



**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY
FULL ASSESSMENT REPORT
JANUARY 2025**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------|---|
| 3G | Third Generation (artificial turf) |
| AGP | Artificial Grass Pitch |
| ANOG | Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide |
| BC | Bowls Club |
| BSUK | Baseball Softball United Kingdom |
| CC | Cricket Club |
| CFS | County Facilities Strategy |
| DCMS | Department for Culture, Media and Sport |
| EA | England Athletics |
| ECB | England & Wales Cricket Board |
| EH | England Hockey |
| FA | Football Association |
| FC | Football Club |
| FF | Football Foundation |
| FIFA | Fédération Internationale de Football Association |
| FPM | Facilities Planning Model |
| GMA | Grounds Maintenance Association |
| HC | Hockey Club |
| KKP | Knight, Kavanagh and Page |
| LBH | London Borough of Havering |
| LFFP | Local Football Facility Plan |
| LMS | Last Man Stands |
| LTA | Lawn Tennis Association |
| LTC | Lawn Tennis Club |
| NFFS | National Football Facilities Strategy |
| NGB(s) | National Governing Body (of sport) |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NTP | Non Turf Pitch |
| ONS | Office for National Statistics |
| PPS | Playing Pitch Strategy |
| PPOSS | Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy |
| PQS | Performance Quality Standard |
| RFL | Rugby Football League |
| RFU | Rugby Football Union |
| RUFC | Rugby Union Football Club |
| TC | Tennis Club |
| U | Under |

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed to produce the London Borough of Havering (LBH) indoor and outdoor sports assessments and strategies and its open space assessment. This work will provide key evidence to support development of an updated Havering Local Plan.

This report is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the London Borough of Havering. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with stage D covered in the proceeding strategy document and Stage E ongoing throughout the lifespan of the work.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◀ 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.

The PPOSS is being undertaken in conjunction with an Open Space and Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and the PPOSS needs to be recognised as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use indoor facilities for matches or training as well as informally.

A PPOSS is considered to be out of date if its baseline data has not been reviewed after three years of the study being undertaken. If the PPOSS is monitored annually then its lifespan will depend on the point at which an Annual Monitoring Report identifies changes that are significant enough to warrant a partial or full review. A process for this will be included within the subsequent Strategy.

1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

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

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Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England, the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and the Active Partnership (London Sport).

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

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPOSS is updated.

Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS will replace the previous study for LBH which was originally completed in 2016 and is now out of date.

The PPOSS is being completed in conjunction with an Open Spaces Strategy, whilst an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy is also being delivered. The inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur e.g., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

This PPOSS will be used as evidence to inform Havering's Local Plan review and therefore needs to provide a robust spatial analysis and assessment of the provision of sports facilities and playing pitches.

The PPOSS will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 102 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The PPOSS will:

- ◀ To undertake an objective assessment of the number, type, quality and ownership of sports pitches and ancillary facilities across a range of sports including those which are currently disused or where use has lapsed.
- ◀ To provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future demand and needs for playing pitches for different sports including consideration of the changing nature of different sports focusing on quantity and quality issues broken down into districts and sub-areas.
- ◀ To provide both a strategic overview and a site-specific assessment of playing pitches and ancillary provision across the participating authority.
- ◀ To identify expected housing growth and projected changes in demographic structure including the impact on sport demand and spatial distribution of pitches.
- ◀ To identify and inform which pitches and facilities require improvement. It will also identify where pitches are under-used or in such poor condition that release for other uses may be considered.

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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.

The Havering Vision

The Havering Vision combines the corporate plan and workforce strategy to deliver a range of outcomes across three themes: people, place and resource.

Table 1.1: The Havering Vision

| Theme | Objective |
|--------|---|
| People | Create a safe authority with equal opportunity for all. Ensure the best health and social outcomes are guaranteed. Young people are inspired to reach their full potential. Empower communities to look after themselves and each other. Residents are supported to live healthier, independent and more socially connected lives. Adopt a whole systems approach to tackle childhood obesity. |

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| Theme | Objective |
|----------|--|
| Place | <p>A clean and green place to live.</p> <p>Easy and safe methods of transport.</p> <p>Affordable new housing development which is in line with the Borough's character.</p> <p>Housing tenants and leaseholders receive good service.</p> <p>Attract and deliver regeneration.</p> <p>Enhance the Authority's art, history, leisure and culture offer.</p> |
| Resource | <p>Create a financially resilient Council which provides value for money services.</p> <p>The Council is engaging with local communities.</p> <p>The Council is an employer of choice.</p> <p>The Council is digitally enabled.</p> |

Havering's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 2024

Life expectancy is slightly better than average in the Borough and has increased in recent decades but there are significant inequalities between communities and population groups; and the rate of increase in life expectancy has slowed, with much of the additional years of life gained lived in poor health.

To address this, Havering's Health and Wellbeing Board latest strategy's vision is to ensure that **'everyone in Havering enjoys a long and healthy life; and has access to the best health and social care services.'**

To achieve this, it sets out a number of priorities against key themes.

Table 1.2: Havering's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

| Theme | Priority |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Wider determinants of health | <p>Assisting people with health problems (back) into work.</p> <p>Provide strategic leadership for collective efforts to prevent homelessness and the harm caused.</p> |
| The communities we live in | <p>Improve support to residents whose life experiences drive frequent calls on health and social care services.</p> <p>Realising the benefits of regeneration for health and social care services.</p> |
| Lifestyles & behaviours | <p>Reduce obesity and tobacco harm.</p> <p>Improve health settings within early years providers, schools / colleges.</p> |
| Health & social care services | <p>Development of integrated health and social care services for CYP and adults at locality level.</p> |

London Sport (Active Partnership)

This active partnership covers the authority of Havering. Its strategy vision is **'to make London the most active city in the world'**. It sets six long-term goals which, when achieved, will make a fundamental difference to resident physical activity levels in London. These are:

- ◀ Increase physical activity levels among less active adults.
- ◀ Give all young Londoners the best opportunity to form a positive physical activity habit for life.
- ◀ Improve policy, systems and investment to support active lives.
- ◀ Use tech, data and digital communications to support Londoners to get and stay active.
- ◀ Lead the way in bringing organisations together to create, develop, test, champion and scale innovative ways of supporting active lives.

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- ◀ Ensure evidence, data and high-quality insight inform the development of policy and practice of supporting active lives.

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.).

National Planning Policy Framework

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, stating 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.”

Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Agreed 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)).
- ◀ Rugby league pitches.
- ◀ Softball pitches.
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts.
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens.
- ◀ Golf courses.
- ◀ Athletic tracks (and running).

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

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(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. baseball, softball,

Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

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.

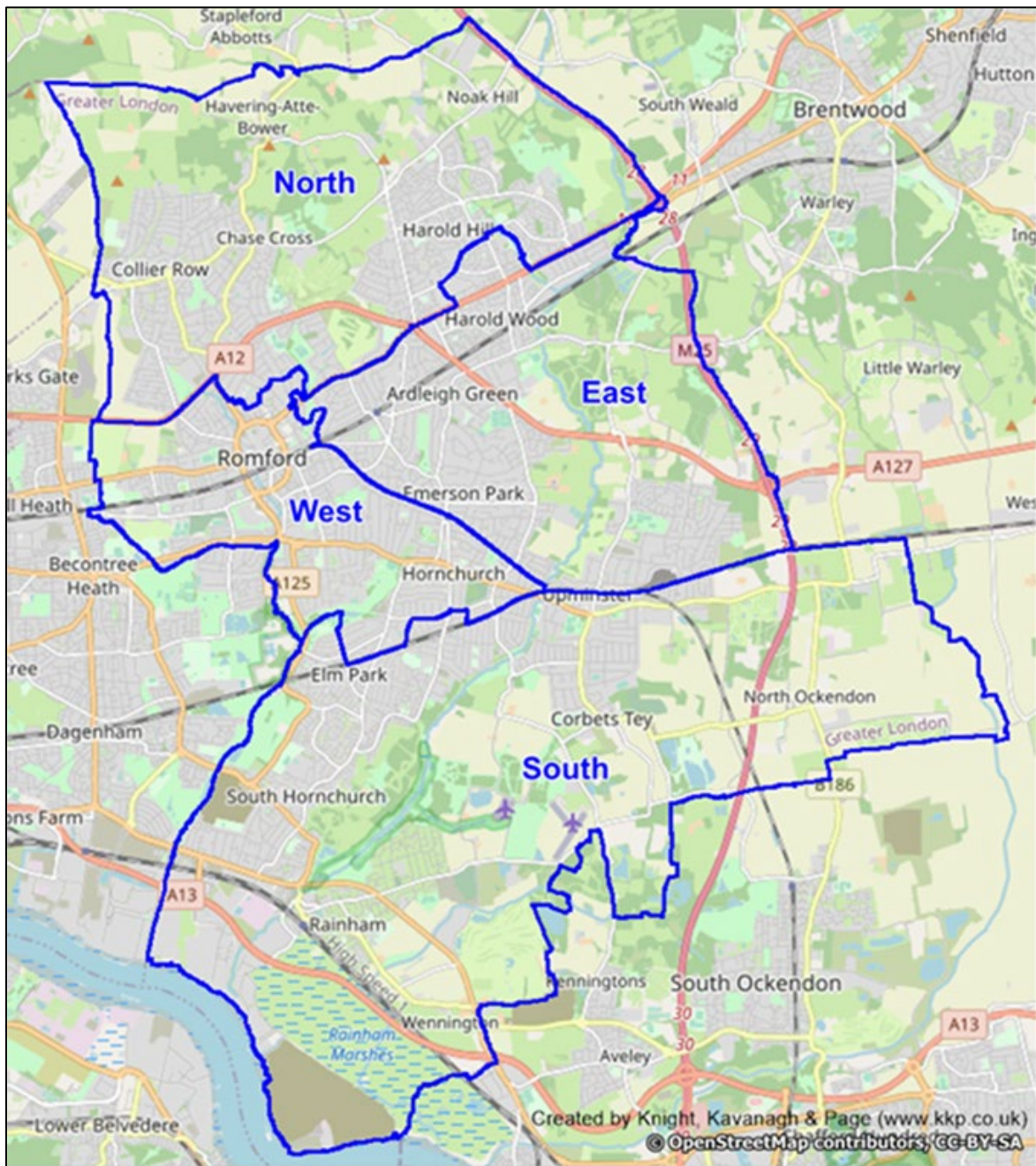
It is proposed that LBH is divided into four analysis areas, which better reflects the population split within the Borough and the analysis areas have seen been changed since the previous study. This entails splitting the Council's area into the four analysis areas made up of the following wards:

- ◀ **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.

For a map showing the analysis areas, please see overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Study Area map



Further to this, there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use pitches within Havering. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside Havering use facilities outside of the Borough, for example in Thurrock. This cross-boundary movement will be taken into consideration within each sports section where relevant following consultation with neighbouring authorities and National Governing Bodies of Sport.

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport across LBH is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

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

A clear picture of the supply of and demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport across LBH is required to enable an accurate assessment of quantity, quality and usage. This is achieved through site assessments and consultation with key stakeholders.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

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

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

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

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

Quantity

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

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

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

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Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site included within the study is therefore assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** - provision that has previously been used for sport but not currently used and not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years, these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 103 of the NPPF, with Sport England still likely to challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a such a site is still that of a playing field until such time as its use is formally changed or it is developed for a non-sport use.

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

Quality

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

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

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and September.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments to assess the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this i.e., an "agreed quality rating".

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Additionally, both councils have undertaken a portfolio of PitchPower¹ assessments which will inform quality ratings once these assessments have been processed.

Gather demand information and views

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

- ◀ Organised competitive play.
- ◀ Organised training.
- ◀ Informal play.

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified). Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

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

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

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

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

¹ [Link to PitchPower](#)

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Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

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

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for LBH cover the period up until 2031², in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

1.4: Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

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

Understand the situation at individual sites

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

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

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

Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches

| Sport | Pitch type | Good quality | Standard quality | Poor quality |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Football | Adult pitches | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| | Youth pitches | 4 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| | Mini pitches | 6 per week | 4 per week | 2 per week |
| Rugby league | Senior pitches | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| | Junior pitches | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| | Mini pitches | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1 per week |
| Rugby union | Natural Inadequate (D0) | 2 per week | 1.5 per week | 0.5 per week |
| | Natural Adequate (D1) | 3 per week | 2 per week | 1.5 per week |
| | Pipe Drained (D2) | 3.25 per week | 2.5 per week | 1.75 per week |
| | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 3.5 per week | 3 per week | 2 per week |
| Cricket | One grass wicket | 5 per season | 4 per season | 0 per season |
| | One synthetic wicket | 60 per season | 60 per season | 0 per season |

² ONS 2018-based population projections 2018-2031

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| Sport | Pitch type | Good quality | Standard quality | Poor quality |
|--------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Hockey | One AGP | 4 matches per day | 4 matches per day | 0 matches per day |

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 sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

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

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

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

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

Identify the key findings and issues

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

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

1.5: Stage D: Develop the strategy

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

- ❖ Headline findings.
- ❖ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS.
- ❖ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ❖ Strategic recommendations.
- ❖ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan.

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- ◀ Housing growth scenarios.

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

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in LBH is Essex County FA, although some also affiliate to the London FA. Both are responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaches and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of a PPOSS.

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

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch playing formats and pitch sizes

| Format/pitch type | Age range | Recommended pitch size (metres) | Recommended pitch size including runoff (metres) |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
| Adult | U17s+ | 100 x 64 | 106 x 70 |
| Youth 11v11 | U15s-U16s | 91 x 55 | 97 x 61 |
| Youth 11v11 | U13s-U14s | 82 x 50 | 88 x 56 |
| Youth 9v9 | U11s-U12s | 73 x 46 | 79 x 52 |
| Mini 7v7 | U9s-U10s | 55 x 37 | 61 x 43 |
| Mini 5v5 | U7s-U8s | 37 x 27 | 43 x 33 |

The playing season generally runs from September to May.

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

Local football facility plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed in 2020. As part of this, an LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

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

The LFFP for LBH was produced in 2018. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

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

Consultation

A total of 53 affiliated football clubs are based in LBH, with 283 teams from 16 clubs responding to consultation requests. This equates to a club response rate of 30% and a team response rate of 72%. Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams. Key clubs consulted as part of the study include:

- ◀ Byron Red Star FC.
- ◀ Collier Row FC.
- ◀ Elite Colts FC.
- ◀ Essex Minor (Hornchurch) FC.
- ◀ Harold Wood Cougars FC.
- ◀ Hornchurch Urchins FC.
- ◀ Romford Flyers FC.
- ◀ Romford United FC.
- ◀ Tigers FC.
- ◀ Young Stars Football First FC.

It should be noted that in order to provide additional information, consultation has also been carried out with other key stakeholders for football in LBH. This includes the Council, Essex County FA, local leagues and schools.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 170 pitches in LBH across 78 sites. Of the pitches, 129 are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 38 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

The table below shows the breakdown of the pitches which are available for community use. The South Analysis Area has the most (43), followed by the North Analysis Area (36 pitches). The East Analysis Area has the fewest pitches (18).

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Table 2.2: Summary of number of grass football pitches available for community use

| Analysis area | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 | Total |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| East | 10 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 18 |
| North | 13 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 36 |
| South | 8 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 43 |
| West | 2 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 32 |
| Total | 32 | 29 | 22 | 26 | 20 | 129 |

As shown in the table above, more adult pitches (32) are identified when compared to pitches of other sizes, which correlates with adult football being the most prominent in the Borough (see Table 2.14). In contrast, mini 5v5 pitches are the least represented with 20 pitches, followed by youth 9v9 pitches with 22 pitches.

The location of the pitches servicing LBH can be seen in the figure overleaf. For a key to the maps, see Table 2.21.

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in LBH



Changes from the previous study

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Since the previous PPS study, last updated in 2016, there has been slight decrease in the total number of grass football pitches within LBH, with this equating to a 1% reduction. Furthermore, the number available for community use has declined, with 151 pitches previously available compared to 129 now. This represents a 15% decrease.

Table 2.3: Pitch comparison of community available grass football pitches

| PPOSS Year | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2024 (current study) | 32 | 29 | 22 | 26 | 20 |
| 2016 (previous study) | 61 | 6 | 30 | 31 | 23 |
| Change | -29 | +23 | -8 | -5 | -3 |

The above does not necessarily align with participation changes over the same time period (increase of 56 teams), with the number of teams increasing since 2016 (as shown in Table 2.14). Furthermore, there has been a large increase in the number of mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 teams, despite pitch reductions for these formats of play.

The main reason for the reduction in pitches is that several sites now provide fewer pitches than they did previously, with examples including Council sites such as at Gidea Park Sports Ground and Raphael Park. For Gidea Park Sports Ground, the pitches are not marked out due to the overlap on the cricket outfield. Whilst for Raphael Park this is due to less demand existing. As such, they would be re-provided if such demand was known to exist.

A full list of sites that now provide fewer pitches than identified in 2016 is provided in the following table.

Table 2.4: Summary of pitch reductions by site

| Site ID | Site name | Comments | Number of pitches reduced by |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | Supply has reduced from two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 but now only has one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9. The reason for the change is unknown. | 3 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | Supply has reduced from one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 to no pitches now being provided due to no demand existing. | 3 |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | Provided two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 but now has just two adult pitches (reason for the change is unknown). | 3 |
| 69 | Raphael Park | Supply reduced from one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 to only one youth 9v9 | 1 |

Notwithstanding the above, it must be referenced that for the two Council sites included above, the pitch layout changes season-to-season based on the demand received, rather than an intentional loss of provision. There is no reduction in the area of playing field provided or to the maintenance regime undertaken.

The remaining reductions are due to school sites either no longer providing pitches or still providing them but no longer offering community use. In most instances, this relates to primary schools such as:

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- ◀ Benhurst Primary School.
- ◀ Broadford Primary School.
- ◀ Clockhouse Primary School.
- ◀ Hacton Primary School.
- ◀ Harold Wood Primary School.
- ◀ Newtons Primary School.
- ◀ Parklands Junior School.
- ◀ Parsonage Farm School.
- ◀ RJ Mitchell Primary.
- ◀ Albans Catholic Primary School.
- ◀ Towers Junior School.
- ◀ Whybridge Primary School.

Future provision

Upminster Park Rovers and Ingrebourne Valley Limited have submitted a planning application on Baldwins Farm, Bramble Road (P0995.23). The proposal includes 16 grass football pitches of varying sizes, and this consists of: four youth 11v11, four youth 9v9, four mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5 pitches with associated ancillary facilities including car parking. Further discussions will need to be had at the Strategy and Action Plan stage as it is not definite this development will go ahead subject to planning approval and funding.

There are wider aspirations over the future of Hornchurch Stadium which will impact Hornchurch FC. The Council is exploring numerous future options for the site and is in the process of undertaking a feasibility study and options appraisal. Through consultation, Hornchurch FC report it aspires to develop a stadia site and this would be preferably located within the Hornchurch area, however, this is much dependent on available land. The Club was promoted at the end of the 2023/24 season to Step 2 in the National League South and therefore requires a stadia site for first team matches.

Disused provision

No disused sites that previously provided football pitches have been identified in LBH. However, as mentioned above, some sites now mark out fewer pitches than previously, or now mark out no football pitches despite still being in use as playing field sites for other sports.

Informal provision

There are a number of sites identified in LBH that do not have official football pitches marked out but could have the capacity to provide pitches if required. This is summarised in the table below.

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Table 2.5: Informal football provision in LBH

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Comments |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 10 | Central Park (Romford) | West | Used by Young Stars Football First FC for youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 matches, but no official pitch markings. |
| 104 | St Peters Hall Community Hall Pitches | East | Used by Upminster Town United for mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 matches, but no official pitch markings. |

Despite Young Stars Football First FC accessing Central Park (Romford) for match play, this has not been authorised by the Council.

Although Upminster Town United have been unresponsive to consultation requests, the grass area at St Peters Hall Community Hall Pitches is used for mini pitches therefore it can be correctly assumed there is an appetite to provide official pitch markings.

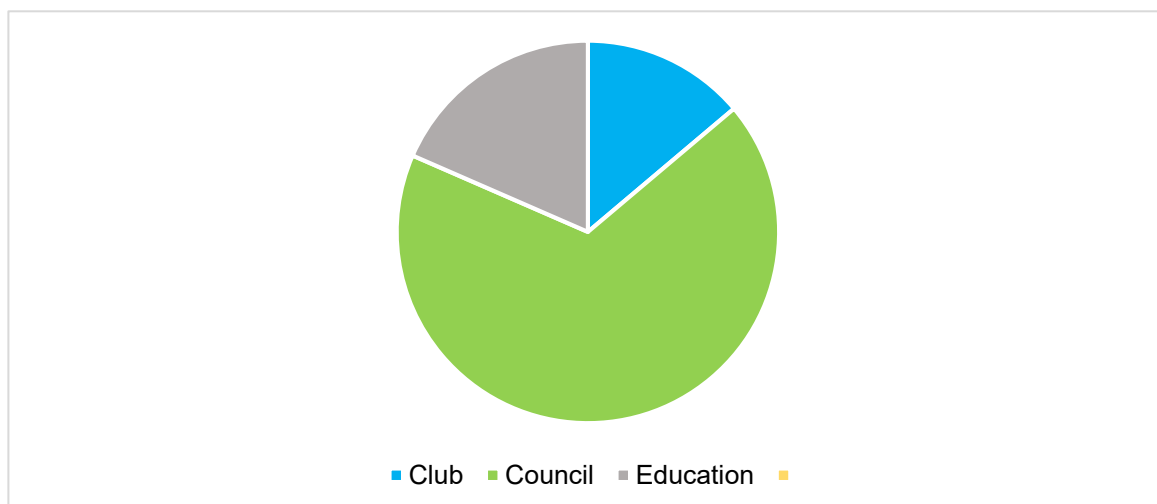
Management

Most community available pitches in the Borough are managed by the Council, with this amounting to 88 pitches or 69% of all community accessible provision. In LBH, 24 community available pitches are managed by education providers, whilst the remaining 18 pitches are managed by sports clubs.

Table 2.6: Management of community available pitches by pitch type

| Pitch type | Council | Education | Sports club |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Adult | 15 | 9 | 9 |
| Youth 11v11 | 24 | 3 | 1 |
| Youth 9v9 | 15 | 5 | 2 |
| Mini 7v7 | 18 | 5 | 3 |
| Mini 5v5 | 16 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 88 | 24 | 18 |

Figure 2.2: Breakdown of football sites by management type



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Security of tenure

A site is considered to have secure tenure if it has a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee exists that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. As such, all local authority sites in LBH are considered to provide this as continued community use is ensured through an ongoing commitment to provide sports and leisure facilities.

In contrast, security of tenure is not offered by sites which face development pressures or where existing arrangements are coming to an end as there is no guarantee that they will continue to be accessible in the future. Based on this, most education sites are not deemed to provide secure use, unless a robust community use agreement is in place. This applies even to school sites which are currently well used such as Emerson Park Academy as access can be terminated at any point beyond the term covered by existing rental agreements.

Most sites operated by sports clubs are considered to have security of tenure, either via freehold or a lease arrangement. However, in some instances, existing agreements are coming to an end, such as for Harold Wood Cougars FC which has 14 years left on its lease agreement at Harold Wood Park with the Council.

Similarly, Collier Row FC reports it has 10 years on its lease agreement at The Forest Row Centre from the Council.

Generally, in order to carry out site development and/or attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure, with arrangements of at least 25 years often required (unless recently entered into). As an example, this is a requirement for FF investment (freehold or a lease of 21+ years is needed for funding over £100,000).

Home Advantage Programme

The Football Foundation has developed a programme called the Home Advantage Programme, 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.

The programme will support England Football Accredited grassroots football clubs and leagues to take on long-term leases or licence of the sites they play on by providing: Guidance and support, Webinars and workshops, as well as legal advice will help to guide clubs through the community asset transfer process. Football taking control of pitches will enable organisations to cement their place in the community, improve the quality of their grass pitches, generate income to sustain and grow participation, and provide them with long-term security.

Harold Wood Cougars and Upminster Park Rovers have long-term lease agreements at their home grounds at Harold Wood Park for the former and Upminster Hall Playing Fields for the latter. Therefore, these clubs and sites could be potential options for asset transfers. This will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy and Action Plan document.

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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across LBH have been assessed via a combination of site visits (November 2023) using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA, PitchPower assessments (see below) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

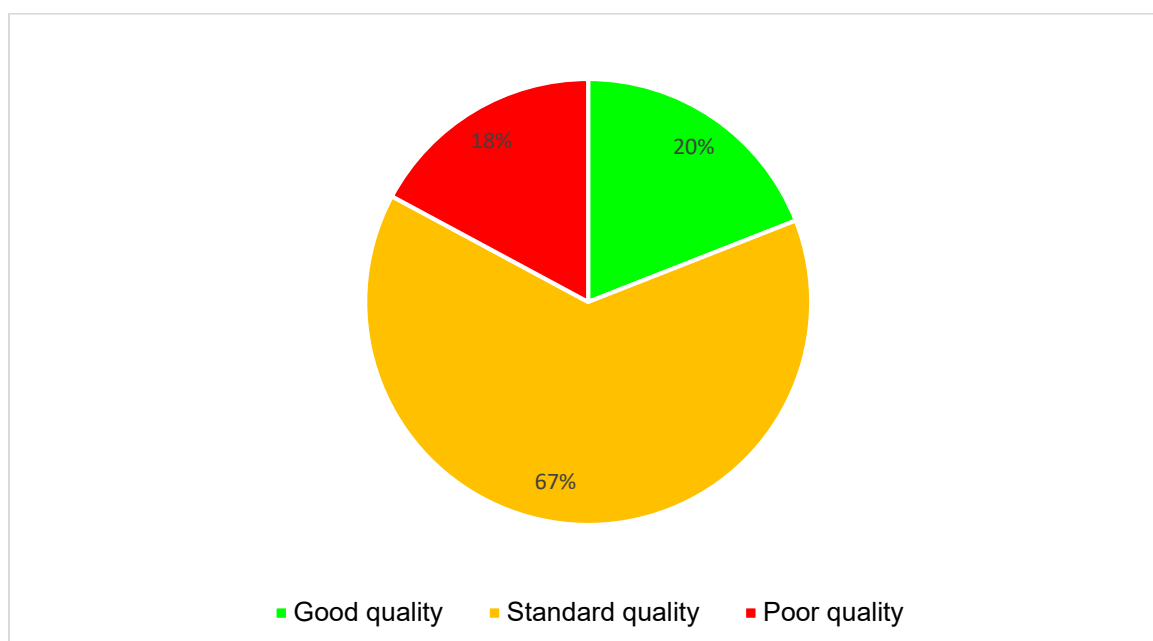
Conversely, well maintained pitches are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The table below summarises the quality of community available pitches in LBH. As seen, most pitches are assessed as standard, with 87 (67%) being rated as such. Of the remaining pitches, 27 (20%) community available pitches assessed as good quality and 15 (18%) are assessed as poor quality.

Table 2.7: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

| Pitch type | Good quality | Standard quality | Poor quality |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Adult | 11 | 18 | 3 |
| Youth 11v11 | 5 | 22 | 2 |
| Youth 9v9 | 4 | 13 | 5 |
| Mini 7v7 | 4 | 18 | 4 |
| Mini 5v5 | 3 | 16 | 1 |
| Total | 27 | 87 | 15 |

Figure 2.3: Pitch quality ratings as % (community use pitches)



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Poor quality scores are generally a result of issues relating to natural drainage problems, basic maintenance regimes and signs of and wear and tear. Poor quality pitches available to the community are located at the sites below. In some instances, sites listed also provide good and standard quality pitches. These sites are operated either by the Council or schools, where maintenance tends to be less dedicated than at sites managed by sports clubs.

- ◀ Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Lane Playing Field).
- ◀ Harold Wood Park.
- ◀ Harold Wood Primary School.
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Primary School.
- ◀ Hilldene Primary School.
- ◀ Langtons Junior Academy.
- ◀ Noak Hill Sports Ground.
- ◀ The Champion School.
- ◀ The Sanders School.

The above sites are operated either by the Council or schools, where maintenance tends to be less dedicated than at sites managed by sports clubs.

Harold Wood Cougars report that some of the pitches at Harold Wood Park are in poor condition due to issues with drainage. The Club is in receipt of GPMF and therefore the site will need to be monitored for grass improvements moving forward and will be included in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan Document.

Gidea Park Rangers FC report the pitch at Harrow Lodge Primary School is in poor condition due to a lack of maintenance from the school and overuse of the site from the Club for match play and training.

Romford Flyers FC states the pitches at King George's Playing Fields were previously in good condition but has declined due to low grass coverage, uneven surface and poor drainage.

Tigers FC report the pitches at Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre only receive a basic level of maintenance and is not as regular as it would like.

In contrast, good quality pitches can be found at six sites such as The Forest Row Centre and Westlands Playing Field and can be seen in Table 2.18. As an example, the good quality pitches at Harold Wood Park and Hendersons Sports & Social Club have undergone PitchPower assessments with users of these sites noting improvements since. It is worth noting that Collier Row FC reports drainage issues are evident on the pitches at The Forest Row Centre despite its good quality.

Most of the good quality pitches have a rigorous maintenance programme in order to maintain high quality. As an example, Collier Row FC report it carries out its own maintenance including cutting, reseeding and aeration and has dug its drainage system into the pitches to sustain its good quality rating.

Hornchurch Oakmount FC reports the pitches at Westlands Playing Fields have improved since last season, due to the lines being marked more frequently and grass cut more often. Similarly, Romford Flyers FC state the maintenance regime at the site is regular and frequent resulting in its good condition.

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Leaside Colts FC report the pitches at Brittons Playing Field are rated as good quality, however, recently it has been poor maintained with a lack of grass cuttings. The Club ideally trains away from the marked pitches, but recently only the pitches have been cut.

Changes to the previous study

In the previous PPS (2016), there were 108 standard quality pitches (72%), 37 (25%) poor quality pitches and six good quality pitches (4%). As such, there has been a clear increase in the number of good quality pitches, however, there has also been a reduction in standard and poor quality pitches.

Table 2.8: Pitch quality comparison

| PPOSS Year | Good | Standard | Poor |
|-----------------------|------|----------|------|
| 2024 (current study) | 27 | 87 | 15 |
| 2016 (previous study) | 6 | 108 | 37 |

Pitch improvement

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

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

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments within the PPS guidance, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June. Organisations must carry out two assessments a year, with at least one in the November – March window. As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the PPS/PPOSS capacity guidance. This alignment is shown in the table below.

