

Leicester City Council

Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report

May 2017



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## Introduction and Scope

- 1.1 Leicester City Council (LCC) is situated in the East Midlands and is one of the core cities under Sport England's Core City's programme. As such the city is a focus for driving Sport England's priorities as set out in its *2013-17 Strategy Creating a Sporting Habit for Life*, which is focused on increasing participation in sport.
- 1.2 At the 2011 census Leicester had a population of 329,900, an increase of 17% since 2001. This is one of the fastest rates of growth in England and Wales. The age-profile of the population is young and the proportion of children and young people in the city is larger than the national average. Leicester is a diverse multicultural city with 49% of the population from ethnic backgrounds; of this 23% were born outside the UK, compared to the national average of 9%. These characteristics impact upon the amount and type of facilities that are required to meet the needs of the population.
- 1.3 Added to the demographic characteristics, the city has some significant health challenges. Levels of obesity, heart disease, respiratory conditions and diabetes are all high and life expectancy in Leicester is below the national average and the health gap between the most affluent and the most deprived areas is significant.
- 1.4 Despite this, Leicester does have a proud sporting heritage with four professional sports clubs which bring civic pride and tourism to the city. In terms of grassroots sports there is a network of facility provision provided by LCC, the education, private and voluntary sector. There are also around 300 sports clubs playing around 40 different sports.
- 1.5 To respond to the challenges and opportunities that the demographics of the city bring, Leicester City Council, in partnership with Sport England and Leicester-shire and Rutland Sport, appointed Neil Allen Associates (naa) to support the Council and partners with delivering the vision of developing a *long term strategy* to determine its clear priorities and pathways for the future delivery of sport and leisure across the city in the context of local, regional and national priorities.
- 1.6 A Built Facilities Strategy has already been prepared setting out the strategic direction for built facilities across Leicester. Building upon and complementing this, in April 2015, Neil Allen Associates was commissioned to produce a sports playing pitch strategy to provide a framework for the future provision of facilities for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, and bowls up to 2030.

## Context and Key Drivers

- 1.7 One of the Council's key corporate priorities is to increase the health and well-being of the city inhabitants. This has grown in significance since the elections in May 2015, where a Healthy Leicester is a key cornerstone of the manifesto. The strategy for both indoor and outdoor sports must therefore support the ambitions to establish a new and clear pathway for developing existing and new sports facilities and establishing a direction for greater participation and improved pathways for sport and physical activity.
- 1.8 Added to this, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stresses the importance of access to opportunities for sport and recreation and the contribution this can make to the health and well-being of communities.
- 1.9 In response to the NPPF, Leicester City Council is preparing a new local plan for the city. This plan, which is expected to be adopted in 2019, will set out a vision and objectives for the growth of the city over the next 15 years. It will replace the 2006 Local Plan and the

2014 Core Strategy and will outline how local priorities will be addressed, as well as how the social, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities that face the city will be met. It will identify broad locations, scale and type of development and supporting infrastructure that will be required in the city.

In terms of sports provision the new Local Plan will help safeguard existing provision but will also look at future provision. This will involve joint working with adjacent district councils to consider how sports facilities are used and how future need is accommodated in the greater Leicester area. Each of the districts are working on their own evidence base to support their respective local plans, a list of these can be viewed here.

[Charnwood Borough Council](#)

[Harborough District Council](#)

[Oadby and Wigston Borough Council](#)

[Blaby District Council](#)

[Hinckley and Bosworth](#)

- 1.10 Together, the built facilities and sports playing pitch strategies will inform the policies included within this plan, as well as the Development Management process, incorporating S106 and possible CIL contributions. These strategies will also help advise on the council's strategic spending priorities.
- 1.11 The outdoor sports playing pitch strategy will therefore identify core improvements that could be made to create a step change in provision. The Strategy should allow Leicester City Council to shape its core sport and physical activity offer both within its direct provision and that undertaken with partners in the education, voluntary and private sector.
- 1.12 At the strategic level it will underpin the contribution that sport and physical activity makes to the City's corporate objectives and approach towards fulfilling national and corporate targets, for example in contributing to the public health, children and young people and adult social care outcomes. It will also help provide a rationale to enable National Governing Bodies to further invest and deliver their working outcomes as outlined in their Whole Sport Plans.
- 1.13 It is also evident that the above must be achieved in the context of difficult financial times. The Sports Service has been set the challenge of significant budget reductions.

The strategy will therefore use the evidence base collated to set future priorities in the context of these financial pressures.

1.14 The key drivers for the production of the outdoor sports facility assessment and strategy can therefore be summarised as;

- To fully understand the current picture of supply and demand across the city;
  - i. understanding current participation patterns and the stock of facilities;
  - ii. exploring the role of education sites and identifying any opportunities to increase this;
  - iii. understanding of reasons behind current participation patterns; and
  - iv. understanding any issues with regards sustained access / security of tenure.
- the need to provide up to date evidence to inform infrastructure requirements in light of the significant population growth that is expected. In particular, information is required to inform the emerging local plan and to ensure that infrastructure requirements for sport and leisure are fully understood;
- the need to provide evidence to aid decision making in relation to specific sites;
- to inform decision making in relation to possible CIL and S106;
- the opportunity to provide evidence to help both the Council and key partners secure external funding; and
- the need to inform the development of a clear SMART action plan which brings together the priorities of key stakeholders and supports the delivery of sport and health agendas.

1.15 This document is the assessment report for outdoor sports for Leicester City. It summarises the key issues arising from the assessment of facilities for cricket, hockey, tennis, bowls, golf, cycling, football and rugby and informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover). For each of the sports covered, it aims to;

- summarise the current supply of playing pitches and the characteristics of the pitch stock;
- outline current demand for facilities and evaluate projected demand up to 2030;
- evaluate the overall adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand; and
- identify the key issues for the Leicester City Council Outdoor Sports Pitch Strategy to address.

1.16 The strategy document will build on the issues identified and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery.

1.17 The remainder of this assessment report is set out as follows;

- **Section 2 – Methodology** - this section sets out the methodology undertaken
- **Section 3 – Strategic Context** - this section summarises the key issues in the city relating to demographics, health and wellbeing and the facility implications
- **Section 4 – Cricket** - this section outlines the current picture for cricket and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 5 – Rugby League** - this section outlines the current picture for rugby league and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 6 – Hockey** - this section outlines the current picture for hockey and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 7 – Bowls** - this section outlines the current picture for bowls and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 8 – Tennis** - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 9 – Football** - this section outlines the current picture for football and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 10 – Rugby** - this section outlines the current picture for rugby and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- **Section 11 – Conclusion** - this section summarises the key issues arising in the analysis of sport specific needs and outlines the key areas that need to be addressed within the strategy document.

### Introduction

- 2.1 This section summarises the methodology that has been used in the preparation of this assessment report and the strategy document that is under separate cover. This assessment and strategy has been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; Consultation Draft; December 2013) and 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).

### Playing Pitches for Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey

- 2.2 Figure 2.1 summarises the stages of this methodology. This assessment report represents steps 1 – 6 while the strategy document will include recommendations and actions.

**Figure 2.1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach**



## Geographical Analysis

- 2.3 The assessment covers the area within the administrative boundary of Leicester City. Reflecting the tight boundaries of the city council area however, consideration is also given to the role that facilities in close proximity (1km) to the boundary play.
- 2.4 At a sub-regional level consideration needs to be given to the wider context in terms of sports provision and the implications in terms of travelling and usage e.g. players from the greater Leicester area who use city facilities and vice versa. As mentioned above adjoining authorities will have or are producing evidence base on sports provision which will include existing and proposed facilities close to the cities administrative which need to be considered in relation to future use. E.g. Leicester University facilities at Oadby and proposed facilities as part of Sustainable Urban Extensions adjoining the administrative boundary.
- 2.5 The City are working with neighbouring local authorities and national governing bodies to bring forward new sites outside the city.
- 2.6 To provide a further understanding of the spatial distribution of both supply and demand, as well as to add a geographical dimension to analysis, the city has been divided into sub areas. These divide the city into three geographical sections and follow the three parliamentary constituencies, which are made up of electoral wards. These, along with the wards that they include, are listed in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Parliamentary Constituencies in Leicester City**

Constituency / Area Name	Sub Wards Included	Total Population
<b>Leicester East</b>	Belgrave, Charnwood, Coleman, Evington, Latimer, Humberstone and Hamilton, North Evington, Rushey Mead, Thurncourt.	96,962
<b>Leicester West</b>	Abbey, Beaumont Leys, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Fosse, New Parks, Westcotes, and Western Park.	119,287
<b>Leicester South</b>	Spinney Hills, Stoneygate, Knighton, Leicester, Freeman, Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and virtually all of Castle	102,032



## **Steps 2 and 3 – Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views**

### **Supply**

2.7 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches across Leicester City. For each site, the following information was collected;

- Site name, location, ownership and management type
- Number and type of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Accessibility of pitches to the community
- Overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes)
- Level of protection and security of tenure
- Views of users and providers.

### **Demand**

2.8 To evaluate the demand for playing pitches, the following information was collated;

- Number of sports clubs and teams and their match and training requirements
- Casual and other demand
- Educational demand
- Demand from teams wishing to play within the administrative area but are currently unable to)
- Latent demand
- Future demand (including club and team aspirations for development as well as National Governing Body priorities and targets)
- User views and experiences, including trends and changes in demand.

2.9 The following tasks were undertaken to compile the above supply and demand data;

- Analysing the existing audit of playing fields and open space and the Sport England Active Places tool
- Reviewing NGB data on pitches, outdoor sports facilities and local participation
- Full review of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records
- Use of available technical quality assessment reports
- Undertaking non technical site visits
- Undertaking a detailed survey and follow up consultation with schools
- A full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries
- Face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

2.10 A high proportion of teams in Leicester city successfully engaged with the process and all large clubs were successfully contacted.

**Table 2.1: Club Survey Response Rate**

Response Rates						
Cricket	Rugby League	Hockey	Tennis	Bowls	Rugby Union	Football
91% of teams	100%	70%	83%	95%	100%	70%

#### **Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

- 2.11 The supply and demand information collated has been used, in line with the Sport England methodology, to;
- understand the situation at individual sites;
  - develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
  - identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.
- 2.12 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

#### **Steps 6 - 10 Develop the Strategy and Deliver the Strategy and Keep it Up to Date and Robust**

- 2.13 The strategy document will use the issues identified to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches. Recommendations and priorities will be developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with key stakeholders (both internal to the Council and external).

#### **Non Pitch Sports - Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; Consultation Draft; December 2013)**

- 2.14 For none pitch sports the assessment stages (Phase A) of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows:

Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment

Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand

Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together

##### **Stage 1 Undertaking an Assessment:**

- 2.15 Stage A was carried out through detailed discussions with the steering group.

##### **Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand**

- 2.16 To gather information on supply, visits were made to all tennis courts, bowling greens and athletics tracks within the city, and assessments made of their quality, maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, manager and users.
- 2.17 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls and/or visits) to all known sports clubs. Consultation took place with national and regional governing body of sport representative.

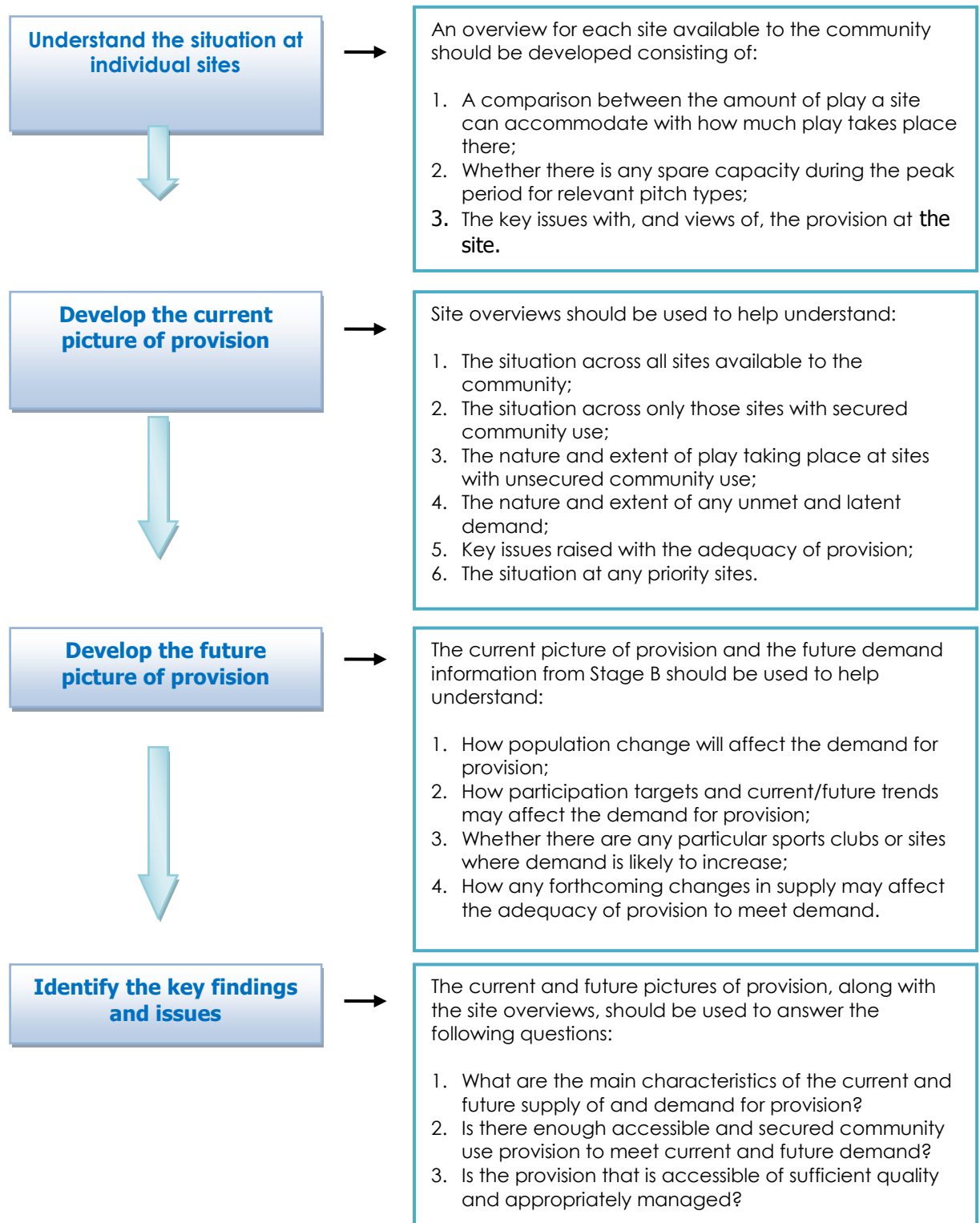
##### **Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together**

- 2.18 The analysis seeks to bring together the evidence gathered to gain an understanding of the relationship between supply and demand. Key findings and issues to be addressed are set out for each of the sports / facilities covered.

#### **B Application of Assessment – Strategy Development**

2.19 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Step A.

**Figure 2.2: Overview of the Assessment Process**



### **This Assessment**

- 2.20 The remainder of this assessment therefore provides an overview of each sport in Leicester City and provides the evidence behind the issues presented in the strategy document.
- 2.21 To inform the analysis of the current and projected future picture for each sport, Section 3 summarises the strategic context, as well as demographic profile (both current and future).

### **Playing Pitch Strategy wider Area Context**

- 2.22 The demand for sports facilities crosses administrative boundaries and there is a complex interplay between sports facility distribution and usage in terms of 'push and pull' effects in a city such as Leicester with very tightly drawn boundaries. This means that users will travel across boundaries to access the best, or most affordable or appropriate sporting facilities, or those which cater to their particular demand.
- 2.23 The Government's planning process essentially requires each individual Local Planning authority to develop a Local Plan based upon a consistent evidence base (in the form of a Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy- PPS) which meets national regulations and guidance for its administrative area. Sport England (SE) and the sporting National Governing Bodies (NGB's) play a central role in supporting the development of PPS's and they will use them as a key starting point in commenting on development proposals which may involve the loss or enhancement of sports pitch provision. The PPS will also provide a major piece of evidence for the Local Plan, allowing for an informed debate to be had about the scope, scale and distribution of facilities to be planned for over the 15 year Plan period for the relevant local authority area.
- 2.24 The 'Duty to Co-operate' requires local councils to work together in preparing and adopting Local Plans, and if a Council planned to 'export' some of its demand and rely on an adjacent authority to accommodate this demand in the form of allocated pitch provision then written agreement would be required between the relevant Councils and commitments made in this respect at the relevant Local plan inquiry

### **PPS Methodology relating to Cross Boundary Issues**

- 2.25 A PPS is evidenced based and the audit and assessment process picks up cross boundary movements in the following way:
- All teams known to be based in Leicester City but travelling into other authorities to play are consulted and the issues raised considered
  - All teams known to be based in other authorities but travelling into Leicester City are consulted and the issues raised considered
  - Consultation is undertaken with local league representatives, the majority of which span across several local authority boundaries
  - Consultation is undertaken with representatives of relevant National Governing Bod of Sport in order to provide an overview of the situation in Leicestershire as a whole
  - The provision within 1km of the Leicester City boundary has been reviewed and the impact on supply and demand in Leicester taken into account where relevant.
- 2.26 Consideration is given to issues raised in PPS belonging to adjacent local authorities (where available at the time of writing).

### **Current Wider Area Position**

- 2.27 The City is bounded by four districts/boroughs which are Charnwood, Harborough, Oadby and Wigston and Blaby. Hinckley and Bosworth's boundary is also very close to the north west part of the City. Each district has its own demand to cater for, as well as fulfilling some of the cities demand in certain circumstances, and each authority needs to produce and defend its own PPS as part of its Local Plan process.
- 2.28 It is open to each district to define a level of sporting provision via its Local Plan which it considers to be appropriate in the context of a range of issues such as housing and employment land pressures, which may or may not meet its own needs.
- 2.29 Unfortunately each authority is at a different stage in its plan making (and therefore PPS) process. Where issues in neighbouring authorities that impact on demand in Leicester have been identified, these are considered within the relevant sport specific sections. This primarily relates to cricket, where considerable cross boundary movement is currently evident and quantitative unmet demand exists. Work is ongoing to between the city and the districts to assess the levels of provision across greater Leicester and the provision of adequate facilities.

### Introduction

- 3.1 This section briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics of the city and the impact of this on demand for pitch sports and outdoor sports facilities. It provides an overview only - sport specific issues are discussed in Sections 4 - 12.

### Strategic Context

#### National Level

- 3.2 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch and outdoor sports facilities assessment.
- 3.3 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 73 and 74 which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 73 indicates that:

*'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. 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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.'*

- 3.4 Paragraph 74 states that:

*'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

- 3.5 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will help to ensure that Leicester City Council is able to deliver upon the requirements of this national policy.
- 3.6 **Sport England** has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the

delivery of pitches. Sport England's National Strategy – (2011/12 – 2014/15) and Youth and Community Strategy (2012 – 2017) both underpin this playing pitch assessment.

3.7 Focusing specifically on sport, most of the National Governing Bodies have facility strategies setting out the requirements for their sport as follows;

- The Football Association - National Facilities Strategy 2013 - 2015
- Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017)
- Community Rugby League Facilities Strategy
- The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012)
- The LTA - 2015 - 2018 British Tennis Strategy.

3.8 Appendix A summarises the key principles of each of these strategic documents.

#### **Local Policy Context**

3.9 The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy also impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key local documents. These are briefly summarised in Table 3.1.



**Table 3.1: Key Strategic Documents in Leicester City**

Document details	Description of main content	Key findings for Leicester Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
<p><b>City Mayor's Delivery Plan Leicester City Council 2013 – 14 (May 2011)</b></p>	<p>Delivery plan has 9 themes. Healthy and Active Cities is the theme most relevant to Sports Strategy project. Plan reviewed quarterly and annual statement.</p> <p>Relevant context for Strategy. City Growth by 17% (47,000 people) between 2001 – 2011. Government cuts of £75 million, in addition City estimate of additional cuts of £50 million per year by 2016. Leicester is 25<sup>th</sup> most deprived LA in England.</p> <p>Opportunities: £160 million investment in secondary schools via the Building Schools for the Future programme; one of the fastest growing cities in England; host city for Rugby World Cup 2015; housing growth of 25% to 2026.</p> <p>Healthy and Active City (theme 5) content is on health of the City population and direct measure to improve physical health of the population. Priority stated to increase physical activity and increase participation in sport to directly improve health.</p> <p>Explicit action "Work in partnership with other agencies, internal and external, to deliver new and improved low cost opportunities for physical activity" Responsibility with Leicester Sports Partnership Trust Action Plan 2011- 13. Review in 2013.</p> <p>Specific target Number of people participating in projects that promote sport and physical activity 2013/14 – 110,000.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods and Communities "We are planning to save up to £1 million each year by 2014/15 through the better use of buildings and by helping local neighbourhoods to run facilities from some of these buildings themselves" reference to sport but no specific project/action.</p>	<p>Effective outdoor sports facilities provision can help achieve key goals of Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The Scale of city population and housing growth is likely to impact on demand for outdoor sports facilities and should be taken into account in future need projections.</p> <p>Access findings important given scale of housing growth – where are areas of highest unmet demand/how do people travel to facilities/impacts of changes in provision in reducing access/where and who does it impact on.</p>
<p><b>Leicester City Insight report sport and physical activity participation (March 2013)</b></p>	<p>Comprehensive profile of sports participation across Leicester. The report is in two sections. The first section sets out the current profile of participation under seven discreet headings. Evidence base for the participation is the Active People Survey up to APS 6. The study uses the measure of 3 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity up to 3 times a week as its participation measure (NI8).</p> <p>Second section sets out extensive detail in the facts, figures and profiles of factors which influence participation by gender, ethnic groups, obesity, diabetes, antisocial behaviour, skills/qualifications and employment.</p> <p>This section is extensively researched, it provides the national features and the profile for each heading in Leicester. This is for each of the seven topics. It sets out features, motivations, barriers to participation and interventions required to increase participation. It is extensive and uses health data as well as sports participation and is</p>	<p>Provides the profile of sports participation based on Active People survey findings. This assessment updates this profile to APS 7 and use the once a week participation in sport and physical activity measure instead of NI 8. The once a week measure is now the benchmark measure of participation. This assessment will also evaluate actual participation in the sports considered.</p> <p>The document highlights the key features of Leicester's population and how this relates to participation eg Leicester diverse ethnic population and that once a week participation is higher for minority ethnic groups than for white British. Challenges some assumptions. Important to draw out age and gender participation profiles and relate this to facility provision.</p>

Document details	Description of main content	Key findings for Leicester Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
	layered in terms of national context in which to place the Leicester findings – very impressive profile in every respect.	
<b>Closing the Gap Leicester's Joint Health and Well Being Strategy 2013 – 16 (April 2013)</b>	<p>The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Leicester is developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, which became a full statutory Board in April 2013. The purpose of this Board is to act as a forum for key leaders from the health and care system to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities. It includes the City Council, with Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group (LC CCG) and the NHS Commissioning Board.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the strategy is to reduce health inequalities. There are five priorities areas of work. Priority 2 relates to sport and physical activity so as to reduce premature mortality.</p> <p>The specific actions are: develop a social marketing programme to raise awareness of, promote and support healthy lifestyles; support of active travel initiatives to increase levels of walking and cycling including adult cycle training for new cyclists and improving cycle paths to encourage and support recreational cycling and commuting.</p>	<p>Increasing sport and physical activity is one area to improve health of residents and effective provision of outdoor sports facilities will be key in achieving this goal. While the strategy generally focuses more on informal activity, more formal sports facilities will still have a role to play in the effective provision of facilities.</p>
<b>Leicester City Council Scrutiny Review – Sports Engagement in Leicester March 2013</b>	<p>The review was prompted by Sport England data, which flagged up serious concerns about the health of Leicester residents. The data, provided by Sport England, suggested that when compared with neighbouring authorities, and a family of similar authorities, Leicester had a worse than might be expected involvement in active sport.</p> <p>The review looked at city council policies which affect the ways in which people access sports. It included taking evidence from officers in the Sports Development team, the NHS in Leicester and Sport England.</p> <p>It also reviewed the work of the Leicester Sports Partnership Trust, which brings together clubs and organisations across a range of sports and activities, as well as examining how broader planning policies are designed to help increase walking and cycling – two important pathways to a healthy life style and general fitness.</p>	<p>The report made a series of conclusions and recommendations across the range of providers with a responsibility for sport and health provision. It recognises the key challenges facing the city with regards health. An effective network of outdoor sports facilities can make significant inroads into addressing these challenges.</p> <p>Key roles were identified for city council and sport and active lifestyle service. In particular, the increased emphasis of transport and planning policies in encouraging a more active personal approach to transport. The developing programme of guided cycling and walking which encourages the longer-term changes in activity level underscored as necessary by the health evidence.</p> <p>On a more direct sports level the review noted the council has been successful in attracting £11m of funding for a football investment programme. The impact of this investment will be considered in this strategy document.</p>
	<p>The Strategy/Framework is an advocacy document in order to ensure that the right facilities are developed, in the right place and programmed in the right way to meet the needs of the communities of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. Framework is based on facility hierarchy of major/regional facilities, sub regional and local sports facilities.</p>	<p>Document is very clear advocacy document and under each of the 8 headings has short, medium and long term actions it advocates sports bodies and local authorities should adopt to make facility provision more cohesive.</p>

Document details	Description of main content	Key findings for Leicester Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
<b>Sports Facilities Strategic Framework 2010 – 2013 (Leicestershire and Rutland Sport)</b>	<p>Local sports facilities defined as: indoor or outdoor facilities that meet the needs of a large or section of a community within an identified local or geographical boundary for regular participation.</p> <p>Document sets out sports policy context and drivers for change which will impact on the Framework eg Building Schools for the Future Programme. Basis for the analysis is the CSP area and sets out short, medium and long terms needs under headings of: investment; communication and community use; programming; planning; BSF; London 2012 and pre Games training camps; funding.</p>	<p>Document is not intended as a detailed evidence base for sports facility requirements. More of categorizing the facility needs to serve different levels of participant use.</p> <p>The strategy will underpin the future provision of outdoor sports facilities across the city. This assessment will build upon the evidence base collated and outline the future facility requirements to meet needs.</p>
<b>Leicester City Council Local Plan (adopted January 2006)</b>	<p>The City of Leicester Local Plan adopted by the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and will provide planning guidance for the City up to 2016. The Council are currently working on a replacement local plan and this will be adopted in 2016.</p> <p>Plan has 11 Plan strategy policies. Sections 10 and 11 include sporting and open space provision, including the protection of existing outdoor sports playing fields and green wedges. Local Plan subject policies for indoor sport and recreation are within Chapter 11 on Community and Leisure Facilities. The aims of the Plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve and enhance the range of community and leisure facilities and attractions to meet the needs of City residents and visitors;</li> <li>• safeguard and make best use of existing facilities, and to overcome deficiencies in the provision of specific facilities; and</li> <li>• seek facilities in accessible locations where they are needed.</li> </ul>	<p>LP lists local plan policies which are saved after adoption of the Core Strategy in November 2010. This assessment will provide evidence that will be used to update the existing policies and to inform the direction of future policies in the replacement plan, at both a strategic and site specific level.</p>
<b>Leicester City Core Strategy (adopted November 2014)</b>	<p>Core Strategy (CS) adopted November 2010 as planning framework to 2026. Leicester has 290,000 residents. Leicester is 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in England. CS focus is economic development, growth, and housing. CS sets out core principles CS policies, 18 in total under 4 headings. Indoor sport and recreation within creating sustainable communities. 6 priorities for action; creating thriving safe communities; improving health and wellbeing of residents are relevant priorities for strategy.</p> <p>Core Strategy policy most relevant to sports strategy "<i>Spatial Objective 12: To ensure access to high quality outdoor sports, children's play provision and active recreation facilities for all residents.</i> To improve Leicester's strategic green network and use quality green space to provide an important recreational, social, health, and educational role. To improve access opportunities to quality open space as the distribution of this is uneven, with some neighbourhoods in the City being under provided".</p>	<p>Core Strategy references 2007 open spaces sport and recreation study as evidence base for outdoor sport only.</p> <p>Appendix 2 of the CS lists 2006 Local Plan policies which are saved.</p> <p>GE 13 and 15 are replaced by Core Strategy policy CS 13.</p> <p>This assessment will provide evidence that will be used to update the existing policies and to inform the direction of future policies in the replacement plan, at both a strategic and site specific level.</p>

Document details	Description of main content	Key findings for Leicester Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
	<p>CS policy 13 is the green network, sets out content, purpose and assessment of green spaces. Reference to outdoor sports facilities as part of typology of green space. References 2007 Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation study as evidence base for CS 13 and basis for standard setting and how these will be applied.</p> <p>Para 4.4.96 (page 82) references PPG 17 as planning guidance in the context of outdoor sport.</p> <p>CS 16 policy Cultural Strategy (p 90) references city will encourage new investment/development for sport – no details of how policy will be developed.</p>	
<b>Leicester City Council (new) Local Plan</b>	<p>LCC has commenced work on a new Local Plan for the City to replace the existing Core Strategy and Local Plan. It is anticipated to be adopted in 17.</p>	<p>Very early stages of commencement of the new Local Plan no substantive documents to review. For development planning the LP 2006 and Core Strategy remains the development planning framework for policy and applications.</p> <p>This assessment will provide evidence that will be used to update the existing policies and to inform the direction of future policies in the replacement plan, at both a strategic and site specific level.</p>
<b>The Leicester Sports Partnership Trust Plan for Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity (2014 to 2017)</b>	<p>The Plan is a three-year plan put together by a board incorporating 13 trustees with representatives from health, education, the police, CSP, four professional sports clubs, elected members and representatives from the commercial sector.</p> <p>The plan was developed using 5 guiding principles – improve the quality of life for people in Leicester, improve collaboration, improve the work between the city and the county, engage with the business sector and develop facilities.</p> <p>The report sets out the city-wide context and a vision for – ‘<i>Leicester population to become more physically active</i>’.</p> <p>The aim is ‘to increase sustainable participation in physical education, sport and physical activity for the residents of Leicester.’</p> <p>And four strategic priorities have been established to deliver this - participation, infrastructure, business engagement and developing role models. Each of the strategic priorities has an action plan.</p>	<p>There is no detail on the guiding principle of facilities or the standing of the plan or how it will be delivered. It does however clearly articulate a partnership vision. This is again focused on health but also acknowledges the wider role of sport and facilities in terms of infra-structure and city-pride. This assessment and strategy will therefore underpin the delivery of this Sports Partnership Trust Plan and the principles of the plan will be embedded within the strategy document.</p>
<b>Report to Scrutiny Commission – Asset Transfer</b>	<p>The report sets out the Council's updated policy on Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The Council's built assets include land, buildings and other structures are used for a variety of different social, community and public purposes as well as for the Council's own operations. For some of these assets community management and ownership</p>	<p>CAT has a potential role to play in the management of certain of the Council's leisure assets. It is becoming increasingly prevalent as an approach across the sector. The existence of a pro-active policy in Leicester provides the opportunity to explore the appropriateness of</p>

Document details	Description of main content	Key findings for Leicester Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
<p><b>Policy, 27th March 2014</b></p>	<p>could deliver improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• benefits to the local community;</li> <li>• benefits to the Council and other public sector service providers; and</li> <li>• benefits for the organisation taking ownership.</li> </ul> <p>To be a tool in the flexible management of the Council's assets to maximise their contribution towards achieving the Council's priorities.</p> <p>To balance the requirements of the Council to maximise the monetary value of disposal of assets against the added value of asset transfer to a Community Organisation. Changing ownership or management of an asset can offer opportunities to extend the use of a building or piece of land and increase its value in relation to the numbers of people that benefit and the range of opportunities it offers. Community-led ownership offers additional opportunities to secure resources within a local area and to empower local citizens and communities.</p> <p>The Council will proactively seek the transfer of appropriate assets to community groups in order to promote the widest public value that can be achieved in relation to, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate inward investment</li> <li>• Community empowerment and greater control over services</li> <li>• Area-wide benefits</li> <li>• Building the capacity of the community and encouraging sustainable community organisations by building partnerships</li> <li>• Economic development and social enterprise</li> <li>• Improvements to local services</li> <li>• Value for money.</li> </ul> <p>A property specific plan will be put together for each property identified as suitable for asset transfer outlining a communications plan and criteria to be adopted for selection. The Council will consider the disposal of groups of properties on the same basis as individual properties.</p>	<p>this approach in the sports service.</p>

- 3.10 Analysis of the key strategic drivers set out in Table 3.1 therefore identifies a consistent theme around health and the role of sport and in-turn sports facilities in contributing to health improvement across the city. The challenge of achieving much needed investment, whilst at the same time making considerable savings is significant. An effective network of outdoor sports facilities can be central to the achievement of health improvement goals, and will be key to delivering the desired outcomes of other strategies.
- 3.11 Given the challenge set it is evident that things cannot continue in their current format and policies around different partnership approaches such as Community Asset Transfer (CAT), or new lease arrangements may help to ease the financial pressures and provide part solutions going forward. Planning policy can also help to bring investment moving forward and there is a clear acknowledgement that a key output from the work will be to provide an evidence base for future planning policy.

### **Demographic and Participation Profile**

- 3.12 An understanding of the character of an area, population trends and overall participation in sport underpins the evaluation of the adequacy of outdoor sports facilities in later sections. It provides an important context for the provision of outdoor sports facilities and can significantly influence the amount and type of demand for sporting activities, as well as the challenges associated with providing an adequate supply.

