClubSpark) at most local authority and park sites.
- ◀ LTA Youth Start is known to be in operation at Gidea Park LTC. Sessions run every Saturday afternoon.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by four clubs amounting to 148 potential additional members (74 senior and 74 junior).
- ◀ SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 2.31 courts, up to 2041.
- ◀ The LTA also predicts future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

### Scenarios

#### Improving the recreational tennis offer

The LTA has developed a package of support for LAs to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee.

In LBH, the courts at the following sites have received recent investment:

- ◀ Harold Wood Park (three courts fully resurfaced and new fencing, waiting to be painted).
- ◀ Haynes Park (three courts fully resurfaced and painted).
- ◀ Lodge Farm Park (both courts fully resurfaced and painted).
- ◀ Raphael Park (12 courts fully resurfaced and painted, new fencing).

All park courts in LBH have been fitted with a new Gate Access System, whilst the sites identified in the list above have recently received investment.

Based on the findings of this study, quality requires improving across local authority sites such as Central Park (Romford), Harrow Lodge Park, Noak Hill Sports Complex and Rise Park and sports lighting should be installed, where possible, given that only Noak Hill Sports Complex is currently serviced. A lack of sports lighting is currently a significant barrier to participation.

Such investment could be replicated at other local authority sites, particularly where quality is poor, including at:

- ◀ Central Park (two courts).
- ◀ Noak Hill Sports Complex (one court).

With only two courts provided at Central Park, there may also be an opportunity to develop more courts as part of the investment. The LTA identifies that those sites with a minimum of three courts and suitable ancillary facilities are more likely to deliver a sustainable tennis programme.

#### Accommodating current and future club-based demand

The LTA suggests that a court without sports lighting can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members.

Based on this, two clubs in LBH have current apparent capacity issues, with these being Cranston Park LTC (at Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club) and Gidea Park LTC (at Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club).

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For Cranston Park LTC, with eight sports-lit courts the site has a current capacity of 480 members. Therefore, as Cranston Park LTC currently has 518 members the site has overplay of 36 members. As such, the only way to fully alleviate capacity issues would be to provide each club with access to additional provision. To that end, with a deficit of 36 members, only one additional court would be required. However, this minimal shortfall also means that it is likely that the existing stock can accommodate the demand, providing it is carefully managed.

However, for Gidea Park LTC it is only serviced by sport lighting on four of its courts. This equates to a capacity of 360 members and it currently has 400 members with an overplay of 40 members. As the Club is looking to install floodlights to improve its capacity balance, efforts should be made to support the Club with this ambition. This development would see overplay eradicated with spare capacity of 20 members being established.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Consider development of additional courts for recreational demand, potentially through adding more courts to existing sites such as Central Park and Noak Hill Sports Complex.
- ◀ Where local authority courts are improved/established, ensure the operation of the provision is sustainable and in line with other recommendations.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional sports lighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites such as Gidea Park LTC that are operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Explore the installation of sports lighting at Council sites to increase capacity, subject to any technological advances adhering to planning restrictions.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, where it is required, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- ◀ Support opportunities to provide padel courts at suitable sites given its growing demand (separate to existing tennis courts) and seek to maximise activity, providing no existing in-use traditional courts are lost as a result. The LTA has identified the need for a minimum of 19 courts across LBH.
- ◀ Linked to the above, ensure other sports such as netball and basketball which use multi-sports courts are protected as there is an increasing number of padel court proposals coming forward that would displace netball and basketball.



## Bowling greens

### Assessment Report summary

#### **Bowls – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ Three clubs are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.
- ◀ Future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens. However, where future demand is expressed at sites which are already over capacity, these will need to be monitored as part of Stage E to ensure this position remains the same.

#### **Bowls – supply summary**

- ◀ There are nine flat greens provided across the same number of sites in LBH, all of which, are available for community use. The South Analysis Area provides three greens, whilst there are two greens in each of the East, North and West analysis areas.
- ◀ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority or respective sports club.
- ◀ Of the current greens, seven are assessed as good quality and two are assessed as standard quality, with none assessed as poor.

#### **Bowls – demand summary**

- ◀ There are nine bowling clubs identified as playing within LBH although only four have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 436, resulting in an average membership of 85.
- ◀ The largest club is Clockhouse BC (105 members and Gidea Park BC (100 members), whilst the smallest is Harold Hill BC with 58 members.
- ◀ Four greens are available for pay and play usage, although take-up is reportedly minimal.
- ◀ Of responding clubs in LBH, four clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 50 additional members.

## Scenarios

### Impact of accommodating current and future demand

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand.

In LBH, where membership is known, only one club (Harold Hill BC) is currently operating within a 'sustainable' capacity range within LBH. There are three clubs operating above the recommended capacity limit, with these being at Clockhouse Bowling (Clockhouse BC) Gidea Park Sports Ground (Gidea Park BC) and Upminster Bowling Club (Upminster BC). However, these clubs didn't specifically mention a need for an additional bowling green to accommodate existing or further demand. As such, despite high levels of demand, there is no identified requirement for additional green space, although support is required to ensure that this remains the case.

Similarly, none of the other clubs report any capacity issues and none report any latent or unmet demand. As such, no action is currently required, other than to continue monitoring the clubs to ensure that their demand is met.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of currently used greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Ensure that any proposed development of currently used greens is done in line with NPPF.

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- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary e.g. at Harold Hill BC.
- ◀ Support clubs operating with a high membership to ensure demand continues to be met on their existing provision.
- ◀ Support the implementation of new products to increase participation within the Borough i.e., Bowls Bash (a shortened format) and Play Bowls (pay and play participation).

### Athletics

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Athletics – supply and demand summary**

- Based on the above, it is thought supply is not currently sufficient to meet demand. This is due to the waiting list in place at Havering AC and for the club a six-lane facility is not currently ideal. As indicated above, there are wider aspirations to create a new athletics stadium with an eight-lane 400 metre track that is expected to meet demand.
- In addition, to meet the growing demand from Hornchurch AC, England Athletics' new generation products (Active Track) is recommended. Active Tracks are free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities. They can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- Away from track and field activity, emphasis should be placed on supporting the other activities identified (e.g., Parkrun), with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

##### **Athletics – supply summary**

- In LBH, there is one full size purpose built outdoor athletics tracks provided, located at Hornchurch Stadium.
- The track at Hornchurch Stadium is managed by the Council.
- The provision at Hornchurch Stadium is assessed as standard quality, with resurface scheduled to take place in May 2025.
- Hornchurch Stadium has UKA TrackMark accreditation; however, the track surface will need to be resurfaced within the lifespan of the PPOSS in order to maintain certification.

##### **Athletics – demand summary**

- There are three clubs in LBH affiliated to England Athletics.
- Havering Athletics Club is a large athletics club based at Hornchurch Stadium. It currently caters for men, women, boys and girls of all ages within amateur athletics and has a membership totalling 336 people. Broken down, this equates to 89 seniors and 247 junior members.
- The Club accesses Hornchurch Stadium on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings as well as some Sunday mornings for training sessions via a rolling lease agreement. In addition, it competes in a range of competitions and leagues meaning it also has requirements to utilise the facility on weekends.
- Havering '90 Joggers is a cross-country club that welcomes runners of all ages and abilities. The Club trains every Tuesday and Thursday evenings with the meet up point being at Upminster Hall Playing Fields. It utilises the road network and therefore does not access a formal facility.
- Harold Wood Running Club is a road running club which accommodates both men and women of all ages and abilities. It has regular training sessions virtually every night dependent on what individuals want to do. The Club runs sessions every week night at Harold Wood Park, although during the summer months it also utilises the track facilities on Wednesday evenings with Hornchurch Stadium.
- There is also currently one Run Together group in LBH.
- Two Parkrun events are held weekly, at Harrow Lodge Park and Raphael Park.
- Other running events are held annually including Havering Mind Half Marathon & 10k.
- Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,959 people in LBH. This resembles the national average, also of 1.9%.
- All clubs have aspirations to grow membership, this includes Havering AC which indicate plans to increase demand despite not currently being able to achieve this due to a waiting list. Whilst England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Parkrun is likely to increase.

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### Scenarios

#### Meeting current and future demand

As identified in the Assessment Report, there are wider aspirations over the future of Hornchurch Stadium. Consultation with Havering AC identifies that the Club has a significant waiting list (100 people) and as such there is likely demand for a bigger track to cater for such level of latent demand.

Notwithstanding the above, a short term solution is in place as the track is due to be refurbished in May 2025, and would thus improve quality to good (the provision is currently rated as standard).