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Table 2.9: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

| PQS rating | PPOSS quality rating |
|------------|----------------------|
| Poor | Poor |
| Basic | Standard |
| Good | Good |
| Advanced | Good |
| High | Good |

In LBH, five sites have received a PitchPower assessment³ and the ratings of these in comparison to the PPOSS non-technical site assessment ratings are shown in the table below. No adjustments are needed as all assessments align.

Table 2.10: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

| Site ID | Site name | Pitch type | PitchPower rating | PPOSS rating |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Adult | Good | Good |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Adult | Good | Good |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Adult | Basic | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Youth (11v11) | Basic | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Youth (9v9) | Good | Good |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Youth (9v9) | Basic | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Mini (7v7) | Good | Good |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Mini (5v5) | Good | Good |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Youth (11v11) | Poor | Poor |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Youth (9v9) | Poor | Poor |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Mini (7v7) | Poor | Poor |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Mini (7v7) | Poor | Poor |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Mini (5v5) | Basic | Standard |
| 45 | Hendersons Sports and Social Club | Adult | Good | Good |
| 45 | Hendersons Sports and Social Club | Adult | Good | Good |
| 45 | Hendersons Sports and Social Club | Adult | Good | Good |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Youth (11v11) | Good | Good |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Mini (7v7) | Basic | Standard |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Mini (7v7) | Basic | Standard |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Mini (5v5) | Basic | Standard |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Mini (5v5) | Basic | Standard |
| 64 | Prospect Road Playing Field | Youth (11v11) | Basic | Standard |

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

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF) ⁴

³ Only Pitch Power reports conducted post 2022 have been considered as the findings of those older than this are no longer considered to be reliable.

⁴ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the GPMF. As part of this, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the GMA (formerly Institute of Groundsmanship).

The GPMF can be utilised by grassroots football clubs, leagues and other eligible, organisations 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 PitchPower site assessment and subsequent Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Once a PitchPower grass pitch assessment report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the GPMF, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help 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. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund has now been opened up to education organisations and Town/Parish Councils as eligible applicant. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

Over marked pitches

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

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in LBH.

Table 2.11: Sites containing over marked pitches

| Site ID | Site | Comments |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| 14 | Cottons Park | Youth 11v11 pitch is overmarked with a mini 7v7 pitch |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | Youth 9v9 pitch is overmarked with a mini 7v7 pitch |

Despite the over markings, only the youth 9v9 pitch is assessed as poor quality, suggesting the overmarked youth 11v11 pitch at Cottons Park is maintained relatively well by the Council.

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Ancillary facilities

In correlation with the process for pitch assessments, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across LBH has been undertaken on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing (see Appendix 2 for the assessment criteria).

With specific reference to clubhouses and changing facilities, the following sites in LBH are considered to have poor quality provision:

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

Table 2.12: List of sites providing poor quality ancillary provision

| 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) Bryon 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) |

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.

In addition, Byron Red Star FC report it has access to the clubhouse at Hylands Park and has an aspiration to develop the clubhouse into a multi-sports facility, subject to planning permission.

United Amateurs FC reports the facilities at Spring Farm Park are in poor condition, as the changing rooms are outdated and poorly maintained. Furthermore, the Club reports they are inadequate to meet its demand and needs expanding.

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

Top Tekkers FC report there is limited storage at Cottons Park for the Club's equipment. In addition, it reports a particular concern with its car parking access.

Furthermore, many sites are not currently serviced by any changing facilities or toilets, which can be problematic for all forms of play. This relates to the following sites, of which are all Council operated:

- ◀ Brittons Playing Field.
- ◀ Central Park.
- ◀ King George's Playing Fields.
- ◀ Park Lane Recreation Ground.
- ◀ St Andrew's Park.
- ◀ Upminster Park.

Upminster Park Rovers reports there is no access to any ancillary provision at St Andrews Park. This can impact the level of demand received, with leagues often requiring changing rooms in order to participate, especially at adult level and for female football.

In addition, Upminster Park Rovers reports it is unable to gain access to the toilet facilities at Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre as they are owned by Tigers FC.

Tigers FC report it does not have access to ancillary provision at Bretons Outdoor recreation centre. Occasionally, the community association are able to use the community hall, but this is quite infrequent and not always guaranteed.

Good quality ancillary facilities have been identified at Hendersons Sports & Social Club, Hornchurch Stadium and Noak Hill Sports Complex, where the sites are serviced by well-maintained facilities.

Away from clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as being a particular issue at Brittons Playing Field and Westlands Playing Field, with several clubs citing this as a problem at both sites.

Football pyramid demand

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

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Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation⁵ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from Regional Feeder League. Please refer to the FA website⁶ for the full specifications for each.

The general principle for clubs in the NLS is that they must achieve the appropriate Stadium Accreditation grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard. There has been a restructure of the NLS, with the former Step 7 repositioned as Regional Feeder Leagues to the NLS to be more aligned to the County FA network as the highest level of regional/local football. Clubs playing in Regional Feeder leagues remain eligible to access grant funding through the Premier League Stadium Fund (PLSF), on the condition that the Club has applied for promotion to Step 6, with any grant awarded conditional to grant of promotion. Clubs will retain access to cup competitions, but the restructure will help to establish a clear and consistent process for clubs coming in at Step 6 and will allow County FAs to develop local pyramid structures.

In LBH, 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.

This is summarised in the following table.

Table 2.13: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

| Team | League | Level |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hornchurch FC | Isthmian League Premier Division | Stage 3 |
| Harold Wood Athletic FC | Essex Olympian Football League | Regional feeder league |

It is important to note that the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a sports-lit pitch with hardstanding areas for fans as well as turnstiles for entry. For clubs within the regional feeder leagues, promotion is not always achievable due to these facility constraints.

Hornchurch FC report it aspires to develop a stadia site and this would be preferably located within the Hornchurch area, however, this is much dependent on available land. The Club was promoted at the end of the 2023/24 season to Step 2 in the National League South and therefore requires a stadia site for first team matches.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) like the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This is based on seven tiers with the top tier being the FA Women's Super League (WSL). Ground grading requirements range from grade A to C, each with differing minimum requirements⁷.

⁵ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

⁶ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

⁷ [Womens-football-ground-grading](#)

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In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA WSL, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier three for a maximum of 12 teams.

In LBH, there are no clubs operating within the Women's National League System.

2.3: Demand

In total, 394 affiliated teams from within 53 clubs are based within LBH. Of these, 392 teams within 51 clubs affiliate to Essex FA and two teams from two clubs affiliate to London FA. However, a proportion of this demand currently plays outside of the Borough (see exported demand section).

As shown below, and as identified in the audit and assessment, 362 teams from across 46 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on pitches within LBH. This comprises of 62 adult men's, three adult women's, 125 youth boys', 16 youth girls' and 156 mini teams and is further summarised in the following table.

Table 2.14: Summary of number of competitive teams currently playing in LBH

| Analysis area | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 | Total |
|---------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| East | 18 | 13 | 4 | 11 | 26 | 72 |
| North | 21 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 89 |
| South | 17 | 37 | 27 | 30 | 22 | 133 |
| West | 9 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 11 | 68 |
| LBH | 65 | 83 | 58 | 80 | 76 | 362 |

The South Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 133, whilst the West Analysis Area has the fewest with 68 teams, although this is still a substantial number.

There are more youth 11v11 teams (83) when compared to other formats of play, with youth 9v9 teams being the least represented (58 teams).

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Across the clubs playing matches within LBH, there are currently 56 more teams affiliated when compared to the 2016 study, based on data collected in the 2015/2016 season. This equates to a growth of seven adult teams, 10 youth teams and 39 mini teams. Although this represents an overall growth in demand, a number of teams now actually play outside of the Borough exporting demand to neighbouring authorities.

Table 2.15: Demand comparison

| PPOSS Year | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 | Total |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| 2024 (current study) | 65 | 83 | 58 | 80 | 76 | 362 |
| 2016 (previous study) | 58 | 78 | 53 | 63 | 54 | 306 |
| Change | +7 | +5 | +5 | +17 | +22 | +56 |

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Table 2.15a: Demand comparison of women and girls' participation

| PPOSS Year | Adult women | Youth girls | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 2024 (current study) | 3 | 16 | 19 |
| 2016 (previous study) | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Change | +2 | +9 | +11 |

As set out previously, the above does not necessarily align with changes to pitch numbers over the same time period, with the number of pitches decreasing significantly since 2016 (as shown in Table 2.3). Furthermore, there has been a large increase in mini teams, despite pitch reductions for these formats of play.

In addition, the 2016 study predicted, through population growth projections that one senior men's and nine junior boys (mixture of youth and mini teams) would be created. Therefore, current demand well exceeds the projected growth.

In correlation with the above, three responding clubs report an increase in the number of their adult teams over the previous three seasons, whilst five also report a growth in mini demand and six clubs report a growth in youth demand.

Additional demand

In addition to the demand identified above, Gol Futsal fields one futsal team which plays on the sand based artificial grass pitch (AGP) at Coopers Company & Coburn School. Whilst Romford Walking Football fields three teams which plays at Powerleague (Romford).

Women's and girls' demand

The FA's current four-year strategy, 'Time for Change' has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

As indicated above, there are currently 16 dedicated female teams playing within LBH, representing 5% of the total number of teams. There are also additional female participants within mixed mini teams.

In addition, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged 5-11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment and Squad sessions for 12-16 year olds follow the same format. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres or Squad sessions receive a £900 grant over two years and equipment in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation. There are currently two Wildcats centres at Noak Hill Sports Complex and The Frances Bardsley School for Girls.

Exported/imported demand

As discussed above, some clubs otherwise based in LBH export match play demand to outside of the Borough. Most state that this is due to a lack of capacity on existing pitches, although some also cite quality issues at sites formerly accessed.

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In total, 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.

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.

Table 2.16: Summary of exported match play demand into other local authorities

| Club | Exported demand (teams) | Venue | Surface | Local authority |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---------|----------------------|
| BJM Youth FC | 2 x mini 7v7 | Harris Academy | Grass | Thurrock |
| Byron Red Star FC | 1 x youth 9v9 | Old Brentwood Sports Club | Grass | Brentwood |
| Elite Colts FC | 1 x adult 1 x youth 11v11 1 x mini 7v7 | Barking and Dagenham College | Grass | Barking and Dagenham |
| FC Mexico | 1 x adult | Old Parkonians Association | Grass | Redbridge |
| Hornchurch Urchins FC | 6 x youth 11v11 5 x youth 9v9 6 x mini 7v7 4 x mini 5v5 | Old Parkonians Association | Grass | Redbridge |
| Hornchurch Vets FC | 1 x adult | Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club) | Grass | Thurrock |
| Kit Out London FC | 1 x adult | Old Parkonians Association | Grass | Redbridge |
| Redbridge Youth | 1 x adult | Ford Sports & Social Club (Newbury Park) | Grass | Redbridge |
| West Ham United Development | 1 x adult | West Ham Foundation | 3G | Newham |

Notwithstanding the above, Elite Colts FC reported through consultation it wishes to field all teams within LBH but is currently unable to due to a lack of pitch capacity.

In addition to the above, Collier Row FC states it accesses the 3G pitch at Robert Clack School in Dagenham on an ad hoc basis when the grass pitches at The Forest Row Centre are waterlogged.

No imported demand is identified.

Latent/unmet demand

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, six report levels of latent demand and provide reasoning. This is summarised in the following table.

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Table 2.17: Summary of latent demand

| Club | Comments |
|----------------------------|--|
| CFC Rainham | Could field an additional youth 9v9 team if it had access to more pitches |
| Essex Minors Hornchurch FC | Could field two additional mini 7v7 teams if it had access to more pitches. |
| Gidea Park Rovers FC | Could field an additional adult men's team if it had access to more pitches. |
| Romford Flyers FC | The Club reports wanting to grow a girl's section. |
| Tigers FC | Could field an additional mini 7v7 team if it had access to more pitches. |
| Upminster Park Rovers | The Club reports it would like to grow its female section but is unable to due to the lack of pitches on site. |

In addition to the above, three of the responding clubs indicate that they could field more teams if given access to more or better ancillary provision. These are:

- ◀ Essex Minors Hornchurch FC.
- ◀ Romford Flyers FC.
- ◀ Tigers FC.

Some latent and unmet demand is also reported as a consequence of a lack of training capacity. This is further explored within Part 3 of this report.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for football that could from housing development plans across the Borough.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2031 using ONS projections (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team. It, however, does not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough proposed in the Local Plan, and this will be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan.

The table below then shows the numbers of new teams projected to be created by population increases.

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Table 2.18: Authority wide team generation rates

| Age group | Team generation rate | Number of new teams generated by the new population | Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure | Match equivalent sessions per week ⁸ |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|
| Adult Mens (18-45) | 1:815 | 2.33 | 2 | 1 |
| Adult Womens (18-45) | 1:18,312 | 0.11 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Boys (12-17) | 1:91 | 2.78 | 3 | 1.5 |
| Youth Girls (12-17) | 1:719 | 0.34 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Boys (10-11) | 1:71 | 1.88 | 2 | 1 |
| Youth Girls (10-11) | 1:414 | 0.30 | 0 | 0 |
| Mini Mixed (8-9) | 1:85 | 3.01 | 3 | 1.5 |
| Mini Mixed (6-7) | 1:92 | 2.86 | 3 | 1.5 |

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a growth of two adult, three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 teams is predicted over the next 7/8 years. This represents relatively modest growth.

As noted above, the previous PPS study in 2016 suggested that there would be a potential growth of 65.5 teams by 2031, which has yet to be surpassed with a growth of 56 teams achieved since 2016. As such, a scenario will be included in the Strategy & Action Plan document portraying the potential impact if these recent growth levels continue.

Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused on certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, the current focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally is likely to lead to there being more female teams in the future and, thus, further increased pitch demand. Such targeted work is not captured via population projections so minimal increases in female football are currently forecast.

Essex FA confirm that national projections to 2028 are anticipating a 15% increase in youth and mini teams, a 48% increase in women's and girls' teams and a 27% increase in disability teams which if achieved shall total a further 15,410 teams nationally. As such the forecasted growth from team generation rates may be lower than what takes place in reality given the increased efforts to develop women's and girls and disability teams.

Participation increases

Based upon consultation respondents, 12 clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams, equating to growth of 44 teams, broken down as three adult teams, six youth 11v11 teams, 13 youth 9v9 teams, eight mini 7v7 teams and 15 mini 5v5 teams.

⁸ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Table 2.19: Future demand aspirations reported by clubs

| Club | Analysis area | Future demand | Pitch size | Match equivalent sessions |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| Byron Red Star FC | North | 2 x Youth girls | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| Byron Red Star FC | North | 2 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 1 |
| CFC Rainham | South | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| CFC Rainham | South | 2 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 1 |
| Elite Colts FC | West | 2 x Youth girls | Youth 11v11 | 1 |
| Elite Colts FC | West | 2 x Youth boys | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| Elite Colts FC | West | 2 x Youth girls | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| Elite Colts FC | West | 2 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 1 |
| Essex Minors Hornchurch FC | South | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Gidea Park Rangers FC | East | 1 x Youth boys | Youth 11v11 | 0.5 |
| Gidea Park Rangers FC | East | 1 x Youth girls | Youth 11v11 | 0.5 |
| Gidea Park Rangers FC | East | 2 x Youth girls | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| Gidea Park Rangers FC | East | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Gidea Park Rangers FC | East | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Harold Wood Cougars FC | North | 1 x Youth boys | Youth 11v11 | 0.5 |
| Harold Wood Cougars FC | North | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Harold Wood Cougars FC | North | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Leaside Colts FC | South | 2 x Youth boys | Youth 9v9 | 1 |
| Leaside Colts FC | South | 3 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 1.5 |
| Leaside Colts FC | South | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Romford Colts FC | North | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Romford Colts FC | North | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| Tigers FC | South | 1 x Women's | Adult | 0.5 |
| Tigers FC | South | 1 x Men's | Adult | 0.5 |
| Tigers FC | South | 2 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 1 |
| Top Tekkers FC | West | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Top Tekkers FC | West | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |
| United Amateurs FC | South | 1 x Men's | Adult | 0.5 |
| Young Stars Football First Youth FC | West | 1 x Youth boys | Youth 11v11 | 0.5 |
| Young Stars Football First Youth FC | West | 1 x Youth boys | Youth 9v9 | 0.5 |
| Young Stars Football First Youth FC | West | 1 x Mini | Mini 7v7 | 0.5 |
| Young Stars Football First Youth FC | West | 1 x Mini | Mini 5v5 | 0.5 |

The total future demand reported by clubs amounts to 21.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below.

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Table 2.20: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs in match equivalent sessions

| Analysis area | Adult | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 | Total |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| East | - | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 3 |
| North | - | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4.5 |
| South | 1.5 | - | 1 | 1 | 3.5 | 7.5 |
| West | - | 1.5 | 2 | 2 | 1.5 | 7 |
| Total | 1.5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5.5 | 22 |

Notwithstanding the above, 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 focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is factored in at this stage, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. However, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

Reported club aspiration future demand is dealt with via a scenario within the accompanying Strategy & Action Plan and will consider the impact on existing pitch stock were aspirations to be realised.

To emphasise and reiterate, 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.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

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Table 2.21 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Potential capacity | Play is below the level the site could sustain |
| At capacity | Play matches the level the site can sustain |
| Overused | Play exceeds the level the site can sustain |

Match equivalent sessions

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

Education sites

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

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

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

However, it should be stated that the education sites cannot accommodate community use during the day which impacts on the retired, unemployed and stay at home parents.

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use. One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

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Informal use

A number of football pitches in LBH are on open access sites, especially those managed by the Council. This often results in informal use in the form of, for example, unorganised sport (including football) and exercise groups. Examples are found at Central Park (Romford) and St Peter's Hall Community Pitches, which are utilised for match play by Young Stars Football First at the former and by Upminster Town United at the latter.

However, pitches are not formally marked out at these sites and as such use is not recorded and is difficult to quantify.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In LBH, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all pitch types.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because the majority of use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increase overall capacity.

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

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

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

The way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.21 is as follows:

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

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Table 2.21: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Available for community use? | Management | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Quality rating | Current play ⁹ | Carrying capacity ¹⁰ | Capacity balance ¹¹ | Spare capacity in peak period | Comments |
|---------|--|---------------|----------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & College | West | RM12 4YB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & College | West | RM12 4YB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Unavailable for community use. |
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | North | RM1 4YY | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 6 | Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Playing Field) | South | RM14 2XY | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Poor | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 7 | Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre | South | RM13 7LP | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 9 | Standard | 14.5 | 18 | 3.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 7 | Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre | South | RM13 7LP | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 4 | Standard | 7.5 | 8 | 0.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 7 | Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre | South | RM13 7LP | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 5 | Standard | 10 | 20 | 10 | 5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 7 | Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre | South | RM13 7LP | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 6 | Standard | 9.5 | 24 | 14.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | South | RM13 7LH | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | South | RM13 7LH | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | South | RM13 7LH | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | RM14 3HS | Yes | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 13 | Corbets Trey School | South | RM14 2YQ | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | RM7 9QX | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | RM7 9QX | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 18 | Crownfield Junior School | North | RM7 8JB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 18 | Crownfield Junior School | North | RM7 8JB | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 20 | Drapers' Academy | North | RM3 9XR | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Poor | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 20 | Drapers' Academy | North | RM3 9XR | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 21 | Drapers' Maylands Primary School | North | RM3 9XR | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 22 | Drapers Pygro Priory School | North | RM3 9RT | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 25 | Elm Park Primary School | South | RM12 5TX | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | RM11 3AD | Yes | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |

⁹ Match equivalent sessions

¹⁰ Match equivalent sessions; based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

¹¹ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Available for community use? | Management | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Quality rating | Current play ⁹ | Carrying capacity ¹⁰ | Capacity balance ¹¹ | Spare capacity in peak period | Comments |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 27 | Engyane Primary School | East | RM14 1SW | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 27 | Engyane Primary School | East | RM14 1SW | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 27 | Engyane Primary School | East | RM14 1SW | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | South | RM14 3JX | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | South | RM14 3JX | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | East | RM14 1SF | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Poor | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 2 | Good | 3.5 | 6 | 2.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 4.5 | 2 | 2.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Good | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Good | 3 | 6 | 3 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | RM3 0NB | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Good | 1.5 | 6 | 4.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 37 | Harold Wood Primary School | East | RM3 0TH | Yes-unused | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Played to capacity |
| 38 | Harris Academy Rainham | South | RM13 9XD | Yes | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | RM12 4QZ | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 3 | Standard | 0 | 12 | 12 | 3 | Actual spare capacity |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | RM12 4QZ | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 0 | 8 | 8 | 2 | Actual spare capacity |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | RM3 0TH | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | RM3 0TH | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | RM3 0TH | Yes | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Poor | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | RM3 0TH | Yes | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 44 | Haynes Park | East | RM11 2BU | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 2 | Standard | 0.5 | 4 | 3.5 | 1.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 45 | Hendersons Sports and Social Club | North | RM3 9NE | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult | - | 3 | Good | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | Actual spare capacity |
| 46 | Hilldene Primary School | North | RM3 7DU | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 46 | Hilldene Primary School | North | RM3 7DU | Yes | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Poor | 3.5 | 4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality. |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | South | RM12 4AJ | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 48 | Hornchurch Stadium | South | RM14 2LX | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult | - | 1 | Good | 0.5 | 3 | 2.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | RM11 1EE | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Good | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | RM11 1EE | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Standard | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | Actual spare capacity |

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Available for community use? | Management | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Quality rating | Current play ⁹ | Carrying capacity ¹⁰ | Capacity balance ¹¹ | Spare capacity in peak period | Comments |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | RM11 1EE | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 2 | 8 | 6 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | RM7 8ET | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 1.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | RM7 8ET | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | RM7 8ET | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | RM7 8ET | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | RM7 8ET | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 52 | Langtons Junior Academy | East | RM11 3SD | Yes | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 3.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | North | RM1 4EH | Yes | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0.5 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 55 | Nelmes Primary School | East | RM11 3BX | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | North | RM3 7YA | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | RM4 1LD | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 2 | Poor | 1.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 60 | Oasis Academy Pinewood | North | RM5 2TX | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 60 | Oasis Academy Pinewood | North | RM5 2TX | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | West | RM11 1GR | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | West | RM11 1GR | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Played to capacity |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | West | RM11 1GR | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Standard | 4.5 | 8 | 3.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time |
| 64 | Prospect Road Playing Field | East | RM11 3TZ | Yes | Sports Club | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 68 | Rainham Working Men's Club | South | RM13 9AA | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult | - | 1 | Standard | 0.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | RM1 4EE | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 70 | Redden Court School | North | RM3 0TS | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Played to capacity |
| 71 | Rise Park | North | RM1 4XJ | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 2 | Standard | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 71 | Rise Park | North | RM1 4XJ | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Standard | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 71 | Rise Park | North | RM1 4XJ | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 1.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 72 | Rise Park Infant School | North | RM1 4UD | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Available for community use? | Management | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Quality rating | Current play ⁹ | Carrying capacity ¹⁰ | Capacity balance ¹¹ | Spare capacity in peak period | Comments |
|---------|---|---------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 77 | Scotts Primary School | South | RM12 5TD | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 77 | Scotts Primary School | South | RM12 5TD | No | School | Unsecure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | RM13 9SX | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 2 | Standard | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | Played to capacity |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | RM13 9SX | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 79 | St Andrews Park | East | RM11 3RU | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Standard | 6 | 8 | 2 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 81 | Suttons Primary School | South | RM12 6RP | Yes | School | Unsecure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | RM13 7BB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 2 | Poor | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | RM11 3BX | Yes | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | 0.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | RM5 2LD | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Adult | - | 3 | Good | 4 | 9 | 5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | RM5 2LD | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Good | 2.5 | 4 | 1.5 | 0 | Played to capacity in the peak period. |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | RM5 2LD | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Good | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | RM5 2LD | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 2 | Good | 3 | 12 | 9 | 2 | Actual spare capacity |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | RM5 2LD | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 2 | Good | 1.5 | 12 | 10.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | RM3 7PP | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | RM3 7PP | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | RM3 7PP | Yes | Sports Club | Secure | Mini | (5v5) | 1 | Standard | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 87 | The James Oglethorpe Primary School | South | RM14 3NB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 87 | The James Oglethorpe Primary School | South | RM14 3NB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | East | RM2 6HJ | No | School | Unsecure | Adult | - | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 89 | The Sanders School | South | RM12 6RT | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Played to capacity |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | RM14 1BT | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 3 | Standard | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | Actual spare capacity |
| 95 | Upminster Junior School | South | RM14 3BS | Yes | School | Unsecure | Youth | (11v11) | 1 | Standard | 2.5 | 2 | 0.5 | 0 | Overplayed |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | RM14 2LU | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 2 | Standard | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 97 | West Ham United FC (Rush Green Training Ground) | West | RM7 0LU | No | Sports Club | Secure | Adult | - | 4 | Good | 12 | 12 | 0 | 12 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | RM7 9NU | Yes | Council | Secure | Adult | - | 2 | Good | 3.5 | 6 | 2.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | RM7 9NU | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (11v11) | 3 | Good | 4.5 | 12 | 7.5 | 0 | Played to capacity at peak time. |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | RM7 9NU | Yes | Council | Secure | Youth | (9v9) | 2 | Good | 1.5 | 8 | 6.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | RM7 9NU | Yes | Council | Secure | Mini | (7v7) | 1 | Good | 1.5 | 6 | 4.5 | 0.5 | Actual spare capacity |

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Available for community use? | Management | Security of tenure | Pitch type | Pitch size | No. of pitches | Quality rating | Current play ⁹ | Carrying capacity ¹⁰ | Capacity balance ¹¹ | Spare capacity in peak period | Comments |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 99 | Dame Tipping Primary School | North | RM4 1PS | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 100 | Gidea Park Primary School | East | RM2 5JB | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Poor | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 101 | Harold Court Primary School | East | RM3 0SH | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 102 | St Ursula's Catholic Primary School | North | RM3 7JS | No | School | Unsecure | Youth | (9v9) | 1 | Standard | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |

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Actual spare capacity

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across LBH totalling 35 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 49 pitches at 19 sites.

Table 2.22: Actual (peak time) spare capacity site by site

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Capacity rating (MES per week) |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 7 | Bretons Outdoor Recreation Centre | South | Mini (7v7) | 5 | 5 |
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | South | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 1 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Adult | 2 | 1 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Mini (5v5) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Mini (7v7) | 3 | 3 |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Mini (5v5) | 2 | 2 |
| 44 | Haynes Park | East | Youth (11v11) | 2 | 1.5 |
| 45 | Hendersons Sports & Social Club | North | Adult | 3 | 2 |
| 48 | Hornchurch Stadium | South | Adult | 1 | 1 |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Mini (7v7) | 2 | 2 |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | Adult | 2 | 1.5 |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 1 |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | West | Youth (11v11) | 1 | 1 |
| 68 | Rainham Working Men's Club | South | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 1 |
| 71 | Rise Park | North | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 1 |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 1 |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | Adult | 3 | 0.5 |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | Mini (7v7) | 2 | 2 |
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | North | Mini (5v5) | 2 | 0.5 |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 1 |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 1 |
| 86 | The Gallows | North | Mini (5v5) | 1 | 1 |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | Adult | 3 | 1 |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Adult | 2 | 0.5 |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | Youth (9v9) | 2 | 0.5 |
| 98 | Westlands Playing Fields | West | Mini (7v7) | 1 | 0.5 |
| - | - | - | - | 49 | 35 |

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the table below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is located on adult pitches and in the North Analysis Area. However, each pitch type and each analysis area has some level identified.

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Table 2.23: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Adult pitches | Youth 11v11 pitches | Youth 9v9 pitches | Mini 7v7 pitches | Mini 5v5 pitches |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| East | 2 | 1.5 | 0.5 | - | 0.5 |
| North | 4 | - | 2 | 5 | 1.5 |
| South | 2 | - | - | 7 | - |
| West | - | 1 | 0.5 | 5.5 | 2 |
| LBH | 8 | 2.5 | 3 | 17.5 | 4 |

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In LBH, 13 pitches across nine sites are overplayed by a combined total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.24: Overplay site-by-site

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Pitch type | No. of pitches | Capacity rating (MES per week) |
|---------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 | Branfil Primary School (Little Gaynes Playing Field) | South | Youth (9v9) | 2 | 3 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Youth (11v11) | 1 | 2.5 |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | Youth (11v11) | 1 | 1 |
| 40 | Harrow Lodge Primary School | East | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 1 |
| 46 | Hilldene Primary School | North | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 1.5 |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Mini (7v7) | 2 | 1 |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | Youth (11v11) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field (Romford) | North | Youth (9v9) | 1 | 0.5 |
| 52 | Langtons Junior Academy | East | Mini (5v5) | 1 | 1.5 |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | Adult | 1 | 0.5 |
| 95 | Upminster Junior School | South | Youth (11v11) | 1 | 0.5 |
| - | - | - | - | 13 | 13.5 |

Overplay is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in the following table. The highest level of overplay is identified on youth 9v9 pitches (six match equivalent sessions) and in the East Analysis Area (6.5 match equivalent sessions).

Most pitches are overplayed due to the impact of being assessed as poor or standard quality.

Further to the above, as mentioned earlier Central Park (Romford) and St Peter's Hall Community Pitches are also utilised for match play by Young Stars Football First at the former and by Upminster Town United at the latter. However, pitches are not formally marked out at these sites and as such use is not recorded and is difficult to quantify as overplay.

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Table 2.25: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Adult pitches | Youth 11v11 pitches | Youth 9v9 pitches | Mini 7v7 pitches | Mini 5v5 pitches |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| East | 0.5 | 3.5 | 1 | - | 1.5 |
| North | - | 0.5 | 2 | - | - |
| South | - | 0.5 | 3 | - | - |
| West | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| LBH | 0.5 | 4.5 | 6 | 1 | 1.5 |

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e., spare capacity taking away overplay) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, only future growth from population increases has been considered in the supply and demand analysis below. This, however, cannot be accredited to individual analysis areas and as a result has been accredited to the overall capacity for each pitch type within LBH.