### **Demographic Context**

- 3.13 The demographic context is central to determining current and future need for outdoor sports facilities. The 2011 census revealed the total population of Leicester City to be 329,839. This represents a large population base, many of whom live in dense urban areas. Sufficient outdoor sports facilities (of appropriate quality) will be required to accommodate the needs of these residents. Analysis of key trends demonstrates that;
- Leicester has a much younger population than England, with a large proportion under 35 years and 10.7% of the population aged 20-24, compared to 6.8% nationally. Leicester also has 25% of its population below 18 years of age. This younger population profile means that residents may have a higher propensity to participate in outdoor (and particularly pitch) sports.
  - Leicester is home to a diverse range of ethnic and faith communities. The population is made up of 50.6% white population while the next largest ethnic group is 28.3% of the population are Asian Indian (over 90,000 people), the highest proportion of all local authorities in England and Wales. Ethnic minority communities are located predominantly in the north of the City in Belgrave and Rushey Mead and to the east of the City Centre, in the Leicester East Constituency. This may impact the type and location of facilities that are required and should be taken into account when evaluating the need for outdoor sports facilities.
  - There are some areas of the city falling within the 5% most deprived of all areas in the country. These are predominantly on the west of the city in parts of New Parks, Braunstone, Beaumont Leys, Mowmacre and Saffron estates. The most deprived areas in the eastern half of the City are St. Matthews, St. Marks, Rowlatts Hill and Tailby Avenue estates and Spinney Hills. Local access to outdoor sports facilities may be particularly important for residents in these areas and cost of facility use may also be particularly sensitive.

### Future Population Growth

- 3.14 To ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet projected future (as well as current) need, analysis of projected changes to the population profile also forms a key component of facility requirements for outdoor sports facilities.
- 3.15 Leicester city is in the Three Cities (alongside Derby and Nottingham) Regional Sub Area, which has been designated a New Growth Point and it is likely that significant growth will be seen across the city up to 2036. The local plan is currently being developed (anticipated to be adopted by 2019) and this will plan for future housing provision across the city, as well as other infrastructure requirements.
- 3.16 A Strategic Housing Market Area Assessment (2014) has been undertaken and population projections have been developed as part of this. These figures provide an indication as to the number of people that may be living in the city and the age profile of these residents.
- 3.17 Figures are provided for 2015, 2026 and 2036 in Table 3.2 below, however further detail can be found in Appendix B.

**Table 3.2: Population Projections (Supplied by Leicester City Council 2015)**

Age Group	2015	2026	2036
0_4	27,789	27,642	27,519
5_9	22,594	26,339	25,485
10_14	19,244	24,895	24,231
15_19	22,653	23,689	26,895
20_24	36,956	34,050	40,870
25_29	28,886	29,278	29,674
30_34	26,722	28,801	25,502
35_39	22,559	25,305	25,244
40_44	20,724	22,591	24,727
45_49	19,975	20,301	22,098
50_54	19,707	18,922	20,421
55_59	17,576	18,628	18,608
60_64	14,854	17,165	16,583
65_69	12,283	14,827	15,407
70_74	8,702	11,983	13,917
75_79	7,504	9,690	11,556
80_84	5,540	6,167	8,494
85&	5,786	7,362	10,682
<b>TOT</b>	<b>340,054</b>	<b>367,636</b>	<b>387,913</b>

3.18 Briefly, Table 3.2 reveals that;

- the population of Leicester City has already grown from 2011 census levels, with circa existing 340,000 residents by 2015 (increased from 329,000);



- growth is expected to reach 367000 by 2026 and 388,000 by 2036, a total increase of almost 48,000 residents. This growth is expected to take place evenly across the time period; and
- growth is also expected to continue in the majority of age groups. A slight decline is expected in age groups 0-4 and 30 - 34, while low growth is also expected in the 25 - 29 age group.

3.19 Table 3.3 sets out the projected growth in groups of ages between 2015 and 2036. It indicates that while the young population profile of the city is likely to remain, and indeed the number of young people will increase, it is in the age groups 65+ where the highest proportional increases in the number of residents will be seen. The lowest levels of growth will be seen in those aged 20 - 44, the age group most likely to participate in senior pitch sports. The proportion of people in the younger age groups compared to those in older age groups will decline marginally.

**Table 3.3: Population Growth by Age Group**

Age Group	Projected Population 2015	Current Proportion of Total Population	Projected Population 2026	Projected Population 2036	Future Proportion of Total Population	Percentage Growth Rate 2015 - 2036
0-19	92,281	27%	102,565	104,130	27%	13%
20 - 44	135,847	40%	140,026	146,017	38%	7%
45-65	72,111	21%	75,016	77,710	20%	8%
65+	39,815	12%	50,029	60,056	15%	51%

3.20 Population projections therefore suggest that demand for outdoor sports facilities is likely to increase, with a significant increase in the amount of people in all age groups in the city in future years. The changing profile of the population may however influence changing patterns of demand. This will be factored into calculations on future need.

#### **Sports Participation Profile**

3.21 In Active People Survey (APS) October 2005 some 30.6% of the Leicester adult population participated at least once a week in moderate intensity activity for 30 minutes duration. In APS 8 (2013 - 14) the rate of adult participation is the same, having increased to 33.9% of the adult population in 2009 - 10.

3.22 Leicester's participation by gender shows that:

- male participation by the once a week measure was 36.2% of the adult population in 2005 - 06 and by 2013 - 14 it has increased to 41.1%; and
- female participation by the once a week measure was 25.4% of the adult population in APS 1 in 2005 - 06 and by 2013 - 14 it is virtually unchanged at 25.2%. In the years in between it has risen to 27.4% and dropped to 19.8%.



3.23 Leicester's participation by ethnic groups based on the APS surveys shows that:

- participation by black and minority ethnic groups is higher in most years than white British. In 2013 - 14 it represents 35.8% of the adult participation across the city. Also it has risen by just under 4% over the eight years of the APS surveys; and
- participation by the White British ethnic grouping is 30.6% of the total adult participation in 2013 - 14 and has been virtually unchanged since 2005 – 06. *(Note: it is acknowledged that for Leicester which has a very diverse ethnic population that these two groupings are broad but there are no more detailed groupings).*

3.24 Non participation in sport and people who undertake no activity in Leicester shows that:

- non participation by females is 66.1% of the female adult population in 2005 – 06, decreasing to 60.1% of the Leicester adult population in 2013 -14; and
- male non participation is lower at 53% of the adult male population in 2005 -06 and declining to 46.1% in 2013 – 14.

3.25 In terms of the profile of sports participation, based on the Sport England market segmentation analysis (Further detail of the key segments are provided in the appendix and in the indoor sports facility strategy) this shows the profile of Leicester to be:

- 4 male, 3 female and 1 male/female in the top eight market segments and these eight segments make up 67% of the total adult population in 2013. So a slightly more male profile of adult sports participation by gender;
- in terms of age bands, three of the top eight segments are below the age of 26 where there is a higher than the national average rate of sports participation and sports/physical activity participation is an important lifestyle choice for the segments in this young age band. Team based sports are important for these segments but it is outdoor sports and especially football;
- the remaining five top segments are predominately in the 46 – 64 age range. Sports participation in this age range is below the national average and is dominated by recreational play which is irregular and not team based or aimed at improving standards of play. Motivations for sport and physical activity are improving personal health and family based activity. Barriers are lack of time and motivation;
- the most popular activities for the dominant market segments in Leicester are gym/keep fit and swimming. There is not a high participation in indoor team based sports across the market segments; and
- spatially there are seven segments that are most prominent in the city but there is no one area of the city where a segment is dominant spatially or in population numbers.

3.26 Once a-week participation is 30.6% in APS 8, this is still below the national average. Furthermore, there is a big gender split with 41.2% (male) and 19.8% female. This is the same in terms of non participation, which stands at 60.1% for females but having declined by 6% since 2005-06. Whilst male non participation is lower at 46.1% in 2013-14. The need to address female participation is therefore a key priority.

3.27 There are also geographical strong correlations between low participation and high levels of adult obesity.

## Summary

### Context - Summary and Key issues

- The key issues arising from analysis of the context and issues for this playing pitch assessment in Leicester City are therefore:
  - the preparation of the assessment will contribute directly to the national and local policy agenda, providing foundations for the Leicester City Local Plan as well as decision making for S106 contributions and CIL
  - This assessment and strategy document will also inform local priorities - existing strategic documents demonstrate a consistent theme around health and the role of sport and in-turn sports facilities in contributing to health improvement across the city. The challenge of achieving much needed investment, whilst at the same time making considerable savings is significant. An effective network of outdoor sports facilities can be central to the achievement of health improvement goals, and will be key to delivering the desired outcomes of other strategies
  - Demographically, the profile of Leicester City has a high propensity to participate in outdoor sports. Leicester has a much younger population than England, with a large proportion under 35 years and 10.7% of the population aged 20-24, compared to 6.8% nationally
  - The high diversity within the population of the city (with just 50.6% of the population being of white British origin and ethnic minority groups located particularly in the north and east of the city) may impact on the type and location of facilities that are required
  - Sport England data sets reveal that outdoor sports play a particularly important role for those in younger age groups, particularly football. While younger age groups have a higher than average propensity to participate, for the older age groups, motivations are dominated by recreational play which is more irregular and less team focused. Reflecting the importance of participation in sport and physical activity, there are strong geographical correlations between obesity and non participation. The provision of effective outdoor sports facilities targeting a range of segments of the population will therefore be key to the delivery of health improvement objectives across the city
  - The city continues to experience population growth and increases of up to 48,000 residents are expected by 2036. While growth will be seen in all age groups, it is the older age ranges where the most growth will be experienced. The lowest levels of growth will be seen in those aged 20 - 44, the age group most likely to participate in senior pitch sports. This level of growth, as well as the changes to the population profile will have ramifications for the number and type of pitches and other sports facilities that are needed

## Introduction

4.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for cricket and provides:

- An overview of the supply and demand for cricket pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites in the city
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- The future picture of provision for cricket.

## Wider Area Context

There are many cricket facilities in Charnwood district including facilities at Sileby, Mountsorrel, Rothley, Birstall, Syston, Barkby, Anstey, Newtown Linford, Cropston, Woodhouse Eaves, Welbeck and Ratcliffe. There are also facilities in Stoughton, Houghton on the Hill, Great Glen (Leicester Grammar School), Oadby, Wigston, Countesthorpe, Blaby, Cosby, Croft, Enderby, Kirby Muxloe, Ratby, Groby, and Glenfield,

## Administrative Area Pitch Supply

4.2 There are 13 sites containing grass facilities for cricket in Leicester City, with a total of 19 pitches. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they offer community use. Pitches available are summarised in Table 5.1, along with the level of community use that is offered. Further detail is provided in the Appendix.

4.3 School facilities have been considered to offer unsecured community use as while access to most is currently facilitated through planning conditions, any change to academy status will see greater control in decision making relating to community access for the school and a subsequent reduction in the level of use available. It has also been noted during the assessment process that access to some schools while in theory is available, in practice is much more difficult to secure.

**Table 4.1: Grass Cricket Pitches across Leicester City**

Area (Ward and Constituency)	Site Name	Number of Grass Pitches	Non Turf Pitches	Ownership / Management	Level of Community Use
Leicester East	Coleman Primary School	0	1	School	No community use
	Davenport Road Playing Field	1	0	Leicester City Council	Secured community use
	Ethel Road - Leicester Caribbean	1	1	Leicester City Council - leased by Leicester Caribbean CC	Secured community use
	Evington Park	2	There is one none turf wicket on one of the grass squares. A second was to be added, but this has been added too close together meaning that only one is	Leicester City Council	Secured community use

Area (Ward and Constituency)	Site Name	Number of Grass Pitches	Non Turf Pitches	Ownership / Management	Level of Community Use
			usable.		
	Highfield Rangers FC	1	1	Highfield Rangers	Secured Community Use
	Humberstone Park	0	1	Leicester City Council	Secured Community Use
	Rushey Fields	0	2	Leicester City Council	Secured Community Use
	Rushey Mead Community School	0	1	School	No community access
	Soar Valley College	1	1	School	Unsecured community access
	The City of Leicester College	2	2 one not usable except for practice close to fence	School	No community access
<b>Leicester South</b>	Employees Sports Ground	1	0	Leicester City Council	Secured Community Use
	Banks Road	1	0	Leicester Banks Cricket Club	Secured Community Use
	Electricity Sports Ground*	1 (but 2 squares)	1	Leicester Electricity Cricket Club	Secured community use
	Leicestershire County Cricket Club	1	1	Leicestershire County Cricket Club	No community use
	Spinney Hill Park	0	2	Leicester City Council	Secured community use
	The Lancaster School	0	1	School	No community access
	Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth 1 <sup>st</sup> College	1	1	School	Unsecured community use
<b>Leicester West</b>	Fulhurst Community School	0	2	School	No community use
	Mowmacre Sports Ground	1	0	Leicester City Council	Secured community use
	Western Park	5	0	Leicester City Council	Secured community use
<b>Total</b>	Total	19			

4.4 Table 4.1 reveals that;

- The only grass pitches not available for community use are the facility at the County Ground at Grace Road, a high standard facility and the pitches at City of Leicester College (there are two pitches listed on the school website for community use, but it is not currently possible to hire them). The remainder of the pitches can be considered to offer secured community access, with the exception of Soar Valley College and Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth College, which as school sites could be at risk if schools became an academy or had a change of community policy. As there are few grass facilities in the city without community access, there is therefore little opportunity to increase capacity without new provision if this is required
  - Outside of club bases and Council sites, the majority of non-turf wickets are not currently available for community use (located at school sites). There may therefore be scope to add capacity within the city by introducing access to these facilities
  - Leicester City Council are key providers of cricket in the city, providing 70% of grass cricket pitches (including the facility leased to Leicester Caribbean). This means that the future of the public sector stock is instrumental in the delivery of cricket.
- 4.5 Spatially, pitches are spread across the city, but with a greater concentration in the east (8 pitches - almost 50%). Provision in the west (6 pitches but on fewer sites) and in the south (5 pitches) are broadly even. It is in the east where there is a higher concentration of residents of ethnic minority background and where there is a particularly high propensity to play cricket. The distribution of pitches is illustrated on Map 4.1 later in this section.
- 4.6 In addition to the pitches outlined in Table 4.1 above, there are several other sites known to have previously contained cricket pitches but to no longer do so. These include Narborough Road Playing Fields, Abbey Park, Knighton Park, Victoria Park, Rushey Mead and Humberstone Park. Many of these public venues were lost due to vandalism on the square.
- 4.7 There have also been plans for the inclusion of a pitch at Samworth Academy (groundworks to prepare for a square) but this has never been provided.

### **Pitch Quality**

- 4.8 The quality of cricket pitches is a key component of pitch provision. The importance of quality in cricket means that the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League also require umpires to rate the pitches after each match, ensuring that they are fit for purpose and that any issues with the overall pitch quality, the wicket, or the outfield are identified. If pitches and associated ancillary provision are not up to the required quality standards, this can lead to relegation from the league and / or loss of promotion.
- 4.9 Consultation with all stakeholders revealed pitch quality as a citywide key issue and the quality of pitches was therefore assessed through a variety of sources, including;
- site visits undertaken using the non-technical assessment that accompanies the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance note and prepared by the ECB;
  - analysis of local league pitch ratings; and
  - consultation.
- 4.10 The broad issues identified across Leicester City as a whole through each of these means are set out below. Site specific issues identified are summarised in Table 4.2.

### **Non-Technical Site Visits**

- 4.11 Non-technical assessments provide a basic overview of the facilities available and the quality of facilities on the site. They provide a view at a point in time, but to provide a full picture of quality, the findings need to be triangulated with other sources of evidence.
- 4.12 Assessments indicate that the overall quality of pitches that are accessible to the community in Leicester is mixed, with few examples of high quality facilities and many issues identified, specifically;
- There is a hierarchy of facilities, with the poorest facilities being in public ownership, school facilities are of a higher quality than public pitches and the highest quality facilities being those managed and maintained by clubs. This hierarchy reflects the challenges of providing cricket pitches in a public setting, where they are subject to other uses as well as formal cricket play. It also reflects the role of public facilities which provide for casual bookings on some sites, as well as club and league based activity. These sites also function as parks for informal recreation, which can offer a conflict of interest. Leicester Electricity and Leicester Banks are the highest quality facilities in the city, but it is important to note that even they are relatively basic when compared with facilities outside of the city (both in Leicestershire and elsewhere in the UK)
  - There is scope to improve the maintenance procedures applied to some sites, with evidence of weed infestation in both the outfield and the squares. There is also evidence of insufficient rolling; watering and uneven line patterns on key pitch sites. The restrictions of the location of many squares within public parks contributes to this, with squares left fallow during the winter months and only prepared in the approach to the cricket season. There is therefore a lack of out of season reinstatement of these facilities and the squares are “flighty” as a result
  - Almost all outfield are uneven. Some of the grass squares are also uneven in parts, potentially creating issues with ball flight during a game. Some outfield are also small, which may restrict the sites ability to be used for games in the higher echelons of the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League
  - While new non turf wickets have been installed on several sites, some of these new facilities continue to exhibit uneven surfaces and the installations are not flush with the surrounding grass. Reinstatement works are needed to bring these into useable condition (it is thought arrangements for this are underway)
  - There is a lack of outdoor training facilities, with very few sites containing training nets. Training facilities are important in promoting junior development, as well as in ensuring that teams are able to practice without impacting on the match squares
  - Many sites suffer from unofficial use, with private family games (not booked) taking place on non turf wickets at the time of site visits, and evidence of other activity on grass squares including golf and picnics.
- 4.13 All of the above issues impact upon the functionality of the existing pitches and their suitability for the purpose that they are intended. It should be noted that there are no geographical patterns relating to the quality of pitches - the only patterns evident are by provider.

#### **Local League Pitch Rating and Consultations**

- 4.14 The Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League work to ensure that cricket is played on pitches of appropriate quality, both for player safety and enjoyment. Improvement of the

standard of cricket grounds across Leicestershire was one of the key drivers of the formation of the new league (2013).

- 4.15 All clubs must affiliate to the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League which includes membership of the L&RACG. For the clubs this includes access to experienced pitch advisors, assistance in obtaining formal IOG Qualifications and opportunities to benefit from second hand equipment sales, equipment hire and discounts through a bulk purchasing scheme amongst other benefits.
- 4.16 Reflecting the focus on quality, the league implements a detailed pitch quality review. After each match, pitches are scored in terms of the quality of the outfield, quality of the wicket and condition of the facilities overall. Sites achieving scores of below 3 are considered to have poor or unacceptable facilities. Reflecting the standards of play in the league and to ensure that facilities do not become a barrier to participation, there are different criteria according as follows;
- Teams playing in the premiership - Grade A Ground
  - Divisions 1, 2 and 3 - Grade B Ground
  - Divisions 4, 5 and 6 - Grade C Ground
  - Divisions 7,8 and 9 - Grade D Ground
  - Divisions 10 - 11 ungraded.
- 4.17 Consultation with the Leicestershire and Rutland League, as well as pitch advisors associated with the league echoed many of the concerns through the site assessments. Briefly, these comprise:
- concerns about the maintenance regime that is applied to pitches, particularly at Leicester City Council sites – in particular there is a need for improved rolling, scarification, watering and other proactive maintenance. There are also concerns about the level and type of out of season maintenance that is undertaken;
  - investment into facilities has seen only short term improvements. While pitches have initially improved, maintenance issues have then resurfaced, leaving pitches to deteriorate again; and
  - safety issues on squares have been raised by clubs and umpires following matches - several matches have been played on squares with an uneven and high bounce.
- 4.18 The issue of facility quality is regularly raised at meetings of the League Executive Committee, evidenced by a review of the monthly minutes of meetings. At the August 2015 meeting, it was noted that several clubs have received formal visits due to poor pitch quality, or have gained low scores over the course of the season. League discussions suggest that there are considered to be two primary causes of the issues identified;
- on public grounds, while efforts have been made to work with local authority groundsmen to improve the preparation of wickets, this has not had the desired impact and the skills of staff and / or the maintenance schedules of the authority continue to result in poor quality facilities. Several opportunities to address this issue were explored, including the use of non-turf pitches in lower divisions. Further discussion is however required to determine appropriate solutions to these issues; and



- on private grounds, substandard grounds are largely the result of a lack of funds, lack of know how or a lack of effort to maintain grounds appropriately.

4.19 At the end of the season, several clubs will again be impacted by the poor condition of their facilities, with some clubs that have good playing strength but poor facilities unable to improve the division that they are playing in. This impacts upon the progression of clubs and player experience.

4.20 The regular assessments undertaken by the league enables more detailed evaluation of the issues experienced in Leicester and highlighted through site visits. Anecdotally, representatives of the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League believe that pitches outside the city are of much better quality than those within the city, particularly with regards the public pitches.

4.21 The marks awarded to sites over the 2015 season reflect this, as illustrated in Chart 4.1. Sites in Leicester City Council management receive much lower average quality scores than all other sites in the league. There are no geographical patterns to the quality of pitch provision.

**Chart 4.1: Average Site Quality Ratings (Leicestershire and Rutland League 2015)**



4.22 Chart 4.1 indicates that the quality of private pitches in the city is reasonably high, with the average score above that for the remainder of the league (private and public pitches combined). This is also reflected in the pitch quality scores, which indicate that the pitch condition at Leicester Banks and Leicester Electricity Sports Ground is good.



4.23 Analysis indicates that the following sites achieve scores from the league that are below acceptable for both pitch and outfield;

- Employees Sports Ground
- Mowmacre Sports Ground
- Highfield Rangers.

4.24 The quality of ancillary facilities at Highfield Rangers also fell below acceptable levels during the season. Pitch conditions at these sites in particular are therefore likely to impact on club progression if they do not improve.

### **Mutual League**

4.25 While the Leicestershire and Rutland League offer formal cricket in a relatively formal setting, the Mutual League provide more informal games and facilities provided are better able to cope with the expectations of clubs. This indicates the importance of providing a hierarchy of facilities. The league indicates that changing facilities are rarely used on site but toilets are adequate. The squares are also adequate quality for the league. Although some occasional issues are experienced with the outfield (grass cuttings and maintenance), the facilities also meet the needs of the league overall.

### **Last Man Stands**

4.26 Similar to the Mutual League, the requirements of the Last Man Stands League are not as strict as the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League and play takes place on non-turf wickets. As games are relatively short (120 minutes) toilets, showers and changing are generally not required.

4.27 There are some site specific issues resulting in restrictions on the use of pitches being used simultaneously, but outside of these issues, the facilities are adequate in terms of both the non turf wicket used and the quality of the outfield.

### **LCC Feedback**

4.28 Grass cricket, most are in a reasonable condition however the wicket ends have been top dressed for many years and this has caused a build-up, giving a ridge at each end of the tables. Autumn and spring maintenance happens every year and the Council are seeking to improve pitch quality.

4.29 The council also note that some of the tables are located too close to boundaries which has become a problem with today's aggressive bowls hitting balls further. (eg: Evington Park). Site specific issues are also identified and this will be returned to later.

### **Club Consultation**

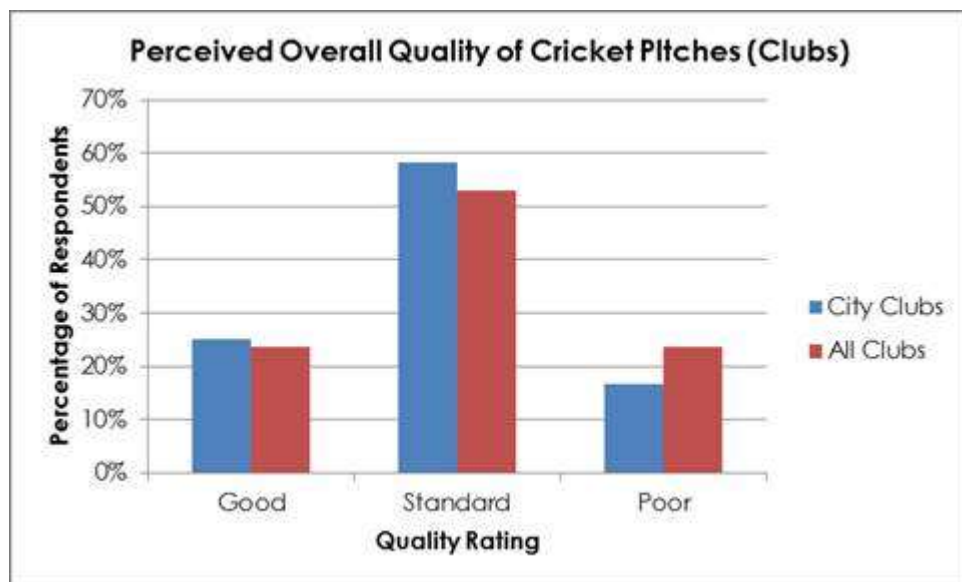
4.30 Consultation was carried out with all clubs playing league cricket either currently based within the city, or looking to relocate back to the city. Again, quality emerged as a key concern. Site specific issues are recorded in Table 4.2, but the key issues emerging with regards quality were;

- a greater number of clubs indicate that pitches have improved in quality than consider there to have been deterioration. When excluding the views of those that do not currently play in the city views are more positive. There are no clear patterns evident according to the management of facility (ie clubs using Council facilities are

not more negative than others) and most improvement is attributed to specific, targeted investment by the provider;

- Leicester Electric and Nanpanton Sports Ground (Charnwood Borough) are the only facilities perceived to be good. Opinions are mixed with regards the overall quality of facilities, but there are few differences between teams playing outside the urban area and those playing in the administrative area. This is illustrated in Chart 4.2;
- the key concerns raised relating to quality are the poor condition of pavilions (particularly at private sites), perceived lack of maintenance (particularly rolling / watering) and the cost of maintenance at private facilities. Several clubs also raise concerns about the condition of the wickets, referring to uneven and / or dangerous bounce. More than half of all outfielders used by city clubs are also perceived to be uneven; and
- just one club is satisfied with the existing facility stock (a private club). The key reason given for dissatisfaction is the lack of pitches of appropriate quality.

**Chart 4.2: Perceived Quality of Cricket Pitches**



### Maintenance Issues

- 4.31 As the quality of maintenance was raised as the key concern by the local league and by clubs, the adequacy of maintenance schedules in the city have been further scrutinised (by ECB representatives) to provide a detailed understanding of areas where potential change may be required.
- 4.32 In general, this assessment revealed that the current specification needs to be revised in order to comply with up to date ECB best practice ('Recommended Guidelines for the construction, preparation and maintenance of cricket pitches and outfielders at all levels of the game ECB Guideline TS4'). Of particular note, analysis demonstrated that the existing schedule does not follow best practice in the following areas;
- current schedule requires drag brushing cricket square during pre-season and twice weekly. While this is required in preseason, it has limited impact in season and should be replaced by verticutting and grooming the square;

- the existing schedule requires aeration and /solid tyne four times during the season - this is not necessary and will have minimal impact on the overall quality of the pitch; and
- the specification requires rolling the cricket square only during pre-season. Rolling should take place as an essential part of pitch preparation when conditions are suitable.

4.33 It is also thought that weekly watering of the square is not undertaken, and the twice weekly mowing is not always undertaken (likely time constraints). These are both important elements of square maintenance and need to be incorporated within the regular work programme.

4.34 The Council indicate that pitches are regularly maintained and receive regular out of season maintenance, however the challenges of providing cricket facilities in a public setting are highlighted.

### **Site Specific Issues**

4.35 Building upon the general findings, Table 4.2 summarises site specific quality issues identified. Areas of concern are highlighted in red. It is based upon the triangulation of evidence from clubs, provider, non-technical site visits and local league feedback.

4.36 Table 4.2 also indicates that the highest standard of team playing at each site and the subsequent ground grading level required. Most grounds currently accommodate teams in the middle of their grading system, but If Leicester Caribbean (currently using Ethel Road) were to get promoted, the ground would need to improve to the next standard.

4.37 The Cricket Board highlight the important of all components of pitch quality, prioritising pitch maintenance, pitch quality and the provision of appropriate pavilions. Cricket Board research indicates that the components of sustainability are social / economic and environmental and that all elements are central to building a successful cricket club.

**Table 4.2: Quality of Cricket Facilities available for community use across Leicester City**

Site	Highest Standard team playing at site	Sub Area	Pitch Quality Comments	Ancillary Facilities and Comments	Nets	Non Turf Wicket	Maintenance Issues
Employees Sports Ground	Division 8 - Grade D	Leicester South	Grass coverage and length acceptable but outfield uneven. No evidence of repair on old wickets.	No covers for the square and no sight screens.	No training nets provided.	None provided	Site was being cut and rolled at time of site visit, but evidence of poor winter maintenance and no repair and wear. Some moss on the outfield. Would benefit from improved maintenance regime.
Banks Road	Division 1 - Grade B	Leicester South	Outfield uneven but grass coverage good. Outfield undersized. Wicket even with good bounce. Club believe that they require more wickets on the square.	Toilets, parking, umpires room, kitchen, showers but no heating. Mowers / rollers, sight screens, access for disabled, score box, portable covers for square.  Pavilion includes 2 rooms with officials changing. Roof leaks in winter but overall adequate.	No practice equipment currently provided, identified as a key priority of the club.	None provided - new facility identified as key priority by club.	Site has improved following change of groundstaff in the last 18 months.
Davenport Road Playing Field	Division 5 - Grade C	Leicester East	Grass coverage, length of grass and condition of pavilion acceptable, no damage to the surface and few problems with unofficial use. Outfield is uneven although square is even.	2 changing rooms including separate for senior / junior. 1 official's room.  Site includes showers, heating and hot and cold water. Club believe kitchen / social room is required.  Site does not include portable covers for square or sight screens. Shabby needs updating.	1 lane mobile training nets Mobile training cage highlighted as key priority by club.	None provided	Maintenance highlighted as key issue by club. Maintenance regime requires improvement to accommodate level of play required. Condition of pitch has deteriorated slightly but club are not permitted to carry out any maintenance themselves. Club suspect out of season maintenance regimes are insufficient.
Electricity	Division 3 -	Leicester	Even outfield with 2	Includes kitchen, mowers	2 artificial	1 non turf	Site has recently improved due

Site	Highest Standard team playing at site	Sub Area	Pitch Quality Comments	Ancillary Facilities and Comments	Nets	Non Turf Wicket	Maintenance Issues
Sports Ground	Grade B	South	squares (but can't be used simultaneously). Grass square and outfield in good condition and pitch high quality overall.	and rollers, sight screens, access for disabled, practice nets, portable covers for square and hot and cold water. Site contains 3 rooms and separate officials room.  Total refurbishment of 1st floor rooms required. All water / electric and heating systems need replacement and women's changing should be brought back into use. Club identify this as priority.	practice lanes with 2 training nets have been recently provide - facilities adequate.	wicket provided on natural square.	to increased attention being paid to maintenance procedures, particularly seeding with high quality seeds.
Ethel Road - Leicester Caribbean	Division 4 - Grade C (promotion would see grade increase)	Leicester East	Outfield and grass coverage acceptable but uneven. Club have recently invested in improving drainage on the outfield which has reduced the overall size of the outfield. Facilities would be insufficient if club were to be promoted.	Ground includes kitchen, mowers / rollers, sight screens, showers, score box. There are no portable covers for the square. 2 changing rooms and 1 officials room.  Condition of pavilion unacceptable - facilities are outdated and in need of modernisation. Agreed by both clubs but club struggling for funding to secure such works.	2 artificial practice lanes with 2 training nets. One has missing crossbars and no nets the other is in reasonable repair. Club see improved nets as a priority - unusable and need major refurbishment.	1 non turf wicket provided.	Square roped off for seeding at time of site visit. Club recently taken over maintenance following lease of site and are working to install appropriate practices. Cost of maintaining wicket is however a barrier to ongoing improvement.
Evington Park	No use in Leicestershire and Rutland League,	Leicester East	Recent installation of non turf wickets too close together means pitches are		There are no practice nets provided, but site accommodates	Site includes two non-turf wickets intended to	

Site	Highest Standard team playing at site	Sub Area	Pitch Quality Comments	Ancillary Facilities and Comments	Nets	Non Turf Wicket	Maintenance Issues
	used for Last Man Stands		not playable simultaneously. Grass pitches cannot be used at same time as non turf wickets (on same square) and outfield is small. Restricted quality - not suitable for L and R league.		Last Man Stands rather than formal club cricket so not required.	be used for competitive play. The location of these facilities (using the same outfield) means that this is not possible.	
Highfield Rangers FC	Division 5/ 6 (Grade C)	Leicester East	Pitch quality has improved. Grass coverage acceptable, outfield is uneven and requires levelling. Even bounce but square requires further improvement.	Site contains clubhouse, toilets, umpires room, kitchen. Mowers, floodlights, sight screens, showers, access for disabled, hot cold water and heating.  Pavilion includes 4 rooms available and one officials' room. Facilities owned by club. There are no portable covers for the square.	No practice nets	No non turf wicket provided - identified as key priority by users of site.	Club indicate that maintenance procedures have resulted in an increase in pitch quality, but recognise need for further improvement and would like support to deliver this. Use of site for football in the winter precludes or reduces the effectiveness of any winter maintenance.
Humberstone Park	No use in Leicestershire and Rutland League	Leicester East	Outfield uneven. Excellent setting for cricket ground.	No changing pavilion or other facilities evident near to the cricket pitch, although there are some located within the park that are used for cricket.	No practice nets on site. Site does not accommodate formal clubs so potentially not required.	New non turf wicket provided. Reinstatement works required (and underway) to repair wicket surrounds.	Leicester CC maintenance procedures considered insufficient to provide quality of facility.