In order for an athletics track to be sustainable; England Athletics suggests that a club membership of a minimum of 200 members is required. In the case of Havering AC with its current 336 members and latent demand expressed, an eight lane athletics facility would help the Club to better meet demand.

In addition to above, a compact track is already provided at Noak Hill Sports Complex, which consists of a 4-lane 60m straight, which was installed in 2018. Although the track is not serviced by dedicated sports lighting it is thought some residual lighting is available. Therefore, better utilisation of this facility could help to address some capacity issues and reduce the waiting list for Havering AC, particularly for its junior members.

England Athletics' latest approach to facility planning includes the play track, compact track, mini track and active track which present more affordable means of installing new athletics provision<sup>13</sup>. These facility offers cater for a more recreational and informal offer for athletics and general health and wellbeing opportunities.

Of these, an 'active track' is the most appropriate for consideration in LBH, particularly in relation to strategic housing allocations to provide a health and wellbeing offer on site. It is a macadam surface or synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (similar to a formula one circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. An Active Track attracts users of all ages and abilities across a wide variety of activities (runners, joggers, walkers (particularly the elderly), cyclists, wheelchair users).

#### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of athletics provision in LBH and consider further increasing provision to meet current and latent demand identified.
- ◀ In the short term, make improvements via re-surfacing when necessary to ensure that demand can continue to be met and the track at Hornchurch Stadium remains TrackMark accredited.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for installing sports lighting and increasing access to the compact track at Noak Hill Sports Complex.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events, England Athletics initiatives, Parkrun and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.
- ◀ Consider the need to include 'Active Tracks' within strategic housing allocations to provide a health and wellbeing offer on site.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/facilities/newgen-tracks/>

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### Golf courses

#### Assessment Report summary

##### **Golf – supply and demand summary**

- ◀ With six golf facilities provided, supply is seemingly good in quantitative terms; however, with high levels of demand, the provision is servicing a clear need and any loss could therefore not be sustained, meaning all remaining sites require protection.
- ◀ Despite the number of facilities provided in the Borough, there is a lack of variety in what is offered and therefore segments of the golfing market are not being suitably catered for.

##### **Golf – supply summary**

- ◀ There are currently six golf sites in operation.
- ◀ All six sites provide one 18-hole course each.
- ◀ There are no Par 3 courses provided in the Borough.
- ◀ Two of the six golf sites in LBH supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 14 bays provided at Risebridge Golf Centre and eight bays provided at Top Meadow Golf Club. Both golf sites are available for pay and play usage. In addition, the driving range at Top Meadow Golf Club is not serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ In LBH, there are two members clubs, three proprietary venues and one municipal site. This is Risebridge Golf Centre, which is currently operated by the Council.
- ◀ Membership costs at Cranham Golf Course and Top Meadow Golf Club are currently operating below the national average, with membership costing £950 for the former and £895 for the latter. Whilst pricing at the remaining sites is higher and significantly so in some cases.
- ◀ Quality across the sites is good, with no issues reported.

##### **Golf – demand summary**

- ◀ The current average membership across the sites is 386, suggesting that demand is slightly lower than the national average (the average is 386).
- ◀ Membership has increased significantly since 2015, despite reductions from between 2016 and 2018.
- ◀ Whilst pay and play usage is not known, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the municipal and propriety courses due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place.
- ◀ Cross-boundary demand is likely to be high given the location of some sites both in and out of LBH, whilst the lack of variety of the sites within the Borough is also likely to leader to higher than normal levels of exported demand.
- ◀ Unmet demand could also be high given the lack of variety in what is provided, particularly from those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access.
- ◀ Unmet demand is also expressed by Risebridge Golf Club and Romford Golf Club, which both have a waiting list in place.
- ◀ An England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the Borough.

### Scenarios

No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing golf provision.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide other forms of golf provision, such as Par 3 courses and standalone driving ranges.

- ◀ Explore opportunities to provide family friendly offers at golf sites across LBH.

## Outdoor gyms

### Assessment Report summary

#### Supply and demand summary

- ◀ For outdoor gyms, with no demand information available, it is difficult to determine the need for more facilities. The spatial distribution of existing provision is more even and quality is higher, although there are areas particularly in the East Analysis Area that are likely to be unprovided for.

#### Supply summary

- ◀ 21 outdoor gym facilities are identified, with quality good at 13 sites, standard at six sites and three as poor quality.
- ◀ The Council has an aspiration to install outdoor gym equipment at Raphael Park. Similarly, the outdoor gym equipment at Lodge Farm Park is due to be replaced in 2024.

#### Demand summary

- ◀ Demand data for use of recreational spaces is not tracked due to the open access nature of the facilities.
- ◀ Use of outdoor gyms is particularly unclear.

## Scenarios

No suitable scenarios have been identified, with the following recommendations instead considered necessary based on the supply and demand findings.

## Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing supply of outdoor gyms.
- ◀ Improve quality of poor and standard quality facilities.
- ◀ Seek to provide more inclusive fitness equipment.

## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a) Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b) Secure affordable community access and tenure at sites for high quality, high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c) Provide clear guidance on community use agreements and seek to maximise community use of all facilities.

#### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes disused (including any which may not have been identified in this document) underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 103 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years.

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Sport England has an established role providing advice and guidance to local authorities, sports clubs and other parties on a range of planning applications. As part of this, it offers free pre-planning application advice particularly for proposals relating to playing fields and major residential development<sup>15</sup>.

Sport England will use the PPOSS to help assess the planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

### *Policy Exception E1:*

‘A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport’.

Where the PPOSS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

### *Policy Exception E2*

‘The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use’.

### *Policy Exception E3*

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site’.

It should also be noted that where Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is proposed near to or on playing fields that the above also applies.

### *Policy Exception E4:*

‘The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

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<sup>15</sup>[https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=planning\\_applications](https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport?section=planning_applications)



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## *Policy Exception E5*

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field’.

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused playing fields are included within this Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one or two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger and better quality venues (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed could be developed for other uses. It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

Much like some authorities nationally, there is reliance on the education sector to provide for an element of demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities. However, where this is the case, particularly for the likes of hockey, it is imperative that future opportunities to secure tenure for clubs is explored and progressed where possible. The following schools provide community use to clubs for match play purposes.

Table 5.1: Known use of education sites

School	Club	Sport
Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Lane Playing Field)	Upminster Park Rovers (eight teams)	Football
Brittons Playing Field	Leaside Colts (seven teams)	Football
Coopers Company & Coburn School	Old Cooperians RUFC (four teams) Upminster HC (11 teams) Upminster CC (20 teams)	Rugby Union Hockey Cricket
Drapers Academy	Romford HC (seven teams)	Hockey
Emerson Park Academy	Emerson Park FC (three teams) Upminster Town United (three teams) Upminster HC (14 teams) Hornchurch Athletic CC (one team)	Football Hockey Cricket
Harrow Lodge Primary School	Gidea Park Rangers (seven teams)	Football
Hilldene Primary School	Romford Colts (eight teams)	Football
Langtons Junior Academy	Elite Colts FC (five teams)	Football
Marshalls Park Academy	Elite Colts FC (two teams)	Football
Suttons Primary School	Emerson Park FC (two teams)	Football
The Brittons Academy	Upminster Park Rovers (seven teams)	Football (3G)
The Champion School	Havering HC (10 teams) Upminster CC (10 teams)	Hockey Cricket
Upminster Junior School	Upminster Town United (three teams)	Football

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Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the football scenarios.

Further partnership working with NGBs should be carried out to encourage schools to put in place community use agreements (CUAs) including access to changing provision where required.

or unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as England Hockey, FF, Essex County FA can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement. It is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

### ***Alternative management models***

The Council should explore possible alternative options for the future management of some sites within its playing field portfolio, including leasehold or Community Asset Transfer (CAT) as identified in the Assessment Report. Potential benefits of this include reducing costs which may allow for the retention and possible improvement of other retained sites within the portfolio, as well as potentially opening up new routes to improvement of sites and access to external funding opportunities through club-led management models.

Most teams/clubs in LBH access pitch provision associated with the Council. Whilst there comes a commitment from the local authority to continue to provide this sites, tenure agreements are often rolling 12-month agreements or in some instances shorter still and clubs often feel at risk of losing access on a season by season basis. It also makes it difficult for new or younger clubs to establish use due to historic bookings.

Clubs such as Harold Wood Cougars and Upminster Park Rovers already have long-term lease agreements at their home grounds at Harold Wood Park and Upminster Hall Playing Fields respectively. To confirm, both of these sites are owned/managed by the Council. These clubs and sites have been identified as potential options for CAT consideration.