Adult pitch capacity

Adult pitches have current overall spare capacity amounting to 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.26: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| East | 2 | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| North | 4 | - | 4 |
| South | 2 | - | 2 |
| West | - | - | 0 |
| LBH | 8 | 0.5 | 7.5 |

When considering future demand from population growth, spare capacity reduces but still remains equating to 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.27: Future supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 7.5 | 1 | 6.5 |

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Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity amounting to two match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.28: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| East | 1.5 | 3.5 | 2 |
| North | - | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| South | - | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| West | 1 | - | 1 |
| LBH | 2.5 | 4.5 | 2 |

When factoring in future demand, the shortfall is exacerbated to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.29: Future supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 2 | 1.5 | 3.5 |

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity amounting to three equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.30: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|
| East | 0.5 | 1 | 0.5 |
| North | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| South | - | 3 | 3 |
| West | 0.5 | - | 0.5 |
| LBH | 3 | 6 | 3 |

When considering future demand, the shortfall is exacerbated amounting to four match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.31: Future supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 3 | 1 | 4 |

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Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Mini 7v7 pitches have overall spare capacity amounting to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 2.32: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|
| East | - | - | 0 |
| North | 5 | - | 5 |
| South | 7 | - | 7 |
| West | 5.5 | 1 | 4.5 |
| LBH | 17.5 | 1 | 16.5 |

When factoring in future demand, spare capacity reduces but some still remains, with this equating to 12 match equivalent sessions per week. As the actual spare capacity is significant, scenario testing will be carried out in the Strategy & Action Plan to consider reconfiguring pitches to better balance the shortfalls/surpluses in the Borough.

Table 2.33: Future supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 16.5 | 1.5 | 15 |

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Similar to mini 7v7 pitches, mini 5v5 provision has spare capacity amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.34: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| East | 0.5 | 1.5 | 1 |
| North | 1.5 | - | 1.5 |
| South | - | - | 0 |
| West | 2 | - | 2 |
| LBH | 4 | 1.5 | 2.5 |

As for future demand, spare capacity reduces but some still remains with this equating to one match equivalent session per week.

Table 2.35: Future supply and demand in match sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 |

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2.6: Conclusion

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

Table 2.36: Summary of supply and demand in match sessions per week

| Pitch type | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Adult | 8 | 0.5 | 7.5 | 1 | 6.5 |
| Youth 11v11 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 2 | 1.5 | 3.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Mini 7v7 | 17.5 | 1 | 16.5 | 1.5 | 15 |
| Mini 5v5 | 4 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1 |

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.

Changes from the previous study

The table below identifies the current and future totals from the 2016 study in comparison to the current conclusion. As can be seen, the current shortfall has been eradicated on adult pitches but a smaller shortfall of youth 9v9 pitches. Whilst a shortfall of 11v11 pitches has been created. Spare capacity is greater on the mini pitches.

When examining the future totals, there are still shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches; however, these are far less substantial than the future totals in the 2016 study. Contrastingly, for adult and mini pitches, future shortfalls have been eradicated with actual spare capacity now evident.

It should be noted that the previous study in 2016 forecasted to 2031 (using population growth), the same method and year as the 2024 study.

Table 2.37: Supply and demand comparison to previous PPS study (2016)

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions) | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2016 current total | 2024 current total | 2016 future total | 2024 future total |
| Adult | 6 | 7.5 | 21 | 6.5 |
| Youth 11v11 | 0.5 | 2 | 24 | 3.5 |
| Youth 9v9 | 6 | 3 | 33 | 4 |
| Mini 7v7 | 2 | 16.5 | 13.5 | 15 |
| Mini 5v5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 12.5 | 1 |

In addition to the above, it must also be recognised that a substantial amount of exported demand is identified, in addition to latent/unmet demand expressed by clubs. If the exported demand were to return to the Borough, this would worsen the picture for all pitch types, and create shortfalls in some instances, as would the latent/unmet demand if fully realised. The impact of this will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

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To clarify, the supply and demand summary does not account for the high level of exported demand or the potential for future demand to be higher than the team generation rates suggest if participation rates continue to rise as they have done since the last PPS.

As noted previously, the Strategy will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if recent growth trends continue to exist as 56 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion have been established.

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.
- 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.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (3G PITCHES)

3.1: Introduction

Third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches utilise longer fibres with a combination of rubber and sand infill to offer heightened performance. They are predominately used for football matches but most commonly for football training. They can also be used for rugby matches dependent upon being constructed to World Rugby Regulation 22.

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register¹². As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby'¹³, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22', which provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the required standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

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

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

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016)¹⁴ advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Containment measures are recommended for 3G pitches to reduce the loss of rubber crumb infill from the artificial pitch into the wider environment. The FA Guide to 3G Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts provides information on managing infill loss.

Furthermore, BSI Standards, working with the European Committee for standardisation have developed a technical report describing the procedures that should be used to control infill migration. Design measures and procedures to control infill mitigation:

- ◀ Fitting containment barriers on a pitch's perimeter fencing.

¹² [Football Foundation | 3G Pitch Register](#)

¹³ <https://www.world.rugby/handbook/regulations/reg-22/>

¹⁴ [Deliver - Developing Your Project | England Hockey](#)

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- ◀ Installing decontamination grates and boot cleaning brushes at all player and vehicle entrance gates.
- ◀ Ensuring all stormwater drains around a pitch have suitable microfilters to capture any infill being carried by surface run-off etc.
- ◀ Keeping a dedicated maintenance brush within the boundaries of the pitch, so it cannot carry infill into the surrounding environment.
- ◀ Thoroughly removing any infill from maintenance tractors, etc before they leave the pitch.

New 3G pitch developments should look to incorporate the above points as a means of reducing the overspill of rubber crumb to the natural environment.

3.2: Supply

The recommended dimensions for a full size (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. In addition, the recommended dimensions for a rugby union pitch, in line with World Rugby Law 1, to allow match play is 106 x 68 metres with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter of the pitch.

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

Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 11v11 3G pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions. Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller sized provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

Based on the above specification, there are three 11v11 3G pitches in LBH across three sites. All of the pitches are serviced by sports lighting and available for community use, as summarised in the following table.

Table 3.1: Summary of 11v11 3G pitches within LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Community use? | Sports lighting? | Size (metres) | FA registered? |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | RM3 7YA | North | Yes | Yes | 106 x 70 | Yes |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | RM13 7BB | South | Yes | Yes | 100 x 64 | Yes |

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| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Community use? | Sports lighting? | Size (metres) | FA registered? |
|---------|--|----------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls | RM1 2RR | West | Yes | Yes | 100 x 64 | Yes |

Of the pitches, one is located in the North Analysis Area, one in the South Analysis Area and one in the West Analysis Area. No pitches are located in the East Analysis Area.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

| Analysis area | 11v11 pitches available for community use |
|---------------|---|
| East | - |
| North | 1 |
| South | 1 |
| West | 1 |
| Total | 3 |

As well as the 11v11 pitches, there are also nine smaller size 3G pitches across two sites in LBH. All of these are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G provision

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Community use? | Sports lighting? | Size (metres) |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 30 x 40 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 30 x 40 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | RM7 7AY | North | Yes | Yes | 20 x 30 |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | RM13 7BB | South | Yes | No | 30 x 50 |

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

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Notwithstanding the above, smaller size pitches are more commonly used to accommodate training and recreational activity. However, for training, they are not always conducive to demand, with many being too small for purposeful activity or too tight if pitch barriers are in place. This is the case at the Powerleague (Romford) and The Brittons Academy.

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

Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in Havering



Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016, there has been an increase of three 11v11 3G pitches in LBH. This is due to developments at Noak Hill Sports Complex and conversion from sand-based to 3G surface at The Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls.

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Future provision

Bower Park Academy report that it is considering resurfacing the sand-based AGP to a 3G surface, given it is currently unused by hockey clubs and there appears to be no demand for such usage.

The Council report early discussions have begun with the Essex County FA and the Football Foundation to explore developing a hub site at Brittons Academy to provide two 11v11 3G pitches on site to help address shortfalls in the area.

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.

FA pitch register

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

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

For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder league level) and clubs in the Women's Football Pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's National League System must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and appropriate line markings. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

In LBH, the 11v11 3G pitches at Noak Hill Sports Complex, The Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls are all FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. The accreditation at the former is due to expire in 2024, whilst at the Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls are both due to expire in 2025. At this point, re-testing will be required to ensure that this remains the case.

None of the smaller size pitches are FA approved.

Table 3.4: Summary of pitches on the FA register

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | No. of pitches | Size (metres) | Registered? | Certification expiry |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | North | 1 | 106 x 70 | Yes | 31/08/2024 |
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | North | 2 | 30 x 40 | No | - |

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | No. of pitches | Size (metres) | Registered? | Certification expiry |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | North | 7 | 20 x 30 | No | - |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | 1 | 100 x 64 | Yes | 31/05/2025 |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | 1 | 30 x 50 | No | - |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy For Girls | West | 1 | 100 x 64 | Yes | 31/05/2025 |

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

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

In LBH, there are no World Rugby compliant pitches. The nearest accredited pitch is located at Orsett Heath Academy in Thurrock and services Thurrock RUFC, which was installed in 2022.

Management

For the full size provision, the pitches at Noak Hill Sports Complex, The Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls are managed internally by the schools themselves.

Of the smaller size pitches, the pitches at Powerleague (Romford) are managed by a commercial operator and the pitch at The Brittons Academy is managed internally by the School.

Availability (opening hours)

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the opening hours at each site with a 11v11 pitch is summarised in the table below, based on there being a potential of 18 hours of peak time availability during midweek and 16 hours at weekend.

Please note that the table below only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically be open throughout the peak period but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch opening hours in LBH

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Availability (opening hours) | Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours) | Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours) |
|---------|--|---------------|--|--|--|
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | North | Everyday until 22:00 | 18 | 16 |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | Monday- Friday 18:00 to 21:00 Saturday- Sunday 09:00 to 22:00 | 14 | 16 |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy For Girls | West | Monday- Friday 17:30 to 21:30 Saturday- Sunday 09:00-16:00 | 15 | 14 |

As seen, each pitch has relatively extensive opening hours, however, the only pitch at Noak Hill Sports Complex is fully open throughout the peak period.

The availability of smaller size pitches is summarised below. These generally have good availability, although the pitches at Powerleague (Romford) are unavailable on Sunday afternoons.

Table 3.6: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch opening hours in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Availability (opening hours) | Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours) | Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours) |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------|---|--|--|
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | North | Available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00-22:30, Thursday 09:00-22:00, Saturday 09:00-17:00 and Sunday 09:00-14:00. | 18 | 13 |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | Monday- Friday 18:00 to 21:00 Saturday- Sunday 09:00 to 22:00 | 14 | 16 |

Quality

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

For the PPOSS, each 11v11 3G pitch has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments. This is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, plus surrounding hard areas and the maintenance undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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In LBH, the 11v11 pitch at The Brittons Academy is assessed as good quality (it was resurfaced in 2022).

The pitch at The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls is assessed as standard quality and within its recommended lifespan.

Despite the pitch at Noak Hill Sports Complex being installed in 2017 and within its recommended lifespan, it is assessed as standard quality. This is due to the pitch being heavily used every day and non-technical site assessments report that the carpet requires replacing.

Table 3.7: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

| Site ID | Site name | No. of pitches | Year installed/ resurfaced | Quality |
|---------|--|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | 1 | 2017 | Standard |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | 1 | 2022 | Good |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls | 1 | 2016 | Standard |

Regarding the smaller size pitches, all 10 have been assessed as poor quality as they have exceeded their recommended lifespans.

Table 3.8: Age and quality of smaller size 3G pitches

| Site ID | Site name | No. of pitches | Year installed/ resurfaced | Quality |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 63 | Powerleague (Romford) | 9 | 2012 | Poor |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | 1 | 2008 | Poor |

Ancillary facilities

All 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate with no significant issues identified with regard to the provision, although as many pitches are located at school sites, changing rooms are generally not dedicated to the supply. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play.

3.3: Demand

Despite extensive opening hours, 3G pitches in LBH are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). 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.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no usage from other sports identified through consultation. Most of the capacity is being taken up by football clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

In addition to affiliated demand, there are often small-sided commercial leagues operating on 3G pitches across the Country. In LBH, this is particularly prominent due to the presence of Powerleague. It has leagues running at its own site on various evenings.

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Everyone Active reports the 11v11 3G pitch at Noak Hill Sports Complex is fully booked and has no capacity to take on additional users, resulting in it regularly having to turn away demand. Harold Wood FC (anchor club), Chelsea Football Foundation, West Ham Football Foundation and Havering Adult College are the main users of the provision with most of the training and competitive demand taken up by them, particularly during the week.

Similarly, Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley for Girls School also note issues with capacity, although both of the pitches do have some availability on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for match play. Weekday evening sessions are fully booked all year round, meaning that sports clubs and other user groups are again having to be turned down on a regular basis.

Demand is further detailed in the table below on a site-by-site basis, with current usage compared against peak time availability for each 11v11 pitch. For this, the hours of availability have been multiplied by four for midweek capacity based on most pitches being divided into quarters for training demand, with capacity then considered to exist if at least a quarter of a pitch is currently unused for at least a one-hour slot. Weekend availability is unaltered as full pitch hire is more likely to be required i.e., for adult and youth 11v11 match play.

Table 3.9: Summary of 11v11 size 3G pitch demand site-by-site

| Site ID | Site name | Midweek peak period (hours) | Midweek usage (hours) | Weekend peak period (hours) | Weekend usage (hours) | Comments |
|---------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | 72 | 72 | 16 | 16 | Used to capacity both midweek and weekends |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | 56 | 56 | 16 | 16 | Used to capacity on weekdays and weekends. |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls | 60 | 60 | 14 | 14 | Used to capacity on weekdays, but four slots remain on weekends |

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed in LBH, with eight responding football clubs stating that additional pitches are required to meet training requirements. Collectively, these clubs provide over 100 teams, which is a considerable number. Many also use 3G pitches outside of LBH (see exported demand section).

The clubs are as follows:

- ✦ CFC Rainham (nine teams).
- ✦ Hornchurch Oakmount FC (one team).
- ✦ Leafield Colts FC (seven teams).
- ✦ Romford Colts FC (nine teams).
- ✦ Romford Flyers (20 teams).
- ✦ Tigers FC (52 teams).
- ✦ Top Tekkers (three teams).
- ✦ United Amateurs FC (two teams).

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For clarity, all demand referenced above is existing demand, with the number of teams already playing matches and training. The unmet demand is unmet demand for 3G pitch access, rather than the formation of teams.

All the clubs explicitly state a need for access to 3G pitches. Whilst many do currently access 3G pitches, most predominately via Noak Hill Sports Complex, The Brittons Academy Trust and The Frances Bardsley School for Girls, the perception is that these do not have enough capacity to accommodate all demand. This leads to teams training on undesirable days and/or times or having to find suitable availability elsewhere, including outside of the Borough.

For rugby union, Upminster RUFC report that access to a 3G pitch specific for rugby union would help to alleviate grass pitch overuse.

Exported/imported demand

As indicated above, several football clubs currently export some training demand outside of LBH primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within LBH. The following sites are reportedly accessed:

- ◀ Robert Clack High School (in Dagenham).
- ◀ Goals Dagenham (in Barking and Dagenham).
- ◀ Harris Academy Chafford Hundred (in Thurrock).
- ◀ Powerleague Newham (in Newham).

No 3G pitch demand is identified as being imported.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, there is an anticipated increase of 13 football teams by 2031 based on population projections. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required. This is factored into the supply and demand analysis below. It however shall not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the borough proposed in the Local Plan, and that this shall be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan report.

Future demand is also identified via club consultation (44 teams), although this is discounted at this stage as it is considered to be more aspirational.

Away from football, Champion RUFC, Romford & Gidea Park RUFC and Upminster RUFC also express future demand aspirations by eight teams, as identified in Part 5 of this report. All clubs specifically identify the need for access to 3G provision for training purposes.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football training

To quantify demand, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

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Its aim is that all teams will train at least once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based artificial; grass pitches and smaller sized 3G pitches to ensure their sustainability.

Based on the training model, with 394 teams currently based in LBH including exported demand), at least 10 11v11 3G pitches are required (rounded down from 10.3), meaning there is a potential need for seven additional 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet all current training demand as shown below.

Table 3.10: Current demand for 11v11 3G pitches in LBH (based on 38 teams per pitch)

| Current number of teams | 3G requirement ¹⁵ | Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents | Current shortfall |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 394 | 10 | 3 | 7 |

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of 3G pitches required on the assumption that every team is to train within the respective analysis area that they play matches in (although it is noted that some teams may play outside of their preferred area due to a lack of pitch availability). 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.

The shortfall equates to a deficit of three 11v11 3G pitches in the South Analysis Area, two each in the West and North Analysis Areas and one in the East Analysis Area.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

| Analysis area | Current demand | Current 3G requirement ¹⁶ | 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 |
| LBH | 394 | 11 | 3 | 8 |

In addition, it must also be noted that the deficits identified relate only to affiliated football training need. However, it must also be noted that the modelling assumes that all teams will want and can afford to access 3G provision, which in reality may not be the case. The emphasises the need for pitches to be priced fairly to ensure community use can be attracted and maximised.

When considering future demand for an additional 13 teams (based on population growth identified in Part 2 of this report), there is potential demand for 11 11v11 pitches overall (rounded down up from 10.55), which means a theoretical future shortfall of eight pitches when demand is split by analysis area.

It must be noted that the degree of future demand has the potential to be greater than that identified via population growth (to 2031), especially if participation rates continue to rise on a similar trajectory to what has occurred in the previous eight years. This will be explored in more detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.

¹⁵ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

¹⁶ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Whilst existing smaller size pitches can accommodate some demand, they should be seen as secondary supply as the size and nature of most is not ideal to service the majority of demand.

Table 3.12: Future demand for 3G pitches in LBH (based on 38 teams per pitch)

| Future number of teams | 3G requirement ¹⁷ | Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents | Future shortfall |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 407 | 11 | 3 | 8 |

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs in order to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision.

In LBH, this is especially the case on the full size pitches at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Drapers Academy, where some level of football demand is received. However, in contrast, the full size pitches at the remaining hockey sites are extremely well used for hockey, and the transfer of supplementary football usage may aid capacity issues. The table below summarises the level of football use (including all elements i.e., from formal training activity to recreational demand) each full size hockey suitable pitch currently receives compared to hockey usage and against peak time availability. This can be used to identify which pitches rely more heavily on such activity and therefore could be more likely to become unsustainable without it.

Table 3.13: Summary of football usage of full size hockey suitable pitches

| Site ID | Site | No. of pitches | Availability in the peak period (hours) | % of hockey usage | % of football usage | Hockey club users |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | 1 | 34 | - | 100% | - |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | 1 | 33.5 | 80% | 20% | Upminster HC |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | 1 | 29 | 80% | 20% | Romford HC |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | 1 | 34 | 30% | 70% | Upminster HC |
| 83 | The Champion School | 1 | 36 | 90% | 10% | Havering HC |

For further information, please see Part 6: Hockey.

Football match play

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. One substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches (with another being the use of hybrid pitches), providing that the pitch is FA/FIFA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

¹⁷ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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In LBH, all three 11v11 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches and nine teams are registered as using the provision to accommodate competitive demand.

Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified in Part 2 of this report, the number of teams utilising 3G pitches could potentially increase moving forward as this will relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

This will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document via a range of scenarios for transferring play.

Rugby union

As mentioned previously, there are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within LBH. Furthermore, the clubs do not access any provision outside of the Borough. However, there is evidence to warrant the potential creation of World Rugby compliant provision given the grass pitch shortfalls evident in Part 5 of this report, both overall and at sites such as at Romford and Gidea Park RFC and Upminster Hall Playing Fields. World Rugby compliant provision could offer a means to eradicating the deficits. However, grass pitch improvements may also provide a solution, and this will be tested further in the Strategy to follow.

Other sports

No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in LBH and therefore, at this moment in time, no further consideration is required.

3.5: Conclusion

Using the FA model, there is a clear shortfall of 3G pitches in LBH to meet football training demand requirements, as evidenced through the levels of unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football. As there are no other means of alleviating these shortfalls, as can be the case with grass pitches (e.g., through improving quality), new provision is required. The strategy document that will follow on from this report will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised, although it is recognised that new developments can be difficult from a planning perspective.

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 to fully determine requirements. This will also be explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

To clarify, the supply and demand summary does not account for the high level of exported demand or the potential for future demand to be higher than the team generation rates suggest if participation rates continue to rise as they have done since the last PPS.

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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.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Essex Cricket Board is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including LBH. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, Inspiring Generations, which is currently in the process of being refreshed.

For senior cricket in LBH, there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week, although Sunday activity is also common. In addition, there is also a presence of recreational and unaffiliated cricket taking place. This results in there being demand for cricket across the Borough all-year round (rather than just during summer months).

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

Essex Cricket is currently undertaking a County Facilities Strategy. These are being produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, unique to their geographic areas and based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The key themes emerging from the Essex County Facilities Strategy (July 2023) are:

- ◀ Demand for Cricket in East London boroughs is very high and increasing.
- ◀ Pitches in East London are very heavily overplayed, and the quality of the pitches are unsatisfactory to players.
- ◀ Poor availability and access to high quality grounds for all pathway cricket in Essex.
- ◀ Clubs are reaching capacity and have limited growth opportunities on their existing sites.
- ◀ There is an urgent need to protect existing sites from being lost.
- ◀ There is a growing challenge of managing and producing high quality grass pitches for all levels of cricket.
- ◀ Quality of existing facility provision is mixed across Essex and the lack of quality doesn't meet the needs of users while also potentially hindering the growth of the game
- ◀ There is a lack of good quality indoor provision for training and matches for the recreational game.
- ◀ Huge opportunity from housing growth to develop the cricket facility stock across Essex
- ◀ Climate Change will have a significant impact on preparation of pitches and cricket across Essex.

Whilst the following recommendations have been drawn:

- ◀ Demand for Cricket in East London boroughs is very high and increasing.
- ◀ Provide more sustainable playing facilities in the London Borough.
- ◀ Increase capacity and quality of club facilities to service growth of the junior and Women & Girls markets.
- ◀ Secure access to more indoor provision to provide playing opportunities all year.
- ◀ Secure access to more sites for performance pathway.
- ◀ Invest in the grounds management workforce.
- ◀ Protection of existing sites.

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- ◀ Promote and increase the usage of NTPs.
- ◀ Develop a long-term plan to minimise the impact of climate change.
- ◀ Accountable Decision Making.

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered in development:

- ◀ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, pavilions, practice areas).
- ◀ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages).
- ◀ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues).

The strategies will be used to shape investment priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise findings from PPOSS-related work, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

Consultation

There are eight affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within LBH. Of these, all clubs have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as seen below.

Table 4.1: List of affiliated clubs with analysis area

| Club | Analysis area | Responded |
|---|----------------------|------------------|
| Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes |
| Gidea Park & Romford CC | North | Yes |
| Harold Wood CC | East | Yes |
| Hornchurch Athletic CC | West | Yes |
| Hornchurch CC | West | Yes |
| Noak Hill Taverners CC | North | Yes |
| Rainham CC | South | Yes |
| Upminster CC | South | Yes |

Essex Cricket also supplied consultation findings with clubs and leagues from its emerging County Facilities Strategy to provide further context and information with regards to the unresponsive club.

4.2: Supply

There are 16 grass wicket squares in LBH across 14 sites. All 16 squares are available for community use.

The North Analysis Area accommodates six grass wicket squares, the East Analysis Area provides four and the South and West Analysis Areas provide three squares each. This is further summarised in the table below.

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Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use in LBH

| Analysis area | Squares available for community use |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| East | 4 |
| North | 6 |
| South | 3 |
| West | 3 |
| Total | 16 |

Changes from the previous study

The previous study identified a total of 16 grass cricket squares, of which, all were available for community use. Although, a square has since been provided at Noak Hill Sports Ground this replaced the disused square at Upminster Hall Playing Fields, which was last provided circa 2017. This is further outlined in the disused provision section below.

Non-turf pitches

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches and to accommodate recreational activity, which is particularly important in LBH due to the high presence of this.

In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 14 non-turf pitches (NTPs) across LBH. Of these, four accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining 10 are standalone wickets. Of the 14 NTPs, five are considered unavailable for community use. All of these are standalone and are all located at educational sites. There is, however, some form of community available provision located in each of the four analysis areas.

The NTPs are summarised in the table overleaf.

Table 4.3: Summary of NTPs in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Community use? | Number of NTPs | Position |
|---------|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College | West | No | 1 | Standalone |
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes | 1 | Square |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Standalone |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Standalone |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | South | No | 1 | Standalone |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 | Square |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | East | No | 1 | Standalone |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | 1 | Square |
| 37 | Harold Wood Primary School | East | Yes | 1 | Standalone |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | West | No | 1 | Standalone |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Yes | 1 | Square |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | North | Yes | 1 | Standalone |

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| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Community use? | Number of NTPs | Position |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 83 | The Champion School | East | Yes | 1 | Standalone |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | East | No | 1 | Standalone |

From a school perspective, NTPs provide a reliable cricket offer, without the need for specific cricket preparation to be taken on natural turf playing field land. In many instances, schools do not have the resource or expertise to prepare natural turf wickets so NTPs provide a resource to ensure cricket can remain a key element of curricular sport.

For the location of all grass wicket and NTP cricket provision, see Figure 4.1 below. For a key to the map, refer to Table 4.4.

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares within LBH



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Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Community use? | No. of squares | Users? | No. of grass wickets | No. of non-turf wickets |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College | West | No | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes | 1 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | 12 | 1 |
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | North | Yes | 1 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | 10 | - |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Upminster CC | 6 | - |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Upminster CC | - | 1 |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Upminster CC | - | 1 |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | Yes | 1 | Hornchurch CC Hornchurch Athletic CC | 8 | - |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | South | No | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 | Gidea Park & Romford CC | 11 | - |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 | Gidea Park & Romford CC | 10 | 1 |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | East | No | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | 1 | Harold Wood CC | 11 | - |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | 1 | Harold Wood CC | 9 | 1 |
| 37 | Harold Wood Primary School | East | Yes | 1 | Harold Wood CC | - | 1 |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Yes | 1 | Hornchurch CC | 15 | - |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | West | No | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Yes | 1 | Hornchurch Athletic CC | 12 | 1 |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | North | Yes | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 | Noak Hill Taverners CC | 9 | - |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | Yes | 1 | Hornchurch Athletic CC | 9 | - |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | Yes | 1 | Rainham CC | 12 | - |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | Yes | 1 | Upminster CC | 5 | 1 |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | East | No | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Yes | 1 | Upminster CC | 12 | - |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | West | Yes | 1 | Hornchurch CC | 8 | - |

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Disused provision

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.

Future provision

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.

London Cricket Trust

The London Cricket Trust is a charity formed by Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey County Cricket Clubs. The LCT works closely with the ECB to ensure that everyone in London has the opportunity to play cricket, get active, and meet new people in their local community. LCT works to 'put cricket back into London's parks' and has installed more than 100 non-turf facilities across 27 London boroughs since 2018.

In LBH, the NTP and practice facility at Ardleigh Green & Havering Atte-Bower CC (Central Park) is an LCT-funded facility and Essex Cricket in the Community have identified the Borough as a local priority for further non-turf investment via LCT in 2025.

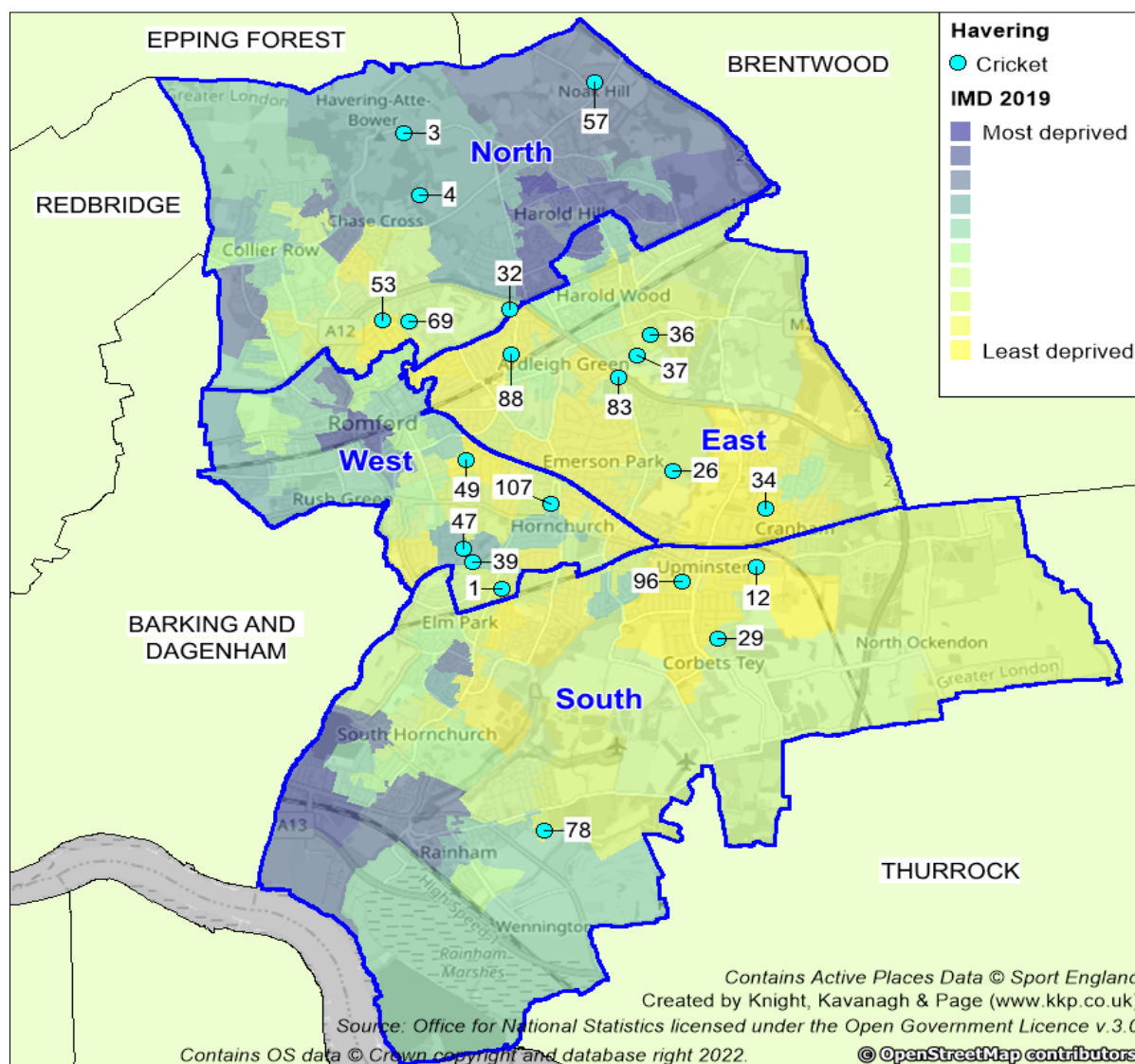
Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Several of the active cricket sites in LBH are located the more deprives areas of the Borough, with this especially relating to community available provision at:

- ◀ Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC.
- ◀ Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground).
- ◀ Noak Hill Sports Ground.
- ◀ Spring Farm Park.