Site	Highest Standard team playing at site	Sub Area	Pitch Quality Comments	Ancillary Facilities and Comments	Nets	Non Turf Wicket	Maintenance Issues
Mowmacre Sports Ground	Division 8 - Grade D	Leicester West	Issues with unofficial use, including dog fouling and other activities. Recent investment to square but play taking place on other pitches. Outfield uneven and line markings burnt on thickly. Wicket produces uneven bounce. Improvement of condition of wicket and outfield key priority.	2 changing rooms and 1 officials' room. Includes showers and kitchen, with car parking.  The changing room is too small and limited quality. Portacabin. Needs replacing with better upgraded facilities.  No covers for the square and no sight screens. Club believe that outbuildings on site could be used to provide self contained clubhouse.	No training nets provided on site.	No non turf wicket provided.	Leicester CC maintenance procedures considered insufficient to provide quality of facility. Lack of preparation of the wicket highlighted as key concern - a lack of rolling and poor levels of maintenance of outfield. Improvement to procedures viewed as key priority by users.
Soar Valley College	No use in Leicestershire and Rutland League	Leicester East	Outfield uneven and small in size - restricts use of the facility by older teams. Site also suffers from unofficial use. Improvements to the grass square and outfield highlighted as key priority for club.	Fencing, toilets, car parking and disabled access. There is no maintenance equipment, sight screens, showers etc and no covers for the square. Benches but no clubhouse and no facilities for showers. Further limits the type of use that can be accommodated.	Require mobile net cages. Site would also benefit from levelling of second field to enable training to take place - Practice nets considered to be key priority.	Non turf wicket provided and used for some competitive play. Club indicate that non turf wicket is uneven.	Lack of watering / rolling / no dedicated groundsman identified as the key issues for the site. Club believe facility to be in relatively poor state of repair.
Spinney Hill Park	No use in Leicestershire and Rutland League	Leicester South	Uneven and undersized outfield, evidence of unofficial use and damage to the surface. No	Changing pavilion provided and appear to be in relatively good condition.	No training nets provided. Not used for formal club cricket so question if required.	Two non-turf wickets - in need of repair the matting is torn and a trip hazard the	Immediate attention required to non-turf wickets on site - currently dangerous provision.

Site	Highest Standard team playing at site	Sub Area	Pitch Quality Comments	Ancillary Facilities and Comments	Nets	Non Turf Wicket	Maintenance Issues
			grass wickets.			surface is undulating needs immediate attention. The edges are worn.	
Western Park	No use in Leicestershire and Rutland League	Leicester West	Grass coverage good, length of grass acceptable. Outfield relatively even. Poor squares - Lack of preparation and weed infestation, rabbit holes.	Large pavilion with verandah looking towards each game. Condition acceptable.	No training nets available.	No non turf wicket provided.	Maintained by Leicester City Council , lacking in winter maintenance procedures and squares only provided prior to start of season.
Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth 1 <sup>st</sup> College	Division 5 - Ground Grade C	Leicester South	Facility in good condition and both outfield and wicket are even. Remains scope to increase pitch quality and this is highlighted as the key priority by the club.	Recent improvements undertaken to pavilion. Changing accommodation includes 3 rooms and officials room. Owned by school and the quality is considered acceptable. Site includes site screens and score box, but there are no portable covers for the square.	No training nets provided - required for club activity and for club to grow.	One non turf wicket, No non turf wicket provided.	Recently improved due to increased time spent by groundsman.



4.38 Bringing together both the findings of the site specific information presented in Table 4.2, as well as the key issues arising through consultation and triangulation of data, it is therefore clear that based upon the above components of pitch provision;

- there are significant quality concerns, with issues relating to the condition of the outfield and wicket on more than half of all pitches in the city. Pitch improvements and enhanced maintenance procedures represent the key priority for most of the clubs in the city, and particular concerns were raised at Employees Sports Ground, Leicester Electricity, Evington Park, Mowmacre Sports Ground, Soar Valley College, Spinney Hills Park and Western Park. In addition to these sites, clubs at Highfield Rangers and Davenport Road Playing Fields also emphasise the need to improve maintenance of pitches at these sites;
- the availability of outdoor facilities for training is poor. Training facilities at more than half of the sites are either limited in function or none existent. There is a lack of facilities at Leicester Banks, Highfield Rangers, Soar Valley College and QE and Wyggeston College, as well as at Council sites, including sites accommodating clubs in the Leicestershire and Rutland League (Davenport Road, Mowmacre Sports Ground, Employees Sports Ground); and
- improvements to ancillary facilities at Leicester Electricity, Soar Valley College and Ethel Road are highlighted as a priority. On the whole however, issues with ancillary facilities are considered secondary to the pitch and maintenance issues that are identified.

4.39 It is clear that the sites that are higher quality are those that are serving teams playing in the higher echelons of the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. There are no other sites that would be of sufficient quality to meet the strict criteria required for participation in divisions Premiership - 7. There are no patterns of variation in quality by geography.

### **Security of Tenure**

4.40 The majority of facilities in Leicester City are owned and managed by Leicester City Council and are rented to clubs. Pitches at Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston and Soar Valley are also rented. This means that few clubs in the city have formal security of tenure over their own ground or the license to manage and maintain their own facilities. Leicester Caribbean have a lease for their site (from Leicester City Council) while Leicester Banks lease their facilities from Barclays Bank and HSBC Bank. Leicester Electricity and Highfield Rangers own their own facilities.

4.41 The lack of control over access to pitches at Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College and Soar Valley College should also be noted.

4.42 There are also several issues relating to security of tenure for clubs that are currently travelling outside the administrative boundary and this will be returned to later in this section.

### **Demand**

4.43 There are 25 adult male teams currently playing in Leicester City. The majority of these play in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League (which serves the whole of Leicestershire) and offers formal cricket on a Saturday afternoon. The Mutual Cricket League (Leicester City based) also plays on a Saturday afternoon but offers a slightly shortened form of the game (35 overs).

- 4.44 In addition, 12 adult teams play in the Last Man Stands League (game last 2 hours and are played midweek). This league is believed to attract different players than the Mutual League and the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League.
- 4.45 Junior cricket is relatively poorly developed, with 22 teams. There is considerable development work undertaken through Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket's school and community (Street) projects. The lack of safe grass provision in the city and the number of teams playing outside the administrative areamake it difficult for the clubs that want to develop junior sections to do so. This subsequently impacts on the ability to meet the demand shown by young people attending LRC courses.
- 4.46 Junior activity is focused at Bharat Sports, Leicester Electricity Sports, Crown Hills Cricket Club and Soar Valley Strollers meaning that there are few pathways from junior to senior cricket (with both Crown Hills CC and Soar Valley Strollers offering only junior activity). This means that 54% of all participation in cricket is by senior teams and this rises to 64% when taking into account the teams that are playing Last Man Stands. Almost all clubs based within the city indicate that their players travel 2 - 5 miles to play.
- 4.47 There are no teams from outside the city travelling into Leicester to play, however there are numerous teams that are travelling more than 5 miles outside of the city to a home ground (playing in Loughborough, Hinckley, Melton Mowbray). Many of these teams are looking to play back in Leicester for a variety of reasons and this will be returned to later in this section.
- 4.48 Table 4.3 summarises the teams that are currently playing in the city.

**Table 4.3: Cricket Teams in Leicester City**

Club Name	Sites Used	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Club Participation Trends	Standard of Play (Top Team)
Bharat Sports Club	Davenport Road	2	3	Senior increasing, youth decline. Decline attributed to poor facilities and costs	Division 5
Bharat Sports Club	Employees Sports Ground	1	0		
Leo	Employees Sports Ground	1	0		Division 8
Bombay United	Mowmacre Sports Ground	1	0	Static seniors, youth increasing - club have developed initiatives to attract younger players	Division 8
Leicester CSA		1* note club has other teams playing outside the administrative area.	1* note club has other teams playing outside the administrative area.	Increasing	Division 9
Leicester Electricity	Leicester Electricity Sports Ground Queen Elizabeth	6	4	Increasing both adults and youth. Created extra team to develop pathway from junior to adult	Division 3

Club Name	Sites Used	Adult Teams	Junior Teams	Club Participation Trends	Standard of Play (Top Team)
	and Wyggeston College				
Leicester Caribbean	Ethel Road	2	0	Declining - number of young players reduced	Division 4
Crown Hills Junior Cricket Club		0	4		Junior Cricket Only
Highfield Rangers CC	Highfield	1	0	Increase in player numbers	Division 6
Maher Stars CC	Rangers	1	0	Static adults, but number of junior players has increased	Division 5
Leicester Banks	Leicester Banks	2	0	Static	Division 1
Soar Valley Strollers	Soar Valley College	1	5 and one Kwik	Increasing	Junior cricket only
YMA CC	Queen Elizabeth College	1	0	Increase - greater club membership. Club are seeking a new ground to enable them to continue increase members and to develop a ladies team	Division 5
Mutual Cricket League	Western Park (4 teams) Evington Park (4 teams)	8		League has experienced decline but now starting to increase again	N/a
Last Man Stands	Evington Park	12		Newly created league this year - increasing	N/a
<b>TOTAL</b>					

### Trends in Participation

- 4.49 As evidenced in Table 4.3, trends in participation are mixed, with some clubs experiencing decline while others have seen an increase in the number of players that they have. Overall, the number of players within teams is increasing. The creation of the Last Man Stands League (2015) as well as the growth of the Mutual League also demonstrates increasing interest in cricket.
- 4.50 Clubs that have experienced decline attribute this to the need to travel (particularly for those clubs that are travelling outside of the administrative area and this will be returned to later), the cost of participating and the quality of pitches. The quality of pitches is perceived by the Cricket Board and by other stakeholders to be a key deterrent in the attraction of new players and a lack of facilities for training and coaching is thought to inhibit junior participation.

4.51 The National Cricket Playing Survey 2014 and further research undertaken by the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Board following this supports many of the issues with regards participation in this assessment and indicated that;

- Junior Development –the disconnect between junior and senior cricket in Leicester makes it difficult for young people to find a pathway from school to a lifelong involvement in the game and for senior clubs to become sustainable. This same issue also creates a barrier to clubs being able to achieve ClubMark and subsequently to access funding, grants and bursaries to support their development needs. Many junior players are travelling out of the city to play, and this is exacerbating the situation.
- Facilities – A lack of quality pitches has created a barrier to participation for the South Asian community. Pitch quality was important to players and satisfaction levels were much lower than the national average. Confirming this, improvements to pitch quality and maintenance have arisen as the key priority for clubs in the city
- The type of ground the clubs are playing at creates barriers and reduces opportunities to support junior cricket, due to player and spectator safety. A lack of off-field facilities means it is difficult for them to accommodate family, friends and spectators. There is also a lack of practice facilities for them to be able to develop skills in a safe and controlled environment e.g. Nets
- Cost and Levels of deprivation - 51% of South Asian participants in the National Club Player Survey raised cost as a barrier to participation. The high pitch hire costs (weighed up against the quality of pitches) and increased travel playing outside the city is stopping people from playing despite an enthusiasm to play more. With employment rates for ethnic minorities in Leicester at 62.6% (lower than for the white population) the cost of playing can create a significant barrier for families with little disposable income.
- The National Club Player Survey showed that travel distance was important to 79% of players with 18% not satisfied with the distances they were travelling. There are numerous clubs travelling out of the city (to be returned to). This also exacerbates costs associated with participation.

#### **Extra Demand**

4.52 In addition to clubs listed in Table 4.3, there are numerous teams whose players are based in the administrative area but are travelling outside to play. Many of these teams are looking to move back into the city should the stock of facilities (in terms of quality, quantity, location and access) allow. Consultation with these clubs demonstrates that the key reasons that they are looking to relocate back to the city are to;

- attract junior players and enable community / club development;
- appeal to families watching, which will attract more players and create a family environment;
- enable people to play who do not have their own transportation or are reliant on public transport; and
- reduce costs and time taken to travel.

4.53 Clubs are travelling outside of the administrative area for a variety of reasons, which include;

- the lack of availability of facilities in Leicester;
- the poor quality of existing facilities; and
- a lack of facilities of appropriate standard to meet club requirements in the league.

4.54 None of the clubs wishing to move back into the city have security of tenure at the sites they currently use. This is particularly critical for clubs playing in Charnwood BC, where a change of policy for the 2015 / 2016 season will see clubs based in Charnwood prioritised for pitches in this area and this may see clubs lose their current pitches. This issue has become of particular concern and a group has been formed, supported by the Leicestershire Cricket Board to improve cricket facilities within the city.

4.55 The potential impact of the issue on long term cricket development is clear if the issue of teams playing outside the administrative boundary is not resolved, with several recent examples of the loss of teams. Belgrave CC folded having played the 2015 season in Markfield due to a lack of available pitches in the city. The club lost players to other clubs playing at local, better facilities which were suitable for play in higher divisions, and also struggled with rising costs of travelling. Masters CC folded during the previous season for similar reasons.

4.56 Table 4.4 summarises the teams that are currently travelling outside of the administrative area of the city to play,, but wish to relocate. It draws upon responses received from consultation related to this assessment, as well as intelligence of the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Board.

4.57 It demonstrates that there are 14 teams travelling outside the administrative area to play (equivalent to 7 match equivalents at peak time, and at least 150 games per season). While some have identified specific sites that they would be keen to move to, most are purely seeking an opportunity to return to the city, where travel requirements will be lower than they currently are.

**Table 4.4: Clubs travelling outside the administrative area to play.**

Club	Number of Teams	Current Playing Arrangements and Comments	Pitch Requirements	Priority for Relocation
Fatana CC	1	Nanpanton Sports Ground - Charnwood. Facilities rented. Would like to play in the city as near to players but consider there to be insufficient pitches of the necessary quality and facilities. Club would also like to do community events. Overall quality of existing pitch in Charnwood is good and pavilion is acceptable.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM. No specific preferred site identified. 1 x division 8 with possible promotion to 7 (Grade D).	High priority. Club are linked closely with Maher Stars and Mahers. Relocation therefore offers significant potential for the long term development of the club. Club engaged with Leicester City Cricket Development Organisation to proactively work to bring new grounds to the city.
Leuva	1	Nanpanton Sports Ground - Charnwood. Facilities rented. Exiting site	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM.	High priority. Club engaged with Leicester

Club	Number of Teams	Current Playing Arrangements and Comments	Pitch Requirements	Priority for Relocation
Patidar CC		is preferred ground based upon current pitch stock, but club would like to move to Leicester. If club were to get promoted they would have to move ground (condition of pavilion). The club currently consider there to be a lack of pitches and facilities within the city. The existing facility used is of good quality although the pavilion is poor.	No specific preferred site identified although club have previously suggested there may be opportunities at Rushey Mead Secondary School.  1 x division 9 with possible promotion to 8 (Grade D).	City Cricket Development Organisation to proactively work to bring new grounds to the city.
Shree Sanatan CC	3	Upperbroughton Cricket Ground and Uplands Park, Oadby. Both sites rented from another club. Club struggling to attract young players because grounds are based outside of the city and its difficult to arrange transport, training etc on a regular basis. Club are not aware of any grounds that currently meet their ground grading criteria and comment that there is a lack of pitches in the city that meet ground grading requirements. Pitch quality at the sites currently used is standard, but the bounce can be inconsistent. Further progression in the league would require more showers and an umpires changing room.	Require 1.5 match equivalents. Are not aware of possible grounds that meet criteria for league. Club have previously suggested there may be opportunities at Gateway College, Hamilton and Rushey Mead Secondary School and would like to see facilities at school / colleges / universities.  League requirements 1 x Division 5, with possible promotion to 4 (Grade C), 1 x division 7, with possible promotion to 6 (Grade D - C). 1 x division 10 with potential promotion (Grade D).	Size of club means that there is significant potential for the development of cricket in the city. Club development in terms of numbers and standard hindered by facilities. High priority for relocation. Club engaged with Leicester City Cricket Development Organisation to proactively work to bring new grounds to the city.
Asian Sports CC	3	Birstall / Thurlaston Parish Playing Fields - site rented - Would like to play within Leicester City, on any site that meets the playing and facilities criteria required by the Land RCL. Club believe that the existing quality of pitches in the city has deteriorated and some are dangerous. Players therefore travel to alternative venues or clubs fold. Pitches currently used are standard, although they are played on by youths during the week which can damage the pitch.	Require 1.5 match equivalents Saturday PM. Happy to play on any site that meets criteria of league. Requirements division 6 (with possible promotion to division 5) Grade C, 1 x division 8 with possible promotion to 7 (Grade D) and 1 x division 9 with possible promotion to 8 (Grade D).	High priority. Large club with sufficient people to generate an additional team - potential for development of cricket if club are to relocate. Club engaged with Leicester City Cricket Development Organisation to proactively work to bring new grounds to the city.
Mahers	1	Gaddesby Lane, Gaddesby. Preferred venue outside of city (although pavilion is unacceptable) but club looking to relocate. Believe there to be a lack of good senior pitches in the city which has an impact on the current team and	0.5 match equivalents currently (Division 9) but looking to create additional team, which would increase need	Medium Priority. Club are linked closely with Maher Stars and Fantana CC Relocation therefore offers significant potential for the long

Club	Number of Teams	Current Playing Arrangements and Comments	Pitch Requirements	Priority for Relocation
		on the ability to develop junior cricket.	further.	term development of the club.
SPA CC	1	Kirkby Muxloe -Club currently have annual lease from Parish Council and pay a groundsman to tend to the pitch. Pitch quality overall is poor and unaffordable. Club seeking higher quality but affordable facility within the city.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM, ideally Belgrave area.  1 x division 10 with potential promotion (Grade D).	High priority. Club engaged with local forum to proactively work to bring new grounds to the city.
Leicester Community Sports Cricket Academy	1 * other teams playing in City	Birstall Stonehill and Shepshed Hind Leys Foundation - Would prefer somewhere local in the city to continue work with inner city ethnic minority groups. Club currently maintain pitches at Shepshed and Stonehill but rent the sites. The pitch quality is standard and there has been recent investment, but there is no pavilion (use a tent) and two classrooms as changing accommodation. Club believe that there are insufficient cricket pitches in Leicester with appropriate facilities.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM and facilities for youth activity midweek. No specific preferred site identified. 1 x division 9 with possible promotion to 8 (Grade D) - currently playing out of city, 1 x division 10 with potential promotion (Grade D), already playing in city.	Club have recently invested into facilities at Stonehill and priority is therefore to address issues at site. Requirements for youth teams can be met through access to non turf wickets and / or indoor cricket facilities. Club currently seeking to use cricket as a vehicle to integration.
Ayrans CC	1	Derby Road Playing Fields, Loughborough (Charnwood BC) – rented.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM 1 x division 8 with possible promotion to 7 (Grade D).  Club have previously identified potential at Soar Valley College.	Club not engaged with local forum and therefore not proactively seeking return to city. Would benefit from relocation however - lower priority.
City Cricketers	1	Derby Road Playing Fields, Loughborough (Charnwood BC) - rented. Club indicate that there is a lack of facilities in the city, but club have played outside so long now that they don't expect to move back in. The quality of facilities in the city is poor and much better outside of the city.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM. 1 x division 9 with possible promotion to 8 (Grade D).	Club not engaged with local forum and therefore not proactively seeking return to city. Would benefit from relocation however - lower priority.
Leicester Cricketers	1	Folville Street, Ashby Folville. Existing pitch is of reasonable quality.	No evidence that club are looking to relocate back into the city.  Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM	No evidence that club are looking to relocate into the city therefore excluded from requirements.



Club	Number of Teams	Current Playing Arrangements and Comments	Pitch Requirements	Priority for Relocation
			Division 7 - Grade D.	
Leicester Lions	1	Derby Road Playing Fields, Loughborough (Charnwood BC) - facilities rented. There is currently a lack of good quality facilities in city. Would like to move back if pitches were affordable and good condition - would like to be nearer to home.	Require 0.5 match equivalent Saturday PM 1 x division 9 with possible promotion to 8 (Grade D).	Club not engaged with local forum and therefore not proactively seeking return to city. Would benefit from relocation however - lower priority.

- 4.58 Table 4.4 reveals that while clubs are keen to move back into the city, they only wish to do so if pitches are of appropriate quality and are affordable. Pitch quality therefore remains of paramount importance for the clubs. The majority of teams that currently travel outside of the administrative area to play are in the lower divisions of the Leicestershire and Rutland League, meaning that ground grading requirements are less stringent but still specific standards must be met.
- 4.59 Of the identified teams, 9 teams are considered to be of high priority for relocation (4.5 match equivalents at peak time). These are teams / clubs demonstrating a significant aptitude for club development and are proactively engaging with the City Cricket Development forum. Of these, four are currently located in Division 9 or below, meaning that they could use non turf wickets. Three of the four are however in the running for promotion, which would mean that they would go into Division 8 where non turf provision is not permitted. However cricket facilities are very land hungry, and the city has a large requirement for housing and employment land, as evidenced through the HEDNA 2017. The city council is also working with the adjoining authorities to look at sports provision in Greater Leicester, which would take into account cross boundary need and provision. There are also plans for two new facilities within the administrative area, at New College and Westgate School
- 4.60 The Map below shows the Cricket Clubs based in the administrative area and those that travel outside of the administrative area to play.
- 4.61 The City Council, in conjunction with the ECB are investigating the potential of developing licence agreements whereby cricket clubs take on additional maintenance responsibilities to improve the specification of local parks wickets to meet the higher playing standards that are required for these clubs playing at a higher level.
- 4.62 Similar licence agreements have been in place with local football clubs and other local authorities have developed a similar licence agreement approach. It would seem that a combination of licence and the identification of more secure sites is the preferred way forward.

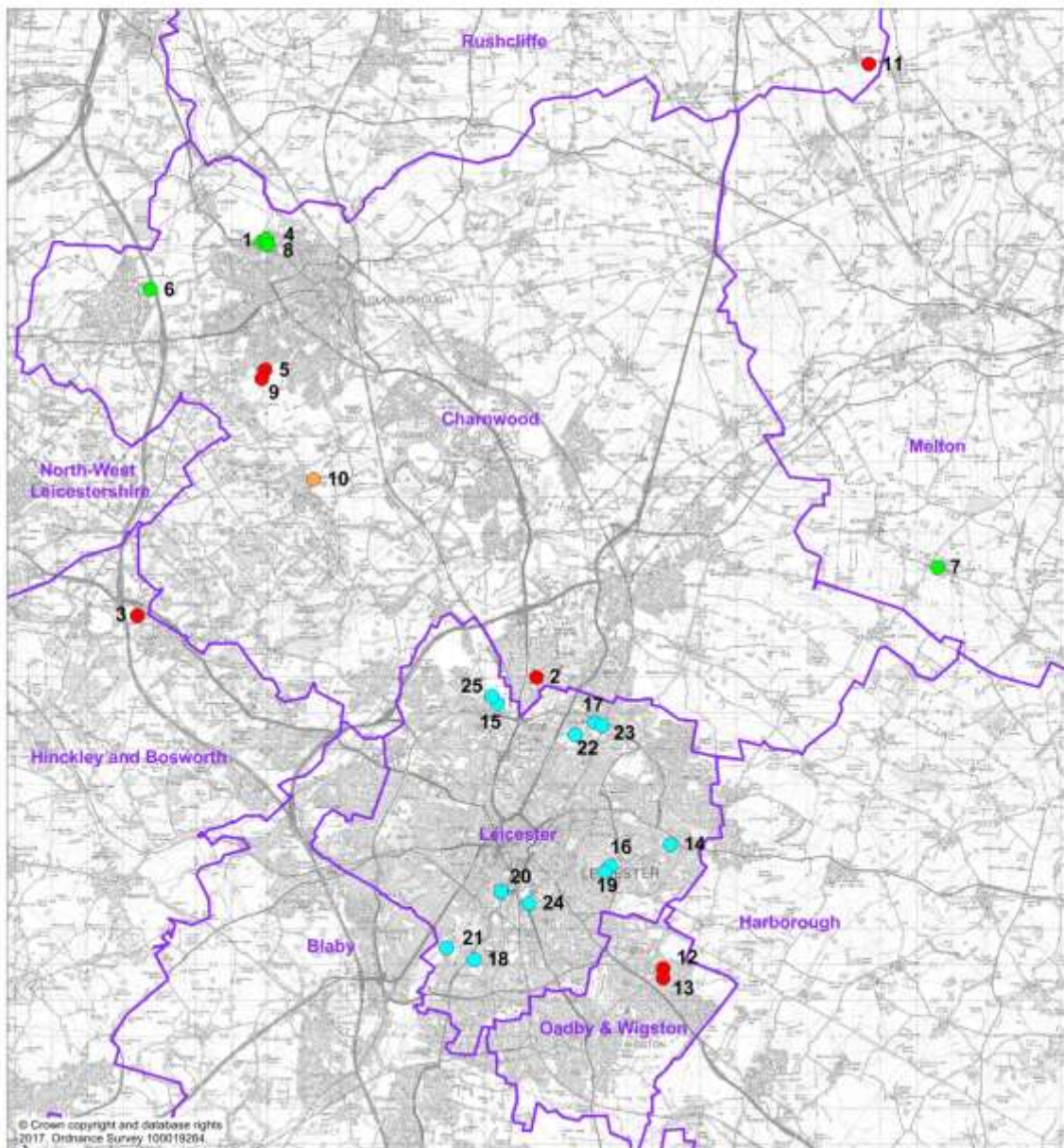


## City based cricket clubs

- County locations and re-location priority
- High
  - Medium
  - Low
  - City locations
  - Local Authority boundaries

- Clubs travelling out of the City to play
1. Aryans CC
  2. Asian Sports CC 1st & 2nd XI
  3. Asian Sports CC 4th XI
  4. City Cricketers
  5. Fatana
  6. Leicester Community Sports Cricket Academy
  7. Leicester Cricketers
  8. Leicester Lions
  9. Leuva Patidar
  10. Mahers
  11. Shree Sanatan CC 1st & 2nd XI
  12. Shree Sanatan CC 3rd XI
  13. SPA

- Clubs playing within LCC administrative area
14. Bharat Sports CC
  15. Bombay United
  16. Crown Hills CC
  17. Highfield Rangers
  18. Leicester Banks
  19. Leicester Caribbean CC
  20. Leicester Electricity Sports CC
  21. Leo CC
  22. Soar Valley Strollers CC
  23. Maher Stars CC
  24. YMA CC
  25. Asian Sports CC 3rd XI



- 4.63 Plans for a new cricket facility are being progressed at New College, in the anticipation of £150,000 S106 monies being received when development starts at Blackbird Road. Further new facilities could be located at Westgate and other schools, and at Ashton Green.
- 4.64 There are also proposed cricket facilities just outside the city's administrative area in the North East Leicester Sustainable Urban Extension and at Broadnook, (in Charnwood Borough Council's area).

### **Training Needs**

- 4.65 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets during the winter months, with the recently developed indoor training facility at Crown Hills Specialist Sports College ensuring that the site has become a strategic site for cricket across the region.
- 4.66 As highlighted, training outdoors in the city is currently limited, with many teams using facilities informally or on their grass square due to the lack of artificial wickets and training nets at the club base.
- 4.67 Leicestershire Cricket Board highlight the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to develop junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. The lack of training facilities is currently one of the reasons why there is thought to be significant migration of junior players out of the city. It is however acknowledged that this is very difficult on public pitches.

### **Casual Demand**

- 4.68 In addition to demand from formal clubs, casual cricket is popular and is evident in terms of both;
- bookings for casual use at Council pitch sites; and
  - informal use (family groups just using facilities on parks). This was viewed at the time of site visits and is also anecdotally known to take place. In some instances, this represents misuse (golf, motorbikes etc).
- 4.69 Evington Park, Humberstone Park, Mowmacre Sports, Rushey Fields and Western Park accommodate casual play as well as formal league play. Bookings for casual play are relatively minimal, but for 2015 represented;
- Evington Park - 11 match equivalents;
  - Western Park 2 match equivalents; and
  - Rushey Fields - 4 match equivalents.
- 4.70 The above represent an indication only drawn from the 2015 season. Casual use can impact upon the ability of a site to sustain league play.

### **Educational Demand**

- 4.71 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports and this is also echoed by the lack of cricket facilities that are located at school sites. Indoor cricket at secondary schools is however increasing and there is some

evidence of use of the pitch at Davenport Road by Hamilton College, Moat Community School, St Pauls Catholic School.

- 4.72 Cricket in schools is however strong and the Leicestershire Cricket Board offer five programmes to primary schools, with varying levels of support and activity provided at each programme level.
- 4.73 Cricket at primary or first school typically does not involve the use of formal facilities, instead being played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful and may have contributed to the small increase in junior cricket participation. The Cricket Board delivered cricket in 122 schools during 2014 / 2015 and will be targeting both primary and secondary schools during 2015 / 2016 in order to introduce new participants to cricket.
- 4.74 The Cricket Board re also developing Cricket School Sports Clubs based on school sites, before school, during lunchtime or after school. This is also free of charge to schools through the Chance to Shine Programme and can include coaching, leadership training and access to tickets to Grace Road.
- 4.75 Despite a lack of facilities at existing school sites (particularly grass squares); several schools have also expressed an interest in the creation of new facilities at their sites. This includes New College (who have identified the opportunity to provide a facility at their site as well as 1 - 2 further pitches on neighbouring land) and Babington Community College (who identify cricket facilities as their key priority). There is also thought to be scope for cricket provision at Samworth Enterprise Academy with foundations for a pitch already in place, as well as at Crown Hills School, linking with the indoor centre.

#### **Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

- 4.76 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the amount of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site specific level and then compiled to present a city wide picture.
- 4.77 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a seasonal basis (as opposed to weekly) and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair.
- 4.78 As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take;
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
  - 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
  - 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults); and
  - 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors).
- 4.79 Demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season.
- 4.80 A small amount of play in the city takes place on non-turf wickets (currently Last Man Stands and Junior Cricket). Where non turf wickets are used, this has been recorded and

only play on the grass wicket is counted within analysis of the grass wicket. Full details of the teams using non turf wickets can be found in Appendix E.

### **Demand at Peak Time**

- 4.81 While use of the wicket across the season is important, the majority of adult demand is from teams playing in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League on a Saturday afternoon and the availability of pitches at this time has therefore also been considered. Junior teams and friendly teams generally play across the week when pitches are available and so access to facilities on a specific day is less important. Higher numbers of junior teams can however restrict the use of facilities by midweek teams, therefore having a knock on effect to the adult game. This may also impact in future years if the growth of the midweek game (for example Last Man Stands) continues.

### **Situation at Individual Sites**

- 4.82 Table 4.5 provides an overview of site specific activity for each of the pitches that offer community use in Leicester City. It also highlights other issues that have arisen in relation to each site and summarises the information relating to quality that was presented in Table 4.2. It clearly indicates that;

- all facilities offering community use are used at least once per week;
- there is very little spare capacity available on a peak time (Saturday PM);
- almost all sites are able to accommodate a little more play based upon the capacity of existing squares (and in some instances there is space on squares to mark out further strips); and
- the quality of facilities is as inhibiting as the amount of pitches provided.

- 4.83 At a site specific level;

- there are no sites that are overplayed and almost all sites can sustain further play across the season. On some sites (particularly Council facilities used in the Leicestershire and Rutland League) there is scope to provide additional wickets on the square than are currently being prepared;
- Davenport Road Playing Fields and Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College are the only sites that are at capacity and there is no scope for further play across the season or at peak time. Both sites accommodate school as well as club use which places further wear and tear on the grass square;
- based on competitive play alone, Leicester Banks have capacity for additional play. The club are however lacking in training facilities (no non turf wickets or nets) and therefore place greater pressures on the existing square than further appears. A similar situation is also apparent at Ethel Road - the spare capacity at the site is generated by the use of the non-turf wicket by some of the junior teams belonging to Crown Hills CC. If these teams were to use the grass square, there would be no remaining capacity at this site;
- while across the season there is scope for additional play, capacity is much more restricted at peak time. While Soar Valley is not currently used on a Saturday, the outfield is insufficient in size to enable senior play as the school buildings are located too close to the square. Theoretical capacity does therefore not translate into

practical capacity at this site. There are no further pitches available that are currently suitable for use by the Leicestershire and Rutland league;

- pitches at Western Park and Evington Park are currently only used by the Mutual Cricket League (although the non turf wickets at Evington Park will be used for Last Man Stands also). These pitches are able to accommodate further play both across the week and at peak time, but are currently of insufficient quality to meet needs for the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. These sites also suffer from similar challenges in meeting demand as other Leicester City Council owned facilities due to the public setting of the facility. Both of these sites are also available for casual bookings, with Evington Park accommodating 10 during the 2015 season; and
- the remaining sites that offer community use all contain only non-turf wickets. Non turf wickets cannot currently be used in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. Future rules around this are currently being discussed, as part of ongoing discussions to improve the quality of facilities in the county, and this may change. The condition of existing non turf wickets however would still mean that these sites would not be suitable for league play without renovations and reinstatement works being undertaken.