Given current budgetary pressures, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

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Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). They should also be signposted to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses

The Council should explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed. For clubs with lease agreements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping clubs attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to meet conditions of grants funded by external partners.

### *Community Asset Transfer*

Another way of ensuring long term tenure for clubs is through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This is the transfer of management and/or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (usually a local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Development Trust, a Community Interest Company or a social enterprise) for less than market value – to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Community based organisations are often much more effective at engaging people than other types of organisation because they are close to and directly accountable to their community.

Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services. Communities can mobilise a lot of volunteer time and energy. Asset transfer can, for example:

- ◀ Help local authorities meet policy objectives.
- ◀ Make better use of underused assets.
- ◀ Open and increase opportunities for clubs/organisations to access grant funding for which local authorities cannot apply (e.g. Football Foundation Grass Maintenance Fund).
- ◀ Improve assets through increased time and resource (both financial and volunteer) than what the local authority may be able to contribute.
- ◀ Give sports clubs and community organisations more security and sustainability and help transition clubs away from being funding dependent. Opens opportunities to revenue generation and greater self-dependence.
- ◀ Enable people to protect the assets in their communities – including iconic heritage buildings and open spaces. Reducing costs to the local authority and protection against further budgetary cuts.
- ◀ Involve people in designing and running the services from which, they benefit.
- ◀ Be a catalyst for getting people more involved as volunteers.
- ◀ Keep money in the local economy through enterprise and locally owned assets.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider. It can be accessed here: [Sport England Community Assets and Rights](#)

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## **Asset Transfer Policy**

The PPOSS should help inform the development of the Borough Council’s policy on Asset Transfer (whether via leasehold or full CAT) and KKP should help to support the Council through a task and finish group held with local NGB officers and current leasing clubs to help identify the potential benefits, challenges and criteria for candidate asset recipients.

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.2: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/NGBs accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to maintain sites to the existing or better standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as ‘Local Sites’ (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management ‘Key Centres’ are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of an accreditation award).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards the improvement of the site.</p>

Furthermore, the Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women’s and girls’ activity.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use of education facilities more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In LBH, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at academies and independent schools.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the providers where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Sport England and London Sport can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant organisations or are going to receive investment in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth grass football pitches, 11v11 3G pitches or multi-use provision such as sports lit courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### **Recommendations:**

- d) Improve quality
- e) Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f) Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- g) Secure developer contributions through Section 106 and the Community

#### **Recommendation (d) – Improve quality**

There are several ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below.

#### **Pitch Advisory Service (PAS)**

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation, the Pitch Advisory Service (PAS, formerly the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme) was launched in 2014 and is funded by the GMA and its partners; the Football Foundation, Sport England, FA, ECB, RFU and RFL.

Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots clubs across England and Wales. The PAS provides an enhanced network of support and expertise available to those maintaining natural turf pitches, particularly at a local level.

The service can be utilised by grassroots clubs, organisations and local authorities with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Pitch providers are encouraged to complete a self-assessment of pitches using the Football Foundation PitchPower app. In August 2022, PitchPower was re-launched, with enhanced capability to support use beyond football pitches and is now accessible for the assessment of natural turf pitches for cricket, rugby league and rugby union.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The Performance Quality Standard Assessment assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the Ground Management Association.

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### **Football Foundation PitchPower Assessment**

The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund, The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example 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 pitches.

In addition to non-technical assessments, clubs and education sites across LBH continue to undertake PitchPower assessments as a means of improving the quality of provision. Consequently, it should be recommended through the PPS process for the local authority to support delivering any improvement to new sites that undertake PitchPower assessments.

### **Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)**

Eligible clubs and organisations can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams, for example, to obtain the required maintenance equipment. If a PitchPower assessment categorises pitches as 'poor' or 'basic' they are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund<sup>16</sup>, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. Clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to improve and sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, town and parish councils, education sites and charities. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission from the landowner. Applicants are not required to have security of tenure to secure GPMF.

The Local Authority is not presently eligible to access the GPMF as an applicant, however, can undertake technical assessment of pitches using the PitchPower app. Opportunities to access the fund to support presently Council managed sites include establishment of a service level agreement with a resident club for maintenance responsibilities, or transfer of long-term management to the club/organisation through leasehold or CAT, both enabling the club/organisation to apply to the fund.

Furthermore, the Football Foundation also launched a new Groundskeeping Community online platform in 2019 which provides a resource of expert advice for grounds staff, enabling them to connect with peers, discover new tips and tricks and share advice on best industry practice. Users can seek guidance from the GMA regional pitch advisors, who are available to answer questions and update members on changes to industry standards.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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## Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, RFU, RFL, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

Table 5.3: Capacity of pitches

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

With pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, this may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.



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For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs (or hybrid wickets when suitable) is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed adjacent to existing squares.

For rugby union, overplay can be reduced but not resolved through improvements to pitch maintenance or via capital drainage solutions. Two of the rugby clubs in LBH (Old Cooperians RUFC and Upminster RUFC) have a need for options outside of enhancing existing provision.

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G and hockey provision, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required. This is a requirement of Football Foundation funded pitches, as per its terms and conditions.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality that are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor-quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality were improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

### Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in LBH, these are generally centred at local authority sites.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

The following sites are identified locally as ones where improvements are needed:

- ◀ Rise Park.
- ◀ Spring Farm Park.
- ◀ The Gallows.
- ◀ Westlands Playing Fields.

In addition to the above there are also a number of sites which are in active use which do not provide ancillary provision. These are included in the table below.

Table 5.4: Playing field sites used without any supporting ancillary provision

Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
8	Brittons Playing Field	Leaside Colts FC	Seven teams
10	Central Park	Young Stars Football First FC	Five teams

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Site ID	Site name	Club name	Number of teams
51	King George's Playing Fields	Romford Flyers Romford United Youth	13 teams 12 teams
61	Park Lane Recreation Ground	Elite Colts FC	13 teams
79	St Andrew's Park	Upminster Park Rovers	12 teams
96	Upminster Park	Upminster Park Rovers Upminster CC	Four teams 10 teams

It is worthy of note that providing dedicated facilities for one team clubs, unless competing at a high competitive level is not typically a worthwhile investment.

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer (although other provision can be key for income generation) and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, in collaboration with the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

Furthermore, to address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPOSS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within LBH (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the Borough.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector and can be informed via the Stage E process, with the Steering Group to continue to meet following adoption of this study (see Part 8 for further details).

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One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development contributions.

In the Havering Local Plan 2016-2031, it states that various policies in the Local Plan contain requirements for developers to make financial contributions to make the development acceptable in planning terms. The Council will use Section 106 planning obligations funding (in accordance with paragraphs 203 – 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework) to address or mitigate potential unacceptable impacts associated with developments.

The Havering Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) enables the Council to secure funding towards the cost of infrastructure to meet the needs arising from new developments.

Funds secured through CIL will be used to deliver key community infrastructure such as education, health facilities, libraries, community care, community facilities, and transport projects (except certain site-specific works).

The Council acknowledges however that CIL, on its own, will be insufficient to fund big new capital projects and it will remain necessary for other funding sources and regimes to be explored and considered.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council continue to use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Local Authority working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC). The SFC helps quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities.

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The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference for Sport England and the NGBs is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

The preference from the Council, Sport England and the NGBs is generally for multi-pitch (or multi-facility) and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for further development in the future. This is because single pitches/facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable, although it should be noted that there are certain circumstances in which they can be acceptable. An example of this is in rural areas whereby insufficient demand could exist to support a larger development.

Where new provision is agreed as inappropriate but where contributions to existing sites are instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings (see Part 8 for further information). Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◆ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.

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- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up-to-date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

- h) Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.
- i) Identify opportunities to increase to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

#### Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.
- ◀ Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- ◀ Establishing additional sports lighting.
- ◀ Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., 3G pitches and NTPs).

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to redesignate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

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The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome, typically through pitch quality improvements to increase the carrying capacity of pitches, securing community use agreements for sites that do not provide security of tenure to ensure spare capacity can be fully utilised, and gaining access to unavailable sites to increase the pitch stock available to the community.

### **Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon qualitative improvements. However, as evidenced in Part 4, although there is value in improving quality, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities, and enabling access to existing unused provision, capacity improvements may not offer significant capacity gains in the peak period to meet all shortfalls expressed, particularly for football. A strategic solution is considered to be necessary involving new pitches to address this scale of shortfall. This position should be monitored at Stage E.

However, for rugby union Table 4.23 shows that given the amount of demand that if maximum level quality improvements were to take place, shortfalls at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Upminster Hall Playing Fields would still be present. In this instance, other methods of addressing overplay should be explored such as the installation of additional provision, increasing sports lighting or the creation of WR 3G provision to move training demand away from the grass pitches.