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Figure 7.2: Location of cricket sites against IMD



Management and security of tenure

None of the cricket clubs own the facilities they use which is unusual for cricket, albeit not necessarily in a London borough. However, all the clubs in LBH do have security of tenure at their primary venue, mainly via long-term arrangements with the Council. The table below identifies tenure arrangements for all the affiliated clubs.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for LBH cricket clubs

| Site ID | Site | Club | Arrangement | Tenure |
|---------|---|---|---|--------|
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-atte-Bower Cricket Club | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | Leased from the Council (25 years) | Secure |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | Gidea Park & Romford CC | Annual lease from the Council | Secure |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Harold Wood CC | 25-year lease agreement from the Council. | Secure |

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| Site ID | Site | Club | Arrangement | Tenure |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--------|
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | Hornchurch CC | Long term lease agreement from the Council. | Secure |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Hornchurch Athletic CC | 25-year lease agreement from the Council. | Secure |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | Noak Hill Taverners CC | Rented on an annual basis from the Council | Secure |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | Rainham CC | Ongoing lease agreement with the Council | Secure |
| 96 | Upminster Park | Upminster CC | Long term lease agreement from the Council (expires in 2035) | Secure |

All clubs have security of tenure on the sites they use through a long term lease agreement in place or have arrangements with the Council, where future access is deemed to be secure. It should, however, be noted that the agreements for some clubs are relatively close to expiry. This can be problematic particularly if clubs are looking to develop their sites or apply for external funding. Many funding bodies require lease agreements of over 25 years in order for applicants to be successful.

In addition to the above, five of the eight clubs also access secondary venues due to their size and a lack of capacity on their main square/s. These venues are most commonly through short-term rental agreements where tenure is inevitably less secure. That being said, no clubs report an issue with this as they do not always want to be tied into longer term arrangements when their requirements may not always necessitate access to these sites.

The following table identifies clubs that use secondary venues and the sites accessed. Some use several secondary venues. Hornchurch, Hornchurch Athletic and Upminster cricket clubs access a further two sites.

Table 4.6: Summary of secondary venues

| Club | Site/s accessed |
|---|--|
| Ardleigh Green & Havering-atte-Bower CC | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) |
| Harold Wood CC | Harold Wood Primary School |
| Hornchurch CC | Emerson Park Academy Fielders Sports Ground |
| Hornchurch Athletic CC | Emerson Park Academy Raphael Park |
| Upminster CC | Coopers Company & Coburn School The Champion School |

Pitch quality

Cricket pitch quality has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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

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The audit of community available grass wicket squares in LBH found four (25%) to be good quality and 12 (75%) to be standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).

Figure 4.2: Quality ratings (community use grass wicket squares)

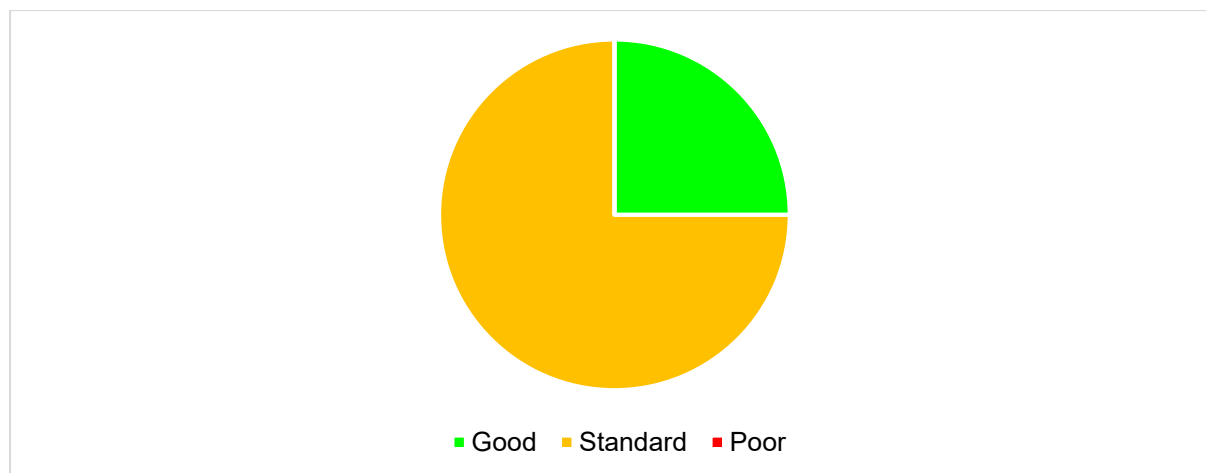


Table 4.7: Summary of quality of grass wicket squares

| Good | Standard | Poor |
|------|----------|------|
| 4 | 12 | 0 |

This is summarised site-by-site in the following table.

Table 4.8: Quality ratings community available grass wickets (site by site)

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | No. of squares | Square quality |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | 1 | Standard |
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | North | 1 | Standard |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | 1 | Good |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | 1 | Standard |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | 1 | Standard |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | 1 | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | 1 | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | 1 | Standard |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | 1 | Standard |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | 1 | Good |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | 1 | Standard |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | 1 | Good |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | 1 | Standard |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | 1 | Standard |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | 1 | Standard |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | West | 1 | Good |

As illustrated, the good quality squares are located at:

- ✦ Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ✦ Hylands Park.

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- ◀ Raphael Park.
- ◀ Fielders Sports Ground.

Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC reports the square on site has improved in its quality recently due to taking on additional groundsmen and ensuring the square and outfield is kept in good condition. However, it does report some dog fouling surrounding the square due to the open access nature of the site and it can impact on quality and match play. As such, it is rated as standard quality.

Hornchurch Athletic CC report the quality of the square and outfield at Hylands Park has increased since last season due to the Club investing in a more rigorous maintenance programme.

Essex Cricket Board identifies that work is ongoing to refurbish the non-turf wicket at Harold Wood Primary School to improve its quality.

Despite the remaining 12 squares being assessed as standard quality, they still present some issues. As an example, Hornchurch CC reports some issues with drainage at Emerson Park Academy and needs to be resolved. It cites that this has caused some cancellation of matches this season.

Gidea Park & Romford CC reports the squares at Gidea Park Sports Ground has declined in quality since the previous season due to rising costs of maintaining the square and the outfield. Moreover, there is poor drainage on the site which has resulted in cancellation of matches. In addition, the Club state the NTP accompanying the grass square is unusable and is rated as poor quality.

Harold Wood CC reports the square at Harold Wood Park has worsened in quality since last season due to the rising costs of maintaining the square and the outfield. Moreover, there is poor drainage on the site which has resulted in cancellation of matches. The provision is rated as standard quality.

Upminster CC reports that its square has also diminished in quality since last season and state that this is due to the lack of groundwork, as well as football teams playing on the outfield. This is in relation to provision at Upminster Park.

Noak Hill Taverners CC reports the square at Noak Hill Sports Ground has declined in quality since last season and report this is due to the deer and dog fouling on the square which has to be cleared before each game.

Harold Wood CC reports that access to a secondary ground at Harold Wood Primary School is satisfactory but that it does not receive the level of attention the Club expects, with the outfield maintenance not being regular and rates the facility as poor quality.

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, as and when they come on board over the next few years as part of the Stage E process. Please see Pitch Power Assessments section on the next page for further information.

Performance Quality Standards

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends application of its Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. This assesses cricket squares to ascertain whether pitches meet the required standards, which are benchmarked by the Ground Maintenance Association (GMA).

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Table 4.9: Performance Quality Standard ratings

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

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

PitchPower Assessment

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, 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 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, 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 web app 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.

The functionality of the app for cricket was trialled in 2023 and it set to become more commonly used in 2024. It is also unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward, however, it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

Non-turf wickets

NTP provision is generally of a good or standard quality rating. However, as mentioned above, the NTP at Harold Wood Primary School is of poor quality due to the age of the provision and lack of maintenance from the school.

Changes from the previous study

Generally, since the previous study, the overall quality of community available grass cricket squares has seemingly improved, with the number of good quality squares increasing from three to four. The number of standard quality squares has decreased, but only due to the increase in good quality squares.

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Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the affected or at risk clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the Borough is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

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. This is summarised site-by-site below.

Table 4.10: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available squares

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Available for community use? | No. of squares | Ancillary facility quality |
|---------|--|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes | 1 | Standard |
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | North | Yes | 1 | Standard |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 1 | Poor |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | Yes | 1 | Poor |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | 2 | Poor |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | 2 | Standard |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Yes | 1 | Standard |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Yes | 1 | Poor |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 | Standard |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | Yes | 1 | Standard |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | Yes | 1 | Poor |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | Yes | 1 | Poor |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Yes | 1 | Poor |

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| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Available for community use? | No. of squares | Ancillary facility quality |
|---------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | West | Yes | 1 | Poor |

The poor quality facilities are at Coopers Company & Coburn School, Emerson Park Academy, Gidea Park Sports Ground, Hylands Park, Spring Farm Park, The Champion School, Upminster Park and Fielders Sports Ground. At the education sites, the provision is assessed as such due to them not being fit for purpose for cricket activity.

The provision at Spring Farm Park is assessed as poor quality due to the changing rooms being outdated and poorly maintained as well as being too small to accommodate all demand.

At Gidea Park Sports Ground, the provision is assessed as poor due to it being outdated and has not received any significant investment in a number of years. In addition, it is unsuitable for women's and girls and disabled people. Gidea Park CC state it would ideally like to refurbish the clubhouse to make it more disability friendly.

Elsewhere, through consultation, Upminster CC reports that it has aspirations to refurbish the building to build the growing demand of its women's and girl's sections. It is currently sourcing funding to undertake the project. The provision at Upminster Park is currently assessed as poor.

Hornchurch CC reports aspirations to modernise its clubhouse at Hylands Park as it does not cater for women's and girl's demand. As part of the plans, the club states it would like to create additional changing rooms and an extension to the kitchen and social area. Although the social area is in standard condition.

The facilities at Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC is assessed as standard quality, although if the club continues to grow its demand it would not be sufficient to meet all the demand. Through consultation, the club reports it has plans to modernise its clubhouse to better cater for its women's and girls' demand.

With numerous sites in need of additional changing rooms, it must be noted that currently, no sites provide dedicated female facilities. 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. For example, no site 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.

Away from the clubhouse provision, from the responding clubs, none report any further issues with their ancillary facilities. This includes car parking, whereby all consultees states that they satisfied with the existing arrangements.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use. In addition, given the high level of recreational demand taking place in LBH, outdoor practice nets can also help to accommodate such activity.

In LBH, the table below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed practice nets. In total, there are 10 sites supplying 24 bays.

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Table 4.11: Summary of practice nets in LBH

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Available for community use? | No. of nets/bays |
|---------|---|---------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes | 2 |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | 2 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | 3 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | 2 |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Yes | 2 |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Yes | 2 |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | Yes | 1 |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | Yes | 2 |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | East | No | 2 |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Yes | 3 |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Yes | 3 |

Whilst 10 sites providing practice nets represents a relatively large supply, clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities. These are:

- ✦ Harold Wood CC.
- ✦ Hornchurch Athletic CC.
- ✦ Noak Hill Taverners CC.
- ✦ Upminster CC.

Table 4.12: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

| Site ID | Site name | Club | Comments |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | Gidea Park & Romford CC | The Club would like more net facilities and a new NTP. |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | Harold Wood CC | The Club needs an extra non turf practice net |
| 49 | Hylands Park | Hornchurch Athletic CC | The Club needs an extra non turf practice net |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | Noak Hill Taverners CC | The Club would like to install non turf practice nets. |
| 96 | Upminster Park | Upminster CC | The Club aspires to install more practice nets on site. |

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

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS only considers outdoor playing pitches, a cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season.

In total, four clubs report accessing indoor provision for winter net pre-season training sessions, with the following sites in LBH utilised:

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

Rainham CC utilise indoor provision for winter training, however, this takes place outside of the Borough at Harris Academy Ockenden in Thurrock.

The Havering Cricket League runs an indoor competition during the winter months for junior teams ranging from under 9's to under 15's. This is hosted at Coopers Company & Coburn School in its sports hall. League officials were contacted to discuss this; however, no response was received.

The Champion School installed a new ECB approved vinyl surface in 2023 in its 4-court sports hall. The School reports that several clubs are looking to use the facility over the winter months in preparation for the new season.

As of October 2024, a new indoor cricket centre has opened called Rockchase Sports. It has a six lane net facility and is available for community use.

4.3: Demand

There are eight clubs in LBH which collectively provide 118 teams. This equates to 40 senior men's, four senior women's and 74 junior teams (including 13 dedicated junior girls' teams).

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the South Analysis Area (51 teams) based on large clubs such as Rainham and Upminster cricket clubs. The fewest number of teams is found in the East Analysis Area with 19 teams.

Table 4.13: Summary of teams by analysis area

| Analysis area | Senior men | Senior women | Junior boys' | Junior girls' |
|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| East | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| North | 10 | 1 | 15 | - |
| South | 13 | 2 | 28 | 9 |
| West | 10 | - | 9 | 2 |
| LBH | 40 | 4 | 61 | 13 |

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Club makeup in LBH is mixed. Most, such as Ardleigh Green & Havering Atte-Bower, Gidea Park & Romford, Harold Wood, Hornchurch Athletic CC, Hornchurch and Upminster cricket clubs are large and provide a significant number of teams within several formats. However, Noak Hill Taverners CC is the smallest club fielding just two senior men's teams. This is summarised club-by-club in the following table.

Table 4.14: Current summary of teams by club

| Club | Analysis area | No. of senior men's teams | No. of senior women's teams | No. of junior boys' teams | No. of junior girls' teams | Total |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | 3 | - | 3 | - | 6 |
| Gidea Park & Romford CC | North | 5 | 1 | 12 | - | 18 |
| Harold Wood CC | East | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 19 |
| Hornchurch Athletic CC | West | 5 | - | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| Hornchurch CC | West | 5 | - | 5 | - | 10 |
| Noak Hill Taverners CC | North | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Rainham CC | South | 3 | - | 5 | - | 8 |
| Upminster CC | South | 10 | 2 | 23 | 9 | 44 |
| Total | - | 40 | 4 | 61 | 13 | 118 |

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Changes from the previous study

There has been strong growth at most clubs since the previous study in 2016, including significant increases for clubs such as Hornchurch, Rainham and Upminster cricket clubs. This equates to an overall increase in demand of 44% with the number of teams growing from 82 to 118.

In addition, the 2016 study predicted, through population growth projections to 2031, there would be an increase of one senior men's and nine junior boys' teams. Therefore, current demand well exceeds the projected growth.

Most clubs attribute their growth to an increase in junior demand, with many stating that this has been driven by the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Notwithstanding the above, since the previous study, both Maylands and St Andrews CC previously fielded demand in the Borough, but now play entirely outside of LBH (see exported demand section below).

Noak Hill Taverners CC was not included in the previous study but have been established for a number of years and now increase the level of demand in the Borough.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

Upminster CC reports that it has no capacity to cater for further increases in demand following recent growth in junior's and women's participation. It notes that it has exhausted all options with regard to accessing alternative venues and is now turning potential players away. This represents latent demand.

Similarly, Hornchurch Athletic CC reports that it could field women's and junior teams if it had access to additional capacity or sites within the Borough. It reports having enquired about other sites but states that no capacity exists when required.

As noted previously, through consultation with the Essex Cricket Board it reports it is working with Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC to explore options for a third ground in order to meet demand as its current grounds are operating at capacity.

Imported/exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered in LBH. Likewise, imported demand is demand from neighbouring authorities accessing pitches in LBH to play competitive matches.

Maylands CC exports demand outside of the Borough. It is a nomadic club (meaning it does not have a dedicated home venue) and does not currently play in LBH, with most of its activity taking place in Southend-on-Sea. However, it does consider itself to be LBH-based, meaning this demand can be considered as being currently exported.

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Similarly, St Andrews CC exports demand outside of LBH and uses Hannakins Farm Community Centre in neighbouring Basildon which is due to a lack of capacity in LBH. The Club considers itself to be Basildon-based as it has played in the Borough since 2017 and has no aspirations to return to LBH.

Furthermore, Essex Cricket Board reports that there is a high level of exported demand from LBH residents to play for clubs and at sites in neighbouring authorities. Whilst this is not quantifiable in the same way the displacement of clubs and teams is, it is said that if more provision existed within then less demand would travel outside of the Borough. This is especially the case given that capacity of provision within LBH is reported to be significantly limited, with clubs looking for additional venues.

No imported demand is currently identified.

Women's and girls' cricket

The ECB's refreshed strategy called "Inspire Generations" was announced in January 2019 and it builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position than it is in 2019. The Strategy has six key priorities and activities including to increase the representation of women and girls in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

In LBH, Harold Wood, Hornchurch Athletic and Upminster cricket clubs' field dedicated women's and girls' teams. Linked to this, 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.

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 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.

Additional activity

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, clubs in LBH can register to become an ECB All Stars cricket centre. Once registered, they can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

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The programme has the following aims:

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

In LBH, six clubs currently deliver All Stars activity (see Table 4.15 for the clubs).

Dynamos cricket

Dynamos provides the next step for all those graduating from All Stars cricket, thus developing a pathway to retain juniors who progress, as well as being an introduction for all 8-11 year olds new to the sport. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to transition through to hardball cricket.

In LBH, five clubs currently take part in the Dynamos initiative (see Table 4.15 for the clubs).

Softball cricket

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

Five clubs field women's softball demand in LBH.

The below table summarises which clubs host softball, All Stars and Dynamos activity.

Table 4.15: LBH clubs involved in ECB initiatives

| Club name | All Stars | Women/Girls | Dynamos |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | Yes | No | Yes |
| Gidea Park & Romford CC | Yes | Yes | No |
| Harold Wood CC | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hornchurch Athletic CC | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hornchurch CC | No | No | No |
| Noak Hill Taverners CC | Yes | No | Yes |
| Rainham CC | Yes | Yes | No |
| Upminster CC | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Total | 7/8 (88%) | 5/8(63%) | 5/8(63%) |

Across the Borough the following clubs offer all three cricket initiatives: Harold Wood CC, Hornchurch Athletic CC, Hornchurch CC and Upminster CC.

In addition, the following clubs all specifically state aspirations through consultation to develop or further develop both women/girls and junior demand. This could be via new or increased future involvement in the initiatives.

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They are as follows:

- ◀ Gidea Park & Romford CC.
- ◀ Hornchurch Athletic CC.
- ◀ Hornchurch CC.
- ◀ Rainham CC.
- ◀ Upminster CC.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005, in London. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on NTPs. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

LMS does not currently operate in LBH. However, it does in the neighbouring authority of Redbridge, with three midweek leagues and two Sunday leagues all located at Hainault Recreation Ground. The midweek leagues have eight teams each whereas the Sunday leagues has 10 teams. It is likely that some LBH demand is being accommodated within these.

However, should suitable locations be available in LBH it is something that will be considered in the future as there is currently no dedicated alternative for competitive, non-traditional play. As such, a potential site should be identified which could suitably accommodate such play, preferably one that is centrally located, has easy access and good quality supporting facilities.

Unaffiliated demand

In addition to the affiliated cricket clubs in LBH a number of unaffiliated teams play in the Borough. These generally take part in friendly or social matches or compete in shorter forms of the game. Those unearthed/recorded as part of this audit are listed below:

- ◀ Anson St George CC (Fielders Sports Ground).
- ◀ Dark Horses CC (nomadic).
- ◀ London Falcons CC (nomadic).
- ◀ Noak Hill Stars CC (nomadic).
- ◀ Thunder Boys CC (nomadic).
- ◀ Wandering City Boys CC (nomadic).

Informal demand

Although no informal use is recorded on cricket squares in LBH, it is considered that informal cricket is being heavily played elsewhere, such as on parks, recreation grounds and even on macadam surfaces such as car parks. Informal formats of play are often preferred amongst South Asian communities, which have a large presence within LBH. The ECB considers the development of cricket within these communities to be a key focus.

Disability cricket

Essex Cricket in the Community deliver Ability cricket programmes in Havering offering two of its programmes.

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The first one is the SEND schools programme where we go into Forest Approach school to deliver a mixture of softball or Table Cricket sessions with 3 classes. There are 36 participants getting involved and enjoying learning new activities. Forest Approach also entered in the Essex Table Cricket County final.

The 2nd programme that we deliver in Havering is our Disability Cricket Champion Club programme where Harold Wood CC provide disability cricket to people with a disability, aged 10+ to Adult on a Friday evening in the summer months. The attendance is usually around 10-16 people.

The ACE Programme

The ACE Programme is a charity which aims to inspire the wider game and was designed to engage young people of African and Caribbean heritage. The programme provides equal opportunity, equality for females, and looks to develop key strategic partnerships and capture key insights as the charity grows. ACE also appreciates the chance for sport to have a wider impact on the local community.

It operates as a Talent ID programme which is funded by Sport England, with additional funding from the Sir Tom Moore Foundation. Consultation with the ACE Programme reports it does not currently deliver any projects in LBH.

African Caribbean Cricket Association (ACCA)

The ACCA does not directly deliver cricket activity within the Borough but works with Essex Cricket Board to encourage and develop opportunities for black and African Caribbean heritage players in inner London. The ACCA worked with and helped Essex Cricket Board in its establishment of the ACE Programme and continues to advocate it.

Future demand

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

Notwithstanding the above, the ECB's five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024 includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Population forecasts

Based on population projections to 2031 using ONS projections (in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass cricket squares pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

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It, however, does not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Borough proposed in the Local Plan, and this will be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan.

Using the above, it is predicted in LBH there will be a growth of three senior men's, five boys and one girls' teams to 2031 – the date selected to align the PPOSS with the Council's emerging Local Plan. This is shown in the table below.

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Table 4.16: Future demand via population growth (2031)

| Age group | Current population per sport age group | Team generation rate | No. of new teams generated by the new population | No. of new teams generated by the new population ¹⁸ | Peak time | Average games for age group | Match equivalent session per season ¹⁹ |
|------------------|--|----------------------|--|--|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| Men (18-55yrs) | 62,310 | 1:1598 | 2.7 | 3 | Saturday | 12 | 36 |
| Women (18-55yrs) | 66,939 | 1:16735 | 0.2 | 0 | Sunday | 12 | 0 |
| Boys (7-18yrs) | 19,343 | 1:322 | 4.5 | 5 | Midweek | 6 | 30 |
| Girls (7-18yrs) | 18,649 | 1:1435 | 1.1 | 1 | Midweek | 6 | 6 |

As noted above, the previous PPS study in 2016 suggested that there would be a potential growth of 10 teams by 2031, which has already been surpassed by a growth of 27 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in LBH is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives as well as the growth in recreational demand.

Linked to the above, 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.

Furthermore, the demand identified is based solely upon current levels of formal demand from community-based cricket clubs and does not capture informal or recreational activity.

Participation increases

Of the clubs in LBH, seven indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation in the future. This amounts to a total predicted growth of 35 teams; eight senior men's, seven senior women's and 19 junior teams.

Table 4.17: Future demand expressed by clubs

| Club | Analysis area | Senior men's | Senior women's | Juniors |
|---|---------------|--------------|----------------|---------|
| Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | 1 | - | - |
| Gidea Park & Romford CC | North | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Harold Wood CC | East | 1 | - | 5 |
| Hornchurch Athletic CC | West | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Hornchurch CC | West | - | 1 | 1 |
| Noak Hill Taverners CC | North | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Rainham CC | South | - | - | - |

¹⁸ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹⁹ 2 teams require 1 pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 1 team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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| Club | Analysis area | Senior men's | Senior women's | Juniors |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| Upminster CC | South | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| - | Total | 8 | 7 | 19 |

This is summarised by analysis area below. The largest proportion of future demand is expressed in the North Analysis Area.

Table 4.18: Summary of future demand aspirations by analysis area

| Analysis area | Senior men's | Senior women's | Juniors |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| East | 1 | - | 5 |
| North | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| South | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| West | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 5 | 6 | 19 |

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is factored in at this stage, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. However, the proceeding Strategy document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

4.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

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

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

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

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The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Potential capacity | Play is below the level the site could sustain |
| At capacity | Play matches the level the site can sustain |
| Overused | Play exceeds the level the site can sustain |

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season; therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This generally translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and where matches can be played on a variety of days. However, this is not the case where midweek demand is particularly high, with capacity still limited due to general site usage.

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

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in LBH is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including senior women's teams, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

Education usage

Whilst only few available squares based at schools currently have any recorded community use, it must be recognised that the majority do cater for curricular and extra-curricular, especially at those with a relatively strong cricket programme, such as at Coopers Company & Coburn School, Emerson Park Academy and The Champion School, where internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access, with this demand therefore built into the below analysis.

Spare capacity

The table below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4.20 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 4.19: Spare capacity examples

| Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples) | Explanation of spare capacity |
|---|--|
| No | If the cell has a "no" it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand. |

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| Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples) | Explanation of spare capacity |
|--|--|
| Yes | If the cell has a “yes” that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand. |
| Yes | If the cell has a “yes” and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised. |

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Table 4.20: Capacity analysis of cricket squares in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Available for community use? | Security of tenure | Formal users | No. of squares | Square quality | No. of grass wickets | Capacity (Sessions per season) | Actual play (Sessions per season) | Capacity rating (sessions per season) | Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday) | Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday) | Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek) |
|---------|--|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 3 | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | North | Yes | Secure | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | 1 | Standard | 12 | 48 | 47 | 1 | No | No | No |
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | North | Yes | Secure | Ardleigh Green & Havering-Atte-Bower CC | 1 | Standard | 10 | 40 | 10 | 30 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Yes | Unsecure | Upminster CC | 1 | Good | 6 | 30 | 115 | 85 | No | No | No |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | Yes | Unsecure | Hornchurch Athletic CC Hornchurch CC | 1 | Standard | 8 | 32 | 32 | 0 | No | Yes | Yes |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | Secure | Gidea Park & Romford CC | 1 | Standard | 11 | 44 | 63 | 19 | No | No | No |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Yes | Secure | Gidea Park & Romford CC | 1 | Standard | 10 | 40 | 56 | 16 | No | No | No |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | Secure | Harold Wood CC | 1 | Standard | 11 | 44 | 80 | 36 | No | No | No |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | Yes | Secure | Harold Wood CC | 1 | Standard | 9 | 36 | 66 | 30 | No | No | No |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | Yes | Secure | Hornchurch CC | 1 | Standard | 15 | 60 | 77 | 17 | No | No | No |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | Yes | Secure | Hornchurch Athletic CC | 1 | Good | 12 | 60 | 73 | 13 | No | No | No |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | Yes | Secure | Noak Hill Taverners CC | 1 | Standard | 9 | 36 | 38 | 2 | No | No | No |
| 69 | Raphael Park | North | Yes | Secure | Hornchurch Athletic CC | 1 | Good | 9 | 45 | 22 | 23 | No | Yes | Yes |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | Yes | Secure | Rainham CC | 1 | Standard | 12 | 48 | 50 | 2 | No | No | No |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | Yes | Unsecure | Upminster CC | 1 | Standard | 5 | 20 | 45 | 25 | No | No | No |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | Yes | Secure | Upminster CC | 1 | Standard | 12 | 48 | 80 | 32 | No | No | No |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | West | Yes | Secure | Hornchurch CC | 1 | Good | 8 | 40 | 8 | 32 | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

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

Saturday cricket spare capacity

For senior men’s cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

In LBH, there are two squares across the same number of sites that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.21: Summary of actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket

| Site ID | Site name | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) | Comments |
|---------|--|---|--|
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | 30 | Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | 32 | Used by one Saturday team; spare capacity for one additional team. |

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 62 match equivalent sessions per season. This is predominantly found in the West Analysis Area with 32 match equivalent sessions identified and the North Analysis Area has 30 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. In comparison, the East and South Analysis Areas have no actual spare capacity for Saturday cricket.

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Table 4.22: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) |
|---------------|---|
| East | - |
| North | 30 |
| South | - |
| West | 32 |
| LBH | 62 |

Sunday cricket spare capacity

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are three squares across the same number of sites in LBH that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.23: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

| Site ID | Site name | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) | Comments |
|---------|--|---|------------------|
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | 30 | Unused on Sunday |
| 69 | Raphael Park | 23 | Unused on Sunday |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | 32 | Unused on Sunday |

In total, actual spare capacity equates to 85 match equivalent sessions per season. This is predominantly found in the North Analysis Area with 53 match equivalent sessions per season identified. The West Analysis Area has 32 match equivalent sessions per season identified, whilst the South and West Analysis Areas do not have any actual spare capacity.

Table 4.24: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) |
|---------------|---|
| East | - |
| North | 53 |
| South | - |
| West | 32 |
| LBH | 85 |

Midweek cricket spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

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For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking this into consideration, there are three squares across three sites in LBH have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek.

Table 4.25: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek (junior) cricket

| Site ID | Site name | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) | Comments |
|---------|--|---|----------------|
| 4 | Bedfords Park (Brian Clay Memorial Ground) | 30 | Unused midweek |
| 69 | Raphael Park | 23 | Unused midweek |
| 107 | Fielders Sports Ground | 32 | Unused midweek |

A total of 85 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity is identified for midweek cricket, with most existing in the North Analysis Area (53 match equivalent sessions). In comparison, the East and South analysis areas have no actual spare capacity for midweek cricket.

Table 4.26: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (sessions per season) |
|---------------|---|
| East | - |
| North | 53 |
| South | - |
| West | 32 |
| LBH | 85 |

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In LBH, nine sites are overplayed by a total of 277 match equivalent sessions per season, as summarised below.

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Table 4.27: Summary of overplay

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Overplay (Matches per season) |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | 85 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | 19 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | 16 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | 36 |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | 30 |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | 17 |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | 13 |
| 57 | Noak Hill Sports Ground | North | 2 |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | 2 |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | 25 |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | 32 |
| - | - | Total | 277 |

The overplay is predominately found in the South Analysis Area, with this amounting to 119 match equivalent sessions per season, followed by the East Analysis Area with 91 match equivalent sessions per season. The least overplay is identified in the West Analysis Area (30 match equivalent sessions per season).

Table 4.28: Summary of overplay by analysis area

| Analysis area | Overplay (match equivalent sessions a season) |
|---------------|---|
| East | 91 |
| North | 37 |
| South | 119 |
| West | 30 |
| LBH | 277 |

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

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

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, future demand is considered based on team generation rates which are driven by population increases. This is because any participation increases are considered to be more aspirational and/or theoretical, albeit that is not to say that increased growth is unlikely, particularly if recent trends continue (this will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document).

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

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Table 4.29: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| East | - | 91 | 91 | - | 0 |
| North | 12 | 37 | 25 | - | 0 |
| South | - | 119 | 119 | - | 0 |
| West | 12 | 30 | 18 | - | 0 |
| LBH | 24 | 277 | 253 | 36²⁰ | 289 |

As seen in the table above, there is a current shortfall for Saturday cricket in LBH, amounting to 253 match equivalent sessions per season.