**Table 4.5: Site Specific Usage**

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
EMPLOYEES SPORTS GROUND	15	Bharat Sports, Leo	27			5.4	9.6	0	Site has capacity to accommodate further play across the season but no further capacity at peak time. Also subject to some informal use. Site currently accommodating teams in lower divisions (Grade D) and is of limited quality. Maintenance regime is poor and outfield is uneven. There are no training nets / non turf wicket and the site does not include covers or sight screens.
BANKS ROAD	8	Leicester Banks	22			4.4	3.6	0	Site has capacity to accommodate further play across the season but no further capacity at peak time. Highest quality facility in the city, capable of accommodating play in the higher divisions. Site includes all basic equipment but is lacking in practice nets and does not have a non turf wicket. This impacts on the spare capacity, as the grass square is also used

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
									for training on occasion. Club indicate that they require additional wickets on the square to support all activity.
DAVENPORT ROAD PLAYING FIELDS	10	Bharat Sports	22	24	4	8.4	1.6	0	Site has no further capacity at peak time or during the week. One team from Bharat Sports plays at Aylestone Playing Fields due to lack of capacity. Site of reasonable quality (Grade C) but does not contain any portable covers or sight screens. Training facilities are highlighted as a key priority and maintenance is also highlighted as an issue by the club, with in particular the out of season reinstatement programme perceived to be inadequate.
ELECTRICITY SPORTS GROUND	20	Leicester Electricity	22	48		11.25714	8.742857	0	Site has no further capacity at peak time but is able to accommodate further play during the week across the season. One of the highest quality facilities, Grade B, but condition of pavilion is poor and requires total refurbishment. Practice facilities are adequate. Non turf wicket accommodates 8

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
									matches per year, well within facility capabilities.
ETHEL ROAD - LEICESTER CARRIBEAN	10	Leicester Caribbean / Crown Hills	22	16		6.685714	3.314286	0	Site has no further capacity at peak time and only limited remaining capacity to accommodate additional play across the season. Pitch quality currently adequate but would be insufficient if club were promoted. Condition of pavilion also poor and club are struggling to fund maintenance procedures. There are no covers for the square and the club also identify new training nets as a priority. The use of the wicket would be higher if some teams at Crown Hills CC were not using the non turf wickets - this protects the capacity at the site. 16 matches per season are played on non turf wickets.
EVINGTON PARK	16		30		11	7.571429	8.428571	0	Site containing both non turf and grass wickets, used with Western Park to accommodate the mutual league. Of relatively limited quality and potentially insufficient for play in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. Site also



Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
									used for Last Man Stands. Location of second non turf wicket means only one pitch can currently be used at a time. Located in a public park so subject to informal use. Site is also the most popular for casual bookings (on a mixture of grass and non turf) accommodating circa 11 bookings last season.
HIGHFIELD RANGERS FC	9	Highfield Rangers / Maher Stars	22			4.4	4.6	0	Site has capacity for further play across the season but is at capacity at peak times. Has recently improved in quality following club promotion but further work required including levelling and works to the square. Site lacks training facilities and non turf wicket, as well as portable covers for the square.
MOWMACRE SPORTS GROUND	8	Bombay / Leicester CSA	15			3	5	0	Poor quality site currently serving teams in lower divisions (D or ungraded). At capacity peak time, but scope to accommodate additional play across a season, although it should be noted that site is also subject to informal use and unofficial use. Changing facilities are

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
									restricted and site does not include practice facilities, sight screens, or covers. Maintenance procedures also require improvement.
SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE	8	Soar Valley Strollers	0	40		5.714286	2.285714	1	There is a small amount of spare capacity for additional play across the season, but use of the facility is restricted to younger age groups due to the size of the outfield. While there is spare capacity on a Saturday PM therefore, the site cannot be used. Site is lacking in facilities (changing and equipment such as sight screens / covers) and the outfield is uneven. The level of activity at club is sufficient that they would like to consider the development of the second field to provide further capacity.
WESTERN PARK	25 (5 pitches)	Mutual League	40		2	8.285714	16.71429	3	Site used for Mutual League and adequate for league requirements. Scope to increase the amount of play on each wicket, and capacity for further games on a

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
WESTERN PARK	5		15			3	2	Saturday at peak time, although quality of facility means that it is unlikely to be suitable for use in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. Site also accommodates a small amount of casual play, equating to circa 2 games per week during the 2015 season. While there is spare capacity, many users have previously encountered unpleasant experiences at this site and it is not considered attractive to clubs currently.	
WESTERN PARK	5		15			3	2		
WESTERN PARK	5		15			3	2		
WESTERN PARK	5		15			3	2		
WYGGESTON AND QUEEN ELIZABETH I COLLEGE	10	YMA, Electricity Sports	50			10	0	0	No capacity on a Saturday afternoon. Restricted number of wickets as the college also runs two cricket teams (play midweek) who also require use of the facilities. The pitch is of

Site Name	Maximum Number of Strips	Users	Adult Matches	Youth Matches	Casual / School	Total Number of Strips Required to accommodate Demand	Adequacy of wickets (Number of Strips Spare Capacity)	Match Equivalents Available at Peak Time	Comments
									good standard (accommodating ground grade C) but there are no practice facilities or training nets. The site also does not currently have portable covers for the square. Used by YMA and Electricity Sports. YMA are looking to expand but no further scope to accommodate this.

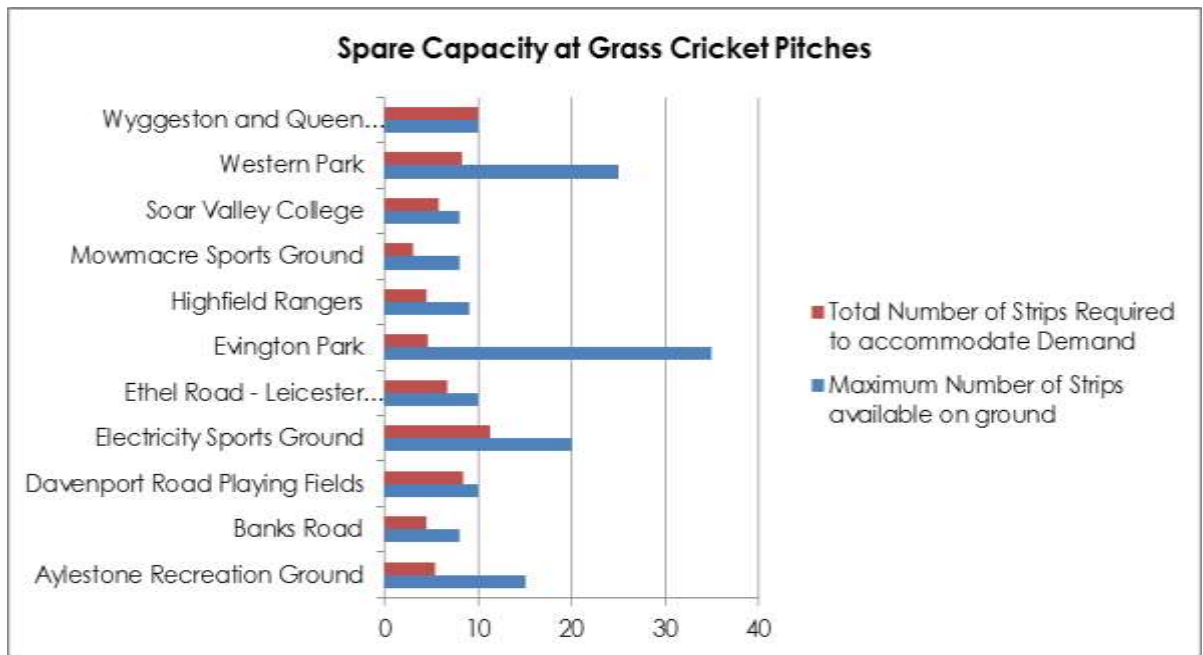
### Current Picture of Provision

- 4.84 The site overviews set out in Table 4.5 can be used to develop an overall picture of provision across Leicester City. This is set out in Table 4.6 and illustrated in Chart 4.3. It demonstrates that there is scope to accommodate circa 21 additional adult teams across the week if all available strips on all wickets were used. This however disguises the real situation, which is the lack of spare capacity on a Saturday afternoon. There is no further remaining capacity at this time.
- 4.85 This pattern is evident in each of the sub areas of the city, with all having capacity for further play during the season, but none on pitches of suitable quality at peak time. It should be noted that previous issues at Western Park have left this site unattractive to most users currently (although there are 3 match equivalents available at this site if quality was improved).

**Table 4.6: Cricket Pitch Provision - Capacity**

Sub Area	Sites with Spare Capacity to accommodate at least one additional adult team across the season (2 strips or more)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Spare Capacity (Suitable for play in Leics and Rutland league - grass)
<b>Leicester East</b>	Ethel Road (1 team) Evington Park (2 teams) Highfield Rangers (2 teams) Soar Valley College (1 team)	Evington Park, Soar Valley College	n/a
<b>Leicester South</b>	Employees Sports Ground (up to 4 teams if all strips were used) Banks (1 team) Electricity Sports Ground (4 teams)	N/a	n/a
<b>Leicester West</b>	Mowmacre Sports Ground (2 teams) Western Park (4 teams)	Western Park	n/a
<b>Leicester</b>	Employees Sports Ground (up to 4 teams if all strips were used) Banks (1 team) Electricity Sports Ground (4 teams) Ethel Road (1 team) Evington Park (2 teams) Highfield Rangers (2 teams) Mowmacre Sports Ground (2 teams) Soar Valley College (1 team) Western Park (4 teams)	Soar Valley College Western Park, Evington Park	n/a

**Chart 4.3: City Wide Spare Capacity**

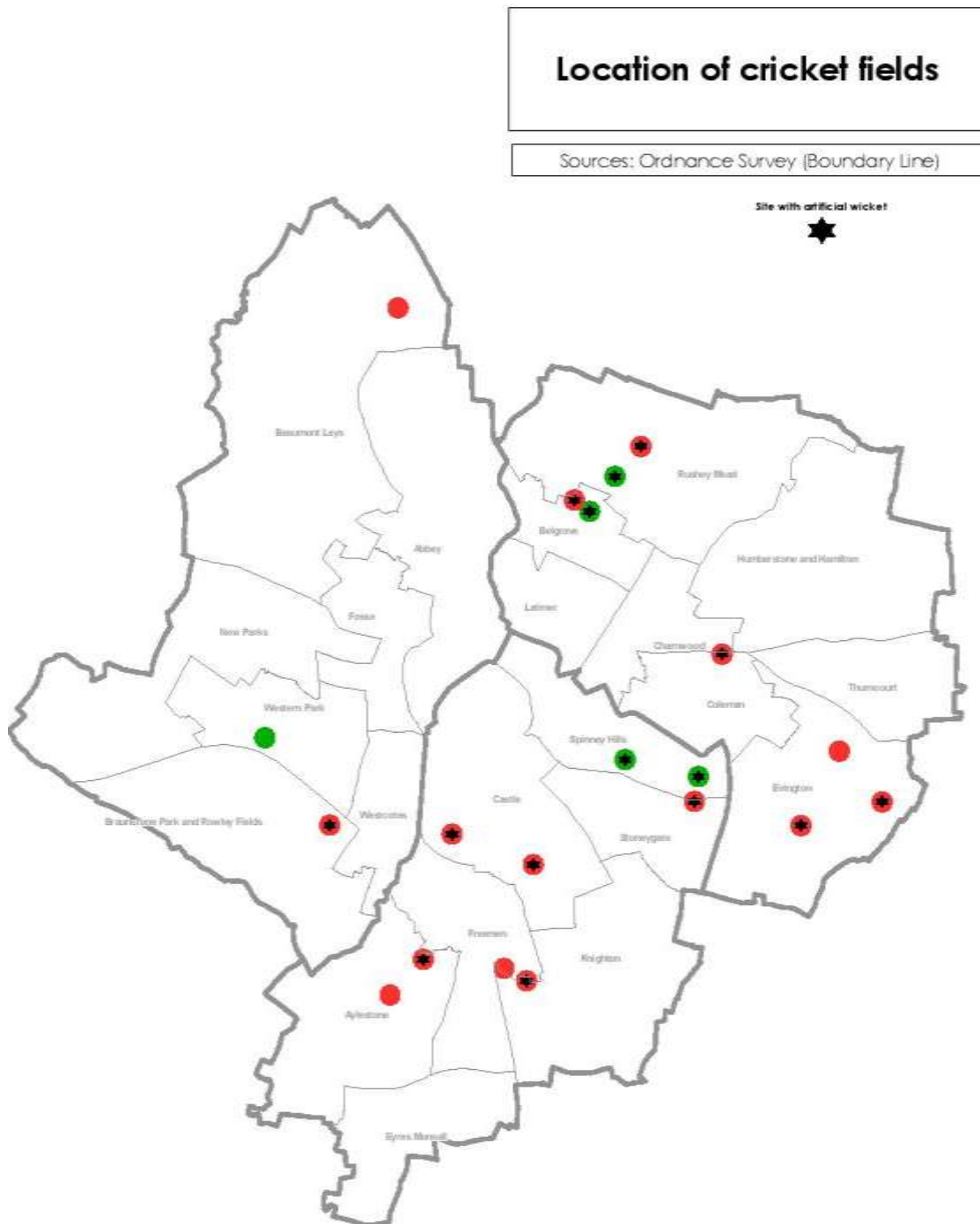


- 4.86 Table 4.5 and Chart 4.3 therefore reinforces the message outlined earlier indicating that while existing pitches are able to accommodate more play across the season, spare capacity is much more limited at peak time and along with the quality of existing facilities, it is this that is causing the teams from the city to travel to nearby areas outside of the administrative boundary. Map 4.1 illustrates this spatially, indicating that existing sites are spread across the city, although primarily in the south and east but that there is no spare capacity.
- 4.87 It should also be noted that pitches at Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College, as well as Soar Valley College are at capacity. Withdrawal of these sites from community use would create a deficiency of 1 match equivalent at peak time, further exacerbating the situation.
- 4.88 Earlier analysis demonstrated that there are 14 teams which are travelling outside of the administrative area to play of which 9 teams are considered high priority for relocation. Table 4.6 provides evidence that there is no capacity for additional play (and therefore a requirement for teams to travel) at each of these sites at the current time unless non turf wickets are used (or pitches at Western Park are used alongside the mutual league). With no peak time match equivalent slots available, this means that there is a requirement for at least 5 additional pitches (each with capacity to accommodate at least 20 games over the season). This could be either at grass pitches, or on non turf facilities for clubs division 9 or below. For those clubs of high priority, four are currently in Division 9 or below, but three are pressing for promotion to division 8. Just one existing club in the city is in Division 9 or below that could be relocated.

**Spatially, the majority of clubs are willing to travel within the city to find a suitable ground to play, although as outlined in Table 4.4, some clubs have expressed a preference for where their cricket grounds would be located in an ideal scenario. However cricket facilities are very land hungry, and the city has a large requirement for housing and employment land, as evidenced through the HEDNA 2017. The city council is working with the adjoining authorities to look at sports provision in Greater Leicester, which would take**

into account cross boundary need and provision. As stated above, there is also planned provision of new cricket provision in the NE Leicester and Broadnook in Charnwood Borough Council's area.

Map 4.1: Spare Capacity at Cricket Pitches (Non Turf and Grass)



Red denotes no spare peaktime capacity and/or no community access. Green denotes spare peaktime capacity

### Latent and Unmet Demand

- 4.89 Across Leicester, several clubs, as well as the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Board indicate that they believe club growth (and existing participation) is becoming restricted by a lack of facilities of appropriate quality.
- 4.90 The population of the city is culturally diverse and young. 53% of the population come from a Black Minority Ethnic background and 39% of residents under the age of 25 years. 35% of the BME population are from a South Asian background, with the largest proportion being Indian at 28.3%. These groups have a high propensity to participate in cricket, yet activity levels are below what might be expected within the city.
- 4.91 The Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Board are working with these groups to increase participation, but successful achievement of these goals will only be possible if provision is to be tailored to meet the demand.

### Future Picture of Provision

- 4.92 Added to the challenges, population growth will impact upon future demand, as will changes in participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

### Population Change

- 4.93 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 4.94 Table 4.7 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population profile on demand. It reveals that population growth and changes to the population profile will result in;
- an increase in the number of people aged between 18-55, generating a likely increase of 2 senior league cricket teams, as well as an additional Last Man Stands team; and
  - up to 3 additional junior teams created.

**Table 4.7: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2030)	Change in population	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams)
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs)	25	92295	3692	99647	7352	2
Cricket Open Age Mens (18-55yrs) - Last Man Stands	12	92295	7691	99647	7352	1.0
Cricket Open Age	0	92295	0	99647	7352	0



Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2030)	Change in population	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams)
Womens (18-55yrs)						
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	22	23196	1054	25719	2523	2.4
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	0	23196	0	25719	2523	0

4.95 In terms of pitch requirements, this would result in;

- demand for senior cricket pitches increasing by 1 match equivalent at peak time, and an overall requirement to accommodate circa 25 adult games per season, as well as an additional Last Man Stands game; and
- a need to accommodate circa 20 junior matches per season.

4.96 If teams travelling outside of the administrative area were also taken into account when calculating TGRs, a further team would be created (additional 0.5 match equivalents).

4.97 As highlighted, while there is capacity within the existing pitch stock to accommodate additional play midweek or outside peak time (and therefore junior participation), adult teams are already travelling outside of the administrative area to play and there is therefore insufficient capacity to accommodate this population growth.

4.98 Taking into account both teams travelling out of the administrative area (4.5 match equivalents at peak time) and the impact of population growth alone (1 match equivalent at peak time), there is a requirement for an additional 6 pitches (5.5 match equivalents) at peak time (6 match equivalents at peak time if teams travelling outside the administrative boundary are included in TGR calculations). If all teams, including those considered to be of lower priority were to be accommodated, this would rise to 8 pitches. However cricket facilities are very land hungry, and the city has a large requirement for housing and employment land, as evidenced through the HEDNA 2017. The city council is working with the adjoining authorities to look at sports provision in Greater Leicester, which would take into account cross boundary need and provision.

### **Participation Trends and Growth Aspirations– Impact on Pitches**

4.99 The Leicestershire Cricket Board is seeking to implement a sustainable approach to the development of cricket, retaining existing players and developing new players at both junior and adult level, in particular targeting those in Black and Ethnic Minority groups, who research demonstrates have a high propensity of participate.

4.100 As well as the improvement of the structures within the existing club based game (including the recent reformation of the local leagues in Leicester to form the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket league), consideration is also being given to other opportunities to attract new participants. To promote growth of cricket, and in recognition of changing lifestyle patterns and the challenges of 50 over cricket, locally and nationally,

the England Cricket Board are now seeking to introduce alternative forms of the game. The Mutual Cricket League already offers shortened forms of the game (35 over matches with cut of times) and Last Man Stands has recently been introduced into the city with success.

- 4.101 Linking with the aspirations of the Leicestershire Cricket Board, many of the cricket clubs have significant aspirations for growth. Almost all however are not able to accommodate this within their existing infrastructures. In total, teams currently playing within Leicester City are seeking to develop a further 8 adult teams and 7 youth teams. Clubs with development aspirations currently in the city include Bharat Sports Club, Leicester Electricity Sports Club, Leicester Caribbean Cricket Club, Highfield Rangers, Soar Valley Strollers, Maher Stars CC, YMA and Leicester Banks. The majority of these clubs already have multiple teams, but some clubs that do not operate junior sections are looking to develop these.
- 4.102 Clubs currently travelling outside of the administrative area to play feel that they have greater capacity to grow, if they were able to relocate back to the city and maximise the opportunities that this would bring. These teams believe there is scope to develop a further 8 senior teams as well as 6 youth teams. These teams include Fantana CC and Leicester Community Sports.
- 4.103 New provision (or links with other clubs that do have capacity) will therefore be essential if these goals are to be achieved. There are several options as to how this can be delivered and this will need to be explored further in the strategy development phase. These include building of relationships with schools and use of school facilities, creation of new facilities (either grass or artificial) or the reinstatement of former pitches. The planning of a new facility at New College is underway, as explained above. There are also plans, at an early stage, for a new facility at Westgate School. There may also be opportunities to provide facilities within the Greater Leicester area, with adjoining district and borough councils providing facilities in the SUEs.
- 4.104 Table 4.8 summarises this, outlining the current situation and the likely impact that population growth and aspirations for growth will have on the requirement for cricket pitches.

**Table 4.8: Ability of Pitch Stock to sustain additional demand**

Scenario	Adequacy of Existing Stock / Pitch Requirements
Current Position	<p>No availability at suitable pitches at peak time. Good availability across the season, and in total, it would be possible to accommodate circa 21 additional teams outside peak time if the maximum number of wickets were prepared at each site. Non turf pitches could be used for clubs in Division 9 or below if of appropriate quality. There is just one club that would currently have this option.</p> <p>Pitch quality also considered insufficient to meet the needs and aspirations of local clubs. There is no spare capacity in any of the sub areas and the quality of provision is limited in all areas.</p>
Extra Demand	<p>Currently equates to 9 teams considered high priority - 4.5 match equivalents at peak time (5 pitches).</p> <p>There are a further 6 teams considered medium or low priority.</p> <p>Current pitch stock is insufficient to sustain teams which are currently</p>

Scenario	Adequacy of Existing Stock / Pitch Requirements
	<p>travelling outside of the administrative boundary - deficit equivalent to a minimum of 5 pitches. The majority are willing to consider any location within the city. New facilities are being planned within the city and there may also be opportunities to provide facilities within the Greater Leicester area.</p> <p>New provision could be either at grass pitches, or on non turf facilities for clubs division 9 or below. For those clubs of high priority, four are currently in Division 9 or below, but three are pressing for promotion to division 8. Just one existing club in the city is in Division 9 or below that could be relocated.</p>
Impact of Population Growth	<p>Population growth likely to generate 2 - 2.5 additional senior teams and 2 junior teams. This will create 1.5 match equivalents at peak time. Junior play can be accommodated within the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>If all is to be accommodated in the city, including teams currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary which are of high priority, 6 pitches would be required. Most teams are happy to play within any location within the city.</p> <p>If all teams travelling outside the administrative boundary were to be accommodated, demand would increase up to 8 pitches. New facilities are being planned within the city and there may also be opportunities to provide facilities within the Greater Leicester area.</p>
Impact of participation aspirations	<p>Aspirations to grow participation would further increase the pressures on existing pitches.</p> <p>Taking into account the aspirations of just clubs currently within the city, a further 4 pitches would be required (up to 12 in total). If aspirations of the teams currently travelling outside the administrative boundary were also included, this could increase to 16 pitches. However in Greater Leicester there may be opportunities to provide cricket provision within the District and Borough council areas.</p>

### Forthcoming Changes to Supply

- 4.105 There are plans for new cricket provision at New College and Westgate School to provide a total of two new facilities. £150,000 funding from a forthcoming S106 agreement has been allocated to a proposed facility at New College. The monies will be received when developers start on site at Blackbird Road residential development. This is subject to budget, contractual and maintenance agreements and will involve the council working with partners, to ensure any new facilities are sustainable. Land has been identified at Westgate School, subject to agreement from Sport England, as compensation of the expansion of a cemetery at Saffron Hill. However, initial site investigation, funding proposals and management plans need to be completed to ensure any facility would be sustainable. The Clubs have formed a working group (Leicester City Cricket Development Organisation) to investigate opportunities to increase the number and quality of pitches in the area.
- 4.106 YMA Cricket Club (Young Muslims Association) are also looking to develop their own facility to enable the club to start to run female teams. To ensure compliance with the

requirements of the faith, this would need to be within an enclosed environment where access could be controlled. No sites have currently been identified.

4.107 It should also be noted that Belgrave RUFC has also expressed an interest in developing cricket at their club. This opportunity will require further investigation.

### **Current Wider Area Provision**

4.108 With regards to the conurbation cricket provision as assessed to date, the following is understood to be the latest assessed position:

- In Oadby and Wigston there is a flow of players between the borough and the city and the open space assessment reveals that there is considered to be a requirement for more and improved cricket pitches. A PPS is being worked on and should be complete by the end of the summer. In Blaby, there is an overall provision that is adequate to meet existing, although possible population growth could require additional provision. There is potential for new provision at Lubbersthorpe Sustainable Urban Extension.
- In Harborough, a new PPS is underway and should be complete in summer 2017. It will consider the cross boundary issues within the city.
- In Charnwood, there is an undersupply of cricket pitches, particularly in settlements, however quality is seen as more of an issue by clubs. New sporting provision could be delivered by the north east of Leicester Sustainable Urban Extension, and the Broadnook development to the north of the city. Many clubs originating from Leicester City are currently using cricket pitches in Charnwood Borough and are contributing to the pressures identified on cricket pitches. A new PPS for Charnwood is being undertaken and should be complete by the end of summer 2017. It will consider cross boundary issues within the city.

4.109 The main issue that Leicester currently faces is that there is a high demand for enclosed high quality cricket facilities for higher league play. Currently some city residents access cricket facilities that are suitable for higher league play, the majority of which are located in the more rural settlements in adjacent authorities (rather than in the more urban areas close to the Leicester City Council boundaries). Any new cricket facilities would have to be sustainably managed in terms of co locating different sports, including winter and summer sports, so that the land is used efficiently throughout the year. The maintenance costs of any new facility would also be more likely to be covered if it were shared between clubs working together. The city is considering the need exported to the districts, and visa versa. There may be opportunities to develop further cricket facilities in the adjoining District and Borough authorities as explained above.

### **Summary and Key Issues**

4.109 The key issues for cricket in Leicester City are summarised in Section 11.

## Introduction

- 5.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for rugby league. It provides;
- an overview of the supply and demand for pitches; and
  - a picture of the adequacy of current provision to meet current and projected future demand

## Wider Area Context

5.2 There are few Rugby league teams located within the greater Leicester area. Leicester storm play at a variety of locations although their players are likely to come from the Leicestershire area.

## Overview – Supply and Demand

### Pitch Supply

- 5.2 There are no existing rugby league pitches within Leicester City. New College, Saffron Lane and Aylestone Playing Fields have all been previously used as rugby league pitches but are no longer marked for the sport.

### Demand

- 5.3 Reflecting the lack of rugby league pitches, there are no clubs playing within the city boundaries. Until season 2015, Leicester Storm Rugby Club played in Leicester, most recently using facilities at New College. The club were the only rugby league club in the city and ran 3 senior teams and a big youth section containing 6 teams. At this time the club were keen to develop a home base within the city, and in partnership with New College, applied for funding to improve pitch quality and build a home ground at the college site. This application was not successful.
- 5.4 At the start of season 2015, and as a result of a lack of available facilities within Leicester, the club relocated to Brooksby Melton College, in Melton Mowbray (11 miles out of the city centre). This is a high quality site and the club have access to two rugby league pitches, one of which is a 3g all weather surface, as well as a high specification indoor performance gym and classrooms for video analysis. While the club have access to changing accommodation, there is no kitchen available and they must therefore either pre-prepare their own catering or use an expensive outsource catering option. There are also no social facilities at the site. The 1<sup>st</sup> team play in the Conference League South, which is a high standard of play and as a result, must comply with RFL minimum ground standards (according to The RFL competitions website, this competition is Tier 3).
- 5.5 Despite high quality facilities, over the course of the season that has just finished, the club has lost circa 50% of its players. The club are now struggling to put out two senior teams and the youth section has completely folded. Research undertaken by the club management committee attributes this to the relocation of the club, with the travel distance, cost and inconvenience the main contributing factors. The 16 - 19 age group formed a key base for the club in previous seasons, however this age group generally do not have their own transport and a big drop off in playing numbers has been noted.

5.6 The club are therefore looking to relocate back into the city in order to revitalise their playing squads and to reinvigorate the club.

### **Training Needs**

5.7 Leicester Storm currently trains at Melton Brooksby College, primarily using the 3g pitch. Training starts at the beginning of December and therefore the club must compete with the requirements of football clubs, who are also training during this period. The club have struggled to access 3g pitches in Leicester as they are used at this time by football clubs, most of whom have long term contracts for the use of facilities.

### **Educational Demand**

5.8 There is a lack of participation in rugby league in schools and a lack of dedicated rugby league pitches at school sites.

5.9 The RFL do not see growth of rugby league in the city as a key aspiration and are not currently targeting schools within any participation programmes. This is down to the lack of club structure in the area (outside Leicester Storm) as well as the high competition from other sports.

5.10 Rugby league development does however take place, as the move to Brooksby Melton College has allowed Leicester Storm and the College to build a rugby academy, allowing participants access to both education and strong rugby training. It is likely that this would continue even in the event of relocation back to the city and the club would seek to build further links.

### **Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

5.11 The adequacy of pitch provision for rugby league is measured through the use of match equivalents. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

5.12 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

*Capacity over the course of a week*

5.13 The RFL sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). For pitches used in Tier 3 Conference South League Matches, pitch requirements are more strict. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFL)**

Pitch Quality Rating	Senior Rugby League Pitches	Tier 3 Conference League Matches
<b>Match Equivalent Sessions</b>		
Good	3	2

Standard	2	1
Poor	1	Unsuitable

5.14 Demand is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account of both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

*Peak Time Demand*

5.15 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.

5.16 As there are no existing rugby league clubs in the city, it is not possible to undertake an evaluation of site by site activity. These parameters can however be used to determine the potential requirements for Leicester Storm. The club are seeking an immediate relocation in order to reverse the trend of membership decline and are looking to re-establish the teams that were running during the 2014 season, prior to the relocation. The club may therefore require facilities to meet the needs of up to 3 senior and 6 youth teams (although it is acknowledged that growth back up to these levels is likely to take several seasons). The club would also seek to retain a base in Melton Mowbray building on existing player development programmes.

5.17 Table 5.2 therefore summarises the potential requirements of Leicester Storm.

**Table 5.2: Requirements of Leicester Storm**

Age Group	Pitch Requirements (Match Equivalents)	Comments	Pitch Requirements	Total Pitch Requirements
Up to 3 senior teams	1.5 match equivalents competitive Saturday PM	Club play Conference League South which is Tier 3. First team pitch can only therefore accommodate two matches per week and must meet ground grading requirements.	Pitch size 100 x 68mm	Up to 2 pitches required at peak time, assuming that primary rugby is played off the pitches. An additional pitch may be required to accommodate primary teams.
Youth Teams - Previous teams - U16, U14, U12	1.5 match equivalents Sunday AM			Each pitch would be required to sustain 1.5 - 2 matches per week.  If training activity was not focused on a 3g pitch, a further pitch would be



Age Group	Pitch Requirements (Match Equivalents)	Comments	Pitch Requirements	Total Pitch Requirements
				required.
Primary Teams - Previous teams U10, U9, U7	0.75 match equivalents (matches up to 40 minutes per half).		1 pitch 80 x50m  1 pitch 50 x 30m  These pitches could be marked over senior pitches or designated as separate pitches with cones.	1 pitch 80 x50m  1 pitch 50 x 30m
Training Activity	Potentially 3.75 match equivalents per week. Club seeking use of 3g pitch, likely to require midweek usage (peak period) of 2 - 4 hours.	Any 3g pitch used must meet with RFL standards to enable full contact training to take place.	Access to 3g pitch (at least 4 hours at peak time) or 1-2 floodlit training pitches.	Access to 3g pitch (at least 4 hours at peak time) or 1-2 floodlit training pitches.

### Future Picture

- 5.18 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as the aspirations of the club and National Governing Body.
- 5.19 The RFL are currently preparing a new facility strategy to supersede the existing document (which is dated 2011 to 2015). The existing strategy highlights the key priorities as being;
- playing surface improvement and maintenance;
  - clubhouse improvement;
  - security of tenure and quality facilities; and
  - wider access for places to play.

### Population Change

- 5.20 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.
- 5.21 Technically, with no existing rugby league team in the city, there are no TGRs for rugby league. As Leicester Storm are however travelling to play outside the administrative



boundary and are looking to relocate urgently, if based back in the city, it is likely that population growth will have an impact on demand in Leicester in future years. Table 5.3 therefore outlines TGRs for the city, using the number of teams run in the 2014 season when the club were based in Leicester as a base and indicates that;

- although there will be an increase in the people aged between 19 and 45, there will only be a relatively small impact on demand, with just 0.23 additional teams created;
- similarly, growth in the number of people aged 12 - 18 will be insufficient to generate a rugby league team (0.6 teams); and
- there will be an increase of 0.3 primary teams by 2030.

5.22 This therefore suggests that even taking the participation in rugby league at its highest point, projected population growth in the city will have limited impact on the demand for facilities.

**Table 5.3: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the area	Number of teams in age group	Current TGR	Future population in age group (2036)	Potential Change in Number of people in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number)
Rugby League Adult Men (19-45yrs)	72186	3	24062	77907	5721	0.2
Rugby League Adult Women (19-45yrs)	72186	-	-	77907	5721	0
Rugby League Youth & Junior Boys (12-18yrs)	14835	3	4945	18027	3192	0.6
Rugby League Junior Girls (12-18yrs)	14835	-	-	18027	3192	0
Rugby League Primary Mixed (7-11yrs)	21254	3	7084.67	24983	3729	0.5

#### Changes in Participation Trends and club development plans

5.23 As outlined, rugby league is not currently played in the city and the sport has experienced significant decline as a result. Significant effort will be required by the club and the Governing Body simply to reinvigorate the sport back to the successes of 2014.

5.24 Outside of the Leicester Storm Club, growing participation in rugby league in the city is not a key priority for the RFL and a new club is likely to be set up nearby in Rutland in the coming year and this will provide further opportunities within the Leicestershire county. The main growth in rugby league in the city is therefore likely to be directly driven by Leicester Storm Rugby club and will be dependent upon the club securing a venue.

5.25 The club believe that if they are to be successful in reigniting the club membership, they an immediate return to the city will be required in order that they can appeal to those that were playing previously. In reality, the redevelopment of the club is likely to take several years and the recreation of the youth / primary section (up to 6 teams) as well as an additional senior team represents a serious target.

#### **Forthcoming Changes to Supply**

5.26 There are no confirmed changes to existing rugby league provision however the club are looking to source a new facility. Their current priorities are Saffron Lane / Aylestone Lane Playing Fields. Provision could also be met through a ground sharing agreement, use of an education facility or on private land.