Notwithstanding the above, large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community, subject to any design issues and providing that long-term security of tenure can be provided.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is organised by Analysis Area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

### **Site hierarchy**

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e) to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a regional context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Local Authority area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers such as town or parish councils
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.



## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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**Hub sites** are of borough wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

### **Partners**

The column indicating partners in the Action Plans below refers to the main organisations that the Council (or the relevant provider) would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** level actions, as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

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## PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

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The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

### **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium, or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) - Low - less than £150k.
- ◀ (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k.
- ◀ (H) - High £750k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

### **Aim**

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## EAST ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary pitch sports (East Analysis Area)

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES per week <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES per week (2031) <sup>17</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
East	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	-
East	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 3	-
East	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	-
East	Mini 7v7	Shortfall of 1	-
East	Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 0.5	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	-
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>	-	-	-
East	11v11, floodlit	Shortfall of 1 pitch	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>11v11, floodlit</b>	<b>Shortfall of 8</b>	<b>Shortfall of 9.5</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
East	Senior	Shortfall of 4.5	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Full size, floodlit</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>
<b>Cricket pitches</b>	-	-	-
East	Saturday	Shortfall of 91	-
East	Sunday	Shortfall of 91	-
East	Midweek	Shortfall of 91	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 253</b>	<b>Shortfall of 289</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 206</b>	<b>Shortfall of 242</b>

### Analysis area summary – remaining sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Bowls</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.
<b>Recreational spaces</b>	Supply is sufficient to meet demand.

### Priority recommendations

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>17</sup> Future demand (2031) is determined via Local Plan forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2024).

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites such as Harold Wood Park, Haynes Park and Upminster Hall Playing Fields.</li> <li>◀ Provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without (e.g. at St Andrews Park).</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Emerson Park Academy).</li> <li>◀ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. Haynes Park).</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Consider installation of one additional full size 11v11 3G pitch to alleviate football training shortfalls.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore community use at sites currently not available (e.g. at Emerson Park Academy, Hall Mead School and The Royal Liberty School).</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain quality of squares through dedicated maintenance regimes.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at Harold Wood Park and The Champion School.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required (e.g. Emerson Park Academy and The Champion School).</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore sports lighting potential to better cater for and to attract demand</li> <li>◀ Explore community use at sites currently not available (e.g. at Hall Mead School).</li> <li>◀ Identify sites to build new padel courts to meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**EAST ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
19	David Lloyd (Gidea Park)	RM11 2EW	Tennis	Commercial	Four good quality artificial courts, with three serviced by sports lighting.	Sustain quality and explore if sports lighting can be added to increase capacity.	LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
26	Emerson Park Academy	RM11 3AD	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches, which are available for community use and played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality and seek to secure tenure for clubs.	Education FA FF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
26	Emerson Park Academy	RM11 3AD	Rugby union	Education	One standard quality senior pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued curricular use and explore quality improvements to better accommodate it.	Education RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Emerson Park Academy	RM11 3AD	Hockey	Education	One standard quality full size sand based AGP, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. It was last surfaced in 2015. Used by Upminster HC as an overspill venue.	Resurface pitch for hockey usage and protect as a hockey-based surface. Ensure a sinking fund is place for long-term sustainability protect as a hockey-based surface and provide security of tenure to Upminster HC via a community use agreement.	Education EH	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
26	Emerson Park Academy	RM11 3AD	Cricket	Education	One standard quality grass wicket square that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity and seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure.	Education ECB	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
26	Emerson Park Academy	RM11 3AD	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve court quality and explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract community demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
27	Engyane Primary School	RM14 1SW	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, which are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
33	Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club	RM14 1DL	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial clay courts with three serviced by sports lighting. The Club is currently operating over capacity.	Improve quality to better accommodate club demand and explore opportunities to provide additional court provision to alleviate capacity issues. Also explore the feasibility of servicing all courts with sports lighting to help with this.	Club LTA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
34	Hall Mead School	RM14 1SF	Football	Education	Two poor quality adult pitches, which are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
34	Hall Mead School	RM14 1SF	Rugby union	Education	One poor quality senior pitch, which is unavailable for community use and not sports lit.	Retain for continued curricular use and explore quality improvements to better accommodate it.	Education RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Hall Mead School	RM14 1SF	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Hall Mead School	RM14 1SF	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Retain for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
36	Harold Wood Park	RM3 0NB	Football	Council	Three adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. The mini 5v5 is assessed as good quality, one of the adult, youth 9v9 are assessed as standard and the remaining as poor quality. The mini 5v5 pitch has actual spare capacity and the youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitch overplayed. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and improve quality of ancillary facilities. Consider future case for alternative management model at this site or asset transfer to a local club/organisation.	FA FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
36	Harold Wood Park	RM3 0NB	Cricket	Council	Two standard quality grass squares with the first square accompanied by an NTP. The squares are overplayed by 66 match equivalent sessions. Aspirations for an extra non-turf pitch on site. Accompanied by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and consider installing an NTP on the second square to reduce it via the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
36	Harold Wood Park	RM3 0NB	Tennis	Council	Three good quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain court quality to continue to accommodate demand and explore providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
36	Harold Wood Park	RM3 0NB	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym facility has been assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
37	Harold Wood Primary School	RM3 0TH	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is available for community use and played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity and seek to providers users with a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
37	Harold Wood Primary School	RM3 0TH	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is available for community use and used by Harold Wood CC.	Seek to improve security of tenure for club users via long term usage agreement.	Education ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
40	Harrow Lodge Primary School	RM3 0TH	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. All pitches are assessed as poor quality with the exception of the mini 5v5 pitch. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity and secure community use via a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
44	Haynes Park	RM11 2BU	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
44	Haynes Park	RM11 2BU	Bowls	Council	One good quality bowling green used by Haynes Park BC.	Sustain green quality to better accommodate demand.	Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Langtons Junior Academy	RM11 3SD	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch, which is available for community use. The pitch is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
55	Nelmes Primary School	RM11 3BX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use and improve pitch quality.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
64	Prospect Road Playing Field	RM11 3TZ	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality and seek to provide users with a community use agreement.	Club FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
79	St Andrews Park	RM11 3RU	Football	Council	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches, which are played to capacity at peak time. Not serviced by ancillary facilities.	Utilise capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Explore options of providing ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
79	St Andrews Park	RM11 3RU	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym facility has been assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
83	The Champion School	RM11 3BX	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch, which is available for community use and overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular use and retain as community available given local shortfalls should there be any future demand.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
83	The Champion School	RM11 3BX	Rugby union	Education	Seven poor quality senior pitches, which are available for community use. The pitches are overplayed due to heavy internal usage.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular usage and retain as community available given local shortfalls should there be any future demand.	Education RFU	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
83	The Champion School	RM11 3BX	Hockey	Education	One full size sand based AGP, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. It has been assessed as poor quality having not been resurfaced since 2008. Used by Havering HC.	Resurface pitch for hockey usage and protect as a hickey-based surface. Ensure a sinking fund is place for long-term sustainability protect as a hockey-based surface and provide security of tenure to Havering HC via a community use agreement.	Education EH	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
83	The Champion School	RM11 3BX	Cricket	Education	One standard quality grass wicket square and one standalone NTP. The square is overplayed by 25 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and explore options to provide increased capacity (e.g. via additional provision) to meet current and future demand.	Education ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide
85	The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls	RM1 2RR	3G	Education	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch, which is available for community use, serviced by sports lighting and FA approved. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2017.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability and that FA testing takes place every three years.	Education FA FF	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
88	The Royal Liberty School	RM2 6HJ	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
88	The Royal Liberty School	RM2 6HJ	Rugby union	Education	One standard quality senior pitch, which is unavailable for community use and not sports lit.	Retain for curricular usage.	Education RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
88	The Royal Liberty School	RM2 6HJ	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is not available for community use.	Explore options for enabling community use access given local shortfalls.	Education ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
92	Upminster Bowling Club	RM14 1AU	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green used by Upminster BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
93	Upminster Golf Club	RM14 1AU	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	RM14 1BT	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches, which have actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	FA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	RM14 1BT	Rugby union	Council	Three standard quality senior pitches, with one of the pitches serviced by sports lighting. All pitches are overplayed and used by Upminster RUFC. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay and consider installation of additional sports lighting. To fully eradicate overplay, explore options for additional pitch space or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	RFU	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Enhance
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	RM14 1BT	Cricket (disused)	Council	A grass wicket square which is no longer provided or maintained.	Consider bringing grass wicket square back into use, given local shortfalls.	ECB	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
94	Upminster Hall Playing Fields	RM14 1BT	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as standard quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
100	Gidea Park Primary School	RM2 5JB	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
101	Harold Court Primary School	RM3 0SH	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect



# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary pitch sports (North Analysis Area)

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2031) <sup>18</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
North	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	-
North	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	-
North	Youth 9v9	At capacity	-
North	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 5	-
North	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1.5	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	-
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>	-	-	-
North	11v11, floodlit	Shortfall of 2 pitches	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>11v11, floodlit</b>	<b>Shortfall of seven pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of eight pitches</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
North	Senior	Played to capacity	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Full size, floodlit</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>
<b>Cricket pitches</b>	-	-	-
North	Saturday	Shortfall of 25	-
North	Sunday	Shortfall of 13	-
North	Midweek	Spare capacity of 10	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 253</b>	<b>Shortfall of 289</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 206</b>	<b>Shortfall of 242</b>

### Analysis area summary – remaining sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Club demand is currently operating with spare capacity.
<b>Bowls</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Recreational spaces</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>18</sup> Future demand (2031) is determined via Local Plan forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2024).