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall increases by 36 match equivalent sessions per season (three senior men's teams) to total 289 match equivalent sessions per season.

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

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

For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by Sunday teams (six) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 4.30: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| East | - | 91 | 91 | - | 0 |
| North | 24 | 37 | 13 | - | 0 |
| South | - | 119 | 119 | - | 0 |
| West | 12 | 30 | 18 | - | 0 |
| LBH | 36 | 277 | 241 | - | 241 |

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 241 match equivalent sessions per season for Sunday cricket.

No future demand is identified through population growth, meaning no change takes place to the future capacity analysis.

²⁰ Future demand is based on the growth of three senior men's team identified through the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator.

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Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket.

Table 4.31: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| East | - | 91 | 91 | - | - |
| North | 47 | 37 | 10 | - | - |
| South | - | 119 | 119 | - | - |
| West | 24 | 30 | 6 | - | - |
| LBH | 71 | 277 | 206 | 36²¹ | 242 |

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 206 match equivalent sessions for midweek cricket, with a deficit displayed in three of the four analysis areas. Further demand also results in a growth in the shortfall across the analysis areas, with this equating to an overall deficit of 242 match equivalent sessions. As such, the shortfalls are smaller than what has been evidenced for Saturday and Sunday cricket.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that for midweek cricket there is a stock of NTPs that can be used to accommodate some of the excess demand via the transfer of play and greater utilisation.

4.5: Conclusion

Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in LBH to cater for all forms of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek) and the shortfalls are relatively significant. When considering future demand, the deficits also worsen for all cricket formats.

Overplay is predominately caused by the sheer quantity of demand from clubs such as Upminster CC at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Upminster Park.

The table below summarises this further.

Table 4.32: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across LBH

| Peak time period | Actual spare capacity | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Saturday | 24 | 277 | 253 | 36 | 289 |
| Sunday | 36 | 277 | 241 | - | 241 |
| Midweek | 71 | 277 | 206 | 36 | 242 |

The Strategy will consider the role in which disused provision could potentially play in accommodating demand and alleviating current / future shortfalls.

²¹ Future demand is based on the growth of five junior boys and one junior girls' teams identified through the Sport England Pitch Calculator.

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A scenario exploring how future demand, through club aspirations of five senior men's, six senior women's and 18 junior teams will affect the future capacity analysis will also be included in the proceeding Strategy document.

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.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. As part of this, Club Developers deliver core programmes for clubs across LBH.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as the Touch Rugby Union programme. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

The rugby union season generally runs from September to May.

Consultation

A total of four rugby union clubs are identified as playing within LBH. All four clubs responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 75%.

Table 5.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

| Club | Responded? |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Campion RUFC | No |
| Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | Yes |
| Old Cooperians RUFC | Yes |
| Upminster RUFC | Yes |

5.2: Supply

Within LBH, there are 24 grass rugby union pitches identified across 11 sites, with 19 pitches available for community use across seven sites. The unavailable pitches are provided at Bower Park Academy, Emerson Park Academy, Hall Mead School, The Brittons Academy and The Royal Liberty School (all education sites).

Of the pitches available for community use, all are senior pitches with no age grade pitches provided within the Borough. As shown in the table below, the majority are identified in the East Analysis Area (10 pitches), whereas the South Analysis Area has the fewest (three pitches).

Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

| Analysis area | No. of senior pitches | No. of age grade pitches | Total |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| East | 10 | - | 10 |
| North | - | - | - |
| South | 3 | - | 3 |
| West | 6 | - | 6 |
| LBH | 19 | - | 19 |

The audit generally only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches, with recommended dimensions shown in the table below. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

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Table 5.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

| Age | Playing format | Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²² |
|--------|----------------------|---|
| U7 | Age grade mixed | 20 x 12 |
| U8 | Age grade mixed | 45 x 22 |
| U9 | Age grade mixed | 60 x 30 |
| U10 | Age grade mixed | 60 x 35 |
| U11 | Age grade mixed | 60 x 43 |
| U12 | Age grade mixed | 60 x 43 |
| U13 | Age grade boys/girls | 90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls) |
| U14 | Age grade boys/girls | 100 x 70 |
| U15 | Age grade boys/girls | 100 x 70 |
| U16 | Age grade boys/girls | 100 x 70 |
| U17 | Age grade boys/girls | 100 x 70 |
| U18 | Colts | 100 x 70 |
| Senior | Senior | 100 x 70 |

The figure overleaf identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing LBH. For a key to the map, see Table 5.8 and Table 5.9.

²² Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within LBH



Changes from the previous study

There are seven fewer pitches identified compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016. This is because of fewer pitches being marked out at schools as no clubs have lost pitches.

Disused provision

There is a disused rugby pitch at Hornchurch High School. The school reports it has installed a MUGA that does not allow for the correct run offs for a senior rugby pitch.

Future provision

Hornchurch High School has plans to swap the rugby and football pitch around to accommodate a youth 9v9 football pitch and a senior grass rugby union pitch.

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Management

Of the 24 pitches provided, 15 are operated by education providers, five are operated by the Council and the remaining four are operated by Romford & Gidea Park RUFC.

Table 5.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

| Community use | Council | Education | Sports club |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Available | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| Unavailable | - | 4 | - |
| Total | 5 | 15 | 4 |

Security of tenure

Tenure of club sites in LBH is generally secure. A site is thought to have secure tenure if a club has either freehold or a long-term lease agreement in place, whilst council sites are also considered to be secure as part of a long-term commitment to provide leisure facilities.

Sites used by each club and the tenure arrangements in place are summarised in the following table.

Table 5.5: Summary of tenure for rugby union clubs in LBH

| Club | Site/s used | Agreement | Tenure |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Campion RUFC | Cottons Park | Rented | Secure |
| Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | Romford and Gide Park RFC | Freehold | Secure |
| Old Cooperians RUFC | Coopers Company & Coborn School | Rented | Unsecure |
| Upminster RUFC | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | Leased | Secure |

Campion RUFC's home ground at Cottons Park is owned by the Council. The Club rents the pitches on an annual basis. This is considered to be secure as it is assumed a guarantee exists that the pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years at least as part of the Council's commitment to sport.

In contrast though, although Old Cooperians RUFC also rents its facilities at The Coopers Company and Coburn School on a seasonal basis, this is deemed to be unsecure tenure as there is no formal agreement in place, meaning there is no guarantee that they will continue to be accessible in the future.

Upminster RUFC home ground is owned by the Council. Its current lease agreement is due to expire in 2035 and is currently in discussions with the Council to extend for another 50 years.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across LBH have been assessed via a combination of site visits (November 2023) using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

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

Table 5.6: Definition of maintenance categories

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

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

Table 5.7: Definition of drainage categories

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

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

Table 5.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

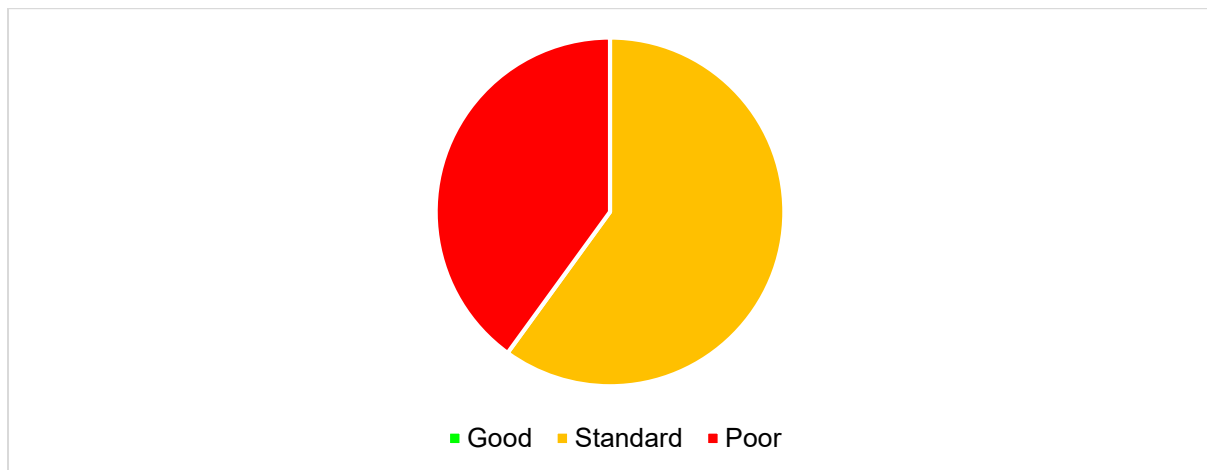
The above was calculated for each pitch within LBH following site assessments, with findings then checked and challenged against user consultation and NGB assessments/knowledge. This has then allowed an 'agreed quality rating' to be established.

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

Of pitches that are available for community use in LBH, 12 are assessed as standard quality and eight as poor quality. None are good quality. The unavailable pitches at Emerson Park Academy, The Brittons Academy and The Royal Liberty School are assessed as standard quality whereas the pitches at Hall Mead School is assessed as poor quality.

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Figure 5.2: Quality of community available rugby union pitches



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

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Table 5.9: Site quality ratings

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Tenure | Management | Community use? | No. of pitches | Pitch type | Posted? | Sports lit? | Non-technical assessment score | Quality rating |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------|-------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| - | Club pitches | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14 | Cottons Park | RM7 9QX | West | Secure | Council | Yes | 2 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | RM7 0EP | West | Secure | Sports Club | Yes | 1 | Senior | Yes | Yes | M1/D0 | Poor |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | RM7 0EP | West | Secure | Sports Club | Yes | 3 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | RM14 1BT | East | Secure | Council | Yes | 1 | Senior | Yes | Yes | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | RM14 1BT | East | Secure | Council | Yes | 2 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| - | School pitches | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | RM1 4YY | North | Unsecure | School | No | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M0/D1 | Poor |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coborn School | RM14 3HS | South | Unsecure | School | Yes | 2 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | RM11 3AD | East | Unsecure | School | No | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | RM14 1SF | East | Unsecure | School | No | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D0 | Poor |
| 38 | Harris Academy Rainham | RM13 9XD | South | Unsecure | School | Yes-unused | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | RM13 7BB | South | Unsecure | School | No | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |
| 83 | The Champion School | RM11 3BX | East | Unsecure | School | Yes | 7 | Senior | Yes | No | M0/D0 | Poor |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | RM2 6HJ | East | Unsecure | School | No | 1 | Senior | Yes | No | M1/D1 | Standard |

Romford & Gidea Park RUFC reports that its first team pitch has county standard lighting and receives a sufficient level of maintenance. However, it does report drainage issues are evident across all the senior pitches. The Club reports it would like to install pipe drainage system across all its pitches in the future to establish a good quality rating and improve the drainage issues.

Upminster RUFC reports its pitches receive a basic level of maintenance. The pitches are fertilised, re seeded and aerated between April and August every year. Its pitches are assessed as standard quality.

The poor quality pitches are provided at Hall Mead School and The Champion School, predominately due to a lack of maintenance and/or poor drainage.

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Performance Quality Standards (PQS)

The RFU is currently working with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to carry out detailed site assessments at rugby union sites across the Country and there are ongoing internal discussions at the RFU on how best these will be implemented within PPOSS work moving forward.

In LBH, the pitches servicing Romford & Gidea Park RFC at its own site have undergone an assessment. One pitch has been identified as being “poor” and three identified as being “basic”. This confirms with the findings of this report, with three pitches assessed as standard and one as poor.

Changes since the previous study

There are more standard quality pitches identified in LBH compared to the previous study.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women’s and girls’ demand.

In LBH, all clubs have access to some form of ancillary provision at their respective home grounds, but their quality varies. The table below identifies the findings for the sites that are actively utilised by clubs across the Borough, with one serviced by good quality facilities and three serviced by standard quality facilities.

Table 5.10: Summary of ancillary provision quality

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Club user | Ancillary facility quality |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | Old Cooperians RUFC | Standard |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | Campion RUFC | Standard |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | West | Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | Good |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | Upminster RUFC | Standard |

Old Cooperians RUFC has access to its own clubhouse at Coopers Company and Coburn School, a refurbishment of the clubhouse was undertaken in 2020 and is of a standard quality. The facilities include six changing rooms, a bar area, kitchen and function room.

Campion RUFC has standard quality ancillary provision. The clubhouse includes four changing rooms and accompanying toilets. It also provides a bar area and kitchen and sizeable social area. The provision satisfies the club’s demand and has the correct number of changing rooms (relative to the number of teams it has), however, there can be issues with capacity if multiple teams are playing at the same time, particularly on Sunday mornings.

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Romford & Gidea Park RUFC report that its ancillary facilities are of good quality due to a refurbishment of the clubhouse was undertaken in 2021. The facilities include seven sets of changing rooms with accompanying toilets, a bar area, kitchen and social space. The Club reports two of its changing rooms have recently been extended to accommodate its women and girls' demand.

Upminster RUFC shares its ancillary facilities with Emerson and Upminster FC and Upminster Park Rovers FC and states that the facilities are of a standard quality. The facilities include four changing rooms, a bar area, kitchen and social space. The provision satisfies the demand of the club's demand has the correct number of changing rooms (relative to the number of teams it has), however, there can be capacity pressures if multiple teams are playing at the same time. The Club is in the process of obtaining planning permission to further extend the clubhouse and sourcing the funding to carry out the required work. As part of this, the club reports wanting to create dedicated girls changing facilities.

Away from clubhouse provision, Champion RUFC and Upminster RUFC report there is a lack of car parking at Cottons Park for the former and Upminster Hall Playing Fields for the latter, which can be a particular issue on match days.

5.3: Demand

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

For competitive play, demand is split between adult rugby, age grade boys/girls' rugby (previously junior) and age grade mixed rugby (previously mini). Age grade runs from U13 to U18 level, whilst age grade mixed is for U7 to U12 level. In addition, new girls' age bands have been established, with the new age bands being at U12, U14, U16 and U18 level.

Competitive play

There are four rugby clubs considered to be based in LBH, collectively providing a total of 43 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of nine senior men's, one senior women's, 17 age grade boys', five age grade girls' and 12 age grade mixed teams.

Most clubs are relatively large and provide several senior, age grade and mixed teams. Demand for each club is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.11: Summary of demand

| Club | Analysis area | Senior men (19+) | Senior women (19+) | Age grade boys (13-18) | Age grade girls (13-18) | Age grade mixed (6-12) |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Campion RUFC | West | 2 | - | 4 | - | - |
| Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | West | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Old Cooperians RUFC | South | 3 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Upminster RUFC | East | 2 | - | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | - | 9 | 1 | 17 | 4 | 12 |

Of the club-based demand, the West Analysis Area caters for the largest number of teams (22), whereas there are no teams in the North Analysis Area.

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Table 5.12: Summary of number of teams by analysis area

| Analysis area | Men's | Women's | Boys' | Girls' | Mini |
|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| East | 2 | - | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| North | - | - | - | - | - |
| South | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| West | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| LBH | 9 | 1 | 17 | 5 | 12 |

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Participation in LBH has increased slightly since previous data was collected in 2016. In total, four additional teams are now registered across the clubs, with a particular increase at youth level. There are eight additional age grade boys' and girls' teams and two additional age grade mixed teams.

Notwithstanding the above, Romford & Gidea Park and Upminster rugby clubs both report a decrease in the number of their senior teams, with three fewer teams now registered across LBH.

Training demand

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

All clubs in the Borough train on sports lit grass pitches at their home venues.

Table 5.13: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

| Club | Site | Training demand | Match equivalent sessions on match pitches |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Campion RUFC | Cottons Park | Portable sports lighting on a senior pitch, amounting to three match equivalent sessions per week | 3 match equivalent sessions per week |
| Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | Romford & Gidea Park RFC | One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to four match equivalent sessions per week. | 4 match equivalent sessions per week |
| Old Cooperians RUFC | Coopers Company & Coburn School | Portable sports lighting on a senior pitch, amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions across senior provision. | 1.5 match equivalent sessions |
| Upminster RUFC | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to four match equivalent sessions across seniors, age grade and mini provision. | 4 match equivalent sessions |

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Use of artificial pitches

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

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in LBH. The nearest accredited pitch is located at Orsett Heath Academy in Thurrock and services Thurrock RUFC, which was installed in 2022. None of the rugby clubs within LBH currently access any artificial pitches for training activity.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Additional demand

The pitches at Champion School are also used for Gaelic football and whilst the sport does not necessarily impact on rugby union capacity as the seasons do not run concurrently; however, it can impact on post season remedial work.

Touch

Touch (also known as Touch Football or Touch Rugby) is a variant of rugby organised and administered globally by the Federation of International Touch and nationally by the England Touch Association, which affiliates to the RFU and in some areas assists in the delivery of the Touch Union programme.

Touch is essentially a variation of rugby league with the tackling of opposing players replaced by a touch. It is able to be played on natural turf and 3G pitches, with the field of play measuring 70 metres in length from score line to score line (excluding touchdown areas of an additional 5 metres at each end) and 50 metres in width (excluding the interchange areas). On field teams are made up of six players each, with up to eight substitutes permitted per team. Touch also allows for mixed sex participation at all levels and offers mixed, men's or women's playing formats, with on field male/female ratios applicable to teams in mixed competitions. Matches are generally made up of two 20-minute halves.

Upminster RUFC report fielding a touch rugby team which compete in friendly tournaments and matches on an ad-hoc basis.

Exported/imported demand

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

Unmet/latent demand

Upminster RUFC report latent demand in that they could field more teams if it had access to increased provision.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for rugby union that could come from housing development plans across the Borough.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2031, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth.

This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how many new teams could be created. It however shall not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the borough proposed in the Local Plan, and that this shall be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan report.

The table below predicts future growth from population increases amounts to one age grade boys and one age grade mixed team. This equates to one match equivalent session per week of demand on full size senior pitches.

Table 5.14: Borough-wide team generation rates

| Age group | Team generation rate | Number of new teams generated | Number of new teams generated - rounded figure | Match equivalent sessions ²³ |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Men (19-45yrs) | 1:4,578 | 0.38 | 0 | 0 |
| Women (19-45yrs) | 1:50,291 | 0.04 | 0 | 0 |
| Boys (13-18yrs) | 1:544 | 0.68 | 1 | 0.5 |
| Girls (13-18yrs) | 1:3,172 | 0.11 | 0 | 0 |
| Mixed (7-12yrs) | 1:1,363 | 0.56 | 1 | 0.5 |

As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, they are added to the overall supply and demand total within the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section.

In addition, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, future growth could exceed what is otherwise predicted, especially in regard to the growth in women and girls' rugby given current RFU aspirations. A more general growth is also expected, linked to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup and its likely impact and related development work.

The RFU is also focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late age grade years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's).

Participation growth

Three clubs within LBH report future demand aspirations. This equates to a growth of two senior men's, one senior women's, three age grade boys and two age grade girls.

²³ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Table 5.15: Summary of future club aspirational demand for LBH

| Club | Analysis area | Future team aspirations | Match equivalent sessions on a senior pitch |
|---------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| Campion RUFC | West | 2 x age grade boys | 1 |
| Romford & Gidea Park RUFC | West | 1 x senior men's 1 x age grade girls | 1 |
| Upminster RUFC | East | 1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 1 x age grade girls | 2 |

It should be noted that the future demand identified by the clubs and the RFU will not be brought through to the overall supply and demand analysis at the end of this report as this is deemed to be aspirational than what is projected through population growth (and also ensures that increases are not double counted). It will instead be run as a scenario in the proceeding Strategy document.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if clubs aspirations are realised.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby.

For senior teams in LBH, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time.

Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

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

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.

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- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, unless it is known that dedicated smaller pitches are instead used.
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch, whilst age grade mixed teams use half a senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and age grade boys/girls' teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams playing across only half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mixed age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session)
- ◀ Internal use of school pitches is added to current play where community usage is also received, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

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

Table 5.16: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use, and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity' has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

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

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

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The way the above is represented in the Table 5.17 is as follows:

| Spare capacity in peak period (examples) | Explanation of spare capacity |
|--|--|
| 1 | If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch/es has actual spare capacity at peak time. |
| - | If the cell has a dash in it, it means the pitch is played to capacity during the peak period. |
| 1 | If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity at peak period; however, this is discounted. This could be due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed (outside of peak time). |

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Table 5.17: Capacity table for rugby pitches in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | Postcode | Community use? | No. of pitches | Pitch type | Sports lighting? | Non-technical assessment score | Quality rating | Site capacity (MES per week) | Current play (MES per week) | Training (MES per week) | Capacity rating (MES) | Actual spare capacity (MES) | Comments |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | North | RM1 4YY | No | 1 | Senior | No | M0/D1 | Poor | 1.5 | 1 | - | 0.5 | 0 | Pitches are unavailable for community use |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coborn School | South | RM14 3HS | Yes | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 2 | 0 | Used by Old Cooperians RUFC for match play and training activity. Used for internal usage by the school. |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coborn School | South | RM14 3HS | Yes | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 0 | Used by Old Cooperians RUFC for match play. Used for internal usage by the school. |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | RM7 9QX | Yes | 2 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | Used by Campion RUFC for match play and training activity. |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | RM11 3AD | No | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 2 | - | 0 | 2 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | East | RM14 1SF | No | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D0 | Poor | 1.5 | 1.5 | - | 0 | 1.5 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 38 | Harris Academy Rainham | South | RM13 9XD | Yes-unused | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity. |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | West | RM7 0EP | Yes | 1 | Senior | Yes | M1/D0 | Poor | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0 | Used by Romford & Gidea Park RUFC for match play and training activity. |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | West | RM7 0EP | Yes | 3 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 6 | 5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | | Used by Romford & Gidea Park RUFC for match play and training activity. |
| 82 | The Brittons Academy | South | RM13 7BB | No | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 83 | The Campion School | East | RM11 3BX | Yes | 7 | Senior | No | M0/D0 | Poor | 3.5 | 5 | - | 1.5 | 0 | Overplayed due to poor quality and heavy internal usage. |
| 88 | The Royal Liberty School | East | RM2 6HJ | No | 1 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | Pitches are unavailable for community use. |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | RM14 1BT | Yes | 1 | Senior | Yes | M1/D1 | Standard | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | Used by Upminster RUFC for match play and training activity. |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | RM14 1BT | Yes | 2 | Senior | No | M1/D1 | Standard | 4 | 5.5 | - | 1.5 | 0 | Used by Upminster RUFC for match play. |

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Actual spare capacity

No rugby union pitches in LBH are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time.

Overplay

There are 10 senior pitches across four sites in LBH that are overplayed by a total of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is summarised by site in the table below.

Table 5.18: Summary of overplay

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | No. of overplayed pitches | Overplay (match sessions per week) |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | 2 | 3 |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | 2 | 2 |
| 74 | Romford and Gidea Park RFC | West | 4 | 3 |
| 94 | Upminster Hall Playing Fields | East | 2 | 4.5 |
| - | Total | - | 6 | 12.5 |

The majority of overplay is evident in the West Analysis Area (five match equivalent sessions per week).

The majority of pitches are overplayed due to a mixture of standard quality as well as the volume of demand.

Table 5.19: Summary of overplay by analysis area

| Analysis area | Overplay (match equivalent sessions) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| East | 4.5 |
| North | - |
| South | 3 |
| West | 5 |
| LBH | 12.5 |

5.5: Conclusion

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall supply and demand balance (actual spare capacity against overplay) in each of the analysis areas based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on anticipated growth from population increases.

Table 5.20: Summary of supply and demand analysis on rugby union pitches

| Analysis area | Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions) | Overplay (match equivalent sessions) | Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| East | - | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| North | - | - | - |
| South | - | 3 | 3 |
| West | - | 5 | 5 |
| LBH | - | 12.5 | 12.5 |

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There is a current shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week in LBH. The West Analysis Area has the highest shortfall with five match equivalent sessions per week.

The shortfalls are further exacerbated when factoring in future demand, resulting in a future shortfall of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 5.20: Future supply and demand balance of rugby union pitches in match equivalent sessions per week

| Analysis area | Current total | Future demand | Future total |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LBH | 12.5 | 1 | 13.5 |

Changes since the previous study

When compared to the findings of the previous study, there is now a shortfall of rugby union pitches established. In 2016, rugby union pitches were played to capacity and now a shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions per week, which is a testament to the growth in demand that has been experienced since 2016.

Table 5.21: Supply and demand comparison to previous PPS (2016) in match equivalent sessions per week

| Pitch type | 2016 current total | 2024 current total | 2016 future total | 2024 future total |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Rugby union | 0 | 12.5 | 1 | 13.5 |

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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.

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PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

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

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below. England Hockey confirm that water-based pitches are no longer being developed.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

In addition to the above pitch types, England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2²⁴, is a versatile sand-dress synthetic surface with a compatible shock pad that ensures that sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. It will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

²⁴ <http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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

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

Consultation

A total of three hockey clubs are identified as playing within LBH. Of these, all three responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as seen below.

Table 6.2: Summary of hockey club consultation

| Club | Responded? |
|--------------|------------|
| Havering HC | Yes |
| Romford HC | Yes |
| Upminster HC | Yes |

6.2: Supply

There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in LBH across the same number of sites. Each of these has a sand-based surface, is available for community use and is serviced by sports lighting. However, the pitch at Bower Park Academy is not currently accessed by a hockey club.

Table 6.3: Full size hockey suitable pitches within LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | No of pitches | Community use? | Sports lighting | Size (metres) |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | RM1 4YY | North | 1 | Yes | Yes | 105 x 70 |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | RM14 3HS | South | 1 | Yes | Yes | 91 x 55 |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | RM3 9XR | North | 1 | Yes | Yes | 102 x 61 |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | RM11 3AD | East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 97 x 61 |
| 83 | The Champion School | RM11 3BX | East | 1 | Yes | Yes | 98 x 61 |

Two pitches are provided in the North Analysis Area, two in the East Analysis Area and one in the South Analysis Area. No pitches are provided in the West Analysis Area.

Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGP's, there is also one smaller size hockey suitable pitch in LBH, located at The Forest Row Centre. It is available for community use, but not serviced by sports lighting.

Table 6.4: Smaller size AGPs in LBH

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| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Community use? | Sports lighting? | Size (metres) |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 84 | The Forest Row Centre | RM5 2LD | North | Yes | No | 36 x 17 |

Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in LBH, the smaller size pitch at The Forest Row Centre is not considered suitable as it is too small and without sports lighting. Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective.

For the location of the full size AGPs, please see Figure 6.1 overleaf.

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Figure 6.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in LBH



Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016, there has been a decrease of two sand based AGPs. This is due to the pitches at The Brittons Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls being converted to a 3G surface.

Future developments

Upminster HC aspires to secure its own facility, but sites are yet to be confirmed. The Club is currently experiencing capacity issues at both Coopers Company & Coburn School and Emerson Park Academy. In addition, both pitches are assessed as poor quality which is limiting capacity.

Bower Park Academy report that it is considering resurfacing the sand based AGP to a 3G surface, given it is currently unused by hockey clubs.

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Ownership and management

All five full size pitches are managed in house by the schools.

Security of tenure

The table below summarises the LBH-based pitches used by each club. As mentioned previously, the pitch at Bower Park Academy is not currently used for hockey.

Table 6.5: Summary of venues used by hockey clubs

| Club | Site/s used | Comments | Tenure |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Havering HC | Campion School | Primary venue | Unsecure |
| Romford HC | Drapers Academy | Primary venue | Unsecure |
| Upminster HC | Coopers Company & Coburn School | Primary venue | Unsecure |
| Upminster HC | Emerson Park Academy | Secondary venue | Unsecure |

As seen, there is generally a lack of formal community use agreements in place, meaning that long term security of tenure is limited, with most access being secured only via seasonal rentals. This is especially the case at education sites, where the providers could theoretically stop external usage at any point outside of existing short-term arrangements. This is an issue, to some extent, for each hockey club in LBH.

Havering HC leases the AGP at The Campion School. It reports it has two years remaining on the agreement and therefore does not have long term security of tenure.

Romford HC hires the AGP at Drapers Academy on a seasonal basis, without the guarantee that longer term access will be allowed. Whilst this is not ideal, the Club reports no major issues with the school and has a good working relationship with it.

Upminster HC rents the AGP at Coopers Company and Coburn School on an annual basis. It then utilises the pitch at Emerson Park Academy as a secondary venue also via a rental agreement, without any guarantee that longer term access will be allowed.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). In LBH, most 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.

In addition, as all pitches are located at education sites some capacity is reserved for internal school usage at weekends.

The availability at each site is summarised in the table overleaf. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically have good availability but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

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Table 6.6: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

| Site ID | Site name | No. of pitches | Hockey club users | Availability | Midweek availability in the peak period (hours) | Weekend availability in the peak period (hours) |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | 1 | - | Monday to Friday 18:00 to 21:00 | 13/18 | 0/16 |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | 1 | Upminster HC | Monday to Friday 17:30 to 22:00 Saturday to Sunday 08:00-18:00 | 16/18 | 16/16 |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | 1 | Romford HC | Monday to Friday 18:00 to 21:00 Saturday to Sunday 08:00 to 18:00 | 13/18 | 16/16 |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | 1 | Upminster HC | Monday to Friday 18:00 to 22:00 Saturday 09:00-13:00 | 13/18 | 4/16 |
| 83 | The Champion School | 1 | Havering HC | Monday to Friday 17:30 to 21:30 Saturday 08:00 to 19:00 Sunday 07:30 to 18:00 | 16/18 | 16/16 |

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Quality

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

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments in October and November 2023 and provider/user consultation. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

The following table indicates when each of the full-size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within LBH, together with an agreed quality rating.

Table 6.7: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

| Site ID | Site | No. of pitches | Year installed/ resurfaced | Quality |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | 1 | 2007 | Poor |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | 1 | 2005 | Poor |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | 1 | 2007 | Poor |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | 1 | 2015 | Standard |
| 83 | The Champion School | 1 | 2009 | Poor |

As seen, four of the five pitches are assessed as poor quality, with these located at:

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

Common issues at these sites include signs of wear and tear, worn line markings, poor grip underfoot and unsafe fencing. Three of the pitches are in current use for club hockey and are therefore of particular concern, with imminent resurfacing required to ensure that the demand can continue to be accommodated.

Upminster HC also confirms that the pitches at Coopers Company & Coburn School are poor quality. Neither pitch has been resurfaced for a number of years with the former considered to be worse as it was last resurfaced 14 years ago. The Club reports it has safety concerns and can be limiting its participation growth.

In addition, Romford HC confirms that the pitch at Drapers Academy is also of poor quality and reports the surface is significantly worn and suffers from poor drainage. It was last resurfaced in 2007.

In contrast, the pitch at Emerson Park Academy is assessed as standard quality due to still being within the recommended lifespan although some signs of wear and tear are reported through club consultation and site assessments.