#### **Key Issues**

5.27 The key issues to address for rugby league are summarised in Section 11.

### Introduction

- 6.1 Hockey is now almost exclusively played on AGPs and increasingly, AGPs are also used for football. The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register) and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football. AGPs that are compliant with World Rugby specifications can also be used for rugby match play and training.
- 6.2 The analysis of the adequacy of AGPs and the requirement for additional facilities therefore spreads across all three sports. Guidance on AGPs (Selecting the Right Artificial Surface, Sport England 2010) indicates the suitability of AGPs to be as follows;
- Water Based (suitable for high level hockey and football training if the pitch is irrigated)
  - Sand Filled (acceptable surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
  - Sand Dressed (preferred surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
  - Short Pile 3g (acceptable surface for football and hockey at low standards)
  - Long pile 3g (preferred surface for football, not suitable for hockey)
  - Long pile 3g with shock pad (suitable for football and rugby, not suitable for hockey).
- 6.3 Technology continues to move on and new forms of pitch are being developed frequently. Pitch requirements are therefore likely to evolve as technology becomes more advanced.
- 6.4 This section considers the adequacy of AGPS for hockey. Specific needs for football and rugby will be considered separately in the relevant sport specific sections, however the interrelationships between the sports will be identified where relevant.
- 6.5 **Wider Area Context**

There are numerous Hockey facilities located within the greater Leicester area. These are currently located at Mountsorrel, Great Glen, Oadby (Leicester University), Groby, Glenfield, Welbeck, and Ratcliffe.

### Supply

- 6.6 Table 6.1 summarises the full size AGPs in Leicester City and outlines the suitability of these facilities for hockey. It records ten full sized pitches, of which four are sand based pitches and therefore have a surface that is suitable for hockey. All pitches except the pitch at Leicester City FC are available for use by the community.
- 6.7 There are also several small pitches. These include;
- Gateway College and St Margaret's Pastures (4 pitches)- 3g surfaces therefore not suitable for hockey; and

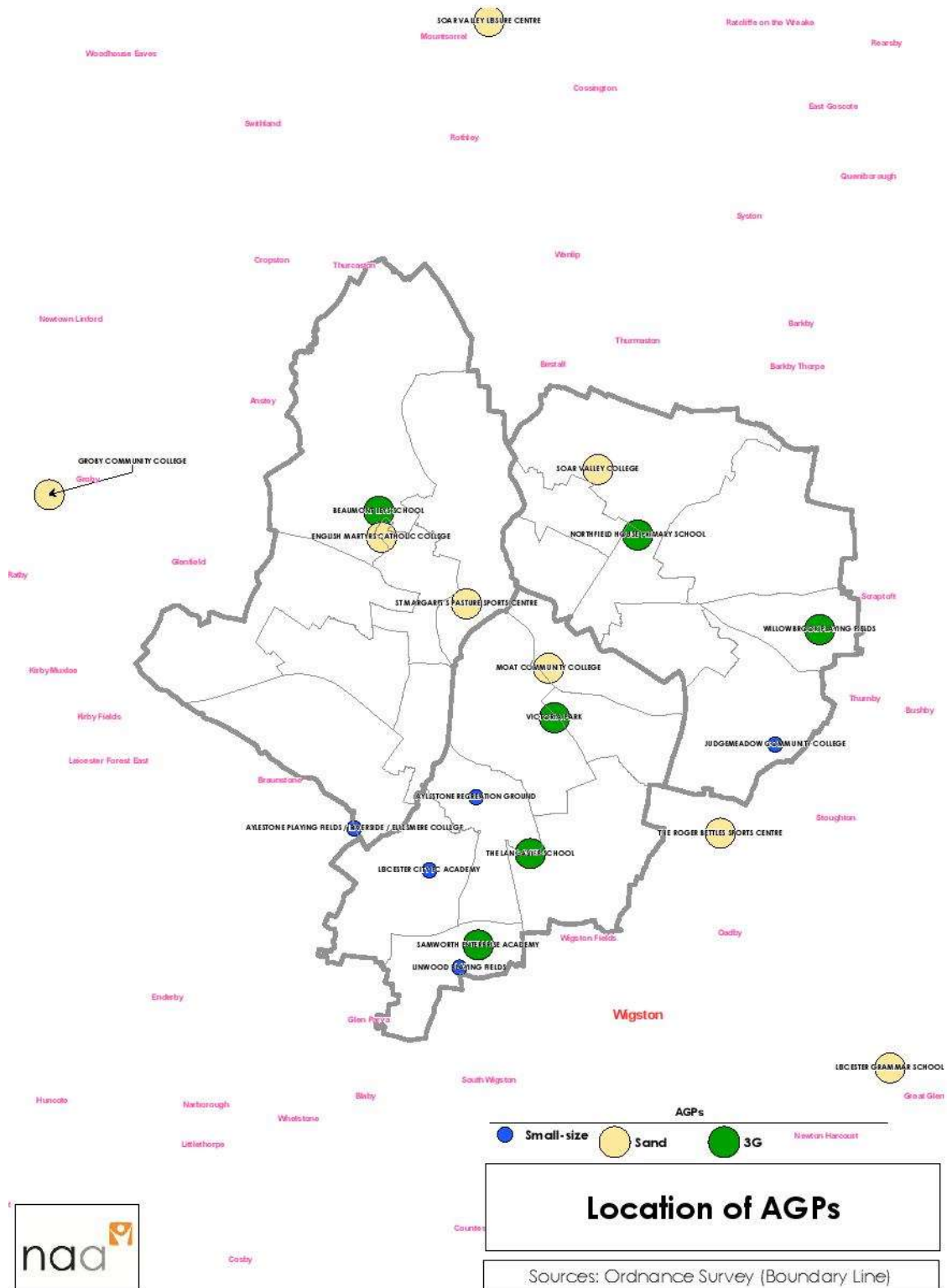
- Northfield House Primary School, Victoria Park - sand filled, The Lancaster School, Willowbrook Playing Fields, Samworth Enterprise Academy and Beaumont Leys School. All of these pitches could potentially be used for small sided training, or more likely, informal forms of the game (such as Rush Hockey).

**Table 6.1: AGPs across Leicester City**

Site Name	Sub Area	Management	Surface	Community Access	Pitch Age (last refurbished)	Suitability for Hockey
RIVERSIDE / ELLESMERE COLLEGE	Leicester South	Leicester City Council	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Yes outside school hours	2014	Not suitable for hockey
AYLESTONE RECREATION GROUND	Leicester South	Leicester City Council	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Yes - open access 24 hours per day	2011	Not suitable for hockey
ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC COLLEGE	Leicester West	In house school	Sand Filled	Yes outside school hours	2015	Suitable for hockey
LEICESTER CITY FC ACADEMY	Leicester South	Leicester City FC	3g	No		Not suitable for hockey and not available for public use
JUDGEMEADOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Leicester East	In house school	3g	Yes outside school hours	2005	Not available for hockey
MOAT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Leicester South	In house school	Sand Filled	Yes outside school hours	2005	Surface suitable for hockey, but pitch size is slightly too small to accommodate competitive play
SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE	Leicester East	In house school	Sand Filled	Yes outside school hours	2005	Suitable for hockey
ST MARGARET'S PASTURE SPORTS CENTRE	Leicester West	Leicester City Council	Sand Dressed	Yes	2011	Suitable for hockey
LINWOOD PLAYING FIELDS	Leicester South	Leicester City Council / Aylestone FC	3g	Yes	2015	Not suitable for hockey
NEW COLLEGE	Leicester West	Leicester City Council / School	3g	Yes		Not suitable for hockey

- 6.8 With the exception of the pitch at St Margaret's Pastures, all of the pitches that are suitable for hockey are located on school sites. This means that the City Council has more limited control over access to hockey pitches than it does for other sports.
- 6.9 While Table 6.1 also indicates that the stock of facilities is varying in terms of age. The pitch at English Martyrs is new, only opening in 2015. The pitch at St Margaret's Pastures was refurbished in 2011; although this coincided with the loss of the second pitch (which was formerly a sand based hockey facility) in order to facilitate the conversion of this pitch to four 3g surfaces for football. The pitch at Moat Community College was developed in 2005. Although it has a sand based surface and to this extent is suitable for hockey, the pitch dimensions mean that it cannot accommodate formal competitive play (the surface is a few metres too narrow). It should be noted however that for hockey at a more recreational level where rule and regulations are sometimes less strict, this pitch may provide an opportunity.
- 6.10 The location of all AGPs in Leicester City and their suitability for hockey is illustrated in Map 6.1. Spatially, all of the sand based pitches in the city are located to the centre / north of the city. There is however at least one sand based pitch in each of the constituencies, with one in each of Leicester South and Leicester East and two in Leicester West.
- 6.11 Map 6.1 also includes pitches for hockey that are located outside the city in nearby authorities. It indicates that the surrounding AGPs are more evenly located around the city, with Leicester Grammar School, which includes a water based pitch as well as a sand dressed pitch, the nearest two pitch site, located to the south.

**Map 6.1: Distribution of AGPs**



## Pitch Quality

6.12 Table 6.2 summarises the quality of each sand based AGPs in the city and highlights any issues identified. It reveals that overall the quality of facilities is standard.

**Table 6.2: Quality Issues at Sand Based AGPs that are suitable for hockey**

Site Name	Quality Rating	Quality Comments
ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC COLLEGE	Good	Pitch newly laid in 2015 and so site is high quality with a good surface. Only line markings on pitch are for hockey, meaning it is a dedicated facility. Newly purchased goals and line markings. Changing accommodation adequate
MOAT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Standard	Pitch of standard quality. Fencing good, but evidence of age with line markings fading and some minor damage to the surface. Limited run off and pitch size does not meet specifications for hockey - not suitable for competitive hockey environment although would be functional for training. Older pitch that is likely to shortly require replacement.
SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE	Good	Pitch of good quality, well maintained and investment put into surface. No evidence of rips or damage to surface currently.
ST MARGARET'S PASTURE SPORTS CENTRE	Standard - Poor	Poorest sand based AGP in the city. Line markings are fading and there is some damage to surface. Leagues consider surface to be poor and raise concerns about the specification of maintenance undertaken at this site. Clubs indicate that pitch quality has deteriorated as there has been no investment to address wear and tear. There are some holes and rips in the surface, equipment is adequate. Changing facilities are small. Lack of storage facilities at site means coaches must turn up with equipment.

## Demand

### Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

6.13 The Active People Survey provides an indication of the types of people that play hockey and potential latent demand. Analysis of current participation according to Active People demonstrates that;

- existing participation is geographically even across Leicester and is therefore not influenced by the distribution of facilities (skewed to the north as outlined in Map 6.1). The profile of current participants is however slightly different to that of other pitch sports, with a higher female participation profile than other activities. The dominant participants are Jamie (107), Leanne (85), Ben (79), Kev (51). Based on the England average, Jamie Leanne and Kev participate at a level greater than may be expected, but there is significant scope to increase participation in some other key groups, including Ben, Chloe and Philip. Overall, the market segmentation reveals that there are currently 619 hockey players in the city; and
- like current participation, there are no geographical variations in latent demand for hockey and therefore no clear direction as to which areas of the city where interventions may be particularly successful. Interestingly, the Active People survey



reveals that latent demand is highest in the two groups with existing levels of participation (Jamie and Leanne). The next highest groups are Jackie and Paula. While both existing participants are relatively sporty, this suggests that there is further scope to develop hockey as a sport, particularly in segments that have below average levels of physical activity for their age groups and may benefit from a more informal introduction to hockey, rather than a strongly competitive environment. Both Paula and Jackie are also relatively price sensitive, highlighting the importance of balancing costs.

### Current Participation

- 6.14 There are nine hockey clubs currently playing within Leicester City running a total of 19 adult teams. Leicester Westleigh are the only club with a separate junior section playing within the city, suggesting that junior hockey is relatively underdeveloped. The junior section play friendly games only. Several of the mixed teams do however include older junior players, indicating that there are some pathways for younger players.
- 6.15 Table 6.3 summarises the teams in each club and outlines the approximate number of hours that they use pitches, as well as the site used. The usage is based upon the assumption that each team plays alternate home and away games.

**Table 6.3: Hockey Teams in Leicester City**

Club	Teams	Location	Competition	Pitch Usage	Participation Trends
Leicester Westleigh Hockey Club	4 adult male, junior training sessions across a range of age groups.	English Martyrs Catholic School	East Midlands Hockey League	3 hours matches on Saturday, plus junior play Sunday.  2.5 hours training	Increasing. Club hope that move to English Martyrs will stimulate further growth.
Leicester Thursday Hockey Club	2 mixed teams (one at each venue)	Soar Valley College	Leicestershire Mixed Hockey League	1.5 hours Matches - 1.5 hours training	Decline - loss of men's team due to lack of players. Hoping move to English Martyrs will attract new players.
		Soar Valley Community College			
Half Century Hockey Club	1 ladies team	Soar Valley Community College	Leicestershire Ladies Hockey League	1.5 hours matches, 1 hour training	
Roundhill Hockey Club	1 ladies hockey team		Leicestershire Ladies Hockey League	1.5 hours matches, no training	

Club	Teams	Location	Competition	Pitch Usage	Participation Trends
Gremlins Hockey Club	1 mixed hockey team	St Margaret's Pastures	Leicestershire Mixed Hockey League	1.5 hours competitive matches (alternate weeks). No training	Static
Nomads Hockey Club	2 mixed hockey teams		Leicestershire Mixed Hockey League	1.5 hours competitive matches (weekly). Some training	
Bosworth Ladies Hockey Club	1 adult ladies team		Leicestershire Ladies Hockey League	1.5 hours competitive matches (alternate weeks) No training	Static
Panthers Hockey Club	2 mixed hockey teams		Leicestershire Mixed Hockey League	1.5 hours competitive matches 2 hours training	
De Montfort University Hockey Club	1 mixed hockey team, 1 male and 1 female team		Leicestershire Mixed Hockey League, BUCS	1.5 hours competitive alternate Saturdays. 1.5 hours Wednesday PM competitive activity (outside peak periods). 3 hours midweek training.	Static

6.16 Table 6.3 reveals that;

- highest levels of usage for hockey take place at the weekend, when the AGPs are required to accommodate competitive fixtures. Most of the clubs train during the week although training is more ad hoc for mixed hockey teams;
- almost all of the clubs in the city are small single / two team clubs, meaning that development structures are restricted. Leicester Westleigh is the only club offering progression from juniors to seniors and the senior section accommodates only men; and
- it is clear that all of the full size sand based facilities are key centres for hockey. The English Martyrs Catholic School pitch has only opened at the beginning of the 2015 - 2016 season and so provides an extra resource for clubs but has already become home to Leicester Westleigh.

- 6.17 Table 6.3 also reveals that there are mixed trends in hockey currently, with the majority of clubs indicating that the number of teams that they run is static or declining. Although the majority of smaller clubs are struggling for numbers, consultation with the Leicestershire and Rutland Mixed Hockey Action suggests that while the number of teams is declining, the number of players is actually increasing. Similarly, within the mixed hockey league, junior membership is growing and the number of people aged 13 - 21 has increased from 254 during 2013 - 2014 to 348 for the 2015 season.
- 6.18 Consultation with hockey clubs and other organisations associated with hockey in the area suggest that the key issues for clubs and the barriers to further growth in the city are;
- cost of facility hire;
  - lack of pitches (there are some existing teams and teams currently travelling outside the administrative boundary which highlight challenges securing access to pitches at the times that they need them - it should be noted however that the new pitch at English Martyrs School may alleviate some of these pressures);
  - quality and maintenance programme at St Margaret's; and
  - concerns about sustainability of the sport in terms of the replacement of facilities provided, and the poor development pathways that currently exist.

#### ***Demand from teams which currently travel outside the administrative boundary***

- 6.19 In addition to the teams playing within Leicester City in Table 6.1, Leicester Ladies Hockey Club are currently travelling outside the administrative boundary. The club currently play at Leicester Grammar School (Harborough District). The site offers a water based pitch adjacent to a sand based pitch.
- 6.20 Leicester Ladies run five senior ladies teams as well as U18, U16 and U14 teams and are a high performing club, with the 1<sup>st</sup> team playing at National Premier League Level. The club have experienced an increase in participation at both senior and junior level (attributed to the impact of increased exposure from London 2012 as well as local media coverage) and are also looking to start a men's team during the 2015 / 2016 season. The club are also looking to launch Back to Hockey sessions, summer camps and large club events in the city with a view to stimulating further increases in participation. Effort is also channelled into social media in order to attract people who may not currently play hockey.
- 6.21 The club are based outside the city due to a lack of water based or high quality pitch surfaces within the city (required due to the club's national premier league status). They are keen to move back into Leicester and hope that this would enable them to promote access to elite hockey for both ladies and men (through the creation of a male section), as well as to grow the game at a junior level. The existing location of the club means that it is not accessible by public transport from the city, restricting opportunities for those living in Leicester to travel.

#### ***JDC / JAC Demand***

- 6.22 There are six JDC currently running across Leicestershire and organisers look to run these at different times and on different days to maximise opportunities. Sessions are currently held at:
- Leicester Grammar School (2);

- Oakham School, Oakham, Rutland;
- Dixie Grammar School, Market Bosworth;
- Loughborough High School; and
- St Margaret's Pastures.

- 6.23 St Margaret's Pastures is therefore the only centre within Leicester City. This session takes place on a Sunday, ensuring that there is an opportunity for players who cannot attend midweek sessions, but organisers struggle with programming due to competition from other community use.
- 6.24 The JAC also takes place at St Margaret's on a Sunday and accommodates 10 age groups each requiring an hour and a half. As there is only one pitch at the site, programming for this amount of hockey is challenging and one age group was relocated to Soar Valley College last year.
- 6.25 The facility at St Margaret's is therefore an important venue for hockey not just in the city but in Leicestershire as a whole. Organisers however raise concerns about the quality of the pitch, which would ideally be of higher standard for this level of activity, as well as the lack of storage at the site (for coaching equipment etc).

### **Educational Demand**

- 6.26 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact upon the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).
- 6.27 School participation can however have a knock on impact on demand for hockey. Until recently, there was limited participation in school hockey from schools in Leicester City, with the majority of activity undertaken at private schools. The School Sports Partnership new initiative (Team Leicestershire), which spans a range of sports and enables schools to pay a one off affiliation fee has seen an increase in participation and up to 40 schools across Leicestershire have opted to participate in hockey this year. Matches will be played at English Martyrs and St Margaret's Pastures which will raise the profile of hockey in the city. This may have a future knock on effect to the demand for hockey. England Hockey data suggests that Fulhurst Community College, Judgemeanow School and The Lancaster School are all participating in hockey programmes, alongside some primary schools.
- 6.28 At a national schools level, tournaments are run for U14, U16 and U18 age groups for both genders. The number of schools entering these tournaments is however declining, with this generally attributed to lack of staff, the need to have time off to participate and frequently, the loss or resurface of a pitch means that the school no longer has a facility on which to train.
- 6.29 There is therefore scope for participation at a school level to increase in Leicester City, with a knock on impact to club membership as long as appropriate structures are there for this to take place (including links between schools and clubs).

### **Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

- 6.30 The adequacy of AGPs to accommodate demand for hockey, taking into account both training and competitive fixtures is discussed below. Demand for football is also considered as while hockey teams cannot use facilities designed for football (3g pitches), sand based surfaces are used for football training (as well as ad hoc community activity)

and hockey clubs can face extensive competition in accessing pitches. The FA facility strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches however and if the stock of 3g pitches is adequate for football, it is likely that activity on sand based sites will be reserved for hockey.

### **Situation at Individual Sites**

6.31 Supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
- the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

6.32 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account however, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered. England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 games on any one day.

6.33 Table 6.4 therefore provides a summary of activity at each site that is suitable for hockey. Moat Community College is excluded due to the restrictive pitch dimensions.

**Table 6.4: Site Specific Usage**

Site	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	Good	30	Hockey - 4.5 hours Saturday, junior activity Sunday (3 hours) training activity circa 3 hours per week	20	Able to sustain additional play	20	New site for season 2015 / 2016 is of good quality. Community use of facility has been introduced gradually and there is therefore scope to increase activity based on current bookings. Only marked for hockey, meaning clubs are less likely to face competition from football clubs.
SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE	Good	30	Hockey - 5 hours Saturday, 1.5 hours Sunday 1.5 hours midweek Fully booked across the week through a combination of sports	30 hours	Played to the level that the site can sustain	0	Important site for hockey in the city accommodating both JAC and clubs. Popular venue due to lower pricing structure. Site quality perceived to be good.

Site	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
ST MARGARET'S PASTURE SPORTS CENTRE	Standard	30	Pitch currently available 6 - 7.30 Monday, 6 - 10 Tuesday, 6- 7.30 Wednesday and 8.30 - 9. Half a pitch is available 7 - 8.30. No availability Thursday (football use) and only half an hour Friday. Hockey Saturday - 6 hours per day. Sunday JAC / JDC activity - Sunday 6 hours Midweek	8.5 hours available midweek, circa 4 at weekend	Able to sustain additional play	12.5	Important site for hockey in the city accommodating both JAC/ JDC and clubs. Reduced usage for hockey this season following relocation of Leicester Westleigh to English Martyrs College, scope to increase, particularly as hockey is given priority over football in booking system. Some quality concerns focusing around poor surface (holes and rips), maintenance procedures and insufficient changing accommodation.

Site	Pitch Quality	Current Carrying Capacity for Community Use	Current Community Use	Difference	Comparison	Total Extent of any Spare Capacity for Community Use	Key Issues and Views
			between 1.5-3 hours each evening				



### Current Picture of Provision

- 6.34 Table 6.5 therefore indicates that there is spare capacity at sites that are suitable for hockey across the week and at weekends. In particular, this is influenced by the introduction of the new pitch at English Martyrs for 2015 / 2016 season, which has seen usage relocate from St Margaret's. There is spare capacity at both St Margaret's and English Martyrs, and hockey usage is prioritised at both of these sites.
- 6.35 Table 6.5 builds upon the site specific overviews and presents the total picture for the city (for sand based surfaces). The strategic nature of sand based AGPs means that the presentation of a view at constituency level is not appropriate. Figures in Table 6.5 are approximate only.

**Table 6.5: Use of AGPs that are suitable for hockey**

Capacity of full sized sand based pitches across the city (Number of Hours)	Total Community Use of Sand Based Pitches (Number of Hours)	Unused capacity (Number of hours)	Spare Capacity Midweek (Number of Hours)	Weekend Availability
90	57.5	32	18	8

- 6.36 As Table 6.5 reveals, there is some additional capacity, although the supplementary use of many of the sites for football means that hockey clubs must continue to compete with football clubs for the more popular times for training. Table 6.5 however reveals that the majority of spare capacity is located at English Martyrs Catholic College, which has only recently opened and is still building up to community use and developing a relationship with clubs.
- 6.37 England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four games per day. Table 6.5 evaluates the use at peak time (Saturday) on each AGP and indicates that there is scope to increase the amount of play. Spare capacity has arisen primarily following the opening of the pitch at English Martyrs School (clubs previously struggled with a lack of access to facilities).
- 6.38 Table 6.6 excludes the requirements of Leicester Ladies Hockey Club, who also wish to play in the city and this will be returned to later.

**Table 6.6: Peak Time Demand**

Site Name	Capacity of full sized sand based pitches across the city at peak time (match equivalents)	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference (Match Equivalents)
ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC COLLEGE	4	2.5	1.5
SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE	4	2.5	1.5

Site Name	Capacity of full sized sand based pitches across the city at peak time (match equivalents)	Total Demand (Match Equivalents)	Difference (Match Equivalents)
ST MARGARET'S PASTURE SPORTS CENTRE	4	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

6.39 Table 6.6 therefore reveals that there is a degree of spare capacity in the city, with 5 additional match equivalents available for use at peak time. This is spread across three different venues, and peak times (12 - 4) are taken on each pitch in the city.

**Accommodating Teams currently travelling outside the administrative boundary.**

6.40 The identified spare capacity in the city for hockey excludes demand from Leicester Ladies. The club are seeking access to one facility to accommodate all of their teams and must have a high quality facility (ideally water based) due to their position in the National Premier League. Club requirements at peak time are currently 2.5 match equivalents, meaning that they require use of one pitch (if all teams are to be accommodated at the same site). There are no facilities in the city offering both the spare capacity to accommodate this usage and the quality of facilities that the club require.

6.41 There is however sufficient capacity within the city at peak time following the development of the pitch at English Martyrs, if other clubs / teams were to be relocated. The pitch would also require improvement to meet with Premier League Standards.

6.42 Pitches at English Martyrs and St Margaret's Pastures are also used for hockey on a Sunday (Leicester Westleigh Hockey Club and the JAC / JDC respectively) meaning that Soar Valley College would be the only site with some availability on a Sunday to meet the needs of the club (this site is currently also used for the JDC however although there is some remaining capacity).

6.43 Midweek, there is some spare capacity at St Margaret's to accommodate training need (following the relocation of Leicester Westleigh to English Martyrs) as well as some capacity at English Martyrs College. This spare capacity is not however on the current Leicester Ladies training evening of Wednesday PM and for their existing training night to continue, some current activity would need to be relocated.

**Latent Demand**

6.44 All hockey clubs responding to consultation, as well as other consultees believe that facilities (in terms of both quality and quantity) have to an extent inhibited growth and suggest that there is scope within the city to increase the number of teams. While there is spare capacity evident that could be considered to disprove this argument, the new pitch at English Martyrs School was only opened a few weeks ago and the majority of spare capacity has only therefore emerged very recently.

6.45 The cost of hockey in terms of both pitch hire and affiliation costs is also perceived to be a key barrier, while the poor structure of the hockey network, particularly in terms of the development and promotion of opportunities for younger people is highlighted as a key

concern. There is perceived to be significant latent demand in the city for the sport if the right structures were in place to capitalise on this.

### **FPM Modelling**

- 6.46 Analysis of the actual usage of pitches against the hours that they are available can be compared with findings of the Sport England Facility Planning Model, a theoretical model based upon national parameters. It includes full sized pitches only. Analysis prepared by Sport England for Leicester City indicates that overall (also outlined in Section 4);
- the FPM modelling includes six full sized pitches within Leicester City. Taking into account the hours that pitches are available for community use, pitch provision is equivalent to 5 pitches. Moat Community College, Soar Valley College and St Margaret's Pastures Sports Centre are all considered in the model to be open for less than the maximum number of peak hours. As the FPM modelling was undertaken in 2014, this therefore excludes facilities at English Martyrs School, Linwood Playing Field, Braunstone Park (Riverside Community College) and Beaumont Hills School;
  - the modelling suggests that in terms of geographical distribution, the south east and north east of the city appear to be underprovided;
  - supply of pitches per 10000 residents (0.18 pitches) is lower than the County average (0.36) and the England average (0.42). It is also lower than provision in Nottingham which is a nearest neighbour authority, although it should be noted that several facilities have since been provided, rendering the stock of facilities more comparable;
  - demand in Leicester City is equivalent to 9516 visits per week in the peak period, equivalent to 12.9 AGPs;
  - whilst overall demand equates to 12.9 AGPs, the separate data for football and hockey illustrates that demand equates to 3 AGPs for hockey and 10 AGPs for football;
  - based purely upon a baseline supply and demand assessment, the modelling reveals a shortfall of 7.9 AGPs (taking into account the reduced hours operated). This shortfall predominantly relates to a requirement for football pitches. It should be noted however that a further four facilities have since been provided, meaning that the requirement reduces to 8 AGPs;
  - satisfied demand takes into account the location of existing pitches. Analysis demonstrates that 86.5% of demand is satisfied, which is below Leicestershire averages but above the England average. Over 60% of demand from Leicester residents is exported to other areas - this is a significant amount of exported demand (although may have reduced with the new facilities that have been provided);
  - on balance, and taking into account the location of facilities in Leicester and surrounds, unmet demand is equivalent to 1.73AGPs (of which 1 relates to football). This is caused primarily by a lack of capacity at existing facilities. There are no hotspots of unmet demand where new provision would be clearly justified. Four pitches have also been provided since these figures, suggesting that the unmet demand and capacity issues may now have been addressed; and

- the existing pitches are considered to be operating at 100% capacity, with around 88% of use by Leicester City residents.

6.47 The conclusions of the modelling undertaken by Sport England therefore suggest that;

- there is low unmet demand, and the pitch stock has since been further supplemented by the provision of four additional facilities; and
- spare capacity could be increased by improving the amount of hours that existing facilities are available for use.

6.48 The model therefore does not reveal a requirement for additional AGP provision.

### Future Picture of Provision

6.49 The future requirement for AGPs for hockey will be impacted upon by several things, including population growth, changes to the demographic profile, club development and evolving participation trends, as well as the potential relocation of Leicester Ladies HC into the city. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

### Population Change

6.50 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. Table 6.7 summarises the implications of population growth and reveals that because of relatively low levels of hockey participation; population growth will have limited impact. There will be no additional male teams created, but a further male / mixed team is likely to be generated. There would be no impact on demand for junior play.

**Table 6.7: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the area	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2033)	Change in number of people in age group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group
Hockey Senior Men (16-55yrs)	96826	13	7448	105026	8200	1.1
Hockey Senior Women (16-55yrs)	96826	4	24206	105026	8200	0.3

6.51 This means that population growth would result in demands for pitches increasing by 0.5 match equivalents per week, which can be accommodated within the existing pitch stock (currently 5 match equivalents available at peak time spread across three pitches - remaining provision would equal 4.5).

- 6.52 If Leicester Ladies, who wish to relocate back into the city are included within the above totals, then calculations would suggest a further adult female team is generated, along with another youth team.
- 6.53 This could also be accommodated (3 match equivalents required to accommodate Leicester Ladies and additional growth - leaving spare capacity 1.5) within the existing infrastructure, although again it should be noted that there are no facilities that can accommodate all of Leicester Ladies teams without the relocation of other teams. Added to this, there are no facilities of appropriate quality to meet this demand.

### Changes in Participation Trends

- 6.54 While population growth will have limited impact on participation, England Hockey seek to build participation in the sport, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also recently been introduced, including Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility (including the small based sand AGPs). The impact of their introduction and the rate of transfer to club hockey is not yet known. Leicester Hockey Club are however introducing these activities and see a big opportunity to generate increased participation in the area. In particular, the club see opportunities to build pathways in the city from junior to elite and anticipate an increase in players (and the number of teams run) as a result. Leicester Westleigh Hockey Club are also seeking to build relationships with English Martyrs School, as well as to develop satellite activity across the city.
- 6.55 Added to this, the Mixed Hockey Association are also seeking to generate additional participants, thorough initiatives such as subsidising coaching and umpiring training if those taking up the offer give back to the league. This will increase sustainability in the sport and is designed to see continued growth in the city.
- 6.56 Building on this, Table 6.8 summarises the potential future scenarios that may arise for hockey and summarises the adequacy of provision and the issues that would need to be considered in each situation.

**Table 6.8 - Current and Future Scenarios**

Scenario	Adequacy of Provision	Issues to consider
Current Position (excluding Leicester Ladies).	5 match equivalents spare capacity available at peak time. Sufficient capacity for training. No requirement for additional provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facility at St Margaret's Pastures</li> <li>Leicester HC are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary to play.</li> </ul>
Current Position (If Leicester Ladies were to relocate without adding to existing infrastructure).	Relocation of Leicester Ladies would see spare capacity decrease to 2.5 match equivalents. There are no sites of sufficient quality to meet requirements of National League Club. There is spare capacity for training, but not on the nights that Leicester Ladies currently train.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no sites with sufficient spare capacity to accommodate all teams from Leicester Ladies on site (which is what the club desire). If this was required, other teams would need to be relocated and reprogramming would be required</li> <li>Depending upon the facility used, Sunday activity (JAC / JDC or junior sides) would also need to be relocated</li> <li>There are no sites of sufficient quality to meet requirements for</li> </ul>

Scenario	Adequacy of Provision	Issues to consider
		<p>Leicester Ladies, even if teams were relocated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to desired training times would also require relocation of existing clubs.</li> </ul>
Current Position (If Leicester Ladies were to relocate to a new facility).	Relocation through creation of a new facility would see spare capacity increase to 6.5 match equivalents at peak time. Spare capacity midweek for training would also increase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spare capacity would be high but there would be scope to grow</li> <li>• A new facility could be designed to meet the quality standards required</li> <li>• A new facility may impact on the commercial viability of other sites, particularly as spare capacity would increase.</li> </ul>
Future Position (taking into account population growth only and projected increases in demand. Excluding Leicester Ladies.	4.5 match equivalents spare capacity available at peak time taking into account just population growth. There would be sufficient capacity for training. No requirement for additional provision. Scope for up to 9 further teams to be developed within the city before existing infrastructure would be constrained. This would enable development aspirations for Leicester Westleigh to be achieved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of facility at St Margaret's Pastures</li> <li>• Leicester HC are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary to play.</li> </ul>
Future Position (taking into account Population Growth if Leicester Ladies are in the city) - to be accommodated within existing infrastructure.	Spare capacity would reduce to 1.5 match equivalents per week at peak time, without taking into account participation growth in either Leicester Westleigh HC or Leicester Ladies. The infrastructure would allow the creation of up to 3 further teams at peak time. If growth aspirations (including Mens Section of Leicester Ladies) were achieved, this may be insufficient longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no sites with sufficient spare capacity to accommodate all teams from Leicester Ladies on site (which is what the club desire). If this was required, other teams would need to be relocated and reprogramming would be required</li> <li>• Depending upon the facility used, Sunday activity (JAC / JDC or junior sides) would also need to be relocated</li> <li>• There are no sites of sufficient quality to meet requirements for Leicester Ladies, even if teams were relocated</li> <li>• Access to desired training times would also require relocation of existing clubs</li> <li>• There would be very little remaining spare capacity within the existing infrastructure and a lack of availability may start to restrict club growth.</li> </ul>
Future Position (taking into account Population Growth if Leicester Ladies are in the city) - to be accommodated through a new	Spare capacity would reduce to 5.5 match equivalents per week at peak time, without taking into account participation growth in either Leicester Westleigh HC or Leicester Ladies. The infrastructure would allow the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spare capacity would be at current levels but there would be scope to grow for both Leicester Ladies and Leicester Westleigh</li> <li>• A new facility could be designed to meet the quality standards required</li> </ul>

Scenario	Adequacy of Provision	Issues to consider
facility.	creation of up to 11 further teams at peak time. If growth aspirations (including Mens Section of Leicester Ladies) were achieved, this may be insufficient longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may remain concerns over commercial viability due to the amount of spare capacity, unless substantial participation growth (which may occur on the back of relocation) is to occur.</li> </ul>

6.57 Table 6.8 therefore indicates that while Leicester Ladies could be accommodated within the existing infrastructure, there are compromises that would need to be made and other clubs would need to be relocated. Longer term, participation may become restricted by a lack of access to facilities.