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. Hilldene Primary School and King Georges Playing Field).</li> <li>◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required and provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without.</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Westlands Playing Fields).</li> <li>◀ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Hendersons Sports &amp; Social Club).</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Provide additional 3G pitches to meet shortfall of provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability (e.g. Noak Hill Sports Complex)</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality to eradicate overplay (e.g. at Bower Park Academy).</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Explore opportunities to convert the pitch at Bower Park Academy to 3G, given local shortfalls.</li> <li>◀ Ensure sinking fund is in place for the pitch at Drapers Academy.</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at sites such as Gidea Park Sports Ground.</li> <li>◀ Explore opportunities to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand (e.g. Raphael Park).</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required (e.g. Gidea Park Sports Ground).</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality of park courts such as Central Park (Romford).</li> <li>◀ Identify sites to build new padel courts to meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**NORTH ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC	RM3 9PD	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass wicket square with an accompanying NTP. The square has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. The Club is in early conversations with Essex Cricket to explore options for a third ground in order to meet its demand as its current grounds are operating at capacity.	Improve square quality to provide additional spare capacity and improve quality of ancillary provision.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
4	Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground)	RM4 1QH	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square that is used by Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC which has 30 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand utilise actual spare capacity through transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	ECB	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
5	Bower Park Academy	RM1 4YY	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality and explore community use options with the school.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
5	Bower Park Academy	RM1 4YY	Rugby union	Education	One poor quality senior pitch, which is unavailable for community use and not sports lit.	Retain for continued curricular use.	Education RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Bower Park Academy	RM1 4YY	Hockey	Education	One full size sand based AGP, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Not currently accessed by any hockey clubs. The pitch is assessed as poor quality having been last resurfaced in 2007.	Explore as a potential site for 3G pitch conversion given no requirement for hockey. Also ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.	Education EH	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
10	Central Park (Romford)	RM3 8PU	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand and explore options of servicing courts with sports lighting.	LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
10	Central Park (Romford)	RM3 8PU	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
18	Crownfield Junior School	RM7 8JB	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, which are unavailable for community use and assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options with the school given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
20	Drapers' Academy	RM3 9XR	Football	Education	Two adult and one youth 9v9, which are unavailable for community use and assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality and explore options for community use given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
20	Drapers' Academy	RM3 9XR	Hockey	Education	One full size sand based AGP, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. The pitch is assessed as poor quality having been last resurfaced in 2007. Used by Romford HC.	Resurface the pitch to improve quality and protect as a hockey-based surface. Also encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability and provide security of tenure to Romford HC via a community use agreement.	Education EH	Local	M	M	H	Protect Enhance
20	Drapers' Academy	RM3 9XR	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality and explore potential of installing sports lighting and to attract community demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
21	Drapers' Maylands Primary School	RM3 9XR	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Drapers Pygro Priory School	RM3 9RT	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club	RM2 5NP	Tennis	Sports Club	Four good quality artificial and three good quality artificial clay courts. All courts are available for community use with only the artificial courts serviced by sports lighting. The Club is currently operating over capacity. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality and ensure club demand can be accommodated. Explore opportunities to provide additional court provision to alleviate capacity issues.	Club LTA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
32	Gidea Park Sports Ground	RM2 6NP	Cricket	Council	Two standard quality grass wicket squares with one NTP accompanying the first square. The first square is overplayed by 19 match equivalent sessions and the second is overplayed by 16 match equivalent sessions. Gidea Park CC aspires for more practice nets. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality and install an NTP on the second square to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site. Explore options to provide additional nets. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	ECB	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
32	Gidea Park Sports Ground	RM2 6NP	Tennis	Council	One standard quality bowling green which is used by Gidea Park BC.	Sustain quality.	Bowls England	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
35	Harold Hill Bowls Club	RM3 7FL	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green used by Harold Hill BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Hendersons Sports and Social Club	RM3 9NE	Football	Sports Club	Three good quality adult pitches and have actual spare capacity. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality of the pitches and utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						Sustain quality of ancillary provision.						
46	Hilldene Primary School	RM3 7DU	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, which are assessed as poor quality and available for community use. The mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to poor quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve quality and seek to establish a community use agreement for club users in order to provide secure tenure.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	RM7 8ET	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are assessed as standard quality. The youth pitches are overplayed, whilst actual spare capacity exists on adult and mini 7v7 pitches. Not serviced by any ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to provide actual spare capacity. Explore options to provide ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
51	King Georges Playing Field (Romford)	RM7 8ET	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
53	Marshalls Park Academy	RM1 4EH	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches, which are available for community use. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity and secure community use for club users via a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
53	Marshalls Park Academy	RM1 4EH	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
54	Maylands Golf Course	RM3 0AZ	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
56	Noak Hill Sports Complex	RM3 7YA	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch, which is played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to provide additional capacity and ensure no future overplay and sustain quality of ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Hub site	M	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
56	Noak Hill Sports Complex	RM3 7YA	3G	Council	One standard quality 11v11 3G pitch, which is serviced by sports lighting and FA approved. The pitch was last resurfaced in 2017.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long term sustainability and that FA testing takes place every three years.	FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Provide Enhance
56	Noak Hill Sports Complex	RM3 7YA	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam and one poor quality macadam courts. Only the good quality courts are serviced by sports lighting. The Council reports aspirations to convert the poor quality court into a padel court in the future.	Sustain court quality. Support plans to develop a padel court on site to cater for increased demand, providing it does not impact on traditional tennis demand.	LTA	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Provide Enhance
57	Noak Hill Sports Ground	RM4 1LD	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches, which are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
57	Noak Hill Sports Ground	RM4 1LD	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square and used by Noak Hill Taverners CC. The square is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and consider NTP installation to fully eradicate it. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	ECB	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
60	Oasis Academy Pinewood	RM5 2TX	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, which are assessed as poor quality and unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	Oasis Academy Pinewood	RM5 2TX	Tennis	Education	One standard quality macadam court which is neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Retain for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
63	Powerleague (Romford)	RM7 7AY	3G	Commercial	Nine smaller size 3G pitches, which are assessed as poor quality. The pitches are serviced by sports lighting. Since the audit was completed in December 2023, it has been reported that two smaller sized (40m x 30m) 3G pitches are in the process of being constructed.	Improve surface quality to better accommodate community demand.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
69	Raphael Park	RM1 4EE	Football	Council	One youth 9v9 standard quality pitch, which has actual spare capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
69	Raphael Park	RM1 4EE	Cricket	Council	One good quality grass wicket square which is used by Hornchurch Athletic CC. The square has 23 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
69	Raphael Park	RM1 4EE	Tennis	Council	12 good quality macadam courts used by Raphael Park TC. The courts are fully available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain quality and explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract demand.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
70	Redden Court School	RM3 0TS	Football	Education	One poor quality adult pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
71	Rise Park	RM1 4XJ	Football	Council	Two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are assessed as standard quality. The youth pitches are played to capacity at peak time and actual spare capacity on the mini 7v7 pitch. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
71	Rise Park	RM1 4XJ	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve court quality and explore potential of installing sports lighting and to attract community demand.	LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
71	Rise Park	RM1 4XJ	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
72	Rise Park Infant School	RM1 4UD	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
73	Risebridge Golf Centre	RM1 4PR	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
76	Romford Golf Club	RM2 5QB	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
84	The Forest Row Centre	RM5 2LD	Football	Sports Club	Three adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity is evident on adult and mini pitches. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality and utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
84	The Forest Row Centre	RM5 2LD	Hockey	Council	One poor quality smaller sized sand based AGP, which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Retain for recreational use.	EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
86	The Gallows	RM3 7PP	Football	Sports Club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. All are assessed as standard quality and have actual spare capacity. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
99	Dame Tipping Primary School	RM4 1PS	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
108	Bosworth Field	RM3 8XS	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Improve quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary pitch sports (South Analysis Area)