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Ancillary provision

Because the hockey pitches in LBH are located at education sites, ancillary facilities are generally not dedicated to the AGPs. Nationally, this can cause logistical issues as it can result in some facilities being located a fair distance from the playing areas, although this is not noted as an issue in LBH.

Upminster HC reports the ancillary facilities at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Emerson Park Academy are in poor condition due to not being dedicated for hockey teams and designed for football teams.

In addition, the Club has access to its own provision at Upminster Cricket Club and includes men's and women's changing rooms, a kitchen and bar area. The club states it is in need of a refurbishment and mould exists in the toilets and changing rooms facilities.

Similarly, Romford HC also has access to its own clubhouse at Gidea Park Sports Ground, which it shares with Gidea Park & Romford CC. It reports no issues with the provision.

6.3: Demand

There are currently three hockey clubs (Havering HC, Romford HC and Upminster HC) playing in LBH. In total, these provide 14 men's, 14 women's and 16 junior teams as well as two other team variations (including veteran and mixed teams). This is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.8: Summary of number of competitive teams (club demand)

| Name of club | Senior men | Senior women | Juniors | Others |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Havering HC | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Romford HC | 3 | 3 | - | 1 |
| Upminster HC | 7 | 7 | 15 | - |
| Total | 14 | 14 | 16 | 2 |

In terms of membership, Havering HC and Upminster HC are relatively large, with 602 members across the clubs collectively. Upminster HC has the highest membership (383 members), whilst Romford HC has the lowest membership (60 members).

Table 6.9: Summary of club membership

| Name of club | Senior men (17-55) | Senior women (17-55) | Junior boys (14-16) | Junior girls (14-16) | Junior boys (11-13) | Junior girls (11-13) | Mini mixed (5-10) | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Havering HC | 61 | 58 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 158 |
| Romford HC | 31 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Upminster HC | 96 | 97 | 23 | 44 | 24 | 43 | 56 | 383 |
| Total | 188 | 180 | 28 | 58 | 29 | 55 | 63 | 602 |

Each club and its demand are further summarised below.

Havering HC

The Club fields four men's, four women's and one junior team and is based at The Champion School with all training and matches taking place on site.

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Romford HC

Consisting of three men's, three women's and one mixed team, the Club utilises the pitch at Drapers Academy with all training and match play taking place on site.

Upminster HC

Fielding seven men's, seven women's, 10 junior teams and one mixed team, the Club is based at Coopers Company and Coburn School to accommodate most of its demand. It also uses Emerson Park Academy as an overspill venue to cater for some match play demand.

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Since the 2016 study, Romford HC is now included within the study using the AGP at Drapers Academy. Between the two other clubs, there has been an increase of three senior men's, five senior women's and two junior teams.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH, as detailed below. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity.

Hockey Heroes

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

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in LBH.

Back to Hockey

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

Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

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

There are currently no Back to Hockey sessions operating in LBH.

Walking hockey

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

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in LBH.

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Imported/exported demand

There is no known displaced demand from LBH into other neighbouring areas and as such all LBH-based demand is catered for within the Borough. Similarly, no demand is recorded as being imported.

Future demand

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

In relation to club aspirations in LBH, Havering HC and Upminster HC both report future demand. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 6.10: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

| Club | Future senior men's demand (teams) | Future senior women's demand (teams) | Future junior demand (teams) |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Havering HC | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Upminster HC | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Havering HC reports that it intends to field two additional senior teams (one men's and one women's) as well as one junior team. It reports that capacity at The Champion School exists for this to be accommodated.

Upminster HC reports future demand for two additional senior teams (one men's and one women's) as well as two junior teams. However, it states 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.

Romford HC reports no future demand and is happy with the current number of teams it fields.

Latent/unmet demand

As referenced above, Upminster HC has future demand aspirations, but the Club states this cannot be accommodated without increased pitch capacity at Coopers Company & Coburn School and Emerson Park Academy. This therefore represents latent demand. No other clubs identify any unmet or latent demand.

Peak time demand

For matches, most senior hockey activity in LBH takes place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to clubs wanting to avoid training in close proximity to weekend matches.

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Usage

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP and the summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This not only includes hockey usage, but also other forms of demand, most notably relating to football training particularly at Bower Park Academy and the other education sites. This therefore limits capacity for hockey club users.

In summary, many pitches do not have capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage, particularly on Saturdays and midweek evenings when demand is at its highest. This is especially the case at Coopers Company & Coburn School, Drapers Academy and Emerson Park Academy.

Furthermore, the only pitch that does have some spare capacity remaining is at Bower Park Academy, where most of the demand is received from football activity and quality further deters usage. That being said, some minimal spare capacity also exists at The Champion School.

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Table 6.11: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

| Site ID | Site name | No. of pitches | Availability in the peak period (hours) | % of hockey usage | % of other usage (e.g., football) | Hockey club users | Training capacity comments (mid-week) | Match capacity comments (weekend) | Capacity summary |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | 1 | 13 | - | 100% | - | Currently only used for football, with some spare capacity existing on Friday evenings. | Currently unavailable for community use for weekend use. | Minimal spare capacity on Friday evenings. |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | 1 | 32 | 90% | 10% | Upminster HC | Accommodates most of the training demand by Upminster HC. Some football activity is reported; however, this is minimal and from recreational groups. | Used to capacity for match play by Upminster HC. | No spare capacity remains. |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | 1 | 29 | 80% | 20% | Romford HC | Accommodates all training demand by Romford HC for midweek training. Some football usage is also reported and is used to capacity in the peak period. | Used to capacity on Saturdays by Romford HC (seven teams). Spare capacity exists on Sundays. | No spare capacity for midweek training but does exist for Sunday match play (four matches). |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | 1 | 17 | 60% | 40% | Upminster HC | Used to accommodate some training demand as an overspill venue by Upminster HC. Some football activity is received also. | Used by Upminster HC as an overspill venue, with some spare capacity remaining on Saturday. | No spare capacity for midweek training but does exist for weekend match play (two matches on Saturday) when not used by Upminster HC. |
| 83 | The Champion School | 1 | 32 | 80% | 20% | Havering HC | Used as the main training venue by Havering HC for midweek training. Some football usage is also reported. | Used as the main match venue by Havering HC, with some spare capacity remaining on Sunday afternoons. | Spare capacity for midweek training on Friday evenings and weekend match play on Sunday afternoons (two matches). |

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6.4: Supply and demand analysis

Match play analysis

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

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. However, limited availability at some sites reduces the overall capacity further. The table below therefore further explores the level of capacity actually provided, firstly for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

Table 6.12: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for match play

| Site ID | Site name | Analysis area | No. of pitches | Potential capacity in teams | Actual capacity in teams | Comments |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 5 | Bower Park Academy | North | 1 | 8 | 0 | Unavailable to the community at weekends |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | 1 | 8 | 8 | Full peak time availability at weekends |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | North | 1 | 8 | 8 | Full peak time availability at weekends |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | 1 | 8 | 4 | Availability is slightly reduced. |
| 83 | The Champion School | East | 1 | 8 | 8 | Full peak time availability at weekends |
| - | - | Total | 5 | 40 | 28 | - |

As seen, it is determined that the current provision can accommodate up to 28 senior teams on a Saturday, with this equating to 15 match equivalent sessions per week. With 28 senior teams currently provided, this suggests that the supply is sufficient to meet demand. However, when factoring in future demand from clubs this would result in shortfall of provision.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are fewer junior teams in LBH than there are senior teams. As such, provision adequate to cater for senior demand is also likely to be adequate to accommodate junior demand, although the same capacity pressures are likely to apply where existing usage is significant.

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Training analysis

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 6.13: 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.

This means that alternative venues may be required, either via utilising pitches not currently accessed (at which point quality improvements may be necessary), or through new provision.

6.5: Conclusion

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. Further to this, when factoring in future demand, a shortfall of provision will be established.

In addition to above, there is also a clear need to secure longer term tenure for clubs and to improve quality given that most pitches have reached the end of their lifespan and are assessed as poor quality.

Priority should therefore be placed first and foremost on protecting and improving the pitches that are currently in use to ensure that the situation does not worsen. These issues and potential solutions will be explored further in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

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Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of the sport. To that end, a change of surface should require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants should have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Opportunities to incorporate this into planning policy should therefore be explored, and advice from Sport England and EH should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing sports lighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

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.

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PART 7: TENNIS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across LBH. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

The LTA provides recommended and minimum dimensions per tennis court and depending on how many courts are provided. The recommended court size for one court is 36.57m x 18.29m and the minimum court size is 34.75m x 17.07m. More sizes can be found on the LTA website: <https://www.lta.org.uk/support-centre/venue-support/facilities-and-funding/facilities-support/what-are-the-lta-recommended-court-dimensions/>

Consultation

There are six tennis clubs in LBH. All six responded to consultation requests, as summarised in the table below.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation responses

| Club name | Analysis area | Responded? |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| Cranston Park LTC | South | Yes |
| Elm Park LTC | West | Yes |
| Gidea Park LTC | North | Yes |
| Grosvenor LTC | East | Yes |
| Hylands CASC | West | Yes |
| Raphael Park TC | North | Yes |

7.2: Supply

There are 122 traditional tennis courts identified in LBH across 32 sites. Of these courts, 102 are categorised as being available for community access across 25 sites compared to 20 courts that are unavailable at seven sites.

The South Analysis Area has the largest number of available courts (33), whilst the East and West analysis areas have the lowest number (25). In terms of unavailable courts, the majority are also in the South Analysis Area. The North Analysis Area has the smallest number of one unavailable court.

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

| Analysis area | No. of courts available for community use | No. of courts unavailable for community use |
|---------------|---|---|
| East | 22 | 3 |
| North | 27 | 1 |
| South | 33 | 11 |
| West | 20 | 5 |
| LBH | 102 | 20 |

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Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). This is, however, not applicable when the price of membership is significant enough to prevent inclusive access, as is considered to be the case at David Lloyd Club Gidea Park.

In full, the unavailable courts in LBH are located at:

- ◀ Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College.
- ◀ Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ◀ Gaynes School and Language College.
- ◀ Hall Mead School.
- ◀ Oasis Academy Pinewood.
- ◀ Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School.

Changes from the previous study

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of tennis courts within LBH since the 2016 study, with this equating to a 12% increase from 109 to 122 courts in 2024. Furthermore, the number of community available courts have increased, with 91 courts previously available compared to 102 now. This also represents a 12% increase. This is primarily due to a greater number of schools now allowing community access e.g. Drapers Academy and The Brittons Academy.

Figure 7.1 shows the location of courts servicing LBH that are included within the study. For a key to the map, see Table 7.4.

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Figure 7.1: Location of tennis courts in LBH



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Table 7.3: Summary of outdoor tennis courts in LBH

| Site ID | Site Name | Postcode | Analysis Area | Ownership | Community use? | Club user? | No. of courts | Sports lighting? | Court type | Court quality |
|---------|--|----------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College | RM12 4YB | West | School | No | - | 3 | No | Artificial | Poor |
| 10 | Central Park (Romford) | RM3 8PU | North | Council | Yes | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | RM14 3HS | South | School | No | - | 2 | Yes | Macadam | Standard |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | RM14 3HS | South | School | No | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 16 | Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club | RM14 3XR | South | Club | Yes | Cranston Park LTC | 6 | Yes | Artificial | Good |
| 16 | Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club | RM14 3XR | South | Club | Yes | Cranston Park LTC | 2 | Yes | Clay | Good |
| 19 | David Lloyd (Gidea Park) | RM11 2EW | East | Private | Yes | - | 1 | Yes | Artificial | Good |
| 19 | David Lloyd (Gidea Park) | RM11 2EW | East | Private | Yes | - | 3 | No | Artificial | Good |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | RM3 9XR | North | School | Yes | - | 4 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | RM11 3AD | East | School | Yes | - | 3 | Yes | Macadam | Poor |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | RM14 3UX | South | School | No | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 31 | Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club | RM2 5NP | North | Club | Yes | Gidea Park LTC | 4 | Yes | Artificial | Good |
| 31 | Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club | RM2 5NP | North | Club | Yes | Gidea Park LTC | 3 | No | Artificial clay | Good |
| 33 | Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club | RM14 1DL | East | Club | Yes | Grosvenor LTC | 3 | Yes | Artificial clay | Good |
| 33 | Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club | RM14 1DL | East | Club | Yes | Grosvenor LTC | 1 | No | Artificial clay | Good |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | RM14 1SF | East | School | No | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | RM3 0NB | East | Council | Yes | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 38 | Harris Academy Rainham | RM13 9XD | South | School | Yes | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | RM12 4QU | West | Council | Yes | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 43 | Havering Sixth Form College | RM11 3TB | West | College | Yes | - | 2 | No | Artificial | Standard |
| 44 | Haynes Park | RM11 2BU | East | Council | Yes | - | 3 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | RM12 4AJ | South | School | Yes | Hylands CASC | 6 | Yes | Polymeric | Good |
| 49 | Hylands Park | RM11 1EE | West | Council | Yes | - | 6 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | RM1 4EH | North | School | Yes | - | 3 | Yes | Macadam | Standard |
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | RM3 7YA | North | Council | Yes | - | 4 | Yes | Macadam | Good |
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | RM3 7YA | North | Council | Yes | - | 1 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 60 | Oasis Academy Pinewood | RM5 2TX | North | School | No | - | 1 | No | Macadam | Standard |
| 69 | Raphael Park | RM1 4EE | North | Council | Yes | Raphael TC | 12 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 71 | Rise Park | RM1 4XJ | North | Council | Yes | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | RM13 9SX | South | Council | Yes | - | 4 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 82 | Brittons Academy | RM13 7BB | South | School | Yes | - | 6 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls | RM1 2RR | West | School | Yes | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Standard |
| 89 | The Sanders School | RM12 6RT | South | School | Yes | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Standard |
| 96 | Upminster Park | RM14 2LU | South | Council | Yes | - | 4 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 104 | Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club | RM12 4NG | West | Club | Yes | Elm Park LTC | 2 | Yes | Macadam | Good |
| 105 | Lodge Farm Park | RM2 5AD | West | Council | Yes | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Good |
| 106 | Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School | RM14 2QR | South | School | No | - | 4 | No | Macadam | Poor |
| 113 | Hylands Primary School | RM1 2RU | West | School | No | - | 2 | No | Macadam | Standard |

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Disused/lapsed provision

No tennis courts have been identified as being disused in LBH.

Future provision

There are no known plans to develop new traditional tennis court provision in LBH. However, the Council has stated its intentions to resurface the poor quality macadam court at Noak Hill Sports Complex to a padel court in the future.

LTA Youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6.
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8.
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9.
- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10.
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+.

No dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in LBH, however, full size courts can be utilised via the use of cones or other forms of temporary line markings. Although having dedicated mini courts is desirable and can facilitate and increase independent junior play, it is not essential to cater for such demand.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly played padel more than once in England, representing a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, 350 in 2023 with 500 courts are now in 2024. There is a projected growth of 1,000 courts in 2026. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Since 2021, the LTA has invested £6 million to grow padel infrastructure and in 2023 129,000 players were reportedly playing padel. Building on from this, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ◀ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ◀ Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000.
- ◀ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ◀ Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

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There are currently no padel courts in LBH, however the LTA states that a variety of tennis environments can be considered, with padel courts often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities.

To that end, padel court development at leisure centre sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model. Furthermore, they can benefit clubs and particularly those that may be otherwise struggling due to the additional revenue that they can provide.

Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging providers to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional tennis courts remains sufficient.

Indoor provision

There are seven indoor tennis courts provided at David Lloyd (Gidea Park). Whilst not within the remit of this study, this results in there being a barrier that is preventing year-round play. In addition, it is acknowledged that they can provide additional capacity for tennis demand within the Borough, especially outside of summer months. Please see the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy for further information.

Pickleball

Generally following the basic principles of tennis, pickleball is a racket or paddle sport in which two players (singles) or four players (doubles) hit a plastic ball net over a net. It is governed nationally by Pickleball England.

No pickleball is thought to be taking place on the outdoor courts in LBH.

Ownership/management

The table below highlights the management/ownership of tennis courts within LBH.

In total, 46 (37%) are provided at local authority sites, with all of these available for community use, 21 (17%) courts are provided at club sites and there are 51 (42%) provided at education sites. Only 31 (60%) of these are community available, whilst the four courts classified as 'other' are those at David Lloyd (Gidea Park) which are run commercially.

Table 7.4: Outdoor tennis courts by management type

| Community use? | Sports Club | Council | Education | Other |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Available | 21 | 46 | 31 | 4 |
| Unavailable | - | - | 20 | - |
| Total | 21 | 46 | 51 | 4 |

Security of tenure

Security of tenure is provided to all tennis clubs in LBH, with all clubs either owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. As such, no clubs report any issues in this regard.

Venues used by each club and the tenure arrangements in place are summarised in the following table.

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Table 7.5: Summary of club venues and tenure

| Club name | Site used | Type of tenure |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Cranston Park LTC | Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club | Freehold |
| Elm Park LTC | Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club | Freehold |
| Gidea Park LTC | Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club | Freehold |
| Grosvenor LTC | Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club | Freehold |
| Hylands CASC | Hornchurch High School | Lease |
| Raphael Park TC | Raphael Park | Lease |

One point to note is that Hylands CASC shares its provision with Hornchurch High School, which has exclusive access during school hours, thus limiting club use. The courts are leased from the school on a rolling annual basis.

Court type

Most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface, with 94 of the 122 courts being of this type and 77 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

The remaining provision is artificial (19 courts), artificial clay (seven courts) or clay (two courts). Whilst artificial courts have a similar lifespan to macadam courts, clay courts are generally much harder and more expensive to maintain, especially during bad weather spells.

The clay courts in LBH are found at Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club.

Table 7.6: Summary of tennis court types across LBH

| Court type | Available for community use | Unavailable for community use | Total number of courts |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Artificial turf | 16 | 3 | 19 |
| Clay | 2 | - | 2 |
| Artificial clay | 7 | - | 7 |
| Macadam | 71 | 17 | 88 |
| Polymeric | 6 | - | 6 |
| Total | 102 | 20 | 122 |

Sports lighting

Sports lit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allow for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In LBH, 36 out of the 122 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing just 27% of the provision. Of these, 34 are available for community use across the following sites:

- ✦ Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club.
- ✦ David Lloyd (Gidea Park).
- ✦ Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club.

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- ◀ Emerson Park Academy.
- ◀ Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◀ Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◀ Hornchurch High School.
- ◀ Marshalls Park Academy.
- ◀ Noak Hill Sports Complex.

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. LBH is therefore relatively well off in this regard, with five of the six clubs currently serviced to some degree. Only Raphael Park TC is not serviced by any form of sports-lit provision.

Both Gidea Park LTC and Grosvenor LTC express aspirations to increase its number of sports lit courts to increase its playing hours as currently, only four of its seven courts are serviced for the former and one is not serviced at the latter. However, both clubs report that numerous planning applications have been unsuccessful due to resident objections.

Elm Park LTC reports that it has aspirations to improve its lighting. It is looking to replace the existing lights with an LED alternative.

A lack of sports lighting at other school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

Away from clubs and schools, increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in LBH, only four (out of 46) courts are currently serviced by sports lighting, all at Noak Hill Sports Complex.

The additional lights will extend the time that outdoor facilities can be used, particularly in the winter, thereby increasing the health and well-being benefits they provide.

There are an estimated 7,008 playable daylight hours per year for the current two unlit courts. This would increase to 8,736 hours all year round. With sports lighting on the two courts this would therefore provide 1,728 extra court hours for tennis across the year – an increase of about 25%. For working adults or school age juniors available (on average) after 5pm on weekdays, the availability increase is even more significant. It is clear that the additional capacity provided by the proposed lighting would allow year-round activity on the courts, and therefore provide more opportunities for local people to maintain healthy and active lifestyles.

In addition, due to advancements in LED lighting technology, lighting spill can be significantly reduced as demonstrated in this application. Further imagery/videos can be found via the following link: <https://armadillolighting.com/projects/wargrave-lawn-tennis-club/>

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme²⁵

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting

²⁵ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](https://www.lta.org.uk/quick-access-loan-scheme)

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and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◀ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ◀ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- ◀ New sports lights.
- ◀ New court provision.
- ◀ Outdoor padel courts.
- ◀ Covered padel (courts and cover).
- ◀ Covered tennis courts.

Overmarking of courts

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football courts. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

In LBH, some or all of the courts at the sites featured in the following table are overmarked.

Table 7.7: Summary of tennis court overmarking

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Tennis courts | Overmarked with |
|---------|--|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Abbs Cross Academy & Arts College | West | 3 | Two netball courts |
| 10 | Central Park (Romford) | North | 2 | Two netball courts |
| 12 | Coopers Company & Coburn School | South | 4 | Four netball courts |
| 20 | Drapers Academy | North | 4 | One netball court |
| 26 | Emerson Park Academy | East | 3 | Three netball courts |
| 29 | Gaynes School Language College | South | 3 | Three netball courts |
| 34 | Hall Mead School | East | 3 | Three netball courts |
| 43 | Havering Sixth Form College | West | 2 | One netball court |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | West | 6 | Five netball courts |
| 53 | Marshalls Park Academy | North | 3 | Three netball courts |
| 56 | Noak Hill Sports Complex | North | 5 | Two netball courts |
| 82 | Brittons Academy | South | 6 | Six netball courts |
| 85 | The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls | West | 2 | Four netball courts |
| 89 | The Sanders School | South | 2 | Two netball courts |
| 106 | Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School | South | 4 | Three netball courts |
| 115 | Hylands Primary School | West | 2 | Two netball courts |

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Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

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

Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors are used to determine court quality. The criterion for the non-technical assessment include assessing grip underfoot, damage to the surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

Of the courts in LBH, 71 are assessed as good quality (all of which are available for community use), with 17 assessed as standard quality (nine available for community use) and 34 assessed as poor quality (22 are available for community use). Quality across LBH is summarised in the following table: for site-by-site findings, see Table 7.3.

Figure 7.2: Quality of tennis courts

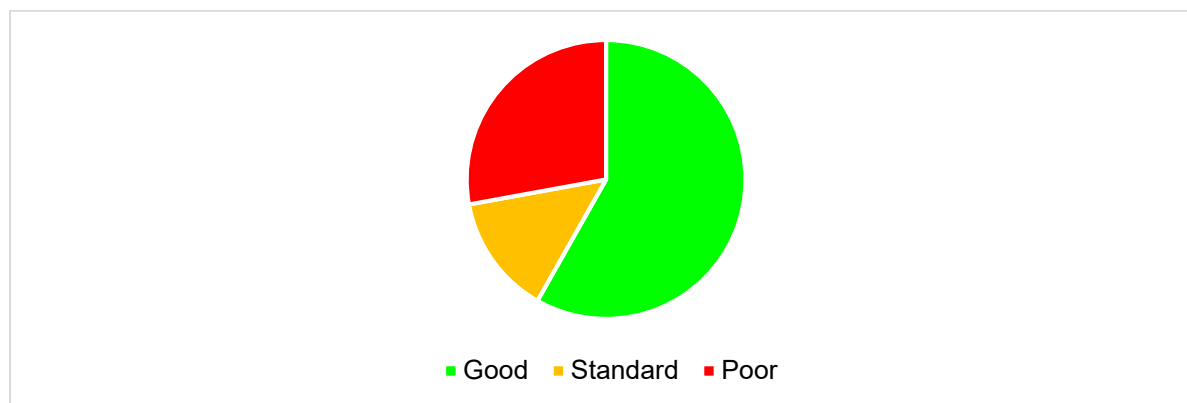


Table 7.8: Quality of tennis courts across LBH

| Community use? | Good | Standard | Poor |
|----------------|------|----------|------|
| Available | 71 | 9 | 22 |
| Unavailable | - | 8 | 12 |

The community available courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following sites:

- ✦ Central Park (Romford).
- ✦ Coopers Company & Coburn School.
- ✦ Emerson Park Academy.
- ✦ Harris Academy Rainham.
- ✦ Harrow Lodge Park.
- ✦ Noak Hill Sports Complex.
- ✦ The Brittons Academy.

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

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None of the poor quality courts are accessed by clubs with most of the club-based provision assessed as good quality. Although the exception to this is Elm Park LTC which plans to resurface its courts in 2025/26, and its provision is assessed as standard.

A few of the poor quality courts are located at local authority sites (Central Park, Harrow Lodge Park, Noak Hill Sports Complex and Rise Park).

Since site assessments were undertaken in July 2024, the courts at Rise Park have seen been resurfaced. This has resulted in its rating been improved to good quality.

Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting.

Renovation fund²⁶

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 local communities.

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes (e.g., gated access and Smart Access lite) and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

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.

The operation and management of Raphael Park has been outsourced to a local tennis provider. The next key steps for the local authority/park sites is to implement organised activities (Free Park Tennis and coaching) and to formalise the operating arrangements for the other sites and then drive and maximise participation on these redeveloped facilities.

Due to the high demand for tennis across Havering, there is desire and need to floodlight park tennis courts to facilitate year round play both informally and within formalised coaching programmes.

Ancillary provision

²⁶<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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Consultation evidence suggests that most clubs are serviced by good or standard quality ancillary facilities. However, Gidea Park LTC and Grosvenor LTC also report issues with car parking and a lack of capacity and is limited to street parking only.

For non-club courts, clubhouses and changing rooms are generally considered to be problematic, although adequate facilities are provided at Rise Park and Spring Farm Park. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and tend not to be readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. One potential way to increase usage of such provision is, thus, to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

7.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are six clubs across LBH. Across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 1,347 which broken down amounts to 697 senior members and 550 junior members. The average club membership is 225, which represents substantial demand.

A club-by-club breakdown can be seen in the table below.

Table 7.9: Summary of tennis club membership

| Club | Sites used | Seniors | Juniors | Total |
|------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Cranston Park TC | Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club | 350 | 166 | 516 |
| Elm Park TC | Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| Gidea Park LTC | Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club | 130 | 170 | 400 |
| Grosvenor LTC | Grosvenor Tennis Club | 103 | 100 | 203 |
| Hylands CASC | Hornchurch High School | 12 | 95 | 107 |
| Raphael Park TC | Raphael Park | 90 | 16 | 106 |
| - | Totals | 697 | 550 | 1,347 |

Many of the clubs are large such as Cranston Park LTC which has 516 members. At the other end of the scale is Elm Park LTC has the smallest membership with 15 members.

Changes from the previous study

Across the clubs in LBH, there has been a strong growth at most clubs since the previous study in 2016, including significant increases for Cranston Park and Gidea Park tennis clubs. This equates to an overall increase in demand in the number of members increasing from 1,284 in 2016 to 1,347 in 2024. This represents a 5% increase.

Table 7.10: Demand comparison

| PPOSS Year | Seniors | Juniors | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2024 (current study) | 697 | 550 | 1,347 |
| 2016 (previous study) | 568 | 716 | 1,284 |
| Change | +129 | -166 | +63 |

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Notwithstanding the above, since the previous study, Havering TC and Spring Farm TC have both folded due to declining membership figures.

In contrast, four clubs report that membership levels have increased over recent years. These are:

- ◀ Cranston Park Tennis Club.
- ◀ Elm Park Tennis Club.
- ◀ Gidea Park Tennis Club.
- ◀ Grosvenor Tennis Club.

Gidea Park LTC states its membership has increased significantly in recent years, with a waiting list in place now for its adult membership.

In contrast, Raphael Park TC reports a decrease, with this relating to junior participation. The Club gives a variety of reasons for the decrease such as members playing for other clubs or moving away from the area or the increase in membership rates. Its senior membership has remained static.

With four clubs reporting demand increases and one (Raphael Park TC) reporting a decrease in membership, this generally correlates to a national picture of growing demand. The LTA reports that demand has increased significantly in recent years, especially since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during 2022 increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen across 2018 and 2019, before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation, one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

Informal and parks tennis

Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access with is currently the case at all local authority sites in LBH (see Free Parks Tennis section). Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

In relation to education providers, only Hornchurch High School reports any regular demand, as this is through Hylands CASC, from the community for access to its courts. It is believed by many that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of sports

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lighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for its provision.

The LTA has a support package for local authorities to grow and track the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation, with products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

The use of the LTA products at sites can allow official use of courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often provision is being accessed and by who. The full list of sites covered by this in LBH is as follows:

- ◀ Harold Wood Park.
- ◀ Harrow Lodge Park.
- ◀ Haynes Park.
- ◀ Hylands Park.
- ◀ Lodge Farm Park.
- ◀ Raphael's Park.
- ◀ Rise Park.
- ◀ Spring Farm Park.
- ◀ Upminster Park.

The use of the products at these sites allows official use of the courts to be tracked, thus providing data on how often provision is being accessed and by who. Demand is considered to be high, although a general lack of sports lighting across the Borough is likely to be limiting activity, especially outside of summer months.

The LTA products are further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.

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- ◆ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

LTA Play

Play is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Play provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two Gate Access gate systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

Nationally, the LTA has supported the installation of 177 gate access systems within the last two years. Furthermore, it states that sites with Gate Access installations:

- ◆ Attracted 65,751 unique players.
- ◆ Led to 791,226 court bookings.
- ◆ Generated £1.5 million of income.

As mentioned above, all park courts in LBH have been fitted with a new Gate Access System.

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Local tennis leagues

Recreational tennis leagues are less formal than established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for people of all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

There are no local tennis leagues within LBH, with the nearest being the Redbridge Tennis League in Redbridge or the Barking and Dagenham Tennis League in Barking & Dagenham.

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LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4–18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- ◀ Blue Stage (Age 4-6).
- ◀ Red Stage (Age 6-8).
- ◀ Orange Stage (Age 8-9).
- ◀ Green Stage (Age 9-10).
- ◀ Yellow Stage (Age 10+).

Key points:

- ◀ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.
- ◀ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ◀ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills

LTA Youth Start

This is a six-week coaching offer for children who have never played tennis and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, young people get coaching from an LTA accredited coach, a free racket, a pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing.

In LBH, LTA Youth Start is known to be in operation at several sites including Gidea Park LTC and Hornchurch High School (Hylands CASC).

LTA Youth Schools

Designed specifically for schools to support the curriculum and wider school outcomes, the LTA's tennis for schools programme brings together inclusive PE lesson plans, personal development resources and teacher training.

The following can be expected from primary schools joining the programme:

- ◀ Detailed PE lesson plans.
- ◀ Developing fundamental movement skills.
- ◀ Accompanying videos for further training.
- ◀ Personal development challenges.
- ◀ Cross-curricular STEM resources.
- ◀ Intra & inter school competitions.

And for secondary schools:

- ◀ Detailed PE lesson plans.
- ◀ GCSE assessment drills & accompanying videos.
- ◀ Modified formats of the game.
- ◀ Fun games within the sports hall.
- ◀ Employability materials, including Tennis Leaders Award.
- ◀ Mental health and wellbeing resources.
- ◀ Intra & inter school competitions.