6.58 It should be noted that the above assumes that the Mixed Hockey Association competitions continue to play on a Saturday. Peak time availability would increase if this was switched.

#### **Forthcoming Changes to Supply**

6.59 There are no known further plans that will impact upon the supply of AGPs for hockey.

#### **Summary and Key Issues – AGPs for Hockey**

6.60 The key issues for hockey are summarised in Section 11.

## Introduction

7.1 This section assesses the adequacy of bowling greens by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and an overview of demand.

## 7.2 Wider Area Context

7.3 There are numerous facilities within the greater Leicester area including Sileby, Rothley, Thurmaston, Syston, Oadby, Wigston, Countesthorpe, Blaby, Enderby, and Desford.

## Supply

7.4 Table 7.1 summarises the stock of bowling greens and reveals that there are 18 sites containing functional outdoor bowling greens. In total, these sites provide 23 greens. Of these, 10 are in Leicester East, 8 in Leicester South and 5 in Leicester West.

7.5 The majority of private greens are located in the South and West constituencies, while public greens are more focused in East Leicester.

**Table 7.1: Bowling greens in Leicester City**

Site	Ownership / Management	Number of Greens	Club Name	Sub Area and Total Greens	
Belgrave Bowling club	Private Club	2	Belgrave Bowling club and Belgrave Ladies Bowling Club	Leicester East -10 greens	
Co op Sports Ground	Private Club	1	St Margaret's Co Operative Bowls Club		
Evington Park	Leicester City Council	2	Evington Park Bowls Club and Evington Park Ladies Bowls Club		
Goodwood Bowling Club	Private Club	1	Goodwood Bowling and Social Club		
Humberstone Park Bowls Green	Leicester City Council	1	Humberstone Park Bowls Club Humberstone Park Ladies Bowls Club		
Monks Rest Gardens Bowling Green	Leicester City Council	2	Royal British Legion Bowls Club* Old Humberstone Bowls Club		
Rushey Fields Recreation Ground Bowls	Leicester City Council	1	Rushey Mead Bowls Club		
Aylestone Hall and Gardens	Leicester City Council	1	Aylestone Hall Bowling Club and Aylestone		Leicester South- 8



Site	Ownership / Management	Number of Greens	Club Name	Sub Area and Total Greens	
			Ladies Bowls Club	greens	
Brookfield Bowls Club	Private Club	2	Brookfield Electric Bowls Club		
Knighton Victoria Bowls Club	Private Club	1	Knighton Victoria Bowls Club		
Leicester Banks Bowls Club	Private Club	1	Leicester Banks Bowls Club		
Leicester Bowls Club	Private Club	1	Leicester Bowls Club		
Spinney Hills Park	Leicester City Council	1	Spinney Hills Park Bowls Club		
Victoria Park	Leicester City Council	1	Leicester Visually Impaired Bowls Club, Leicester Croquet Club		
Abbey Park	Leased by Club from Leicester City Council	1	Abbey Park Bowling Club		Leicester West - 5 greens
Mowmacre Sports Ground Bowls	Leicester City Council	1	Mowmacre Bowls Club		
Westcotes Bowling Green	Private Club	1	Westcotes Bowling Club		
Western Park Bowls	Leicester City Council	2	Western Park Mens Bowls Club, Western Park Ladies Bowls Club		

\*Club have folded since initial audit work was undertaken

7.6 Table 7.1 therefore demonstrates that all existing greens accommodate at least one club. There is however evidence of decline in bowls in recent years, with several former greens no longer in existence. These include;

- Leicester Electric (now merged with Brookfield Bowls Club to form Brookfield Electric);
- Tower Gardens; and
- Rushey Fields (second green).

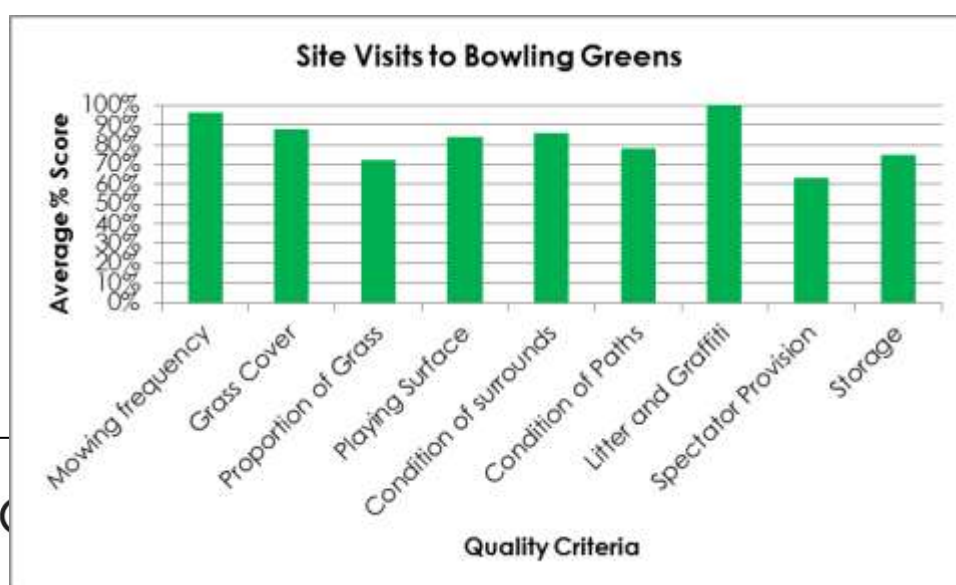
7.7 In addition to the greens within Leicester City Council boundaries, there are also several greens within 1km of the city boundary. These are illustrated on Map 7.1 later in this section.

### Quality

7.8 Site visits to bowling greens were undertaken during the playing season and a non-technical, visual assessment was made in an attempt to provide a comparative overview of the greens and highlight any issues.

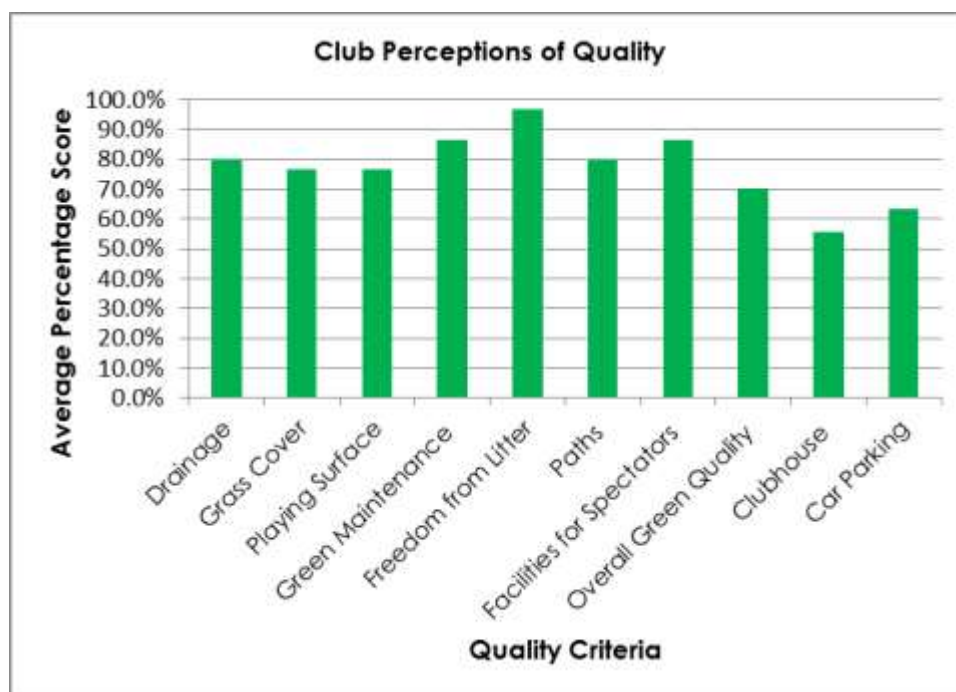
- 7.9 Site visits reveal that all existing bowling greens are functional and fit for purpose, with overall quality scores ranging from 64% to 93%. While there are examples of good practice however, there are also poorer quality facilities where immediate works are required to ensure that facilities remain serviceable. There are no clear patterns geographically with regards the quality of the facilities.
- 7.10 The highest quality facilities are all owned and managed by private clubs (Goodwood Bowling Club, Belgrave Bowling Club, Westcotes Bowling Club and Leicester Bowls Club) and quality is noticeably higher than at Leicester City Council owned and managed facilities. It should be noted however that club based sites often serve more serious and competitive bowlers, while park sites can accommodate grass roots bowlers. A difference in the quality of facilities is therefore expected.
- 7.11 Many of the higher quality sites also contain social facilities including a bar and large committee rooms. As well as being attractive to potential participants, this improves the sustainability of the club, with greater income from bar takings and social facilities enabling investment to be channelled into the management and maintenance of facilities. The lack of social opportunities at park sites is highlighted as one of the key barriers to growing participation for clubs using these venues. There are no clubhouses at public venues in the city, although it was highlighted that there are some examples in nearby authorities of public facilities which are accompanied by full clubhouses. In addition, the quality of the pavilions at many of the public venues is limited.
- 7.12 Chart 7.1 summarises the quality scores achieved through site visits. It indicates that green quality is relatively consistent across most criteria and that sites are on the whole, fit for purpose. Cleanliness is the most highly rated attribute (lack of litter and graffiti) with mowing frequency also rated well. Grass cover and the proportion of grass was identified as a key area for improvement, with several greens exhibiting bare patches and patches of weeds despite it being relatively early in the season. For greens scoring more poorly, the quality of the surface (uneven, divots and patchy) was the key issue. Visits to the same sites later in the season demonstrated that this problem worsened as the season progressed and that some facilities were becoming very difficult to play on. Consultation with LCC, who own the majority of greens indicates that a full out of season maintenance programme takes place as well as fertilisation to help maintain green quality.
- 7.13 All bowling greens in the city have a pavilion, all of which are currently functional although of varying age and quality although as noted above, these are primarily for basic teas and changing only, there are no social facilities. There are also some examples of sites which are not tailored for disabled users, either access to the clubhouse, or to the green (or both).

**Chart 7.1: Quality Scores for Bowling Greens (Site Visits)**



- 7.14 Building upon the site assessments, clubs were asked for their views on the stock of bowling greens. 31% of responding clubs indicated that they were dissatisfied with provision and all of these attributed their identified issues to the quality of facilities.
- 7.15 Varying perceptions of green quality were however evident, with overall, as many clubs considering the quality of facilities to be poor as good. Linking with the findings of site visits, clubs playing on Council greens exhibit more negative perceptions than those representing private clubs. Despite this, Council records reveal relatively few significant complaints, with the majority of issues dealt with quickly. The Council seeks to proactively address repair requirements and to undertake out of season reinstatement.
- 7.16 Reinforcing the site visits, grass cover and the quality of the playing surface were identified as key areas for improvement by clubs, with several raising concerns about uneven, patchy areas and bald areas. Changing facilities and clubhouses were considered to also require investment. Notably, many clubs also highlight the high and ever increasing costs of maintenance as being a key issue. 5 clubs (30 % of respondents) indicate that the quality of their green inhibits club development.

**Chart 7.2: Perceived quality of bowling greens (Clubs)**



- 7.17 Building upon the general issues identified, Table 7.2 summarises the key issues identified by site. It clearly indicates that there is a degree of variation in the quality of facilities and that there are issues at sites across the city.

**Table 7.2: Quality of bowling greens**

Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
Abbey Park	79%	One of the better LCC facilities. Bowling green is in good condition apart from some small barer patches at the sides showing wear. The gutters are astroturfed. The fence needs a coat of preservative. The club undertakes additional maintenance to the green and surrounds. Large pavilion.	Overall green quality is acceptable although changing accommodation and pavilion facilities are poor. The club predict deteriorating maintenance will impact in future seasons. Some winter maintenance is required to keep the pitch in reasonable condition. Scarification and top dressing and some tining.
Aylestone Hall and Gardens	79%	Bowling green is in good condition apart from some small bare patches at the sides, showing wear. The gutters are astroturfed and evidence that some boards have been repaired. Metal bar fencing in good condition. Large pavilion in good condition and appears relatively modern.	Green quality is good, car parking is the only identified issue. Kitchen facilities modern and good.
Belgrave Bowling club	93% (both greens)	Two pavilions - one old and one new brick. Excellent facilities. Bowling green in good condition and well maintained practice game in progress at time of survey on this green. Rubber gutters and astro edging. Access down steps and possible threat of damage from urban foxes as the whole area was surrounded by low electric fence, 24 hr surveillance cameras to deter vandals. Excellent facility offering high quality playing environment.	Unable to accommodate wheelchair bowlers due to limited access to the green, the lack of a suitable disabled toilet and the prohibitive cost of a specialist wheelchair for bowls. Quality of greens is excellent and drainage is good. Club consider greens to benefit from lower usage than some other sites with just one green.
Evington Park	83% (both greens)	Pavilion in good condition with plenty of room and social facilities. pavilion associated with this green in good condition timber. On both greens, the green edges are worn and there are weed and moss species evident - some attention needed. The gutters are boards and astro with rubber gutters. Playing surface poorer quality than some other sites. The greens are cut as necessary but some winter and spring maintenance, scarifying and top dressing weed eradication and fertiliser would improve the green in the short and long term.	Playing surface is poor due to an uneven surface that creates bias on bowls. Overall green quality poor. The poor toilet facilities for men is thought to reduce the attractiveness of the site to users and the club is also unable to provide separate changing rooms for males and females.
Goodwood Bowling Club	93%	Well maintained and supported bowling facility. In excellent condition. Pavilion in excellent condition with good social facilities.	Site includes clubhouse with changing facilities, bar and kitchen. Club quality is excellent and club would consider themselves to be one of the best quality facilities in the county. No existing quality issues.

Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
Humberstone Park	76%	Pavilion brick - in good condition although the back of it is very scruffy. Bowling green needs some maintenance - the grass sward is mossy and weedy. Winter maintenance, weed killer and seeding and fertiliser will be needed. Green is just adequate for the moment but will need improvements to retain quality and playability, particularly with regards the playing surface.	Poor playing surface - green is uneven and surface is going brown impacting on the quality of play. Parking is also limited. Club believe that upgrades are required to the toilets and kitchen facilities. The kitchen facilities and toilets need an upgrade. Council indicate that gutters will need replacing in a few years.
Knighton Victoria Bowls Green	86%	Large well supported tidy club timber pavilion with good social facilities. Kept in good condition. Gutters astro turf and green well maintained.	Clubhouse includes home and away changing rooms, toilets, bar and kitchen. Club employ a green keeper and green is therefore of good quality. Site includes full drainage. Club currently investing in storage shed which is scheduled to arrive in next six weeks.
Leicester Banks Bowls Club	83%	Access through gate from carparking /footpath. Bowling green is in good condition showing good maintenance evidence of recent spiking /aeration. The gutters are rubber matting and boards are painted green also in good condition. Lochrin fencing in good condition. Large pavilion.	
Leicester Bowls Club	86%	Large pavilion in good condition. Home to club playing at highest standard within Leicester City. Bowling green is in good condition apart from some small bare patches at the sides, showing wear. The gutters are astroturfed and so is the gutter. Weldmesh fence in good condition.	Excellent green quality. Club are now seeking automated watering system to further improve the facilities provided.
Monks Rest Gardens Bowling Green	83% (both greens)	Greens in good condition, rubber gutters with boards. No surrounding paths - all grass.  Council indicate that there are issues with flooding on this site.	Poor playing surface - there are dips, holes and patchy grass on green, impacting on the quality of play. Club believe insufficient maintenance is spent on green. The second green currently receives little use due to struggles of the club to field a playing team. Access for disabled bowlers poor - includes steps etc.
Mowmacre Sports Ground Bowls	79%	Old pavilion and poor spectator provision. Green quality relatively good, with good grass length. Paths surrounding green would benefit from improvement.	Green quality considered good, although both Council and club indicate that the lack of water system for this green causes issues and that there are opportunities for automatic watering system.
Rushey Fields Recreation Ground Bowls	69%	Pavilion half brick and half-timber CCTV and vandal paint in reasonable condition.  Green very wet and showing pooling. Rubber gutters with board in reasonable condition. There was a second green here which has been made in to flower beds. Needs decompaction and spiking urgently.	Green considered average overall although clubhouse is in poor condition. Club highlight need for spiking to improve drainage. There is asbestos in the pavilion.

Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
		Limited spectator provision.	
Spinney Hills Park	79%	Bowling green is in good condition apart from some small bare patches at the sides, showing wear. The gutters are pavings on end and rubber gutters in good condition. Small pavilion, old, but in excellent condition, The green needs spiking and decompaction to help drainage and winter maintenance will enhance the longevity of the green.	Green quality impacted by drainage - it does not drain at all when wet which significantly impacts participation. Changing pavilion also considered poor and the toilets are unsuitable for disabled users. Club indicate that bigger facilities are required enabling them to provide separate changing accommodation for ladies.
Victoria Park	64%	Large pavilion old house with café changing and neighbourhood police station.  The bowling green is advertised for both bowling and croquet and croquet lessons were available. The access gate was locked. The gutters are boards and rubber. Boards need minor repairs. Holes in green to accommodate croquet The green would benefit from some decompaction.	Good quality green although there are holes in the green to accommodate croquet club. Large ditch surrounding the green can be difficult to negotiate for members of the Leicester Visibility Impaired Club and level access is required. The clubhouse does not have any changing rooms for home teams or visiting teams although there are at present unused shower rooms next to the clubhouse which could be converted into changing rooms.
Westcotes Bowling Green	90%	Well run private facility. Gutters rubber bottom and astro sides. Social side facilities very good, surrounded by houses, security via CCTV.	
Western Park Bowls	71% and 73%	Green spiked and recently cut ready for play. Some weeds and large bare patches - no fertilizer and no top dressing this winter hence the bare patches, bowling green is not really acceptable at present and without additional top dressing, seeding and fertiliser the green will further reduce in quality and become unplayable in the next few weeks. There is only marginal variation between the greens. There have been recent issues with trees at the side of the green with roots causing cracks.  The Council highlight issues with drainage as well as the surrounds, which needs addressing immediately.	Facility poor overall, particularly with regards grass cover, drainage and the overall playing surface. Club believe that the green requires relaying if issues are to be addressed. Some issues attributed to limited top dressing / fertiliser and grass seed at the beginning of the season. There are also tall trees at the sides of the green which need to be reduced. The ladies green is also perceived to be unplayable, with patchy grass cover and issues with the drainage. Only two of six rinks are playable and the club has received several complaints from the opposition. Quality improvements to the playing surface identified as a key priority by the club. The clubhouse area is now considered acceptable, as works were undertaken during the previous season to improve this.
Brookfield Bowls Club	81% (both greens)	Mown with good grass coverage at time of visit. Grass cover good and some spectator seating and storage available. Parking on	Green quality high on both greens and no specific issues identified. Club highlight key concern as



Site Name	Site Visit (%)	Site Visit Comments	Club Perception
		stone.	being the cost of the maintenance to achieve the standards currently obtained and are particularly struggling to maintain the ageing clubhouse. Concerns over long term ability to maintain both greens if membership numbers are not increased.
Midland Co Op Sports and Social Club	81%	Large pavilion in good condition. Green in good condition, site is very secure.	Green is in good condition but maintenance costs to retain this standard are high.

### Accessibility

- 7.18 Consultation with bowls clubs demonstrates that on average, 41% of participants travel between 1 and 3 miles to reach a green, while a further 22% travel under 1 mile. This means that most people play at greens local to their home. Just 8% of bowlers travel more than 5 miles.
- 7.19 Map 7.1 therefore illustrates the location of each of the greens in the city and includes both a 1 and 3 mile catchment area around each green. It also includes greens identified as being located within 1km of the city boundaries. It should be noted that while the postcode for St Margaret's Bowls Club (Midland Sports Ground) falls outside of the city boundaries, the actual green and other sports facilities are located on land within Leicester City Council boundaries.
- 7.20 Map 7.1 indicates that the majority of residents living in Leicester City are within one mile of a public bowling green as a result of the even distribution of facilities. All residents are within 3 miles of a club site.
- 7.21 The urban nature of the city boundary however means that some residents are within 1 km of a facility outside the city boundary, rather than one within Leicester itself. The arbitrary nature of boundaries however means that while some residents will travel out, equally residents on other sides of the boundaries will travel into the city. Many clubs highlighted the close proximity of other clubs (and in particular private clubs with improved facilities) as impacting upon their ability to attract new members.
- 7.22 Consultation demonstrated that there is a perception that players will travel further to reach private clubs than parks facilities. As well as being influenced by the quality of facilities, this is impacted upon by the type of bowler that these clubs attract, who are often more experienced and seeking more competitive opportunities.

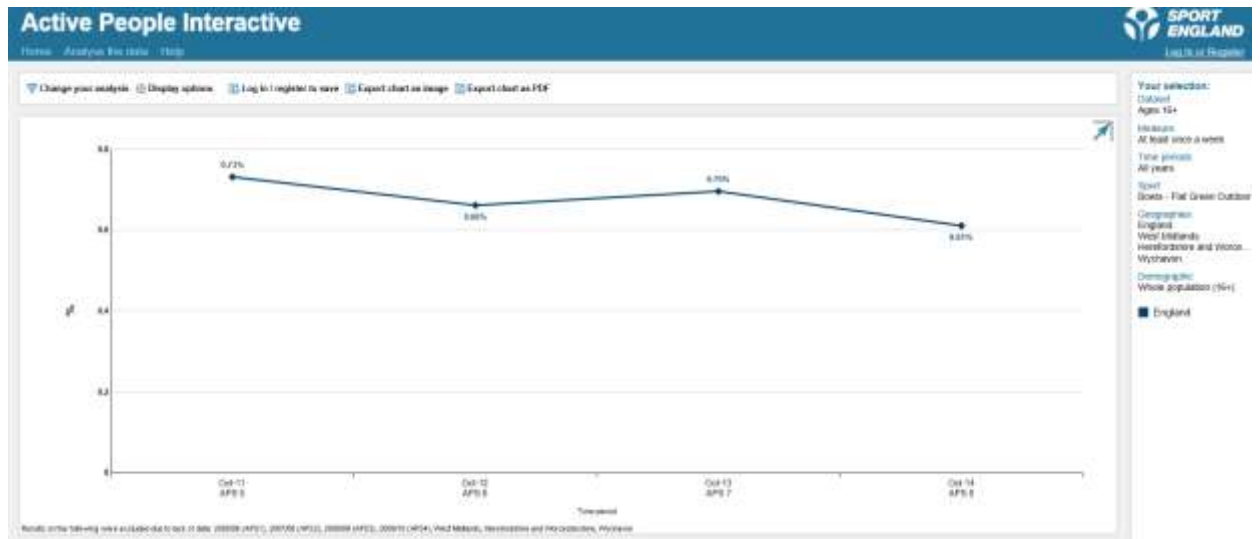




## Demand

- 7.23 Nationally, the Sport England Active People survey indicates that participation in outdoor bowls has declined over the 2011 – 2014 period. In 2011 some 0.73% of the adult population played outdoor bowls at least once a week. In 2014 the rate is 0.61. Chart 7.3 illustrates this graphically.

**Chart 7.3: Participation in outdoor bowls (England 2011-2014) (extracted from Sport England)**



## Market Segmentation

- 7.24 The Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that currently play bowls. For Leicester City, it demonstrates that the amount of people playing is inconsistent, with particularly lower levels of participation in the inner city areas (represented by the darker purple shaded areas).
- 7.25 Comparison of Map 7.2 with Map 7.1 (which outlined the location of existing bowling greens) suggests that this is in part influenced by the location of existing greens, with residents in these parts needing to travel further to reach a green.

**Map 7.2: Participation in Bowls across Leicester City (Sport England Market Segmentation)**



7.26 Market segmentation reveals that overall, across Leicester City there are 1785 people playing bowls currently. These players fall primarily in the older age profiles of Elsie and Arnold and Frank (full descriptions available in Appendix X). The proportion of people in the Elsie and Arnold and Frank categories playing is higher than may expected based on England national averages, however there is scope to increase the amount of players in other groups, most notably Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phyllis. This may influence the type of marketing that should be undertaken by clubs in order to successfully generate new participants.

### **Actual participation**

7.27 Table 7.3 illustrates the current playing membership of bowling clubs on greens across the city, highlighting that there are 949 senior adult players and just 1 players aged U18. There is therefore limited participation at a junior level and poor structures for junior play. Note, this is based on club survey responses where received, in some instances, these numbers vary from affiliation totals submitted to Bowls Leicestershire. They therefore provide an indication only. Where clubs have not responded to the survey, an average membership has been assumed (52 members, based on the average across Leicester City). It should be noted however that there are some discrepancies between affiliation levels and membership totals reported and figures therefore provide an indication at a point in time only.

7.28 Membership of bowling greens is highest in the east of the city, which correlates with a higher number of greens being located in this area. The lowest membership is in Leicester west constituency. The higher membership in the east constituency is perhaps surprising in some ways, given that the proportion of residents of ethnic minority is higher in this constituency, and there is a known under representation in bowls in these groups.

**Table 7.3: Membership of existing clubs**

Site	Sub Area	Club Name	Club Playing Membership	Recent Trends	Total Membership in Sub Area
Belgrave Bowls Club	Leicester East	Belgrave Bowling Club and Belgrave Ladies Bowling Club	78 (no junior members)	Decreased	429
Co -op Sports and Social		Co Op Sports and Social Club	83 members	Static	
Evington Park		Evington Park Bowls Club	51 (no junior members)	Decreased	
Goodwood Bowls Club		Goodwood Bowls Club	120 (no junior members)	Decreased	
Humberstone Park		Humberstone Park Mixed Bowling Club	33 (no junior members)	Increased	
Monks Rest Park		Royal British Legion Bowls	20 (no junior members)	Decreased. Club have actually folded during the course of the data collection work for this assessment.	
		Old Humberstone	22 (no junior members)	Decreased	
Rushey Mead		Rushey Mead	22 in addition to 4 non playing members	Decreased	
Aylestone Hall	Leicester South	Aylestone Hall Bowls Club	49(no junior members)	Static	386
Brookfield Electric		Brookfield Electric	77 (no junior members)	Decreased	
Knighton Victoria Bowls Club, Church Lane		Knighton Victoria Bowls Club, Church Lane	50 (no junior members)	Decreased	
Leicester Banks Bowls Club		Leicester Banks Bowls Club	52 members (*assumed based on averages)		
Leicester Bowling Club		Leicester Bowling Club	102 (1 junior member)	Increased	
Spinney Hill Park		Spinney Hill Park Bowls Club	20 (no junior members)	Decreased	

Site	Sub Area	Club Name	Club Playing Membership	Recent Trends	Total Membership in Sub Area
Victoria Park		Leicester Visually Impaired Bowling Club	36 (no junior members)	Increased	
Abbey Park	Leicester West	Abbey Park Bowls Club	28 (no junior members)	Decreased	142
Mowmacre Sports Ground		Mowmacre	21, 5 non playing members.	Static	
Westcotes Bowling Club		Westcotes Bowling Club	(*assumed based on averages)		
Western Park		Western Park Mens Bowls Club	21 (no junior members)		
	Western Park Ladies Club	20 (no junior members)	Decreased		

7.29 Table 7.3 clearly indicates that the majority of clubs (both public and private) across the city have experienced recent reduction in membership, with natural decline (due to the age profile of participants) identified as the key reason. This reflects Leicester City Council analysis, which reveals reducing membership numbers over a period of several years. Other reasons suggested for falling membership include;

- the lack of interest in bowls and the connotations associated with the sport;
- the restricted competition times which limit the ability of people who work to play as well as rigid competitive structures and a lack of more casual opportunities;
- the costs associated with playing;
- the perceived poor quality of existing facilities; and
- lack of volunteers in the sport.

7.30 Reflecting the fragility of the sport currently, Humberstone Royal British Legion Club folded during the data collection phase of this assessment.

7.31 Only Leicester Bowling Club and Humberstone Park Mixed Bowls Club have experienced an increase. Interestingly, this is in part attributed to the combining of the male and female clubs, meaning that participants can enjoy a shared interest with their partners and enhancing the social elements of bowls. Promotion of the social element of bowls is highlighted as being key to driving participation increases. The quality of facilities is also raised as being detrimental, with clubs with poorer facilities losing players because of this.

7.32 Reflecting the recent decline, all clubs indicate that they have capacity for new members and are actively seeking new participants as a priority. Indeed, several clubs highlight the challenges that drop in membership has caused issues both for them and others, noting that;

- declining numbers mean other clubs struggle to fulfil fixtures; and
- lower incomes impact upon the ability to manage and maintain facilities.

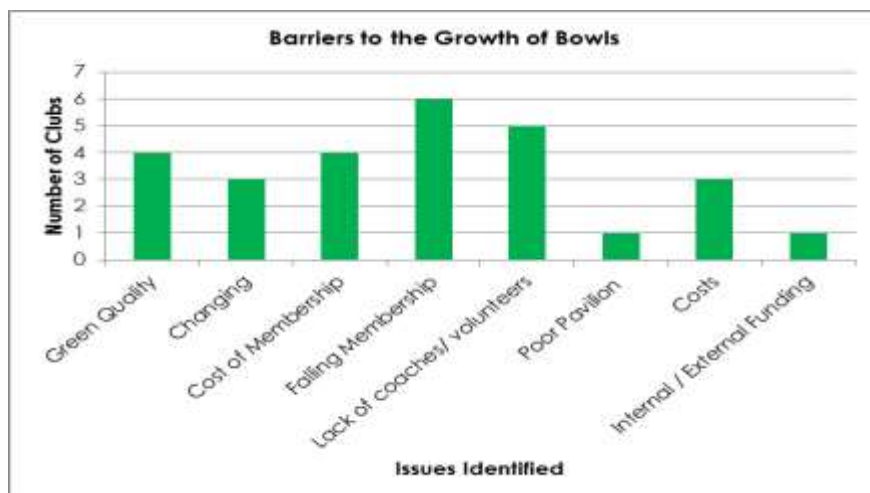
7.33 Declining membership numbers means that development activities will be essential if the sport is to remain sustainable. Brookfield Electric (the result of a recent merger between two clubs), is an example of this. The club indicate that growing costs and declining numbers will see them need to cease maintaining one green unless numbers increase in the short term.

7.34 While it is clear that membership numbers at Council facilities are lower, the provision of both public and private facilities in the city was raised as important by several clubs. The overheads at private clubs are high, and annual membership fees for these facilities are in general much higher although these facilities are however arguably more sustainable as they are able to benefit from bar and social income. The clubs based at Council sites (which are circa 50% of the fees as they are subsidised) are however believed to offer important access to the sport of bowls for a wide cross section of residents. It should be noted that while private clubs are able to offer year round activity (including socials), the parks clubs have a much more restricted season and while lower cost, members perceive that they receive less value for their money.

7.35 Table 7.3 also clearly demonstrates the older age profile of bowls, with very few junior participants at all in the city. Consultation with clubs indicates that the majority of players are 60 or above, which the findings of the Sport England Market Segmentation (earlier in this section). This issue is thought to be central to the poor growth of bowls in the city, with a need to break down barriers to encourage residents of different age groups and different profile to plays. Bowls has potential to be a family sport for all sectors of the population but does not currently deliver on this potential in Leicester. Increasing participation was however highlighted as the key priority by both clubs and other consultees.

7.36 In the context of increasing participation being a priority, Chart 7.4 illustrates the views of clubs in relation to perceived barriers to the growth of bowls. They indicate that there are several issues, primarily focusing upon the quality of greens and challenges recruiting members and volunteers, as well as costs associated with participation, rather than the number of greens.

**Chart 7.4: Barriers to the growth of bowls**



7.37 Other issues highlighted as important by clubs include;

- the challenges of managing and maintaining facilities, particularly with regards funding the work required;
- the importance of providing appropriate toilet and washing facilities to maximise the chance of attracting new participants to the sport. Poor toilet facilities / lack of changing accommodation are also perceived to impact the retention of existing members;
- the need to increase the number of members at clubs to improve club sustainability and enable required works to be funded. Several clubs indicate that bowlers are cost sensitive and that an increase in weekly subs will have a negative impact upon participation; and
- the challenges of recruiting and retaining members. Most clubs indicate that they actively seek to attract new players through advertising and open days as well as word of mouth, but membership is declining and the proportion of younger members remains very low. Similarly, the number of players from ethnic minority groups also remains low and awareness is thought to be limited. Clubs believe that they would benefit from support in increasing numbers, as well as an attracting additional funding to improve facility quality. Most clubs have little experience in club development. Clubs do however believe that there is a balance to be had, as too many playing members reduce green time, and this also impacts on interest.