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2031) <sup>19</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
South	Adult	Spare capacity of 2	-
South	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	-
South	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 3	-
South	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 7	-
South	Mini 5v5	At capacity	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	-
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>	-	-	-
South	11v11, floodlit	Shortfall of three pitches	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>11v11, floodlit</b>	<b>Shortfall of seven pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of eight pitches</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
North	Senior	Shortfall of 3	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Full size, floodlit</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>
<b>Cricket pitches</b>	-	-	-
South	Saturday	Shortfall of 119	-
South	Sunday	Shortfall of 119	-
South	Midweek	Shortfall of 119	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 253</b>	<b>Shortfall of 289</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 206</b>	<b>Shortfall of 242</b>

### Analysis area summary – remaining sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Club demand is currently operating with a shortfall.
<b>Bowls</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Recreational spaces</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>19</sup> Future demand (2031) is determined via Local Plan forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2024).



# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to reduce overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at The Brittons Academy).</li> <li>◀ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre)</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Develop additional 3G pitches in the area to meet provision shortfalls.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality to eradicate overplay (e.g. at Coopers Company &amp; Coburn School).</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities as required (e.g. Coopers Company &amp; Coburn School)</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure sinking fund is in place for the pitch at Coopers Company &amp; Coburn School for long term sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at sites such as Coopers Company &amp; Coburn School and Spring Farm Park.</li> <li>◀ Explore feasibility of bringing provision at Upminster Playing Fields and Westlands Playing Field back into use if deemed necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Identify sites to build new padel courts to meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
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**SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Playing Field)	RM14 2XY	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 9v9 pitches, which are available for community use and overplayed.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay and ensure long term security of tenure is provided to users via a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
7	Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre	RM13 7LP	Football	Council	Nine youth 11v11, four youth 9v9, five mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity on mini 7v7 pitches. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Hub site	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
8	Brittons Playing Field	RM13 7LH	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are assessed as standard quality and played to capacity at peak time. Not serviced by any ancillary provision.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity and explore options of providing ancillary provision.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
8	Brittons Playing Field	RM13 7LH	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
11	Clockhouse Bowling	RM14 3DU	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, accessed by Clockhouse BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	RM13 7LH	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches, which are available for community use and played to capacity.	Improve quality to create actual spare capacity. Seek to establish a community use agreement for club users to provide security of tenure.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	RM13 7LH	Rugby union	Education	Two standard quality senior pitches, which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting. The pitches are overplayed and used by Old Cooperians RUFC. The ancillary facilities are assessed as standard quality.	Improve quality of the pitches to reduce overplay and explore options to fully alleviate it (e.g., access to additional grass provision or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch). Also improve quality of the ancillary facilities.	Education RFU	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	RM13 7LH	Hockey	Education	One poor quality sand based AGP, which is available for community use and serviced by sports lighting. Used by Upminster HC Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Resurface the pitch to improve quality and protect as a hockey-based surface. Also encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability and provide security of tenure to Upminster HC via a community use agreement. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	Education EH	Key centre	M	S	H	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	RM13 7LH	Cricket	Education	One good quality grass wicket square as well as two standalone NTP's. The squares are used by as an overspill venue by Upminster CC. The grass wicket square is overplayed by 85 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain square quality and explore options to provide the club with increased capacity (e.g. greater utilisation of the NTP's and/or additional provision) to meet its current and future demand. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	Education ECB	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Provide
12	Coopers Company & Coburn School	RM13 7LH	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam and two poor quality macadam courts. The courts are unavailable for community use with only the standard quality courts serviced by sports lighting.	Explore community use options with the School given the quantity of courts provided.	Education LTA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
13	Corbets Trey School	RM14 3HS	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
15	Cranham Golf Course	RM14 3NU	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
16	Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club	RM14 3XR	Tennis	Sports Club	Six artificial and two clay courts, all assessed as good quality and serviced by sports lighting. The Club is currently operating over the capacity guide. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality and explore opportunities to provide the Club with additional court provision to alleviate capacity issues.	Club LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
24	Elm Park & Hornchurch Bowling Club	RM12 2EZ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, accessed by Elm Park & Hornchurch BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
25	Elm Park Primary School	RM12 5TX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
29	Gaynes School Language College	RM14 3JX	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, which are unavailable for community use and assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options given shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
29	Gaynes School Language College	RM14 3JX	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to gain community access to the provision.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Gaynes School Language College	RM14 3JX	Tennis	Education	Three poor macadam courts which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality to better accommodate curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
38	Harris Academy Rainham	RM13 9XD	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches, which are available for community use and played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to provide club users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
38	Harris Academy Rainham	RM13 9XD	Tennis	Education	Three poor macadam courts, which are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore the option of providing sports lighting to increase capacity.	Education LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
47	Hornchurch High School	RM12 4AJ	Football	Education	One standard quality adult pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Hornchurch High School	RM12 4AJ	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to gain community access to the provision.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
47	Hornchurch High School	RM12 4AJ	Tennis	Education	Six good quality polymeric courts, which are accessed by Hylands CASC. All courts are provided with sports lighting.	Sustain quality of courts. Seek to establish a community use agreement with Hylands CASC to provide long term security of tenure.	Education LTA	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
48	Hornchurch Stadium	RM14 2LX	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch, which has actual spare capacity. Serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Utilise capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary facilities.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
48	Hornchurch Stadium	RM14 2LX	Athletics	Sports Club	One six lane 400m track, assessed as standard quality. Used by Havering AC. There are wider aspirations over the future of Hornchurch Stadium which will impact the activity for Havering AC. The Council is undertaking a feasibility study and options appraisal.	Resurface the track in the near future to improve quality and better accommodate demand. Ensure appropriate mitigation should any of the site be permanently lost in line with national planning policy.	Club EA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
65	Rainham Bowls Club	RM13 9NW	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, accessed by Rainham BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
66	Rainham Recreation Ground	RM13 9AA	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
68	Rainham Working Men's Club	RM13 9AA	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch, which has actual spare capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary facilities.	Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
77	Scotts Primary School	RM12 5TD	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch, both assessed as poor quality but unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
78	Spring Farm Park	RM13 9SX	Football	Council	Two youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch, which are assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity is evident on the mini pitch. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Improve quality of ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
78	Spring Farm Park	RM13 9SX	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square. The square is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Used by Rainham CC. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and improve quality of ancillary provision.	ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
78	Spring Farm Park	RM13 9SX	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts, which are not service by sports lighting.	Explore options of providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
78	Spring Farm Park	RM13 9SX	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as standard quality.	Improve quality.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
81	Suttons Primary School	RM12 6RP	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch, which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
82	The Brittons Academy	RM13 7BB	Football	Education	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches, which are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use aspects given shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
82	The Brittons Academy	RM13 7BB	3G	Education	One good quality 11v11 3G pitch, which is available for community use and sports lit. The pitch is FA approved and can be used to host competitive matches. One smaller size 3G pitch, which is available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting.	Ensure quality is sustained and that a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Also ensure FA testing takes place every three years so that it can continue to be used for match play.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
82	The Brittons Academy	RM13 7BB	Rugby union	Education	One standard quality senior pitch, which is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education RFU	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect
82	The Brittons Academy	RM13 7BB	Tennis	Education	Six poor quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve quality and explore options of providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	Education LTA	Key centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
87	The James Oglethorpe Primary School	RM14 3NB	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both assessed as poor quality but not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore options for community use given shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
89	The Sanders School	RM12 6RT	Football	Education	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is available for community use and is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to create actual spare capacity.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
89	The Sanders School	RM12 6RT	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve quality and explore options of providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
90	Top Meadow Golf Club	RM14 3PR	Golf	Private	One standard 18-hole course.	Retain course and ensure quality is maintained appropriately.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
95	Upminster Junior School	RM14 3BS	Football	Education	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch, which is available for community use and is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity. Ensure long term security of tenure is provided to users via a community use agreement.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
96	Upminster Park	RM14 2LU	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches, which have actual spare capacity. Not serviced by ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or via the transfer of activity from an overplayed site. Explore options of providing ancillary provision. Consider future case for alternative management model at this site or asset transfer to a local club/organisation.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
96	Upminster Park	RM14 2LU	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square which is overplayed by 32 match equivalent sessions. Used by Upminster CC. Serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. Aspirations to install a non-turf pitch on site.	Improve quality to reduce overplay consider installing an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site. Improve quality of ancillary facilities. Explore options of installing a non-turf pitch on site.	ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
96	Upminster Park	RM14 2LU	Tennis	Council	Four good quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain quality and explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and better accommodate demand	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
106	Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School	RM14 2QR	Tennis	Education	Four poor quality macadam courts, which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
109	Hacton Parkway	RM12 6EA	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as standard quality.	Improve quality.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
110	Hornchurch Country Park	RM12 6TS	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## WEST ANALYSIS AREA