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LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues can sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and October). These are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event.

No sites in LBH currently host Big Tennis weekends.

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA has launched the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. It states that this is due to the following needs:

- ◀ Player Trends:
 - ◀ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ◀ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ◀ Barriers:
 - ◀ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ◀ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often
 - ◀ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ◀ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players
 - ◀ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

- ◀ Free for all players to book and attend
- ◀ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators
- ◀ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending)
- ◀ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites (a three court site can have up to 34 players attending). The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

Future consideration should be given to offer Free Parks Tennis in Parks across LBH.

Tennis coaching/sessions

Lee Duncan Coaching operates at Cranston Park LTC and operates several high performance, academy and community tennis programmes from the site for both adults and juniors. Across summer weeks, sessions will run on weekends and most weekday evenings and incorporate the following:

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- ◀ Adult cardio tennis sessions.
- ◀ High Performance sessions.
- ◀ Holiday camps.
- ◀ Junior Academy sessions (for 10-16 year olds).
- ◀ Mini Academy sessions (for 5-10 year olds).
- ◀ Mini tennis red sessions.
- ◀ Mini tennis orange sessions.
- ◀ Mini tennis green sessions.

The programme also delivers coaching sessions to local schools in LBH such as Upminster Infant School, Ingrave Johnstone Primary School and The Coopers' Company and Coborn School.

In addition, Hylands CASC operates a year-round tennis programme which has five stages from age three to 18.

The above forms part of the LTA's SERVES programme, which is an initiative aimed towards helping young people in under-served communities get active and experience the physical, social and mental benefits of tennis. It is aimed at 4-18 year olds, with over 1,500 activators equipped across the Country.

Padel

Currently 129,000 people reportedly play Padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

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.

Imported/exported demand

Whilst exact figures are unknown, any demand for tennis within a club environment will currently need to be met outside of the Borough, with this therefore likely to lead to levels of exported demand. Alternatively, such demand will not be being catered for at all, thus resulting in unmet demand, as further detailed below.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of courts for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match court or where a league or club operates a waiting list. Consultation did not highlight any potential unmet demand.

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Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed.

Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- ◀ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◀ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ◀ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ◀ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◀ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◀ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

In relation to clubs, only Gidea Park LTC is the only club which is unable to take on new members due to capacity. The Club states that this is due to an already high membership and it does not have access to courts with sports lighting. As such, a waiting list is in place, with 80 people currently on this.

The remaining responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, these clubs do not report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from facilities are preventing activity.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 4,328 people within LBH, which represents approximately 1.7% of the Borough's population, which is the same as the national average of 1.7%.

Future demand

Four of the responsive clubs report plans to increase their membership numbers; Elm Park, Grosvenor, Hylands and Raphael Park tennis clubs. The total future demand expressed by these equates to 74 senior and 74 junior members, as shown in the table below.

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Table 7.11: Summary of future tennis club demand (responsive clubs)

| Club name | Senior | Junior (U18) |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cranston Park LTC | - | - |
| Elm Park LTC | 10 | 10 |
| Gidea Park LTC | - | - |
| Grosvenor LTC | 10 | 10 |
| Hylands TC | 4 | 20 |
| Raphael Park TC | 50 | 34 |
| Total | 74 | 74 |

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth as identified in its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment, which is therefore very relevant in LBH. To that extent, it is key that the local authority and park sites in LBH continue to be part of the ClubSpark initiative as this will allow growth in demand that occurs to be monitored.

Sports Facility Calculator

This 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.

Table 7.12: Sports facilities calculator

| Factor | Population 2018: | Population estimate: 2041 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| ONS population projections | 262,066 | 279,413 |
| Population increase | - | 17,347 |
| Facilities to meet change in demand | - | 2.31 courts |

*based on Q3 2022 build costs

Calculations assume that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for tennis courts. SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 2.31 courts, up to 2041.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

The LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

Using the guide, the table overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs in LBH taking into account both current and future demand.

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Table 7.13: Capacity analysis (club courts)

| Site ID | Site | Club users | Current demand (members) | Future demand (members) | No of courts | Sports lighting? | Capacity (members) | Current capacity balance | Future capacity balance |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 16 | Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club | Cranston Park LTC | 516 | - | 8 | Yes | 480 | 36 | 36 |
| 31 | Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club | Gidea Park LTC | 400 | - | 7 | Yes (4) | 360 | 40 | 40 |
| 33 | Grosvenor Tennis Club | Grosvenor LTC | 203 | 223 | 4 | Yes (3) | 220 | 17 | 3 |
| 47 | Hornchurch High School | Hylands CASC | 107 | 131 | 6 | Yes | 360 | 253 | 229 |
| 69 | Raphael Park | Raphael Park TC | 106 | 156 | 12 | No | 480 | 374 | 324 |
| 104 | Elm Park Lawn Tennis Club | Elm Park LTC | 15 | 35 | 2 | No | 120 | 105 | 85 |

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As evidenced in the table above, there is a theoretical shortfall of provision for club-based tennis in LBH, with two clubs currently operating over the capacity guide. These are:

- ◀ Cranston Park LTC (at Cranston Park Lawn Tennis Club).
- ◀ Gidea Park LTC (at Gidea Park Lawn Tennis Club).

The total current potential overplay across the sites adds up to 76 members, whilst the future shortfall equates to 79 members. This represents only a slight deficit. Both Cranston Park LTC and Gidea Park LTC are only marginally oversubscribed, and none of the two clubs report any capacity issues.

Grosvenor LTC has a slight shortfall when factoring in future demand with this equating to three members.

All remaining clubs have overall spare capacity, with this collectively amounting to 749 members currently and 638 members when accounting for future demand.

Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in LBH as full usage figures are not known. However, it is considered likely that some courts are being well utilised given the use of LTA products such as ClubSpark at all local authority sites and the majority of club sites. That being said, capacity is likely to be limited, particularly outside of summer months, with only four courts operated by the Council currently serviced by sports lighting.

It is then being further impacted upon by a lack of sports lighting (or covered/indoor courts) at many sites, the multi-sport nature of most provision, and the fact that a high quantity of courts are located at schools, all of which will be further reducing availability. Quality improvements may also assist, with this linked to existing investment plans.

Based on the above, whilst no capacity issues have been identified and no requirement for additional courts has been uncovered, increased recreational demand could be sought through improving the existing stock of courts. As well as increased sports lighting, quality improvements at additional sites (e.g. Central Park, Harrow Lodge Park, Noak Hill Sports Complex and Rise Park) could also be pursued.

7.5: Conclusion

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. Therefore, the importance of retaining existing provision is important despite no immediate obvious need for more provision.

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

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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.

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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.

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PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in LBH are flat greens (as opposed to crown greens). Flat green bowls is governed nationally by Bowls England. Bowls England has recently released a new strategy known as Fit for the Future (2021-26).

Consultation

There are nine bowling clubs in LBH. Of these, four have responded to consultation requests; a response rate of 44% as shown below despite several attempts to make contact.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation responses

| Club name | Analysis area | Responded? |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Clockhouse BC (Upminster) | South | Yes |
| Elm Park BC (Hornchurch) | South | No |
| Harold Hill BC | North | Yes |
| Haynes Park BC | East | No |
| Gidea Park BC | North | Yes |
| Liberty of Havering | West | No |
| Rainham BC | South | No |
| Romford BC | West | No |
| Upminster BC | East | Yes |

8.2: Supply

There are nine flat bowling greens in LBH located across the same number of sites. All are available for community use.

Table 8.2: Summary of available greens by analysis area

| Analysis area | Number of flat greens |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| East | 2 |
| North | 2 |
| South | 3 |
| West | 2 |
| LBH | 9 |

As shown above, the South Analysis Area provides three greens, whilst there are two greens in each of the East, North and West analysis areas.

Indoor bowls

Whilst this report only considers outdoor bowling greens, it must be referenced that there are one indoor bowling green in LBH. This is located at Havering Indoor Bowls Club. This is pertinent to this study as many users and members of outdoor bowling greens also utilise and are members of indoor facilities, particularly during winter months.

From consultation, all the responsive clubs report that some of its members also utilise indoor provision, most commonly outside of the outdoor bowling season. This is done on an individual basis rather than any of the clubs having a formal arrangement in place.

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Figure 8.1 below shows the location of all bowling greens currently servicing LBH. For a key to the map, see Table 8.3 overleaf.

Figure 8.1: Location of bowls greens in LBH



Table 8.3: Key to map

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Users | Management |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 11 | Clockhouse Bowling | RM14 3DU | South | Clockhouse BC | Sports Club |
| 24 | Elm Park & Hornchurch Bowling Club | RM12 4EZ | South | Elm Park BC | Sports Club |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | RM2 6NP | North | Gidea Park BC | Council |
| 35 | Harold Hill Bowls Club | RM3 7FL | North | Harold Hill BC | Sports Club |

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| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area | Users | Management |
|---------|------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 41 | Havering Bowls Club | RM11 1JU | West | Liberty of Havering BC | Sports Club |
| 44 | Haynes Park | RM11 2BU | East | Haynes Park BC | Council |
| 65 | Rainham Bowls Club | RM13 9NW | South | Rainham BC | Sports Club |
| 75 | Romford Bowls Club | RM2 5AA | West | Romford BC | Sports Club |
| 92 | Upminster Bowling Club | RM14 1AU | East | Upminster BC | Sports Club |

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in the table below.

Table 8.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in LBH

| Name of club | Ownership/management details |
|---------------------------|---|
| Clockhouse BC (Upminster) | Leases the green at Clockhouse Bowling Club from the Council |
| Elm Park BC (Hornchurch) | Leases the green at Elm Park & Hornchurch Bowling Club from the Council |
| Harold Hill BC | Rents the green at Harold Hill Bowls Club from the Council. |
| Haynes Park BC | Leases the green at Haynes Park from the Council |
| Gidea Park BC | Leases the green at Gidea Park Sports Ground from the Council. |
| Liberty of Havering | Leases the green at Havering Bowls Club from the Council. |
| Rainham BC | Leases the green at Rainham Bowls Club from the Council. |
| Romford BC | Leases the green at Romford Bowls Club from the Council. |
| Upminster BC | Owns the freehold to the green at Upminster Bowling Club. |

Generally, any clubs with lease agreements with fewer than 25 years remaining (unless recently entered into) are considered to have unsecure tenure as this can, amongst other things, prevent site development and limit their capacity to make external funding applications.

Only Upminster BC has freehold of its site. The remaining clubs either rent their green off the Council or via a lease agreement. As such, none of these clubs have any security of tenure concerns.

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Quality

The quality of bowling greens across LBH has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers, but are not limited to, several attributes of the site including evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking/floodlights/fencing). For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Across LBH, seven greens (77%) are assessed as good quality and two (22%) are assessed as standard quality, with none assessed as poor. This is summarised site-by-site in the table below.

Figure 8.2: Bowling green quality

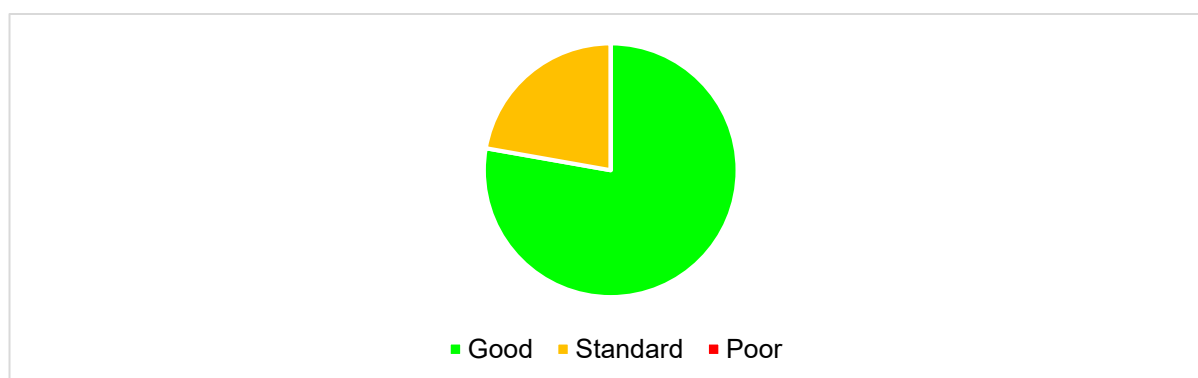


Table 8.5: Summary of bowling green quality

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Quality |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| 11 | Clockhouse Bowling | South | Good |
| 24 | Elm Park & Hornchurch Bowling Club | South | Good |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | North | Standard |
| 35 | Harold Hill Bowls Club | North | Good |
| 41 | Havering Bowls Club | West | Good |
| 44 | Haynes Park | East | Standard |
| 65 | Rainham Bowls Club | South | Good |
| 75 | Romford Bowls Club | West | Good |
| 92 | Upminster Bowling Club | East | Good |

The good quality greens are provided at Clockhouse Bowling, Elm Park & Hornchurch Bowling Club, Harold Hill Bowls Club, Havering Bowls Club, Rainham Bowls Club, Romford Bowls Club and Upminster Bowling Club.

In correlation with no greens being assessed as poor quality, of responding clubs, seven that quality has improved over the last 12 months, with these stating that this is generally due to improved and/or increased maintenance.

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The clubs are as follows:

- ◀ Clockhouse BC (Upminster).
- ◀ Elm Park BC (Hornchurch).
- ◀ Harold Hill BC.
- ◀ Liberty of Havering.
- ◀ Rainham BC.
- ◀ Romford BC.
- ◀ Upminster BC.

Contrastingly, Gidea Park BC reports that the quality of its green has worsened due to the Council no longer maintaining the green and the Club having to recruit its own maintenance contractor.

Haynes BC reports that its green has suffered issues with vandalism. This has led to damage to the playing surface.

Ancillary provision

Most clubs have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house, although the quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is therefore important to recognise the importance of ancillary provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can help sustain and grow membership levels. This is also acknowledged by the governing bodies as both offer potential grants for clubs looking to make ancillary facility improvements.

Across LBH, most clubs report that they are satisfied with their current provision, although some have improvement plans/aspirations, including, Harold Hill BC. The Club report plans to renovate its pavilion in the near future and install conservatory roof insulation.

Clockhouse BC reports that when it gets a new lease agreement from the Council it plans to apply for a funding to develop the toilet block and to install disabled toilets. However, no funding has been obtained as of yet. The Club also reports that its car parking is inadequate as it does not have enough spaces.

Sports lighting

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. However, in LBH, no greens are currently serviced. That being said bowling greens with sports lighting are somewhat rare across the Country and this is therefore comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision at Havering Indoor Bowls Club provides a suitable alternative especially during the winter.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are nine clubs using bowling greens in LBH. Membership, where known (five clubs), equates to 436 members, made up of 265 senior men, 167 senior women and four juniors. This is summarised club-by-club in the table below.

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Table 8.6: Summary of club membership

| Club | Analysis area | Senior males | Senior females | Juniors | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| Clockhouse BC (Upminster) | South | 65 | 40 | - | 105 |
| Elm Park BC (Hornchurch) | South | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Harold Hill BC | North | 41 | 17 | - | 58 |
| Haynes Park BC | North | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Gidea Park BC | West | 64 | 35 | 1 | 100 |
| Liberty of Havering | East | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Rainham BC | South | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |
| Romford BC | West | 55 | 35 | 3 | 93 |
| Upminster BC | East | 40 | 40 | - | 80 |
| Total | - | 265 | 167 | 4 | 436 |

The average club membership is 85 for the clubs. The largest club is Clockhouse BC (105 members and Gidea Park BC (100 members), whilst the smallest is Harold Hill BC with 58 members.

By analysis area, the South Analysis Area provides for the most demand for both formats, which aligns to it containing the largest number of greens. The North Analysis Area has the least participation.

Table 8.7: Summary of membership by analysis area

| Analysis area | Men's | Women's | Juniors | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| East | 40 | 40 | - | 40 |
| North | 41 | 17 | - | 58 |
| South | 65 | 40 | - | 105 |
| West | 119 | 70 | 4 | 193 |
| LBH | 265 | 167 | 4 | 436 |

Participation trends

In line with the national trend of declining membership, Harold Hill BC reports that it has experienced a decrease in its membership numbers over recent years.

Most remaining clubs report that demand has generally remained static. That being said, due to the nature of the sport, even clubs with static membership need to continuously attract new members to mitigate against the loss of existing users.

Both Clockhouse BC and Gidea Park BC report that its senior members has increased in recent years, which has enabled the Club to field an additional team due to the extra members and as a result a new bowling league has been formed called Gidea Park League. It suggests that this is due to increased advertising and word of mouth.

Additional demand

Six clubs report that their greens are available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. The clubs are Elm Park BC, Harold Hill BC, Haynes Park BC, Liberty of Havering, Rainham BC, Romford BC and Upminster BC.

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Notwithstanding the above, none of the clubs report significant uptake and the most state that any pay and play users are generally accompanied by members.

For the remaining clubs, the most prominent reason for pay and play not being offered is that there is no one on site at required times to manage the process. There is also a perceived lack of demand to make it financially viable.

Play Bowls

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play users. Clubs are able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help greens become more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

Every affiliated flat green bowls club is now on the Play-Bowls website (pay-as-you-play).

Bowls Big Weekend

Bowls' Big Weekend gives people across the country the opportunity to play the sport for free in a relaxed, informal setting.

Bowls' Big Weekend takes place on the second bank holiday in May annually (from Friday to Monday). The aim of the weekend allows clubs across the country will open their doors to enable new participants to discover everything that is great about our sociable, accessible sport.

Bowls Bash

To increase participation, Bowls England has recently launched a product known as Bowls Bash. This is an exciting, new form of lawn bowls that is easy to play, shortened and fun for all ages and abilities. The aim is to roll the ball at the Jack; the closer you get, the more points you earn for your team, and bonus points are given for kissing the target. It is normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match, and generally lasts an hour.

None of the clubs in LBH has signed up for Bowls Bash.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

All responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them, and none report having a waiting list in place. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This means that it is likely that other barriers are preventing increased participation, rather than a lack of provision or capacity.

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Sport England’s Segmentation Tool enables analysis of ‘the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but ‘are not currently doing so’. The tool identifies latent demand amounting to 439 people in LBH which equates to just over 0.16% of the population. This is marginally higher than the national average at 0.01%.

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, they are taking active steps at county and national level to encourage younger players to participate.

Furthermore, using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2031. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Of responding clubs, four report future demand aspirations, with this equating to an overall growth of 50 members (40 senior and 10 junior). This summarised by club in the following table.

Table 8.8: Summary of future demand

| Club | Analysis area | Senior men’s | Senior women’s | Junior |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| Clockhouse BC (Upminster) | South | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Elm Park BC (Hornchurch) | South | - | - | - |
| Harold Hill BC | North | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Haynes Park BC | East | - | - | - |
| Gidea Park BC | North | 5 | 5 | - |
| Liberty of Havering | West | | | |
| Rainham BC | South | | | |
| Romford BC | West | - | - | - |
| Upminster BC | East | 5 | 5 | - |
| Total | - | 20 | 20 | 10 |

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during morning and afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

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 used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer.

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Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in LBH are classified as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Within capacity range | Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues |
| At capacity range | Membership is at the capacity limit of the green |
| Outside capacity range | Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range |

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in LBH receives, where information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 8.9: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in LBH

| Site ID | Site | Club user | Current members | Future demand |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 11 | Clockhouse Bowling | Clockhouse BC (Upminster) | 105 | 120 |
| 32 | Gidea Park Sports Ground | Gidea Park BC | 100 | 120 |
| 35 | Harold Hill Bowls Club | Harold Hill BC | 58 | 68 |
| 92 | Upminster Bowling Club | Upminster BC | 80 | 90 |

The table above shows that 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.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

Those clubs which have a substantial level of demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. Bowls England identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

In addition, supporting clubs to install LED lighting or accessing an indoor bowls facility could be a potential solution for those clubs operating above the recommended capacity limit, in order to adequately cater for all demand.

8.5: Conclusion

In summary, all current demand is being accommodated, Clockhouse BC (Upminster), Gidea Park BC and Upminster BC in LBH are, however, operating at or above recommended capacity guidelines and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

The total membership for the four responsive clubs in LBH is 436. Therefore, the average bowls club membership in LBH is 85 members. Four clubs highlight aspirations to increase membership. These clubs all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing greens.

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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.

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PART 9: ATHLETICS

9.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England.

EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants.

EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Consultation

In total, three out of the four clubs have responded to consultation requests, representing a 75% response rate as shown below.

Table 9.1: Summary of athletics response rate

| Name of Club | Responded? |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Harold Wood Running Club | Yes |
| Havering AC | Yes |
| Havering '90 Joggers | No |
| Havering Tri | Yes |

9.2: Supply

There is one full size purpose-built outdoor athletics track in LBH, located at Hornchurch Stadium. The site provides a six lane synthetic 400-metre track that is serviced by sports lighting. It also provides for the full complement of field events (e.g., throwing cages and jumping pits).

Table 9.2: Summary of outdoor athletics tracks in LBH

| Site ID | Site | Postcode | Analysis area | Length | Surface type | No. of lanes | Sports lighting? |
|---------|--------------------|----------|---------------|--------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 48 | Hornchurch Stadium | RM14 2LX | South | 400m | Synthetic | 6 | Yes |

In addition to the above, there is a synthetic four lane 60m straight located at Noak Hill Sports Complex, which is used for recreational and informal athletics activity, although it is not serviced by dedicated sports lighting it is thought some residual lighting is available. The track was installed in 2018.

As seen in the table above, Hornchurch Stadium is in the South Analysis Area and therefore located to the south east of the Borough, although relatively central. For specific location of this facility, please see Figure 9.1 below.

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Figure 9.1: Location of athletics tracks in LBH



Future provision

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. Consultation with Havering AC identifies that the Club has a significant waiting list and as such reports demand for an eight-lane athletics facility with throwing cages and jumping pits along with an accompanying clubhouse with numerous changing rooms, toilets and a kitchen/social area as well as ample car parking.

England Athletics strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision.

In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

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Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside the catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand.

In terms of formal track & field provision, LBH is well served by the facility at Hornchurch Stadium. However, to encourage active participation in recreational walking, jogging, running and pushing EA would be supportive of a ActiveTrack for the Borough either as an enhancement to an existing park/open space/recreational area or as an integral part of a new housing development.

NewGen facility concepts

Track & Field (Run/Jump/Throw)

- ▶ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.
- ▶ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ▶ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational Running/Endurance Running/Multi sport

- ▶ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ▶ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- ▶ Sport England Active Design ActiveTrack Case Study: [Sowerby Sports Village](#)

Management

The track at Hornchurch Stadium is owned and managed by the Council. The track is utilised by Hornchurch FC and Hornchurch AC as well as school bookings. There is no general community use as the site is not staffed constantly. When neither of the clubs are accessing the site, the gates are locked.

Quality

The quality of the athletics track at Hornchurch Stadium has been assessed via a combination of site visits using non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating. Key factors which impact on the quality rating include the condition and age of the track surface, prominence of line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use (for the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2).

The provision at Hornchurch Stadium is assessed as standard quality, predominately due to the age of the track surface and signs of wear and tear. It is reaching the end of its lifecycle, and the track is scheduled to resurface the track in May 2025.

In addition, England Athletics identifies that the external sports lighting needs an inspection to ensure compliance with minimum standards.

TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics’ quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities. From 2021,

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venues that actively choose not to pursue accreditation are not eligible to apply for a competition licence at any level.

Hornchurch Stadium has TrackMark accreditation; however, as stated above, the track surface will need to be resurfaced within the lifespan of the PPOSS in order to maintain certification.

Ancillary provision

Hornchurch Stadium has poor quality ancillary facilities that provide toilets and changing rooms, although Havering AC does not use the changing rooms. It is serviced by a clubhouse which was built in 1987. Furthermore, through consultation, Havering AC report the car parking provision is limited due to the numerous pot holes and is often full on club nights.

9.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just the traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Club demand

There are three clubs in LBH affiliated to England Athletics. These are summarised below.

Havering Athletics Club

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.

Members compete in track and field leagues such as the Southern Athletics League and the UK Youth Development League. In addition, various cross-country and road running leagues are accessed as well as county, area and national championships.

In addition to facility issues at Hornchurch Stadium, the Club also expresses that its main concern is that it has an extensive waiting list of 100 members. Broken down, this equates to 15 senior and 75 junior members. Although in part this relates to a lack of coaches, it is also reported that with access to better quality facilities, the Club would be able to accommodate more members.

Havering '90 Joggers

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.

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Harold Wood Running Club

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.

Havering Tri

As a triathlon club, Havering Tri Club participates in significant running activity and holds numerous running sessions similar to those held by the running clubs in the Authority. It currently has 100 members. The Club holds running sessions at Coopers Company & Coburn School on Mondays and utilises the track facilities on Friday evenings at Hornchurch Stadium.

Additional demand

Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In LBH, there is one Run Together group, known as Upjoggers.

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward, especially given the large number of clubs in LBH that could be involved.

Park Run

Parkrun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

There are currently two Parkrun events held weekly in LBH, with these taking place at Harrow Lodge Park and Raphael Park. Across the sites, there have been 895 events, with 502 at Harrow Lodge Park and 393 at Raphael Park.

Other events

Other running events are held in LBH across the year, normally on an annual basis. This includes the Havering Mind Half Marathon & 10K, which is organised by a local mental health charity.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

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The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in LBH, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by clubs in the Borough.

Exported/imported demand

None of the clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members of LBH-based clubs will come from outside of the Borough just as nearby clubs from outside of the Borough will likely attract some members from LBH. Similarly, many events in the region will likely accommodate significant levels of cross-boundary demand.

Latent/unmet demand

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%.

In addition, as mentioned above, Havering AC has a waiting list in place, with the club indicating that 100 people on the list (25 senior and 75 juniors). This is also categorised as latent demand.

Of the remaining clubs, none express latent or unmet demand, with no waiting lists in place and each club open to new members. This suggests that anyone wanting to participate can do so via the clubs and facilities that are in place. It is therefore likely that other barriers are preventing participation, rather than provision or a lack of capacity

Future demand

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost not turn demand away. This includes Havering AC, which indicate plans to increase demand despite not currently being able to achieve this due to a waiting list.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

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9.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is considerable demand for athletics and in particular running in LBH, as evidenced by the three clubs in existence and the variety of events held across the Borough. Although only one club is currently requiring regular access to purpose a built facility (Havering Athletics Club), the 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 well as some level of qualitative improvement is needed at Hornchurch Stadium. This is especially in regard to the surface of the track, which is planned for resurfacing in May 2025.

Away from Hornchurch Stadium, England Athletics' new generation of products should be considered (Active Track) to provide a recreational and informal athletics offer. This would be welcomed in LBH due to Hornchurch AC stating it can no longer take on any additional members and currently has a waiting list in place. This could provide a potential solution for Hornchurch AC and could be used as a facility for its junior members, providing that the provision suits its needs. In addition, greater utilisation of the Compact Track should be sought to help address some capacity issues and reduce the waiting list for Havering AC, particularly for its junior members.

9.5: Conclusion

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. It is ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, Active Tracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments. An example of a recently installed Active Track is provided at [Sowerby Sports Village](#).

Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities identified in LBH, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

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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. It is ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, Active Tracks 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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PART 10: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

10.1: Baseball and softball

Introduction

Both baseball and softball are governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK). BSUK has aligned its strategic goals to Sport England's Uniting the Movement, an initiative concentrated on increasing the sporting activity levels across under-represented communities, in the hope of securing investment for 2022-2027.

Baseball, the more commonly known of the two sports, is played between two teams of nine players, both of which, alternate between batting and fielding across nine innings. In contrast, two forms of softball exist: slow pitch and fast pitch. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

Supply

The facilities at Raphael Park and Noak Hill Sports Complex have previously been used by Romford Wasps for softball matches and training purposes after a softball league was set up in 2015 in LBH. Both sites are no longer maintained for softball activity as the Club has since folded.

The nearest permanent facility is provided at Douglas Eyre Sports Centre in Waltham Forest.

Demand

No formal baseball/softball club demand currently exists in LBH, although there is Brentwood Baseball Club in existence that operates within the neighbouring authority of Brentwood at Clements Park. Romford Wasps previously played in LBH but has since folded.

Supply and demand analysis

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. As such, in the short term, any isolated demand that does exist should be directed to Brentwood Baseball Club.

10.2: Rugby league

Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played during the RFL summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is still considered to be a winter season sport in schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout winter months.

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Supply

There is no rugby league pitch in LBH. The nearest is located in Newham at East London Rugby Club, home of East London Dockers RLFC.

Demand

East London Dockers RLFC fields one senior men's team competing in the Merit Division of the London & South East League. It trains and plays competitive fixtures at East London Rugby Club. In addition, the Club utilises the 3G pitch at West Ham Memorial Recreation Ground for occasional training sessions, subject to availability.

Supply and demand analysis

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).

10.3: Gaelic football

Introduction

Britain GAA is the Provincial Council of Gaelic football and hurling outside of Ireland. It comprises seven counties, with LBH falling into the London region. The playing season runs from May until August.

Consultation

Thomas McCurtains GAA was consulted with to inform this section of the report.

Supply

There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches in LBH. The nearest is located in Haringey at Downhills Park, home to Éire Óg London Gaelic Football Club.

As such, Thomas McCurtain's GAA does not have access to a dedicated Gaelic football pitch and instead plays some competitive youth fixtures on one of the grass rugby union pitches at The Champion School.

Quality

The quality of the grass pitch at Champion School is assessed as poor quality for rugby union and is therefore considered to be poor quality for Gaelic football. Whilst the dual use does not generally impact on capacity due to the rugby union and rugby league seasons running separately, it can impact on post-season remedial work which can then impact on quality.

Demand

Thomas McCurtain's GAA is the key provider of Gaelic football within the Borough. It currently consists of 300-350 members, with ages ranging from as young as five to elderly members in their eighties. It fields several men's and women's teams as well as junior demand representing most age groups.

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In LBH, its competitive fixtures take place on Saturday afternoons on the grass provision at The Champion School. However, the Club identifies that both its senior men's and senior women's teams and play matches at Goodmayes Hospital Sports Ground, in Redbridge. This means that only its junior teams play within the Borough, although it reports no issues with this.

For training, the Club generally accesses the grass rugby union pitches at The Champion School on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The Club reports that its demand has remained relatively static in recent years but notes that it would like to add four more junior teams in the future. This is one team at each age group from U7 to U17s.

Supply and demand analysis

In isolation, the pitch used for Gaelic football at The Champion School is sufficient to accommodate the demand expressed by Thomas McCurtain's GAA given that most of its match demand takes place outside of LBH. It has a carrying capacity of 0.5 match equivalent session per week and caters for one match equivalent session of demand. Therefore, this is insufficient to meet demand for Gaelic football and further exacerbates the shortfalls.