7.38 In addition to the above points raised further consultations highlight the importance of raising awareness of bowls, with Bowls Leicestershire believing that this is low. There is very limited signage of the opportunities available at bowling greens both within and at the entrance to a park, and several private clubs are also hidden. There is also a very limited online presence for bowling clubs currently. While Council clubs are listed on the Council website, there is little information available to promote participation in the sport as a whole, and particularly to attract potential users who may be unfamiliar with bowls and the opportunities available.

7.39 All existing clubs have capacity for new members.

7.40 It should be noted that since the analysis Abbey Park Bowls Club have now given up their lease.

### **Latent demand**

7.41 As well as evaluating the current participation in bowls, The Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data, enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that would like to play. This can be used to understand if any latent demand exists and reveals the following;

- As illustrated earlier in this section, 1785 people in Leicester City are currently believed to play bowls (this is an amount significantly higher than the known membership of clubs which is below 1000)
- 428 additional residents would like to play. Unmet demand is more evenly spread amongst different market segmentation group although is still clearly skewed to the older age profile, and those groups containing higher numbers of current participants. The highest levels of latent demand are in the groups of Elsie and Arnold, Frank, Terry and Roger and Joy.



7.42 Map 7.3 indicates that despite current uneven levels of participation, potential demand across the city is actually relatively even. There is just one centrally located lower super output area where potential demand is equivalent to 0.

**Map 7.3: Percentage of People wishing to participate in bowls (Sport England Market Segmentation)**



7.43 Market segmentation therefore suggests that there is scope to increase participation in bowls across the city, both within the same profile groups as current players and by targeting new groups.

7.44 Analysis undertaken by Leicester City Council also suggests that there is potential to introduce bowls to new sectors of the population, with the proportion of people of Ethnic Minority playing bowls significantly lower than may be expected based upon the overall profile of the population.

*NGB priorities*

7.45 Bowls England is the NGB for Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. The organization's strategic plan (2013 – 2017) indicates that the vision of the organization focuses upon;

- promoting the sport;
- recruiting new participants; and
- retaining existing participants.

7.46 There are no direct priorities relating to facilities, although clearly facilities are an important component of increasing participation and the Governing Body will seek to support clubs

and county boards through the provision of a variety of online resources. In particular, the Governing Body highlights the health benefits that bowls can bring and the role of bowls in improving health issues.

7.47 Consultation with the NGB indicates that key issues for bowls in general include;

- the older age profile of members and the impact that this has on growing and maintaining participation. In particular, there is a lack of people aged 20 - 50 and a dearth of young people;
- the need for greater flexibility in the sport if participation is to increase. Current patterns of play rely on afternoon / early evening starts, meaning that the sport can be restrictive for younger members;
- the cost of maintaining facilities, declining membership and lack of funding to effect improvements;
- the need for closer involvement with schools and sports development staff;
- lack of voluntary help for clubs – coaches and administrators; and
- the need to promote new 'short' forms of the games (e.g. New age bowls, sets play) to attract new players with less spare time.

7.48 The Bowls Development Alliance (which is the body for Bowl England and English Indoor Bowling Association) Whole Sport Plan seeks to;

- target those over 55 to increase participation, with a view to ensuring that bowls becomes the number 1 sport for participants aged 55 and over;
- support clubs to provide a quality experience that will maintain club membership;
- provide a quality coaching structure including recognised qualifications;
- provide more opportunities for those aged 16 and over with a disability; and
- overall, the Development Alliance are seeking to bring 10,810 new people into the game.

7.49 The achievement of these goals will be delivered through a variety of means, including packages for clubs to aid recruitment, Play Bowls Roadshows to promote the sport and working in hot spot areas.

7.50 To inform the strategy to increase participation, the Bowls Federation have recently completed a National Participation Survey (2015). This concluded that;

- socialising, fitness and enjoyment were the key drivers for playing bowls. A desire to compete and win was a much lower priority for existing participants;
- the health benefits of bowls were found to be a strong motivating factor. Amongst none participants (and particularly younger aged none participants) bowls was perceived to be of lower health benefit than competing activities (including gardening and walking); and



- many former bowlers raised longstanding health issues or disabilities as a reason for no longer participating. It was felt that the sport could do better to create a more inclusive and accessible environment.

7.51 Locally in Leicester, and reflecting the findings of other consultations, Bowls England identify many similar challenges to those experienced nationally. These include;

- the older age profile of members of bowling clubs - this causes issues with the longevity of clubs;
- poor governance structures of clubs and the sport overall;
- lack of evolution in the sport to accommodate modern day working practices - matches often start at 6pm or are on Saturdays - this can conflict with work and restricts the target number of participants;
- the typical profile of bowlers in Leicester does not represent the profile of the population overall. There is currently limited engagement in bowls by ethnic minorities and a significant opportunity to increase the number of participants in these groups; and
- private clubs are overall are self-sufficient and of better quality. This is in part due to the need to restrict maintenance levels undertaken as part of weekly Council programmes.

7.52 Notably, Bowls England see bowls as offering a particular opportunity to attract new participants in age groups and profiles that may not play other sports. They are keen to see an increase in the number and range of people actively participating across the city.

7.53 More locally, reflecting the importance of enhancing sustainability of the sport, Bowls Leicestershire have appointed a development coordinator to support club development in recruitment, development of existing bowlers and funding. Research undertaken across the county as a whole reveals an additional 100 new members and a clear correlation in success in increasing participation within clubs that have a development team. The development team is looking to support clubs, in particular in increasing membership in the younger age groups, as well as targeting and advertising new members and increasing the transition between promotional activities and club membership.

### **Adequacy of provision**

7.54 There are no supply and demand models for bowling greens. The adequacy of provision is therefore evaluated by drawing together the data collated and determining the key issues impacting current and projected future participation.

### **Green Quality**

7.55 All clubs who were not satisfied with the existing facilities in the city cited quality not quantity related issues. Table 7.2 revealed some reinstatement works that are required as well as opportunities to support clubs in the improvement of the management and maintenance. Quality of greens was viewed as being instrumental in facilitating the ongoing delivery of bowls as well as essential if new players were to be attracted to the sport. There are however concerns about the costs of maintaining bowling greens and a need to balance the quality of facilities available with the maintenance costs associated with this provision. As a minimum, greens need to be fit for purpose to ensure that the

game can be effectively be played, and the quality of accompanying ancillary facilities is also important.

### **Amount of Greens**

7.56 Reflecting the spare capacity at all existing sites, as well as the emphasis placed by clubs and key stakeholders alike on increasing participation, data collated indicates that there is no evidence that there is a requirement for additional facilities to meet current demand. In particular;

- all responding clubs indicate that they have scope to accommodate additional members;
- recent participation has been largely declining and most are actively seeking to obtain new members – retention of existing members and recruitment of new is highlighted as the key priority for bowling clubs across the city and nationally - there are considered to be opportunities to increase the proportion of people playing and to expand the profile of bowls participants;
- the average membership of responding clubs is just 52 playing members and some clubs have fewer members than this. This is below optimum levels - as a guide, 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowls club, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members; and
- there are several greens that have recently been closed, reflecting the lack of demand. A club has also folded during this assessment period, highlighting the fragility of the sport.

### **Protection of Existing Greens**

7.57 As guidance, Bowls England suggests that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support (due to sustainability issues), where membership is below 16 - 20 people. At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can be sustained is significantly higher.

7.58 Analysis of number of members per green in Leicester is set out in Table 7.4. It notes that membership is of particular concern in Leicester West, where greens have an average of 24 members. Only greens at Goodwood Bowls Club and Leicester Bowls Club (both higher quality facilities with a full social programme) are close / at capacity.

7.59 It reveals that Monks Rest Park (where there are two greens) has less than 20 members per green due to the collapse of the RBL bowls club. Added to this, there are several greens approaching the 20 member mark, specifically;

- Evington Park (sustainable and proactive club but using two greens); and
- Spinney Hill Park
- Western Park (two greens sustaining ladies and mens club)
- Mowmacre
- Rushey Mead.

**Table 7.4: Membership per Green**

Site	Sub Area	Number of Greens	Total Members	Members Per Green	Members per Green in Sub Area
Belgrave Bowling Club and Belgrave Ladies Bowling Club	East Leicester	2	78	39	42.9
Evington Park Bowls Club		2	51	25.5	
Monks Rest		2	42	21	
Humberstone Park		1	33	33	
Goodwood Bowls Club		1	120	120	
Rushey Mead		1	22	22	
Co Op Sports and Social Club		1	83	83	
Leicester Bowling Club	South Leicester	1	102	102	43.4375
Brookfield Electric		2	77	38.5	
Spinney Hill Park Bowls Club		1	20	20	
Victoria Park Bowls		1	36	36	
Aylestone Hall Bowls Club		1	49	49	
Leicester Banks Bowls Club		1	52	52	
Knighton Victoria Bowls Club, Church Lane		1	50	50	
Abbey Park Bowls Club	West Leicester	1	28	28	24.3
Western Park		2	41	20.5	
Westcotes Bowling Club		1	52	52	
Mowmacre		1	21	21	

- 7.60 The low and decreasing number of bowls clubs suggests that some difficult decisions may need to be made about the future of greens across the city. It should however be noted that while some clubs have decreasing membership and are struggling to field teams, mergers with other clubs is often unpalatable as clubs have their own identity and are reluctant to link with others. Unless participation is to increase however and the downward trend in membership numbers is reversed, it is likely that the retention of all existing greens is unsustainable moving forwards.
- 7.61 Discussions with local representatives of the Bowling Community highlight that the challenges facing the sport are recognised and there is an acknowledgement that to maintain the existing infrastructure, participation increases are required and driving activity is seen as the key priority in the short term. Achievement of this goal would be instrumental in achieving wider objectives relating to health improvement across Leicester City. Council owned facilities are seen as a key component of the strategy to attract new players by these stakeholders, with a strategy focusing on just the private clubs thought to restrict the appeal to the wider population.
- 7.62 Parks greens are seen as key to the development of the sport, with most players starting at these sites and these facilities catering for those at grass roots levels and / or wishing for a more informal experience. These sites also have a more localised catchment area. The existing parks greens are well distributed across the city, allowing strong foundations for the growth of the sport.

7.63 It is however necessary to review the provision of all existing facilities, as the sustainability of a full retention strategy is questionable and is dependent upon the ability of those involved with the sport to grow the game. This will be essential both to maintain the amount of greens provided, but also to maintain and improve the quality of existing facilities.

### Future Requirements for Bowls

7.64 Although there is sufficient capacity at existing bowling greens to meet current demand, the profile of current participants in bowls means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports. Analysis indicates that the proportion of residents aged 60+ is likely to increase from 16% now (2015), to 18.3% in 2026 and 19.7% in 2036. Table 7.5 summarises this in numerical terms.

**Table 7.5: Increase in the Population aged 60+ in Leicester**

Year	2015	2026	2036
Number of People Aged 60+	54,669	67,194	76,639
Proportion of the Population	16.08%	18.28%	19.76%
Total Increase	Increase of 12,525 between 2015 and 2026		Increase of 9,455 between 2015 and 2026

7.65 In numbers, the number of people aged 60+ is likely to increase and the propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow.

7.66 Table 7.5 summarises the potential impact of the population growth. It presents two scenarios as follows;

- A – using club membership as a base – this provides an accurate reflection of current participation across the city (currently); and
- B – basing participation on figures according to the Active People Survey (1785), which highlights a degree of latent demand (an additional 428 players potential).

**Table 7.6: Calculation of potential growth in bowls**

Current Situation		
Area considered	Current Participation (Known Club Active People Survey Membership)	
Current Population Aged 60+	54669	54669

<b>National Participation Level in Bowls</b>	1.73%	1.73%
<b>Current Membership of Bowling Clubs*</b>	957	
<b>% of Current Population Participating in Bowls</b>	1.75%	3.3%
<b>Future Situation (2026)</b>		
<b>Future Population aged 60+ (2026)</b>	67194	67194
<b>Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)</b>	1.75%	3.3%
<b>Potential Future Participants in Bowls</b>	1176	2217
<b>Future Situation (2036)</b>		
<b>Future Population aged 60+ (2036)</b>	76639	76639
<b>Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)</b>	1.75%	3.3%
<b>Potential Future Participants in Bowls</b>	1341	2553

- 7.67 Table 7.6 therefore indicates that based upon existing club membership, assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by 384 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of circa 58 players at each bowling club by 2036, which is still sustainable within the existing stock. If higher participation rates were used, this growth would increase to 111 players per green and provision may be insufficient to meet demand (optimum membership 80 – 100).
- 7.68 It is clear however that analysis of existing bowling clubs represents the most accurate means of determining demand for bowling greens, particularly in the context of the recent decline that has been experienced. An average of circa 60 members is therefore likely by 2036.
- 7.69 On this basis, this suggests therefore that there is sufficient stock of facilities to meet current and future demand and there is extensive scope for growth within the facility

stock. The varying membership at club sites means that some have more capacity than others to sustain additional growth.

- 7.70 A strategy of reduction of some greens (potentially through the loss of greens with low levels of usage where there are two greens on one site) may support a better balance of income against expenditure, but would ensure that the locations currently offering bowls are retained. Indeed, higher levels of membership are likely to be a key way of maximising the sustainability of clubs as increased numbers of members will bring with it higher levels of income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. It should be noted however that due to the mobility of the older population, most choose to play at their local green - this highlights the importance of retaining the existing playing locations, which are well distributed.
- 7.71 It is acknowledged that growth is unlikely to be even, with the location of new housing developments significantly impacting the choice of club.
- 7.72 Future participation in bowls is only therefore likely to grow significantly if a more aggressive approach to recruitment is taken by clubs and the governing body, in line with the recently produced Bowls England Strategy. Most clubs are currently seeking to proactively increase membership, but this largely focuses upon open days, word of mouth and leafleting currently and there has been little growth in the sport, with some who have been involved in the sport in the area for years expressing concerns about the decline in the number of members, and in the number of teams entered into league and cup fixtures. As well as increasing numbers in the typical age profile, there remains significant opportunities to increase the number of players aged below 60, as well as the amount of people playing who can be considered to be from ethnic minority. Bowling offers significant health (both physical and mental) benefits and achievement of increased participation would therefore contribute to numerous wider agendas.
- 7.73 Without participation increases, or in the event of further decline in participation, sustainability of existing club sites will remain the key challenge to address. Clubs highlight the importance of increasing support and the challenges that they face with sustainability and this will be a key issue moving forwards. The retention of existing bowling locations and increasing the usage of these facilities therefore represents the key priority.

### **Summary and Key issues**

- 7.74 The key issues for bowls are summarised in Section 11.

### Introduction

8.1 This section assesses the adequacy of facilities for tennis by presenting an overview of supply (quantity, quality, accessibility and availability) and an overview of demand for outdoor courts. The key findings are then summarised, alongside the issues to be addressed.

### 8.2 Wider Area Context

8.3 There are numerous tennis facilities in the greater Leicester including Sileby, Rothley, Birstall, Syston, Queniborough, East Guscote, Bushby, Oadby (including Leicester University), Kilby, Countesthorpe, Blaby, Enderby, Thorpe Astley, Leicester Forest East, Kirby Muxloe, Desford, Groby, Glenfield, Anstey, Newtown Linford, Woodhouse Eaves, Welbeck, Blaby, and Ratcliffe on the Wreke.

### Supply

#### Quantity

8.4 There are 117 active tennis courts with public /community access located at 24 sites. These courts are split between public (park) sites, schools and private clubs. The split of facilities is summarised in Table 8.1 which indicates that provision at school site makes up more than a third of all community accessible tennis courts (although it should be noted that booking of these facilities is not always possible and this is outlined in Table 8.3).

8.5 Of the 117 active and accessible courts, 65 are floodlit (56%). Table 8.1 indicates that school sites contain the highest proportion of floodlit courts (80%). Parks have the lowest proportion of floodlit courts, while just over half of all club based courts have lights. Floodlighting extends the capacity of a court by ensuring play can take place during the winter months, as well as later into the evenings in summer.

**Table 8.1: Split of Facilities**

Type of Facility	Number of Sites	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts
School Site	7	35	28
Parks Site	11	39	10
Club Site	5	43	27

8.6 In addition to the facilities listed in Table 8.1, there are also 24 courts at schools that do not offer public use. These are listed in Table 8.3. Two sites are currently closed for use (New College / Hamilton Community College) and courts at Samworth Enterprise Academy are provided on An AGP.

8.7 Table 8.2 considers the spread of tennis courts across the city. It reveals that;

- a high proportion of courts at club site are in the Leicester South, with just one club in each of Leicester East and West constituencies. The club in the East is right on the edge of the city boundaries and associated with Birstall;
- the stock of parks courts is equitable across the city, with the highest quantity in the east; and
- although the concentration of clubs is high in the south, access to schools is more limited. There are several school sites in both the West and East that are available to the community and may provide an opportunity to develop tennis.

**Table 8.2: Spread of Tennis Courts across the City**

Sub Area	Number of Sites	Number of Sites without Community Use	Number of Courts on Club Sites	Number of Courts on School Sites (Accessible)	Number of Courts on Public Sites
<b>Leicester East</b>	9	2 (including Hamilton Community College where courts are closed)	3	20	15
<b>Leicester South</b>	9	4, Samworth Academy (Courts on AGP) also in this area	36	4	10
<b>Leicester West</b>	6	2 (including New College where courts currently out of use)	4	14	11

- 8.8 The specific facilities and level of access available are set out in Table 8.3. It reveals known planning conditions for formal community use agreements at Crown Hills Community College, Babington Community College, English Martyrs Catholic School, City of Leicester College and Rushmead School. Only courts at City of Leicester College and Crown Hills Community College are however advertised as being available online and both of these sites have clear parking areas and access for community users. Attempts to contact City of Leicester College to secure access to facilities were however unsuccessful and the school was locked on several occasions. Access to facilities at Rusheyead School is also now limited as the school progresses through academy.
- 8.9 In addition to those with formal planning conditions, facilities at Judgemeanow Community College, and Soar Valley College are also advertised and both have extensive use of other facilities too. The availability of tennis courts at Judgemeanow School was actively advertised with banners outside the front of the school.



8.10 Table 8.3 therefore reveals that in total, 25 courts (at Judgemeanow Community College, Soar Valley College, Crown Hills College, English Martyrs School and Babington College are readily accessible).

**Table 8.3: Tennis courts in Leicester City**

Site	Sub Area	Site Type	Total Courts	Court Surface	Number of Floodlit Courts	Community Use
Midland Coop Sports Club,	East	Club	3	Tarmac	3	Yes
Evington Park Tennis	East	Park	6	Tarmac	6	Yes
Humberstone Park Tennis	East	Parks	4	Tarmac	0	Yes
Monks Rest Tennis Courts	East	Parks	1	Tarmac	0	Yes
Rushey Fields	East	Parks	4	Tarmac	4	Yes
City of Leicester College	East	School	6	Tarmac	6	Formal community use agreement but no success contacting school to discuss booking arrangements - available in theory and not practice
Rusheymead School	East	School	4	Tarmac	4	Formal community use agreement although no community use at time of visit. Community use has since been removed for other sports - use may be limited in future years
St Pauls Catholic School	East	School	3	Tarmac	0	No community access
Hamilton Community College	East	School	0	Tarmac	0	School currently being rebuilt and courts hosting part of construction work (4 normally).
Judgemeanow Community College	East	School	4	Tarmac	4	Yes - well advertised through banners
Soar Valley College	East	School	6	Tarmac	6	Yes (although courts are shared with netball and so access can be restricted).
Carisbrooke Tennis Club	South	Club	9	6 savannah,	3	Yes

Site	Sub Area	Site Type	Total Courts	Court Surface	Number of Floodlit Courts	Community Use
				3 acrylic. Site also includes mini tennis courts		
Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club	South	Club	18	5 clay, 9 artificial grass and 4 macadam	10	Yes
Roundhill Tennis Club	South	Club	4	4 acrylic	4	Yes
Victoria Tennis Club	South	Club	5	2 synthetic / 3 acrylic painted	5	Yes
Aylestone Hall Playing Fields	South	Parks	2	Tarmac	0	Yes
Aylestone Playing Fields	South	Parks	2	Tarmac	0	Yes
Knighton Park Tennis	South	Parks	2	Tarmac	0	Yes
Victoria Park	South	Parks	4	Tarmac	0	Yes
Crown Hills Community College	South	School	4	Tarmac	4	Formal community use agreement and courts available
Sir Jonathan North Community College	South	School	7	Tarmac	7	No community access (although there are accessible indoor courts at the site)
The Lancaster School	South	School	6	Tarmac	6	No community access (although there are accessible indoor tennis courts at the site).
Madani Boys and Girls School	South	School	1	Tarmac	1	No existing community access, but school indicates they will consider reasonable applications for community use from groups
Regents College	South	School	3	Tarmac	0	No community access. Used by Leicester University but no known community pay and play.
Samworth Enterprise Academy	South					3 courts provided on AGP. Community use may be possible but competing with other sports

Site	Sub Area	Site Type	Total Courts	Court Surface	Number of Floodlit Courts	Community Use
Westfields Tennis Club	West	Club	4	2 tarmac and 2 artificial grass	2	Yes
Western Park Tennis	West	Park	6	Tarmac	0	Yes
Abbey Park	West	Parks	5	Tarmac	0	Yes
Mowmacre Sports Ground	West	Parks	3	Tarmac	0	Yes
New College Leicester	West	School	0	Tarmac	0	Currently out of use for tennis (used for cycling. 8 courts usually provided).
Babington Community College	West	School	4	Tarmac	4	Formal community use agreement. Pay and play access
English Martyrs Catholic School	West	School	7	Tarmac	0	Formal community use agreement although site not open on several visits. Community use option available on school phones.
Fulhurst Community College	West	School	4	Tarmac	4	No community access, although community access is available to other facilities so there may be potential for use of the tennis courts

8.11 It is evident that the stock of tennis courts has reduced marginally in recent years, with only one court marked out for tennis at Monks Rest (the rest are used for basketball / informal activity). The courts at Leicester Banks are also now redundant and are believed to be shortly due for conversion to petanque. There are also derelict courts at Davenport Road Playing Fields. There is a potential to provide courts at Gateway College, but there are no holes for the posts on the tarmac area, which is currently used for basketball.

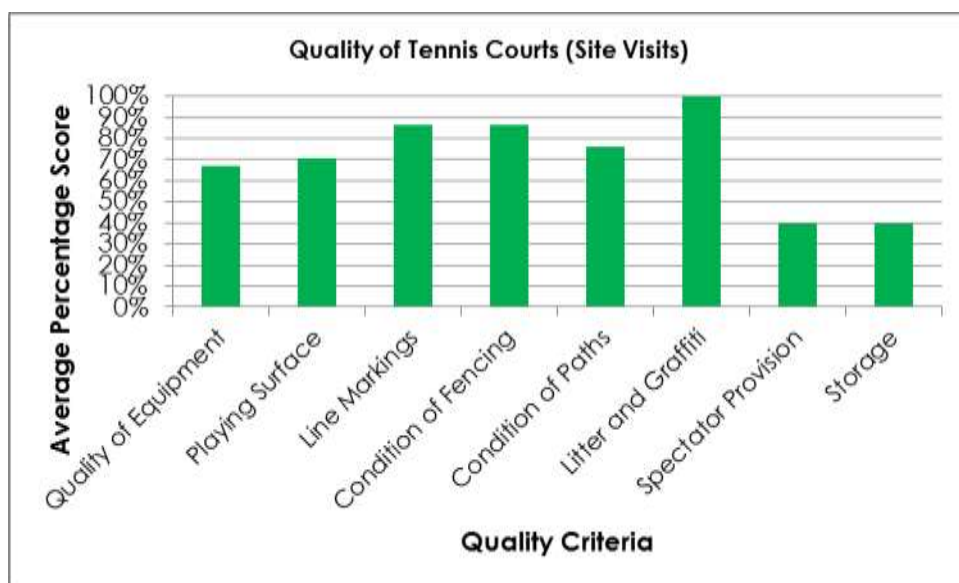
### Quality

8.12 Site visits to tennis courts were undertaken during the summer and feedback was also gathered from providers and users. A recent audit undertaken by the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) was also taken into account. Full site assessment scores can be found in the appendices.

8.13 The average quality score achieved across all sites was 70%, suggesting that most facilities are fit for purpose, but that there remains scope for improvement. While the majority of courts are rated as standard (65%), 10% are rated poor and just 25% good. LTA assessments, which are based on more stringent criteria, evaluate a much higher proportion of courts to be poor.

- 8.14 Site visits reveal a hierarchy in the quality of provision, with club based facilities of highest quality, followed by schools and then parks courts. While the quality of these facilities is vastly different, in general these three levels of facility serve different requirements and different target markets, with clubs often attracting more serious players and parks courts being used for more informal play (and free to access) The quality required for these sites to be fit for purpose is therefore varying.
- 8.15 The average site scores achieved reflect the overall hierarchy of provision, with averages identified as follows;
- Club sites - 82%
  - School sites - 76%
  - Park sites - 66%.
- 8.16 There are no clear patterns or variations in quality according to geography / area of the city, with quality primarily dependent upon the type of facility (school / club / park).
- 8.17 Chart 8.1 illustrates the quality of tennis courts across the city as a whole. It indicates that spectator seating and storage are the poorest scoring criteria (these are not necessarily appropriate on all sites however). Of those criteria that apply to all sites, the quality of the equipment (nets and posts) and the court surface are the key areas for improvement. Several sites exhibit cracks, weeds and uneven patches and the nets also require investment on some sites. Council courts are remarked annually, with sweeping on a regular basis. LCC identify the replacement of some surfaces (which are prone to puddling) and fencing as a key priority. Many of the courts have recently received investment to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

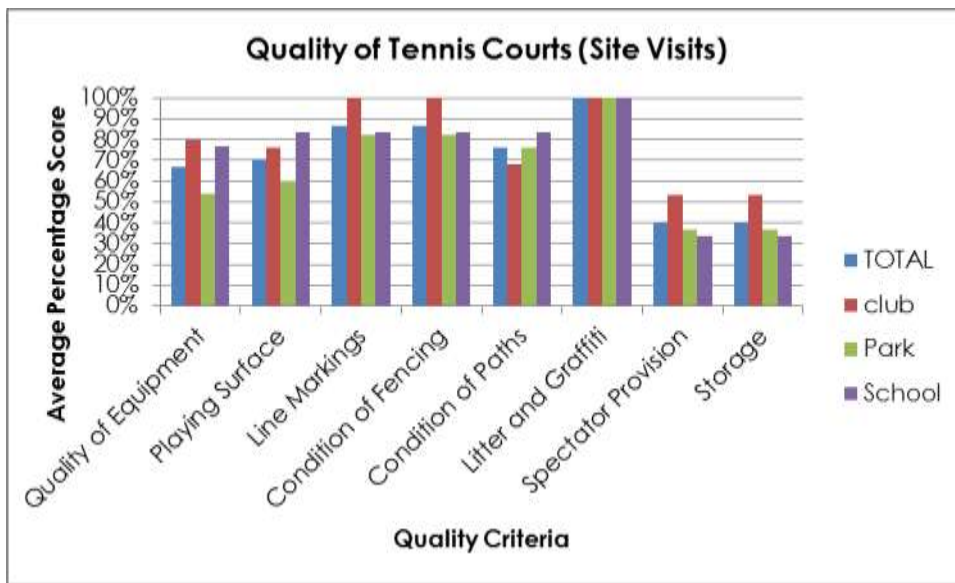
**Chart 8.1: Quality of Tennis Courts across Leicester City**



- 8.18 To reflect the variation in quality between courts at clubs, schools and parks, Chart 8.2 separates the scores achieved for the key criteria for each of the three types of site. It reveals that club site consistently perform higher against each of the criteria, with parks sites generally achieving the lowest quality scores. The quality of surface is particularly limited at parks sites in comparison to other facility types. As highlighted above

however, a degree of variation in the quality is expected, as these facilities are targeting different types of player.

**Chart 8.2: Quality Issues by Type of Site**



- 8.19 Table 8.4 sets out the individual quality scores achieved for each site and identifies the key areas for improvement. It also notes the comments made in relation to these sites by the provider / user. It demonstrates that despite the evident variation in quality and the higher calibre of club facilities, there remain improvements required at all types of facility.
- 8.20 Table 8.4 also includes comments made by the LTA with regards to the degree to which courts meet LTA standards and specification. While these cover all courts that were visited by the LTA, it should be noted that these standards would not necessarily be expected at courts meeting more informal participation needs.

**Table 8.4: Quality of Tennis Courts across Leicester City**

Site Name	Site Type	Number of Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	LTA Comments	Rating
Carisbrooke Tennis Club	club	9	85.3%	High quality sites with well maintained courts with good surfaces and equipment. New mini courts back on to residential area. Fencing bowing in places but does not impact on degree to which site is fit for purpose. Site includes clubhouse and changing accommodation. Ongoing refurbishment.	Four mini courts laid down in 2014 and three synthetic grass courts currently being refurbished. Club has an airdome enabling facilities to be used in inclement weather but this is coming to the end of its lifespan. Club looking to ensure that club membership is sufficient to raise funds for future plans, including develop/increase the clubhouse, buy a new Airdome, replenish courts and maintain the fabric of the whole site.	All courts in good condition	All courts good
Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club	Club	18			Club considers itself to be premier club in city, includes full changing and showers as well as full bar. Facilities excellent and club have recently floodlit 10 <sup>th</sup> court. Key priorities for improvement are expansion and resurface of car parking. Expand parking capacity and re-surface. Replace club house furniture and carpets. Refurbish bar. Install "intelligent" membership system with controlled access at different times.	All courts in good condition	
Roundhill Tennis Club	club	4	82.4%	Site in good condition, includes changing and pavilion with small clubhouse and kitchen.		All courts in good condition	All courts good
Victoria Tennis Club	club	5	85.3%	Site includes 2 new courts and remainder are in good condition with clear line markings. Pavilion well maintained.	Club hoping to resurface 2 middle courts this autumn. New benches also recently be provided.	All courts in good condition	All courts good
Westfield Tennis Club	Club	4		Site includes pavilion and social facilities.	Courts were all relaid in 2007. Hard courts now puddling, netting court surrounds breaking and floodlights needed for 3rd court. Bank down court sides by neighbours gardens needs shoring up. Facilities good overall but	All courts good condition	

Site Name	Site Type	Number of Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	LTA Comments	Rating
					further floodlighting required.		
Western Park Tennis	Park	6	61.8%	Lower quality site with some weeds growing out of courts particularly at the edges and fencing damaged in places. Some loose tarmac and nets are ageing. Large clusters of grass on edge of courts. Investment required.	Poor fencing and uneven surface causes two courts in particular to hold water. Facilities generally poor. Use of these facilities is more restricted than in other areas but this may be due to quality.	All courts poor	Three courts classified as standard, 3 considered to be poor
Midland Coop Sports Club	club	3	73.5%	Some nets are leaning but remain good quality, courts become slippery when wet.	Club believe there to be limited public courts in the direct environs and feel an additional three courts would enable them to permit public access to the existing tarmac courts to address this and support the growth of tennis. The site has no dedicated pavilion or social facilities which the club believe income and therefore the success of the tennis club.		Three courts considered to be good
Abbey Park	park	5	70.6%	Posts leaning and tarmac cracking. Line markings will also require repainting in the short term.	Site has recently seen improvements to fencing on courts and gates. Good standard and used frequently. Large noticeboard fitted 2014. Provider confirms surface requires replacement.	5 courts poor, courts require rebuilding	All courts standard
Aylestone Playing Fields	park	2	73.5%	This site is in reasonable condition, one tennis court surface is better than the other and there is evidence of recent repair (although this could become a trip hazard). Site is and litter free. The nets and fencing are in good condition and site overall, is in average condition.	This site was improved within recent years, including patch repairs on the surface and new fencing. Site is relatively well used.		All courts standard
Aylestone Hall	park	2	67.6%	Posts leaning slightly but courts in	Surface now showing signs of ageing.	Courts in	All courts

Site Name	Site Type	Number of Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	LTA Comments	Rating
Playing Fields				standard condition.	Was resurfaced several years ago. Small noticeboard fitted.	standard condition	standard
Evington Park Tennis	park	6	64.7%	Some posts are leaning, undulating surface and patching evidence off court. Weeds emerging through the tarmac and line marking likely to require investment in the short term.	Fencing and resurfacing required to improve quality. There are some issues with tree roots coming through court surface.	Courts poor but offer potential for improvement	4 courts standard, 2 courts poor%
Knighton Park Tennis	park	2	67.6%	Nets and posts in good condition but definition of line markings starting to fail and some issues with quality of surface.	Tree roots coming through court surface although site was resurfaced relatively recently. Courts may need to be relocated if the tree roots cannot be addressed. Courts reasonable condition.		All courts standard
Humberstone Park Tennis	park	4	64.7%	Courts appear newly marked in places but fencing is bowed and require attention. Surface undulating.	Fair condition, noticeboard fitted in 2014. Provider confirms fencing requirements replacement.	Courts in poor condition	All courts standard
Monks Rest Tennis Courts	park	1	70.6%	Surface undulating and line markings beginning to fade. Site not fully used for tennis - there are five courts in total but only one currently equipped for tennis.	Surface now ageing and edges crumbling and coming away. Provider confirms surface requires replacement.	Courts in poor condition	All courts standard
Mowmacre Sports Ground	park	3	64.7%	There are some loose surface materials on the court surface and some dips which hold water - some uneven areas. Fencing is also bowed.	Recent improvements to sockets on one court. Tennis played all year round. Provider confirms surface requires replacement.	Courts in poor condition	All courts standard
Rushey Fields	park	4	67.6%	Undulating surface and posts are askew.		All courts considered poor	2 courts standard, 2 poor
Victoria Park	park	4	52.9%	Loose material on courts and equipment bases pulled up on two courts. Some posts are leaning and fencing is bowed with holes in parts.	Courts will be relocated and resurfaced as part of park improvement scheme plans. Site is heavily used, particularly by students local to the area and would benefit from floodlighting. Existing condition poor.	Facilities currently poor	2 courts standard, 2 poor
Babington Community	school	4	88.2%	The site is currently in the process of being demolished and is under	Courts are basic and of relatively limited quality.		All courts standard