### Summary pitch sports (West Analysis Area)

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>[1]</sup>	Future capacity total in MES (2031) <sup>20</sup>
<b>Football – grass pitches</b>	-	-	-
West	Adult	At capacity	-
West	Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 3	-
West	Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	-
West	Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	-
West	Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 5.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 11v11</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Youth 9v9</b>	<b>Shortfall of 3.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 7v7</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 13.5</b>	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Mini 5v5</b>	<b>Spare capacity of 3</b>	-
<b>Football – 3G pitches</b>	-	-	-
West	11v11, floodlit	Shortfall of two pitches	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>11v11, floodlit</b>	<b>Shortfall of seven pitches</b>	<b>Shortfall of eight pitches</b>
<b>Rugby union</b>	-	-	-
West	Senior	Shortfall of five	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Shortfall of 12.5</b>	<b>Shortfall of 13.5</b>
<b>Hockey</b>	-	-	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Full size, floodlit</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>	<b>Played to capacity</b>
<b>Cricket pitches</b>	-	-	-
West	Saturday	Shortfall of 18	-
West	Sunday	Shortfall of 18	-
West	Midweek	Shortfall of 6	-
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 253</b>	<b>Shortfall of 289</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>	<b>Shortfall of 241</b>
<b>LBH</b>	<b>Midweek</b>	<b>Shortfall of 206</b>	<b>Shortfall of 242</b>

### Analysis area summary – remaining sports

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Tennis</b>	Club demand is currently operating with spare capacity.
<b>Bowls</b>	None of the greens within LBH are currently operating above capacity.
<b>Athletics</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Golf</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.
<b>Recreational spaces</b>	Supply is adequate to meet demand.

<sup>[1]</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

<sup>20</sup> Future demand (2031) is determined via Local Plan forecasts and club aspirations identified in PPOSS Assessment Report (2024).

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## Priority recommendations

Sport	Headline findings
<b>Football</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce/alleviate overplay at sites (e.g. Hylands Park)</li> <li>◀ Improve ancillary facilities where required (e.g. at Eton Community Park) and provide ancillary facilities at sites that are currently without (e.g. at Horninglow Community Park).</li> <li>◀ Seek to provide security of tenure for clubs, enabling actual spare capacity (e.g. at Paget High School).</li> <li>◀ Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand (e.g. at Horninglow Community Park).</li> </ul>
<b>3G pitches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>◀ Develop additional 3G pitches in the area to meet provision shortfalls.</li> </ul>
<b>Rugby union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Sustain pitch quality at key sites to ensure overplay does not occur, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Romford &amp; Gidea Park RFC.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>
<b>Hockey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Cricket</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Provide new provision and explore options to reinstate lapsed (where relevant) pitches.</li> <li>◀ Reduce overplay at Harrow Lodge Park and Hylands Park via the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity, e.g., Fielders Sports Ground.</li> <li>◀ Improve changing facilities where required such as Harrow Lodge Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Tennis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality of courts at Harrow Lodge Park.</li> <li>◀ Identify sites to build new padel courts to meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Bowls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision and sustain quality to adequately meet demand.</li> </ul>
<b>Athletics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> </ul>
<b>Other grass pitch sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ No action required.</li> </ul>
<b>Golf</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision</li> </ul>



**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
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**WEST ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Abbs Cross Academy & College	RM12 4YB	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, which are assessed as standard quality but not available for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	Abbs Cross Academy & College	RM12 4YB	Cricket	Education	One standalone NTP which is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to gain community access to the provision.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	Abbs Cross Academy & College	RM12 4YB	Tennis	Education	Three poor quality artificial courts, which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use and then explore community use options.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Enhance
14	Cottons Park	RM7 9QX	Football	Council	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9, assessed as standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	Seek transfer play to sites with actual spare capacity in order to alleviate overplay.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
14	Cottons Park	RM7 9QX	Rugby union	Council	Two standard quality senior pitches, which are not serviced by sports lighting. The pitches are overplayed and used by Champion RUFC. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay and consider installation of sports lighting to further alleviate it. To fully eradicate overplay, explore options for additional pitch space or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	RFU	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
14	Cottons Park	RM7 9QX	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym on site is assessed as standard quality.	Improve quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
39	Harrow Lodge Park	RM14 2QZ	Football	Council	Three mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, assessed as standard quality and has actual spare capacity. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
39	Harrow Lodge Park	RM14 2QZ	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square which is overplayed by 17 match equivalent sessions. The site is accessed by Hornchurch CC.	Improve quality and consider installing an NTP to reduce overplay via the transfer of demand away from the grass wickets. Alternatively (or additionally), explore creation of hybrid provision on site.	ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
39	Harrow Lodge Park	RM14 2QZ	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality macadam courts which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore providing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand and to increase capacity.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
39	Harrow Lodge Park	RM14 2QZ	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	Havering Bowls Club	RM11 1JU	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, which is accessed by Havering BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
43	Havering Sixth Form College	RM11 3TB	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality artificial courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Improve quality and explore options of installing sports lighting to increase capacity and attract demand.	Education LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
49	Hylands Park	RM11 1EE	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. The mini pitches are assessed as poor and the youth 11v11 as good quality. The pitches are either overplayed or played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
49	Hylands Park	RM11 1EE	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass wicket square with an accompanying NTP. The square is overplayed by 13 match equivalent sessions. Aspirations for an extra non-turf practice net.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider greater utilisation of the NTP to help eradicate it. Support plans to install an extra non-turf practice net.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
49	Hylands Park	RM11 1EE	Tennis	Council	Six good quality macadam courts, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain quality and explore the possibility of installing sports lighting to better accommodate recreational demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
61	Park Lane Recreation Ground	RM11 1GR	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches and are assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity is evident on the youth 11v11 pitch. Not serviced by ancillary facilities.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Explore options of providing ancillary facilities.	FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
61	Park Lane Recreation Ground	RM11 1GR	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality.	-	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
74	Romford and Gidea Park RFC	RM7 0EP	Rugby union	Sports Club	One poor quality senior pitch and three standard quality senior pitches. The poor quality pitch is serviced by sports lighting whereas the remaining are not. All pitches are overplayed. Serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve quality to reduce overplay and consider installing additional sports lighting to further reduce it. Alternatively, explore feasibility of the plans for the creation of a 3G pitch as a means to resolving capacity issues, providing it is World Rugby compliant. Sustain quality of ancillary provision.	Club RFU	Hub site	H	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
75	Romford Bowls Club	RM2 5AA	Tennis	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green, which is accessed by Romford BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
97	West Ham United FC (Rush Green Training Ground)	RM7 0LU	Football	Private	Four good quality adult pitches, which are unavailable for community use due to being used by a professional club.	Retain for continued professional club usage.	FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
98	Westlands Playing Fields	RM7 9NU	Football	Council	Two adult, three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all assessed as good quality. Actual spare capacity is evident on the youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Improve quality of ancillary provision.	FA FF	Hub site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
98	Westlands Playing Fields	RM7 9NU	Cricket (disused)	Council	A disused standalone NTP, which is no longer maintained or used.	Consider re-instating the grass wickets given local shortfalls. However, it could impact on the quality of the football pitches.	ECB	Hub site	M	S	M	Protect Provide
104	Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club	RM12 4NG	Tennis	Sports Club	Two good quality macadam courts, which are sports lit.	Sustain court quality.	Club LTA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
105	Lodge Farm Park	RM2 5AD	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam, which are available for community use but not sports lit.	Sustain quality and explore opportunities of providing sports lighting to better enable community use.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
105	Lodge Farm Park	RM2 5AD	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as poor quality.	Improve quality.	-	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
107	Fielders Sports Ground	RM11 1XJ	Cricket	Council	A good quality grass wicket square that has 32 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. Used by Hornchurch CC as an overspill venue. Serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Sustain quality and improve quality of ancillary provision.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
111	Jutsums Recreation Ground	RM7 0ER	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as poor quality.	Improve quality.	-	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
112	Jubilee Park	RM7 0FN	Outdoor gym	Council	Outdoor gym is assessed as standard quality.	Improve quality.	-	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
113	Hylands Primary School	RM1 2RU	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts, which are neither available for community use nor sports lit.	Improve quality for curricular use.	Education	113	Hylands Primary School	RM1 2RU	Tennis	Education

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2031 (in line with the Local Plan) with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision. The PPC splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required to support the new demand.