The pitch is currently overplayed during the rugby union season, with the Gaelic football demand then likely to be limiting the post season remedial work that is taking place and any potential quality improvements that may be possible. This is therefore not ideal and it is clear that the demand would be better provided for via better quality provision or through being able to access a dedicated Gaelic football pitch.

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.
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ 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. As such, in the short term, any isolated demand that does exist should be directed to Brentwood Baseball Club playing within Brentwood.

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 are 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.

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PART 11: GOLF

11.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to 1,750 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as sites of special scientific interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated heritage coast sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or listed historic parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section has been informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs in LBH.

11.2: Supply

The three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf are defined in the table below. Pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 11.1: Definitions of golf facilities

| Facility type | Description |
|---------------|--|
| Standard | A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round. |
| Par 3 | Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport. |
| Driving Range | Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features. |

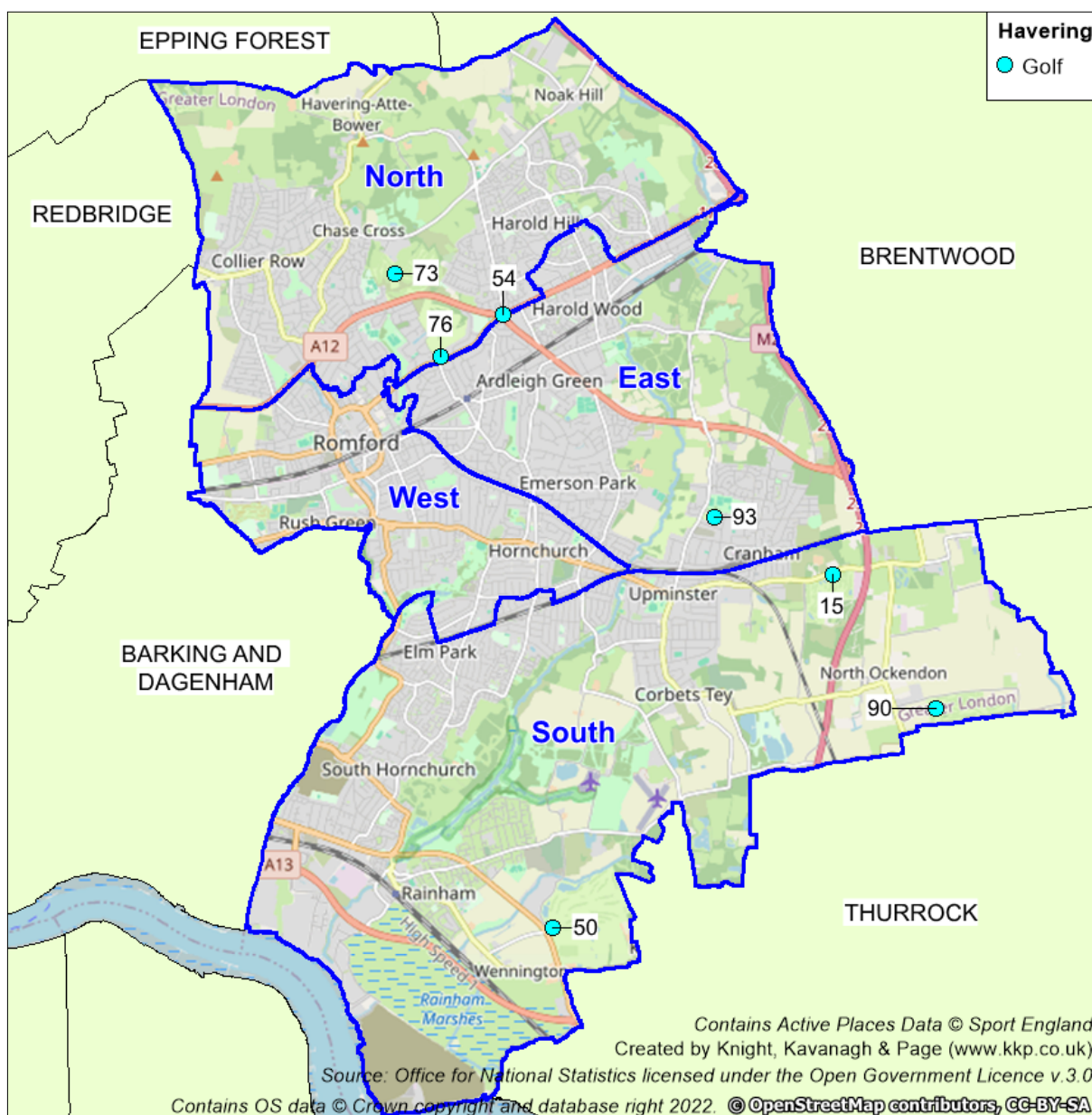
In LBH, six golf sites provide facilities conforming with the above definitions. These are identified in Table 11.2 and Figure 11.1 below. Three each are located in the North and two in the South Analysis Area, whilst there is one golf site in the East Analysis Area.

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Table 11.2: Golf facilities within LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Postcode | Analysis area |
|---------|------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 15 | Cranham Golf Course | RM14 3NU | South |
| 54 | Maylands Golf Club | RM3 0AZ | North |
| 73 | Risebridge Golf Centre | RM1 4PR | North |
| 76 | Romford Golf Club | RM2 5QB | North |
| 90 | Top Meadow Golf Club | RM14 3PR | South |
| 93 | Upminster Golf Club | RM14 1AU | East |

Figure 11.1: Location of golf courses in LBH



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Standard hole golf courses

All six golf clubs in LBH each provide one standard 18-hole course. Nationally, some 9-hole standard courses are provided, whilst some sites can provide 27 or 36 holes.

The standard hole provision across LBH is summarised in the following table.

Table 11.3: Summary of standard hole provision

| Site ID | Site name | Holes | Par | Yardage ²⁷ | | | Slope rating |
|---------|------------------------|-------|-----|-----------------------|------|------|--------------|
| 15 | Cranham Golf Course | 18 | 67 | 5119 | 4861 | 4570 | 105 |
| 54 | Maylands Golf Club | 18 | 71 | 3338 | 3108 | 2899 | 113 |
| 73 | Risebridge Golf Centre | 18 | 73 | 6309 | 6004 | 5320 | 129 |
| 76 | Romford Golf Club | 18 | 71 | 6383 | 6181 | 5769 | 127-133 |
| 90 | Top Meadow Golf Club | 18 | 72 | 3380 | 3280 | 2985 | 137 |
| 93 | Upminster Golf Club | 18 | 71 | 6021 | 5739 | 5519 | 117-127 |

Most of the 18-hole courses are relatively similar in length and are within the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. The longest course is found at Romford Golf Club (6,309 yards) whilst the shortest course is at Maylands Golf Club (3,338 yards).

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in LBH are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 105-133 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game, particularly when accompanying a standard hole course.

There are no Par 3 courses in LBH. The nearest identified are at Fairlop Waters Golf Course in Redbridge.

Driving range bays

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.

²⁷ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Where lighting is not provided, this can impact on usage, particularly during winter months when demand for such provision is generally at its highest.

Table 11.4: Summary of driving range bays within LBH

| Site ID | Site name | No. of bays | Sports lighting? | Pay and play? |
|---------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| 73 | Risebridge Golf Centre | 14 | Yes | Yes |
| 90 | Top Meadow Golf Club | 8 | No | Yes |

With only 20 driving range bays provided in LBH to the wider public, this represents a low amount for the size and population base of the Borough.

Whilst not in place at any sites in LBH, many driving range providers across the Country are updating their facilities with modern technology in a bid to increase demand, such as through the installation of automatic tees or via entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities, as summarised in the table below.

Table 11.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

| Management type | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| Members | Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers. |
| Proprietary | Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan. |
| Municipal | These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat. |

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

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The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales.

Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In LBH, there are two members clubs, three proprietary venues and one municipal site (Risebridge Golf Centre).

The management for each venue is summarised in the table below.

Table 11.6: Summary of management in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Management type |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 15 | Cranham Golf Course | Proprietary |
| 54 | Maylands Golf Club | Proprietary |
| 73 | Risebridge Golf Centre | Municipal |
| 76 | Romford Golf Club | Members |
| 90 | Top Meadow Golf Club | Proprietary |
| 93 | Upminster Golf Club | Members |

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

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In the past, it was very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £1,071 per year. In LBH, Romford Golf Club operates significantly above this, with full membership costing £1,890 annually.

Upminster Golf Club also operates above the national average for membership. Additionally, whilst costs at Maylands Golf Club and Risebridge Golf Centre are not currently disclosed, it is expected to be similar to this given other costs at the site and the high-end nature of the provision.

Conversely, 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.

In addition to membership, green fees for pay and play users are available at each site within LBH. For this, the cheapest sites are Cranham Golf Course and Top Meadow Golf Course, whereas Romford Golf Club and Upminster Golf Club are the most expensive (£60 on weekdays and £60 on weekends). These costs are again high, with fees as low as £10 available at lower end sites across the Country.

Table 11.7: Pricing structures at golf courses in LBH

| Site ID | Site name | Joining fee | Full membership (per year) | Weekday green fee | Weekend green fee |
|---------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 15 | Cranham Golf Course | - | £950 | £19 | £26 |
| 54 | Maylands Golf Club | - | Unknown | £35 | £40 |
| 73 | Risebridge Golf Centre | - | Unknown | £22 | £31 |
| 76 | Romford Golf Club | - | £1890 | £60 | £60 |
| 90 | Top Meadow Golf Club | - | £895 | £21 | £26 |
| 93 | Upminster Golf Club | - | £1749 | £60 | £60 |

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, for golf courses, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines. However, quality can also be subjective and can be dependent on, amongst other aspects, golfer preference and ability.

In terms of quality of the golf courses in LBH, whilst no assessments have taken place to inform this study (due to the aforementioned subjectivity), it is reported to be good across the Borough as reflected by the high price point of the facilities. Few issues have been identified, with all three sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round. These programmes are frequent and sophisticated, especially at Upminster Golf Club.

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Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across LBH, with all six courses serviced by all-encompassing facilities that feature bars, kitchens and function rooms that are also available for external hire. Golf clubs generally need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals. From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

11.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g., by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses report a near doubling of demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term. However, to what level this may apply remains unclear as retention may be challenging as more users return to normal working/living conditions and with ongoing economic issues.

Prior to the recent growth in demand, participation in golf had generally been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may have been levelling off. The landscape of demand has also changed, with fewer users taking up membership packages and more golfers becoming nomadic and using a range of courses on a pay and play basis.

The following section examines current demand for golf in LBH as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf reports that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, with this being based on its central national handicap platform. In LBH, the current average membership across the sites is 366, suggesting that demand is slightly below than the national rates.

Membership trends

In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across LBH has gradually increased since 2015, despite reductions in 2016 and 2018 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).

Table 11.8: Changes in demand since 2015

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Total |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 300 | 287 | 206 | 300 | 200 | 353 | 363 | 366 |

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Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within LBH is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf or disclosed by operators due to commercial sensitivity. However, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the propriety courses (Cranham Golf Course, Maylands Golf Course and Top Meadow Golf Club) due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place. In contrast, it will be lower at sites such as Romford and Upminster golf clubs given that they are more exclusive and predominately focused on members.

If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere due to the nature of golf, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As a result, such unmet demand in LBH is considered to be relatively minimal.

Notwithstanding the above, Risebridge Golf Club and Romford Golf Club report that they are not currently accepting new members, with waiting lists instead in place.

Unmet demand could also be expressed if there is a lack of provision to meet a particular golfing market. This is much more likely to be the case in LBH, with most sites currently providing relatively lengthy standard hole courses and at a high price point. This may be leaving those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access without anywhere to play (although some may leave the Borough to do so).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,830 in LBH.

In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across LBH, Romford Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 137,817 potential players falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Upminster Golf Club is identified as having the smallest potential demand, equating to 67,455 people. This, however, is still substantial.

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The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members.
- ◀ Older traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger fanatics.
- ◀ Younger actives.
- ◀ Late enthusiasts.
- ◀ Occasional time pressed.
- ◀ Social couples.
- ◀ Casual fun.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “relaxed members” (14,852 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (12,464 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Exported/imported demand

Exported and imported demand for golf is difficult to track as users are more likely to travel when compared to most other sports in order to gain access to facilities that best suit their needs (e.g., in terms of quality or cost). However, levels in and out of LBH are expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be expected given the number of sites that are within the Borough but in close proximity to others and the number of sites that are outside of the Borough but that are in close proximity to it. This especially relates to sites such as Crowlands Health Golf Club just outside of LBH.

In addition, with no Par 3 courses within LBH, any demand for such provision will be travelling outside of the Borough in order to access appropriate facilities (or would be unmet demand). This is likely to further add to the levels of exported demand.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In LBH, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand.

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11.4: Supply and demand analysis

With six golf facilities and two driving ranges currently provided in LBH, there is seemingly a good range of provision in the Borough. This is especially the case given the different operational structures in place, with some facilities prioritising membership and others prioritising pay and play usage and with some offering a high price point and others offering a low price point. This suggests that all types of golfers are being catered for.

Notwithstanding the above, no sites can be deemed surplus to requirements as it is clear that any loss could not be sustained, meaning all provision requires protection. This is further evidenced through two sites having waiting lists in place.

With only two driving ranges provided in the Borough, accommodating 20 driving bays collectively, it can also be said that there is an under-supply for this type of provision based on the high levels of demand that are evident.

Similarly, there are no Par 3 courses in operation, the provision of which would offer further forms of variety. As these are the types of facilities most likely to appeal to, as examples, beginners and casual players, it again shows that there are facility gaps that will be leading to unmet and exported demand being expressed.

11.5: Conclusion

Given high levels of demand, the current stock of golf provision within LBH needs protection. Furthermore, avenues to improve the variety of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers have somewhere suitable to play.

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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 proprietary 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 lead 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.

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PART 12: RECREATIONAL SPACES

This section of the report focuses on other facilities in LBH that are provided for and/or commonly used for outdoor sport and recreation purposes and that are not featured in the previous sections. Supply and demand information is identified for outdoor gyms before an overall supply and demand analysis.

12.1: Outdoor gyms

Introduction

Similar to interior gyms found in leisure centres, outdoor gyms can be found in public spaces providing users with a selection of equipment that they can use to exercise for free. The types of equipment found at these sites often consists of a mixture of cardiovascular and strength-based equipment designed for ease of use and most potential users.

Supply

In total, 21 outdoor gym facilities are currently identified across LBH. The South Analysis Area has the most provision with six, whilst the East Analysis Area has the fewest with three. All 21 are managed by the Council.

Table 12.1: Summary of outdoor gyms In LBH

| Site ID | Site | Postcode | Analysis area | Ownership |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | RM13 7AT | South | Council |
| 10 | Central Park (Romford) | RM3 9LB | North | Council |
| 14 | Cottons Park | RM7 7AA | West | Council |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | RM3 0NB | East | Council |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | RM12 4QZ | West | Council |
| 49 | Hylands Park | RM11 1EE | West | Council |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field | RM7 7PN | North | Council |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | RM11 1GR | West | Council |
| 66 | Rainham Recreation Ground | RM13 9AA | South | Council |
| 71 | Rise Park | RM1 4XJ | North | Council |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | RM13 9SX | South | Council |
| 79 | St Andrews Park | RM11 3RU | East | Council |
| 96 | Upminster Park | RM14 2LU | South | Council |
| 94 | Upminster Playing Fields | RM14 1BT | East | Council |
| 105 | Lodge Farm Park | RM2 5AD | West | Council |
| 108 | Bosworth Field | RM3 8XS | North | Council |
| 109 | Hacton Parkway | RM12 6EA | South | Council |
| 110 | Hornchurch Country Park | RM12 6TS | South | Council |
| 111 | Jutsums Recreation Ground | RM7 0ER | West | Council |
| 112 | Jubilee Park | RM7 0FN | West | Council |

There are 20 outdoor gyms in LBH located across the same number of sites. All are available for community use.

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Table 12.2: Summary of outdoor gyms by analysis area

| Analysis area | Number of outdoor gyms |
|---------------|------------------------|
| East | 3 |
| North | 4 |
| South | 6 |
| West | 7 |
| Total | 20 |

Figure 12.1: Outdoor gym locations in LBH



Future provision

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.

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Quality

Most of the outdoor gyms are good quality as most are relatively new having been installed or refurbished in recent years. The provision at Lodge Farm Park is the oldest having been established in 2015.

Table 12.3: Quality of outdoor gym

| Site ID | Site | Analysis area | Year installed/ refurbished | Quality |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 8 | Brittons Playing Field | South | 2022 | Good |
| 10 | Central Park (Romford) | North | 2022 | Good |
| 14 | Cottons Park | West | 2018 | Standard |
| 36 | Harold Wood Park | East | 2021 | Good |
| 39 | Harrow Lodge Park | West | 2019 | Good |
| 49 | Hylands Park | West | 2017 | Standard |
| 51 | King Georges Playing Field | North | 2018 | Good |
| 61 | Park Lane Recreation Ground | West | 2018 | Good |
| 66 | Rainham Recreation Ground | South | 2023 | Good |
| 71 | Rise Park | North | 2019 | Good |
| 78 | Spring Farm Park | South | 2021 | Standard |
| 79 | St Andrews Park | East | 2021 | Good |
| 96 | Upminster Park | South | 2022 | Good |
| 94 | Upminster Playing Fields | East | 2016 | Standard |
| 105 | Lodge Farm Park | West | 2015 | Poor |
| 108 | Bosworth Field | North | 2017 | Poor |
| 109 | Hacton Parkway | South | 2019 | Standard |
| 110 | Hornchurch Country Park | South | 2023 | Good |
| 111 | Jutsums Recreation Ground | West | 2015 | Poor |
| 112 | Jubilee Park | West | 2018 | Standard |

Demand

Due to the open access nature of all the outdoor gym supply, no usage information is known. Some are likely to be more popular than others, whilst some equipment is likely to be more well used than others. However, there is currently no feasible way of tracking this.

Supply and demand analysis

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.

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Recreational spaces - 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.

Recreational spaces - 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.

Recreational spaces – 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.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030.
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics.
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active.
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all.
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector.
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment.
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector.

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (updated 2023)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP does; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ◀ Win a major tournament
- ◀ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ◀ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ◀ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ◀ A game free of discrimination
- ◀ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ◀ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ◀ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ◀ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ◀ Maximum investment into the game
- ◀ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ◀ World class venues and events
- ◀ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ◀ Technology enabled and insight driven

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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations

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

The England and Wales Cricket Board plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket. It is currently being refreshed.

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

◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***

- ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
- ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
- ◀ Invest in club facilities
- ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
- ◀ Further invest in County Competitions

◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***

- ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
- ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
- ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
- ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans

◀ ***Make cricket accessible***

- ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
- ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
- ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
- ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
- ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

◀ ***Engage children and young people***

- ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
- ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
- ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

◀ ***Transform women's and girls' cricket***

- ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
- ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
- ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
- ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme

◀ ***Support our communities***

- ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
- ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
- ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
- ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategy 2021 Onwards

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

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

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

Game Objectives:

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

Driving Objectives:

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

England Hockey Strategy (2023 – 2028)

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Aiming to make hockey more noticeable, relevant, and accessible to all, England Hockey have launched their new strategy 'Creating a Future for Our Game Together' on 3rd October. The new strategy is a continued effort to re-engage with the current hockey community and to reach out to potential newcomers to introduce them to hockey.

Underpinning the strategy and of importance to the hockey community are four values, "collaborate inclusively, care for people and places, play with spirit win with grace and resilient in everything we do".

The strategy is the culmination of two years consultation with various stakeholders across the sport and larger sporting sector. Hockey will be guided by five key objectives over the next five years.

1. Lead Positive Change: to create and champion positive change within the community by broadening and widening the engagement of the sport and making it more ethnically and culturally diverse.
2. Meaningful Growth: to make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future, we want to nurture a love of hockey within a more diverse group of young players and communities to reflect society.
3. Drive Visible Impact: to produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game, captures the passion, builds a deep connection and amplifies the voices of the hockey community with new and existing participants.
4. Responsible Leadership: to provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership. Leadership that fosters trust within physically and psychologically safe environments and which puts players, the community and sustainability at heart of every decision.
5. Inspirational International Success: inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage, underpinned by a thriving talent system and domestic game.

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The strategy aligns with Sport England's 'Uniting the movement' strategy and UK Sport's Powering Success, Inspiring Impact' strategic plan.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision, which is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'. The strategy can be found [here](#).

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

Game objectives

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

Driving objectives

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

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ◀ **Enjoyment** – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ◀ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ◀ **Diversity & Inclusion** – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create and inclusive environment for all.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them

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◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

◀ **Focus community clubs**

- ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
- ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
- ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
- ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
- ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
- ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.

◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**

- ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
- ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
- ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.
- ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
- ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies

◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**

- ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
- ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
- ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.

◀ **Technological solutions**

- ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
- ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
- ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
- ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.

◀ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**

- ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.

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- ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
- ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
- ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway

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- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

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The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

BaseballSoftballUK’s Strategic Plan (2020-24)

This Strategic Plan aims to have more people playing baseball and softball in more places. Its strategic priorities to achieve this include:

◀ Targeted participation growth

To encourage and enable growth, working with a range of partners and organisations to reach new audiences:

- a) Coordinating a children and young people participation plan that establishes local youth leagues particularly for baseball and girls fastpitch, underpinned by strong schoolclub links.
- b) Further developing adult baseball and softball in the Higher Education and the workplace.
- c) Facilitating and enhancing playing opportunities for LGBTQ+ people, women and girls, lower socio-economic communities, BAME people and those with a disability.

◀ Talent development

We will build an effective and efficient talent identification and development pathway:

- a) Supporting home-grown talent from all communities, reducing financial barriers that prevent talent from blossoming.
- b) Developing and communicating clear performance pathways from grassroots to elite.
- c) Delivering regular high-quality coaching opportunities, in appropriate facilities.

◀ Efficient grassroots support services

Spanning baseball and softball, we will support grassroots organisations to be stronger, safer and sustainable:

- a) Offering services that add value in safeguarding, integrity, administration, technology and marketing, through collaborative working.
- b) Coordinating UK-wide and home country development plans for baseball, and for slowpitch and fastpitch softball, spanning grassroots, talent and workforce development.
- c) Supporting grassroots organisations to become an important part of their local community.
- d) Taking a leading role in enabling the improvement and creation of appropriate local playing facilities.

◀ Organisational sustainability

Build the organisation and sports to be more financially sustainable, including:

- a) Increasing and diversifying our partnerships and funding sources.
- b) Realising the potential of our workforce, assets, services and relationships.

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c) Increasing funding from events, fundraising and sponsorship.

England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/Englandgolfstrategy/>

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APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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

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Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

| Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|---|------|--|--|
| Please complete one form per pitch | | | | | | | | | |
| Site reference | | Site Name | | | | | | | |
| 6 figure grid reference | | No of Pitches: | | | | | | | |
| Pitch ID | | No of wickets: | Natural | | Non turf | | | | |
| Weather at time of visit: | | | | | | | | | |
| Availability | | | | | | | | | |
| Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused | | | | | | | | | |
| General comments/observations | | | | | | | | | |
| *You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated | | | | | | | | | |
| Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer). | | | | | | | | | |
| Element | Rating | | | | Guidance notes | Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete) | | | |
| About the cricket outfield | | | | | | | | | |
| Grass coverage | Good | Acceptable | Poor | | <80% falls below the ECB basic standard | | | | |
| Length of grass | Good | Acceptable | Poor | | Ideally 12mm - 25mm | | | | |
| Evenness | Even | | Uneven | | Ball should run without deviation or ramp | | | | |
| Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter? | None | Yes | | Immediate action required | May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager | | | | |
| Evidence of Unofficial use? | None | Yes | | Immediate action required | e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager | | | | |
| Evidence of Damage to surface? | None | Yes | | Immediate action required | e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey | | | | |
| section total | | | | | | | | | |
| Artificial Wickets | | | | | | | | | |
| Is the wicket and surrounds married in | Yes | | No | | There should be no trip points | | | | |
| Evenness of wicket | Even | | Uneven | | There should be no contours in surface levels | | | | |
| Stump holes | Yes | | No | | Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball | | | | |
| Moss or materials in the surface | Yes | | No | | There should be none | | | | |
| Rips or surface lifting | Yes | | No | | If "yes" contact site manager | | | | |
| Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases | Yes | | No | | If "yes" contact site manager | | | | |
| Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down? | Yes | | No | | If "yes" contact site manager | | | | |
| section total | | | | | | | | | |
| Grass Wickets | | | | | | | | | |
| Presence of line markings | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Evidence of rolling | Yes | | No | | i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform | | | | |
| Evidence of straight cut and height | Yes | | No | | 3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square | | | | |
| Evidence of repair work on old wickets | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Grass coverage (square and wickets) | Yes | | No | | Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No | | | | |
| Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce? | Yes | | No | | Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard | | | | |
| section total | | | | | | | | | |
| Changing/ Pavilion | | | | | | | | | |
| Umpires provision | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Toilets | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Hot/cold water | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Heating | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Condition of building | Good | Acceptable | Requires attention | | | | | | |
| section total | | | | | | | | | |
| Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets | | | | | | | | | |
| Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points) | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels) | Even | | Uneven | | | | | | |
| Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball) | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Moss or materials in the surface (should be none) | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| No rips or surface lifting | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Is the steel frame/ posts upright? | Yes | | No | | Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye. | | | | |
| Are steel cross members detached? | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Are all posts and net fixings in place? | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Can a ball pass through any part of the netting? | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present? | Yes | | No | | | | | | |
| section total | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum score | 180 | Scoring | Score | Percentage Score | Facility Present? | Potential Rating: | Poor | | |
| | | Outfield | 0 | 0% | No | | | | |
| | | Artificial Wickets | 0 | 0% | No | | | | |
| | | Grass Wickets | 0 | 0% | No | | | | |
| | | Changing/Pavilion | 0 | 0% | No | | | | |
| | | Non Turf Practice | 0 | 0% | No | | | | |
| | | Overall score | 0 | 0% | | | | | |

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PLAYING PITCH AND OTUDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Grass rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PLAYING PITCH AND OTUDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

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

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

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PLAYING PITCH AND OTUDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Grass rugby league pitch non-technical assessment

| Non Technical Quality Assessment - Rugby League | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|--|----------------------|
| Please complete one form per pitch | | | | | | | | |
| Site reference | | | Site Name | | | | | |
| 6 figure grid reference | | | Pitch ID(s) | | | | | |
| Number of rugby league pitches on Availability? | | | Pitch size | (Senior, Junior, Primary) | | | | |
| <small>Community Use - used, Community Use - assessed, No Community Use, Available but Unused</small> | | | Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch? | | | | | |
| Weather at time of visit | | | | | | | | |
| Pitch Issues: | | | | | | | | |
| Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an "X" in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer) | | | | | | | | |
| Element | Rating | | | | | Guidance notes | Comments | Scores |
| Playing surface | | | | | | | | |
| Grazz Coverage | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | >90% Good <80% Poor | 0 |
| Size of pitch | Preferred size | | Meet minimum size | | Not adequate | | See RFL Pitch Size Guidance: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk | 0 |
| Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall) | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | 0 |
| Length of grazz | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | 20mm - 60mm: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/ | 0 |
| Evenness of pitch | Flat | | Moderate | | Severe | | | 0 |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | 0 |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of grazz/litter/vehicle tracks | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | 0 |
| Typical weekly usage (match equivalent sessions) | 6 or less | | 7 - 9 | | 10 plus | | Refer to club surveys & other information gathered | 0 |
| Does the maintenance schedule meet RFL requirements? | Yes | | In part | | No | | See RFL Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch: www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk/ | 0 |
| Pitch ancillary facilities | | | | | | | | Section total |
| Are gates secure? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is the site secure when open? | Secure | | | | Open | | | 0 |
| Is the pitch floodlit? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is the pitch enclosed by perimeter fence? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is there a training area separate to match pitch(es)? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is there a covered stand? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Ancillary facilities | | | | | | | | Section total |
| Is there a clubhouse onsite? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is there changing accommodation for the pitch? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Adequacy of changing accommodation (exterior)? | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | 0 |
| Adequacy of changing accommodation (interior)? | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | 0 |
| Is there an official room? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is there a dedicated medical room? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Are accessible facilities provided? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Is an appropriate level of car parking available? | Yes | | | | No | | | 0 |
| Section total | | | | | | | | 0 |

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

PLAYING PITCH AND OTUDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| KKPref | <input type="text"/> |
| Site name: | <input type="text"/> |
| Number of greens | <input type="text"/> |
| Flat/crown | <input type="text"/> |
| Community Use? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

| Element | Rating | | | Comments |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------|
| About the greens | | | | |
| Grass cover | Over 70% <input type="checkbox"/> | 40-69% <input type="checkbox"/> | less than 40% <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Evenness of surface | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Signs of wear and tear | None <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Condition of ditches/boardings | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Surface of surrounding hard areas | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Is the green and surrounding area fenced? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | | No <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Fencing around the green and ancillaries | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green | None <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green | None <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - some <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes - lots <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates | Good <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Ancillary facilities | | | | |
| Changing Accomodation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Toilets | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Car parking | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| General comments about the site: | | | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | | | |

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING PLAYING PITCH AND OTUDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Tennis court non-technical assessment

| Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------|------------|--|--|-------------|----------------|--------|--|
| KKPref | | | | | | | | | | |
| Site name: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of courts - | Tennis | | Netball | | Basketball | | Five-a-side | | | |
| General Playground or specific sports court area? | | | | | | | | | | |
| Court surface | | | | Management | | | | Community Use? | | |
| | Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale | | | | Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School | | | | | |
| Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Element | Rating | | | | | | Comments | | | |
| About the courts | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces) | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | | | |
| Loose gravel (macadam surface) | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | | | |
| Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces) | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | | | |
| Grip underfoot | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | | | |
| Line markings - quality | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | | | |
| Surrounding fencing | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | | | |
| Size of courts | Yes - fully | | No- but adequate | | No - not adequate | | | | | |
| Adequate safety margins | Yes - fully | | No- but adequate | | No - not adequate | | | | | |
| Slope of courts | Flat | | Slight | | Gentle | | Moderate | | Severe | |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | | | |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use | None | | Yes - some | | Yes - lots | | | | | |
| Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | | | |
| Changing Accomodation | | | | | | | | | | |
| Changing Accomodation | Yes | | No | | | | | | | |
| About the equipment | | | | | | | | | | |
| Posts and net | Good | | Adequate | | Poor | | | | | |
| Are the courts locked when not in use? | Yes | | No | | | | | | | |
| Practice wall | Yes | | No | | | | | | | |