The London Plan sets out a 10-year target of 12,850 net new homes for the Borough from 2019/20 to 2028/29 or 1,285 per annum.

Experience from Sport England shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 people per dwelling, which is based on the current average occupancy rate in the Borough. However, it should be recognised that this is forecast to decline in the future in line with national trends.

#### ***Scenario 1: Example of likely demand generated for pitch sports from projected population growth over the Local Plan period (to 2031)***

The projected increase for the Borough is from 260,396 in 2021 to 280,321 by 2031, an increase of 19,925 people<sup>21</sup>. This population increase equates to 11.9 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 1.42 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 65.07 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 23.81 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 3.11 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

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<sup>21</sup> GLA 2020-based projections, identified capacity scenario <https://apps.london.gov.uk/population-projections/>

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Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 19,925 people

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>22</sup>	Training demand <sup>23</sup>
Adult football	1.79	23.81
Youth football	5.48	As above
Mini soccer	4.63	As above
Rugby union	1.06	1.16
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.89	2.68
Junior & mixed hockey	0.53	0.43
Cricket	65.07	-
Tennis	-	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The costings are based on Sport England's cost guidance.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>24</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>25</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	1.79	£213,069	£41,975	3.59	£760,268
Youth football	5.48	£532,716	£107,609	6.36	£1,347,165
Mini soccer	4.63	£150,084	£29,717	-	-
Rugby union	1.06	£188,725	£34,914	2.12	3448,937
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	1.35	£503,380	£92,622	2.70	£572,686
Sand based AGPs	0.22	£229,289	£5,962	0.45	£94,733
3G	0.63	£771,531	£21,431	1.25	£265,637
Tennis	2.66 courts	£272,444	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.17 pitches and 2.66 courts</b>	<b>£2,861,238</b>	<b>£334,229</b>	<b>16.46</b>	<b>£3,489,425</b>

Overall, an additional 15.17 pitches and 2.66 tennis courts would be required to meet the additional demand arising from a population increase of 19,925. This consists of 14.32 grass pitches and 0.85 of access to artificial pitches. This would require an expected capital cost of £2,861,238 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £334,229. To facilitate the increased provision, 16.46 changing rooms would need to be provided at a predicted cost of £3,489,425.

The indicative position based on the results of the PPC is that there would be a need for new provision to be provided on-site as part of the development. The most evident need is for a multi pitch football site with suitable ancillary provision provided to meet the scale of the site. For the remaining grass pitch sports, developer contributions would be better sought to improving existing provision, particularly at rugby union and cricket sites.

<sup>22</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>23</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>24</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>25</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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As there are current shortfalls for rugby union, opportunities to expand existing rugby union club sites in the locality of the development (where it is possible to do so) should be considered, if viable, alternatively site improvements to existing infrastructure should take place.

Likewise, for cricket, existing shortfalls are apparent so in tandem with the local county cricket board (Essex Cricket) and the ECB opportunities to increase capacity at clubs (considering opportunities with hybrid wickets) or to support any clubs with expansion plans they may have in the future.

For 3G pitches, contributions should be sought to enable the future delivery of projections (preferably in tandem with the Football Foundation) and a further contribution should be sought for the improvement of artificial grass pitches within the locality.

### **Scenario 2: Example of demand generated by new dwellings for one year**

This reflects the London Plan target of 1,285 net homes per annum. The average household size in the Borough (from the 2021 census) is 2.4 people per dwelling and this could therefore result in a population growth of 2,808 people per year. This population increase equates to 2.09 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.24 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 10.99 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 3.84 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.53 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 3,084

Pitch sport	Match demand per week <sup>26</sup>	Training demand <sup>27</sup>
Adult football	0.30	3.84
Youth football	0.83	As above
Mini soccer	0.78	As above
Rugby union	0.18	0.18
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	0.15	0.45
Junior & mixed hockey	0.09	0.08
Cricket	10.99	-
Tennis	-	-

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs. The costings are based on Sport England's cost guidance.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>28</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Adult football	0.30	£35,996	£7,091	0.61	£128,442
Youth football	0.83	£81,052	£16,373	0.98	£208,080
Mini soccer	0.78	£25,354	£5,020	-	-

<sup>26</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>27</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size sports lit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>28</sup> [Link to Sport England cost guidance](#)

<sup>29</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Pitch type	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>28</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup>	Number of changing rooms	Capital cost
Rugby union	0.18	£31,883	£5,898	0.36	£75,843
Rugby league	-	-	-	-	-
Cricket	0.23	£85,041	£15,648	0.46	£96,750
Sand based AGPs	0.04	£38,737	£1,007	0.08	£16,005
3G	0.10	£124,378	£3,455	0.20	£42,823
Tennis	0.41 courts	£42,169	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.47 pitches and 0.41 courts</b>	<b>£464,611</b>	<b>£54,492</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>£567,942</b>

Overall, it is set out 2.47 pitches and 0.41 courts will be required to meet the additional demand from the London Plan target of 1,285 net homes per annum. This consists of 2.33 grass pitches and 0.14 of access to artificial pitches. This would require an estimated capital cost of £64,611 (including tennis courts) and a life cycle cost per annum of £54,492. To facilitate the increased provision, 2.68 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £567,942.

The indicative position based on the results of the PPC is that there would be a need for new provision to be provided. The most evident need is for a multi pitch football site with suitable ancillary provision provided to meet the scale of the target. For the remaining grass pitch sports, developer contributions would be better sought to improving existing provision, particularly at rugby union and cricket sites. As there are current shortfalls for rugby union, opportunities to expand existing rugby union club sites such as Upminster Hall Playing Fields (Upminster RUFC) should be considered, if viable, alternatively site improvements to existing infrastructure should take place.

Likewise, for cricket, existing shortfalls are apparent so in tandem with the local county cricket board (Essex Cricket) and the ECB opportunities to increase capacity at clubs (considering opportunities with hybrid wickets) or to support any clubs with expansion plans they may have in the future.

For 3G pitches, contributions should be sought to enable the future delivery of projections (preferably in tandem with the Football Foundation) and a further contribution should be sought for the improvement of artificial grass pitches within the locality.

## The most appropriate way to meet the estimated demand

It is important that the above calculations are looked at alongside the findings of the Assessment Report, and the recommendations and actions of the Strategy. By doing so, the most appropriate way of meeting the estimated needs can be determined and any resulting proposals justified. This should include:

- ◀ Using the PPOSS Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan document to understand the nature of the outdoor sports sites within an appropriate catchment of the new population along with issues, recommendations and actions relevant to that area.
- ◀ Looking at the different ways in which the needs could be met, including for example:
  - ◀ Enhancing existing provision to increase capacity, supported by suitable management and maintenance arrangements to ensure the greater capacity is maintained over the longer term;
  - ◀ Undertaking works, and ensuring long term maintenance and access arrangements, to secure new or greater community use of existing provision;
  - ◀ Providing new pitches as an extension to current sites.
  - ◀ Providing new (natural and/or artificial grass pitches).

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If the decision is taken to provide new pitches, then the PPC takes the estimated needs for matches and training activity and converts this into an estimate of the likely pitch provision required to meet the needs of population projections. Indicative costs are also provided to provide this level of pitch provision in addition to costing for associated changing room provision.



### **PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. It is also recommended that any meetings, where possible, are aligned to the Council's S106 and developer contributions decision making process as this will enable the relevant stakeholders to input into this.

#### **Delivery**

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across LBH in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life, and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as a key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision, being used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and being used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

#### **Monitoring and updating**

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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Technically the Council is responsible for an annual review of supply and demand information and keeping the action plan updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust. This makes it less likely to be able to be used as an evidence base for any funding bids or development proposals.

To extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- ◀ Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary, amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

In addition, as referenced above, timing the meetings in line with S106 and developer contributions decisions making can also be beneficial.

### **Checklists**

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

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Stage D <u>Checklist</u> : Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
<b>Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy</b>	✓	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?	✓	
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	

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4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up-to-date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date:

<b>Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up-to-date</b>	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up-to-date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		