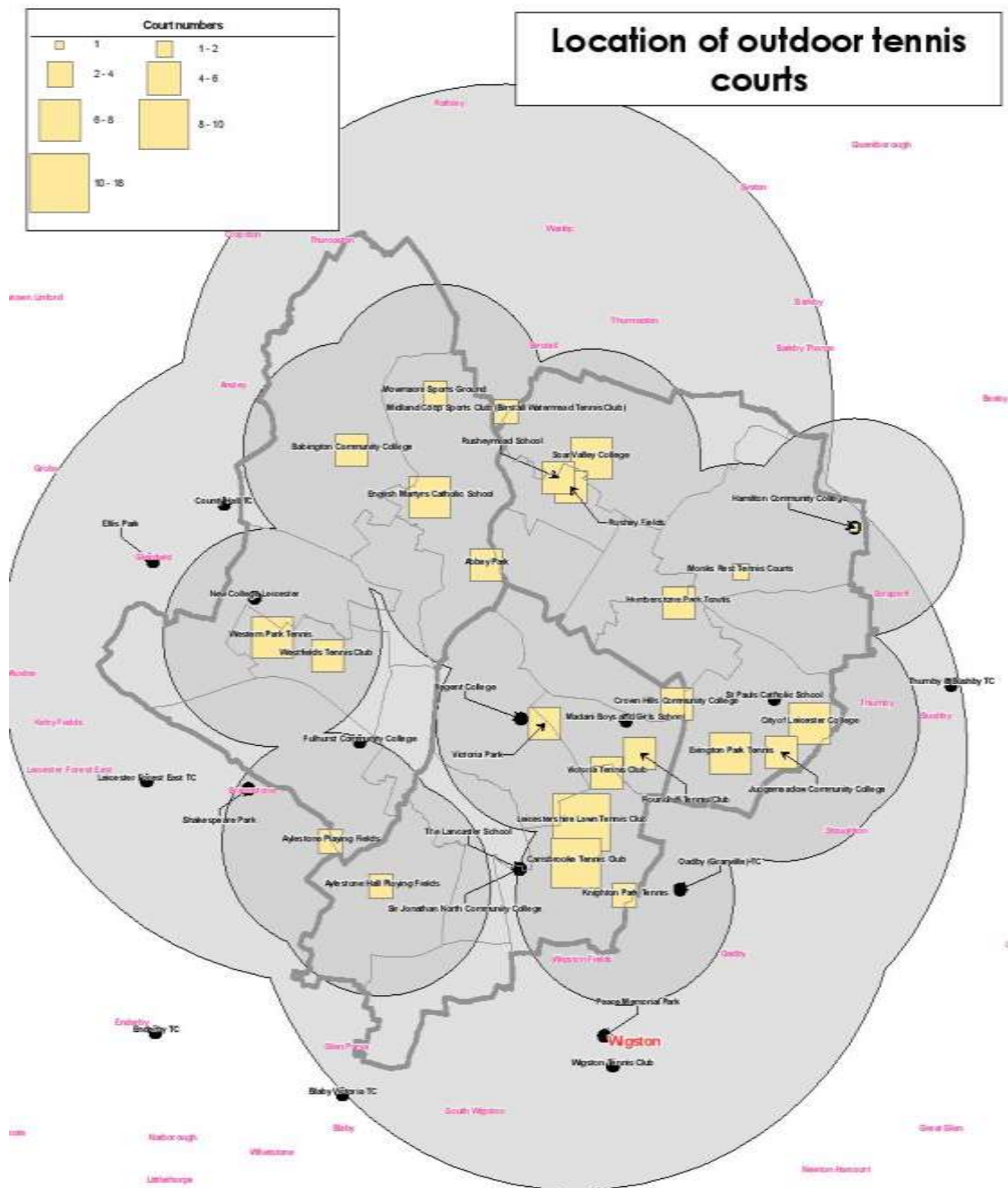


Site Name	Site Type	Number of Courts	Site Visit Score	Site Visit Comment	Club / Provider Comments	LTA Comments	Rating
College				construction, following the relocation of pupils from the old site to the new site (across the road). Courts are on the new side of the site visible from the road. They are well fenced. Floodlit.			
Crown Hills Community College	school	4	73.5%	Good quality site, relatively new located at front of school. There is a separate community car park. Floodlit site with new fencing. Some poorly drained patches on courts due to recent drainage issues.	Existing courts considered to be good quality by the school.		All courts good
City of Leicester College	school	6					All courts standard
Soar Valley College	school	6	64.7%	Facilities appear older than most other schools although they remain functional. Courts are tarmac and floodlit with line markings clearly defined. Fencing and barriers are worn - there is clear evidence of use.			All courts standard
English Martyrs Catholic School	school	7	67.6%	Courts to rear of school and relatively isolated. Two banks of courts (4 and 3) all joined together. No nets up at time of visit. Not floodlit limiting opportunities for community use.			All courts standard
Judgemeadow Community College	school	4	79.4%	Lots of parking for recently tarmaced floodlit courts. Clear fencing and marked also for netball. Very busy at site (although no use of tennis courts) at time of visit. No clear puddling despite recent rain. New facilities of high quality.			All courts standard
Rusheymead School	school	4	79.4%	Courts appear to be new, Strong fencing around and clear markings.			All courts standard

## Accessibility

- 8.21 Map 8.1 illustrates the location of all sites containing tennis courts, with a 3 mile catchment around each club facility and a 1 mile catchment around each local facility. This reveals that almost all residents of the city are located within reach of accessible tennis courts, but reinforces the issues identified in Table 8.2 with regards the distribution of club sites, which are located primarily in the south and therefore not accessible to all residents.
- 8.22 Map 8.1 also includes courts that are situated within 1km of the city boundary. This ensures that the role that these facilities play in meeting the needs of residents within Leicester is taken into account.
- 8.23 Sites that are not available for community use are also included on Map 8.1. While they do not provide any current amenities for the local community, these sites may offer future opportunities if community access could be negotiated.
- 8.24 It indicates that;
- the majority of club based tennis courts are clustered in the south;
  - park facilities are more equitably distributed, with facilities accessible to most residents; and
  - schools are distributed across the city and particularly in areas where clubs are lacking, they provide the only means of more structured tennis play.
- 8.25 Further maps produced by the LTA outlining the location of tennis clubs in relation to BME communities and areas of deprivation are available in the appendices.

Map 8.1: Outdoor tennis courts in Leicester City



3-mile catchments shown around tennis clubs in City. 1-mile catchments shown around other sites in the City with community access.

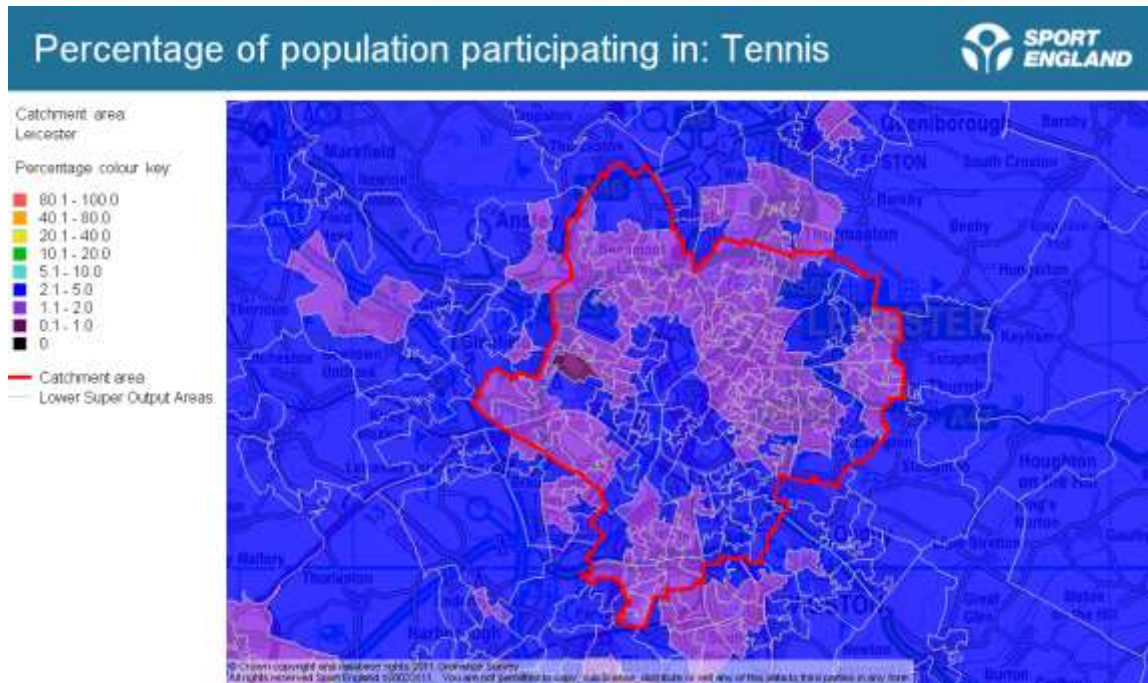


Sources: Ordnance Survey (Boundary Line)

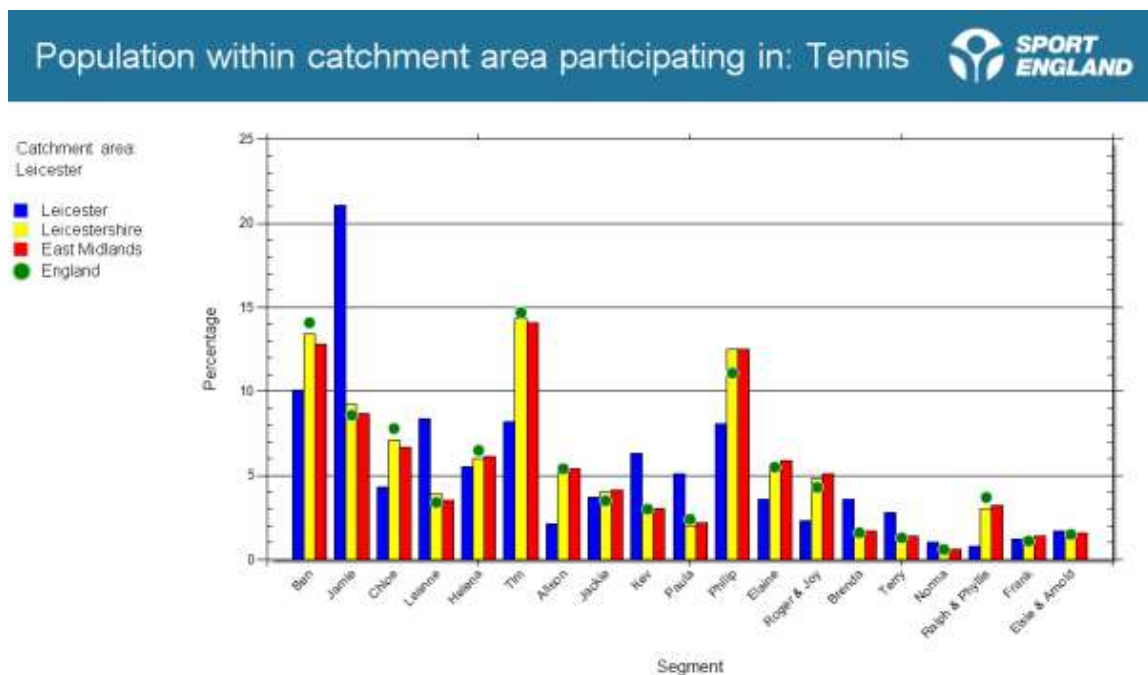
## Demand

- 8.26 The Active People survey indicates that nationally, the proportion of residents playing tennis is declining. While at the time of AP 1, 1.12% of the adult population was participating, this has now decreased to 0.94%. More locally, the percentage of adults across Leicester City who play tennis is represented in map and bar chart form and set out in Map 8.2 and Chart 8.2.

**Map 8.2: Percentage and location of the Leicester City adult population who play tennis**



**Chart 8.2: Profile of the market segments who participate in tennis**





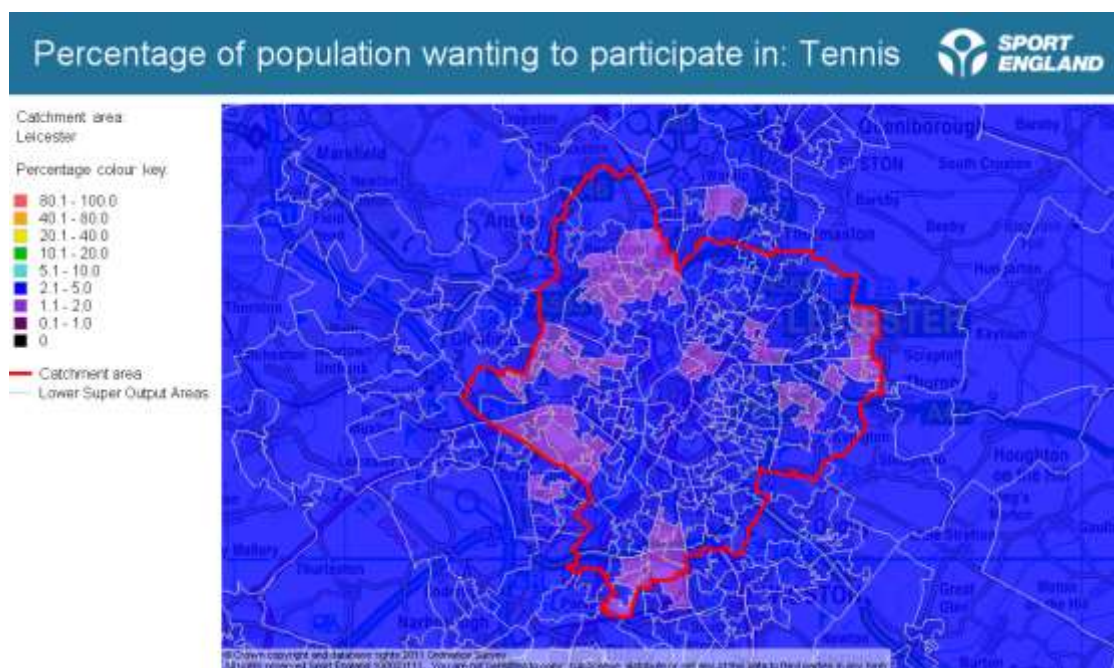
8.27 The key findings from both the map and the bar chart are that:

- between 1% and 3% of residents of the city play tennis. Participation varies across the city, with higher levels of participation towards the more central areas and south east of the city (reflecting the location of clubs). Participation in the New Parks lower super output area is the lowest of all parts of the city; and
- tennis is played across both sexes and that the age of participants is much more widespread than for most other sports considered. In total 4213 people play tennis, and participation at least once per month is highest by Jamie, Ben, Leanne, Tim and Philip. While the dominant participants are similar to those playing other sports, it is clear that tennis provides an effective way of engaging residents who do not participate in some other sports considered within this assessment. The proportion of participants in the Jamie and Leanne category is particularly high in Leicester compared to national averages, while the proportion of older residents playing is on a par with national levels. There is scope to increase participation in some sectors of the community, in particular Chloe, Tim, Alison, Philip and Ralph and Phyllis.

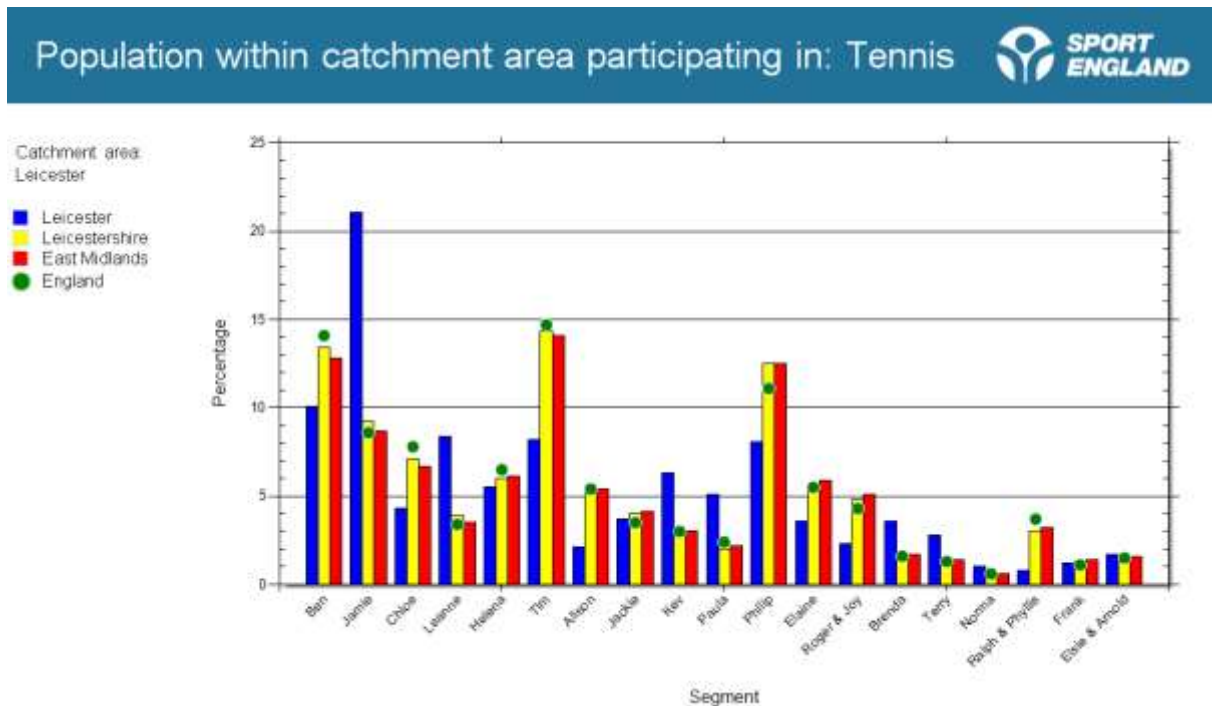
8.28 The Active People analysis of the percentage of adults who would like to play tennis is set out in Map 8.3 and Chart 8.3. Map 8.3 reveals that propensity to play tennis is varied, but that some residents (particularly in the Mowmacre, Braunstone Park and Eyres Monsell areas) have a lower propensity to play than in other areas of the city.

8.29 Chart 8.3 illustrates that those that do not currently play but would like to are in similar groups to current participants, but that there is particular latent demand from Jamie and Leanne as well as Kev, Paula and Brenda. Initiatives to increase participation could therefore be targeted towards these groups.

**Map 8.3: Percentage and location of the adult population who would like to play tennis**



**Chart 8.3: Profile of the market segments who would like to participate in tennis**



8.30 Significantly therefore, tennis is also the only sport where there are more that would like to play than do actually play (5373 people would like to play). This suggests there is a high level of latent demand for tennis and the potential to capitalise on this to increase participation. It should be noted however that this situation arises consistently across the country for tennis and should therefore be treated with some caution.

**Existing participation**

8.31 Existing participation in Leicester takes place in many forms;

- formal club membership at club based sites;
- structured coaching (often delivered through private clubs) at school sites and public parks. Sites where such activities have been delivered include Western Park, Knighton Park, Evington Park, Abbey Park, Humberstone Park, Aylestone Hall and Gardens, Judgemeadow School;
- pay and play activity at school facilities; and
- more informal play at public park sites.

**Informal Play at Public Parks**

8.32 Access to public tennis courts is currently free of charge and is unmonitored. Users do not have to book and are able to use facilities for as long as they like whenever they like, although they must bring their own equipment. For this reason, exact levels of participation are not currently known and are not possible to estimate. People counters have however been put in place on some sites during summer 2015 to measure levels of usage and the results of this will be available during 2016. Anecdotally however, there is significant scope to increase usage of facilities. This was also borne out during the course of the site visits undertaken, where despite it being summer holidays, there was only limited evidence of use of the public tennis courts.

- 8.33 While there are challenges recording participation at these informal facilities, LTA Insight research demonstrates that public courts are a key part of the provision hierarchy, with more than 50% of play taking place at such facilities and these sites being instrumental in grass roots tennis. In particular, research suggests that these are likely to attract a higher proportion of younger people (aged 14 - 29) while older players will gravitate towards clubs.
- 8.34 Increased signage has also been erected during the summer 2014 in a bid to increase the awareness of courts and efforts are also being made to link existing clubs with public courts in order to build structured activities in these sites. There has been mixed success with this so far, with some successful schemes but more limited attendance at other sites.
- 8.35 Linking with their new strategy, the LTA see increasing participation in public parks as a key priority. A pilot project is currently underway at Victoria Park in partnership with the Council and it is hoped that learning from this will enable similar schemes to be rolled out across the city.

#### **Pay and Play Access at School sites**

- 8.36 Like informal play, there is only a relatively small amount of monitoring of use of school sites and few are available (and actively advertised) for community use. There is however significant scope to increase the amount of play at school sites, with all responding schools indicating that their facilities are underused outside of curricular hours. Schools therefore represent a significant opportunity for tennis development.
- 8.37 Within schools however there is good engagement with tennis at a primary school level, with a countywide competition and many schools within the city participating. There is more limited engagement at a secondary school level, but Crown Hills, Judgemeadow, Rushey Mead, Soar Valley, Hamilton; Lancaster, Sir Jonathan North (tbc) and Beaumont Leys Schools have all signed up to a year 7/8 development league this year.
- 8.38 A new initiative through the Premier League for Sport initiative will soon be launched at New College, and it is also anticipated that satellite clubs linking with Westfields Tennis Club will be set up at English Martyrs Catholic College and Fulhurst Community College.

#### **Club Membership**

- 8.39 While measuring use in public parks is challenging, analysis of club membership gives an indication of demand for more formal forms of the game. Existing clubs and their membership trends are therefore summarised in Table 8.5. It is clear that clubs are experiencing fluctuating membership and that similar barriers to the growth of tennis are experienced by all clubs, specifically;
- the cost of membership;
  - lack of internal / external funding (which places greater pressures on the income from members being sufficient to manage and maintain facilities); and
  - a shortage of coaches / volunteers.
- 8.40 LTA insight (2014) demonstrates that 1 in 4 current players would consider joining a club but standard of play, year round tennis and associated fees are off-putting. The Council have sought to establish links with clubs and are supporting clubs to build relationships with schools and to link with the facilities available in parks.

**Table 8.5: Tennis clubs in Leicester City**

Club Name	Activities Available	Membership Numbers	Participation Trends	Comments on Participation and Perceived Issues
Midland Coop Sports Club,	Competitive match play (10 teams and mixed teams), cardio tennis, coaching. The club is a family orientated club.	Not provided	Decreasing older membership, while children's section is limited by the number of junior coaches that can supervise the children, as well as the number of courts.	Club see the opportunity to provide savannah courts for club use, which would enable them to let out the three existing courts as pay and play, helping to build tennis in the local community.
Roundhill Tennis Club	Full programme of playing and coaching for adults and juniors	Not provided	Website indicate that club has grown in size.	No comments received.
Victoria Tennis Club	Match play including for men and three ladies teams (summer) and three male and 2 female teams (winter). There are also teams in the Aegon tennis league, a mixed team and 2 veteran teams. Coaching, cardio tennis.	220	Static	Club membership has been static but there is capacity for further membership. The club have no specific events planned, but will advertise to new students at freshers weeks etc.
Westfields Tennis Club	Casual play, coaching and mini tennis all available as well as male and female competitive teams.	110	Participation currently static	Club host open days with a view to increasing participation. The key barriers to increasing the number of members are seen to be the cost of membership, lack of funding and a shortage of coaches / volunteers.
Carisbrooke Tennis Club	Senior teams (Men, Women and Veterans) play in Leics Summer Leagues and Winter Leagues. Junior teams (Mixed, Boys and Girls) play in Aegon Junior Leagues (Summer and Winter).	258	Increased - steady increase over 3 years due mainly to new Head Coach who has introduced successful coaching programme, working with local primary schools and Leicester City Council. The club encourages Parent Play (reduced fees) and has quadrupled the number of junior members. The club is working harder at retaining members from one year to the next.	Club promotion through school liaison, coaching at Knighton Park and the open days. The club are also reliant upon word of mouth. The cost of membership is seen as the key barrier to club development. The club seek to offer payment options to help address this.
Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club	40 teams from juniors in county leagues to vets competing nationally and internationally, plus up to 90 members playing in internal box leagues, cardio tennis,	520	Decreased - continuing decline of adult membership, linking with adult trends nationally.	Club runs open days and coaches work in 5 local schools. Club also attracts plyers due to profile. Club looking at complementary activities (gym) as well as existing squash club to provide incomes to help sustain tennis, and also attract new people to the site who may



Club Name	Activities Available	Membership Numbers	Participation Trends	Comments on Participation and Perceived Issues
	in tennis, coaching and casual play.			then also look to play tennis. The cost of membership is identified as the key barrier to participation for the club, particularly as subs are high due to facility quality. The club have identified a trend towards a preference for pay to play.

### **NGB priorities and Intelligence**

#### **British Tennis Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018**

8.41 The mission of the LTA Strategic Plan is to get more people playing tennis more often. Linking with the three types of facilities that are found in the city, this will be delivered through three strands;

- **Delivering service to clubs**, including providing support for clubs of all sizes by sharing best practice learning, applying focus on clubs seeking to grow the game and their community and helping clubs to achieve management excellence
- **Participation focus** - building partnerships in the community through the delivery of strong local parks and community tennis venues to deliver inclusive access, investment in people delivering strong experiences in parks and targeted investment in welcoming park facilities for people to socialise and play
- **Enhancing the tennis offer in education**, including strengthening the schools offer while introducing a new secondary school programme, providing support to develop more effective links between schools and other places where tennis is played and maximising playing opportunities to help build a future workforce in colleges and universities.

8.42 Strategic Whole Sport Plan facilities investment will support and facilitate the delivery of the above programmes. It will be largely focused in the priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes.

8.43 LTA priorities therefore focus around the three strands of the delivery of this programme and Leicester is identified as a key priority, as there is an existing infrastructure of facilities and a network of opportunities to increase participation across the city.

8.44 LTA national insight work demonstrates that the greatest opportunity for additional growth is amongst 20 - 39 year olds and 40 - 49 year olds. This means that both park courts and club based facilities will be important in driving this participation. It also demonstrated that infrequent park players need and want a range of things to play more often and identify key barriers specifically;

- the existing profile of tennis players is restricted - players are more likely to be male (particularly aged 14 - 39) and in the ABC1 demographic. Not having someone to play with is identified as a key barrier (27%);
- the poor quality of facilities;
- the need to effectively market and promote opportunities for tennis, including a centralised court booking process; and

- a lack of online presence.

8.45 It also reveals that men may like group based coaching and fun tournaments, while women enjoy turn up and play formats with a facilitator.

8.46 This assessment has demonstrated that all of the above issues exist in Leicester and can therefore be considered barriers to participation. Building on this, the LTA are already working with a tennis development group including the Council, university, school sports partnership and colleges to improve the delivery of tennis across the city.

### **Adequacy of provision**

8.47 There are no demand models to measure tennis courts and adequacy of provision is therefore measured by evaluating all information collated and the use of some baseline parameters. It is therefore not possible to provide detailed estimates of the number of courts required.

8.48 Active People surveys reveal that across the city, 4213 people currently participate in tennis however a further 5373 people would like to play. This suggests that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 9586.

8.49 This is significantly higher than current levels of club membership (1528, assuming that membership of Roundhill Tennis Club and Watermead Tennis Club are at capacity for their courts) suggesting that it represents either an overestimate of participation, or that the amount of pay and play / casual activity is very high. LTA research demonstrates that circa 40 – 50% of play takes place at community venues, suggesting that the Active People surveys represent perhaps the maximum possible levels of current demand and that the approximate current playing population in Leicester is 3056 people.

8.50 While there are no formal standards or measures for the amount of facilities required, the LTA have however derived indicative standards relating to the capacity of a court to provide an indication of the number of courts required. Alongside these parameters, other elements should be taken into account including tennis development, club structure and sustainability.

8.51 These broad figures can however be applied (drawing firstly upon data collated as part of the Active People Programme) to the estimated tennis playing population (taking into account latent demand) to give an indication of the adequacy of provision as follows;

- based upon an assumed standard of 1 court per 45 participants (not floodlit) and 1 court per 60 players (floodlit), the existing stock of active outdoor courts that are available for community use will serve 6240 players. According to Active People, there are 4213 existing players meaning that the stock of facilities is above the level required; but
- if latent demand (according to Active People) was realized, provision would fall below the levels required. Given that the existing facilities serve 6240 players, a total playing population of 9586 people would theoretically require an additional 75 courts (depending upon the provision of floodlights this may reduce slightly).

8.52 This is a significant amount of additional provision (although 27 additional courts are available at school sites that are not currently accessible by the community) and the requirement for such facilities would be dependent upon the successful recruitment of new players to tennis.

8.53 Use of the estimated current playing population (3056) as a base, provides a contrary view and suggests that there is significant scope to increase participation within the existing facility infrastructure. This accords with local consultation (which identifies capacity at most facilities) and suggests that the provision of additional courts to meet with the above estimates at the current point in time would have minimal impact as better use could be made of existing resources. Further reinforcing this, and looking at the distribution of facilities spatially, based upon the current population (2011 census due to use of sub areas) and assuming that 1% of the population in each area will play tennis (based on Leicester City average), in terms of the number of courts, it can be seen that;

- Leicester East- 38 accessible courts, which corresponds to one court per 2551 people and 25 participants per court;
- Leicester South - 50 accessible courts, which corresponds to one court per 2385 people and 24 participants per court; and
- Leicester West - 29 accessible courts, which corresponds to one court per 3518 people and 35 participants per court.

8.54 Use of courts is therefore below capacity levels in all areas.

### **Capacity of Club Bases**

8.55 The capacity of the club bases can more accurately be measured using the LTA parameters – this is set out in Table 8.6. It reveals that the current clubs have capacity for 2340 players and current membership equates to 1528 (assuming the two clubs where membership is unknown are at capacity). This means that there is scope to accommodate at least 812 further members. It is therefore the distribution of the club facilities (primarily in the south of the city) rather than the amount of courts available that is the key issue.

**Table 8.6: Capacity of each club**

Site Name	Court Capacity - Floodlit	Court Capacity - None Floodlit	Total Capacity	Membership	Spare Capacity (Membership)	Comment
Midland Coop Sports Club,	180	0	180	180* estimated	0	
Roundhill Tennis Club	240	0	240	240* estimated	0	
Victoria Tennis Club	300	0	300	220	80	Club indicate that they have capacity for additional players
Westfields Tennis Club	120	90	210	110	100	Club indicate that they have capacity for additional players
Carisbrooke Tennis Club	180	270	450	258	192	Club indicate that they have capacity for additional players
Leicestershire Lawn Tennis Club	600	360	960	520	440	Club indicate that they have capacity for additional players

- 8.56 The degree of spare capacity in the city therefore indicates that there is no requirement for additional courts to meet current demand. Indeed, to ensure the sustainability of the existing network in facilities, there is a need to increase participation and maximise usage. To deliver this, the key barriers identified for participation in Leicester will need to be reduced, including;
- quality of some facilities, particularly public sites;
  - the poor distribution of club based facilities, which limits opportunities for residents outside the south of the city; and
  - the awareness of courts and lack of use of school sites, many of which are high quality.
- 8.57 It is hoped that the current pilot in Victoria Park will provide a model for improving the function of public parks and the role that they can play in tennis. This will improve sustainability of tennis as a sport, as well as maximise the impact that tennis can have on the health of the population. As outlined earlier in this section, facilities targeting a variety of different markets are essential if participation is to be maximised.
- 8.58 To estimate the number of courts actually required, broadly speaking, and using a ratio of 45 players per court, 67 courts would be required to meet the current level of demand based upon the estimated current playing population (3056). This assumes that there is no spare capacity and presumes an ideal geographical distribution which is known to not be the case.
- 8.59 At least 50% of these courts should be outside club bases, meaning that a minimum of 34 courts would be required at Council and school sites (and more to take into account the importance of accessibility). There are currently 36 Council owned and managed courts and 43 courts on school sites.
- 8.60 The use of school sites is however restricted due to a lack of awareness, promotion and marketing, as well as challenges booking facilities. Table 8.3 reveals that just 25 courts at school sites can be considered readily accessible (Judgemeadow Community College / Soar Valley College / Crown Hills College / English Martyrs School and Babington Community College). There are therefore 59 courts currently available at school and public sites, meaning that provision is above baseline levels.

### **Impact of population growth**

- 8.61 The wider range of participants in tennis means that population growth may have a greater impact than for other sports. Assuming that 50% of participants play casually (and unmonitored) total participation, taking into account current club membership equates to 3056 people (while Active People suggests that it is double this). This represents 0.7% of the population.
- 8.62 Assuming that participation remains constant at 1% and applying this to future growth forecasts, there would be an increase in demand of up to 823 people by 2036 (806 by 2026). The baseline requirement for number of facilities is broadly equivalent to 67 courts, population growth would generate demand for up to a further 18 (52 in total).
- 8.63 Activity could therefore be accommodated within the existing club and public infrastructure, assuming that significant increases in participation over and above estimated levels do not occur. Based upon the assumption that only 25 courts at school sites are readily accessible however, it demonstrates that supply would remain relatively closely matched with demand.

8.64 Further participation increases would generate demand for additional facilities, and increasing participation is a key priority of the LTA, working alongside the city council.

**Summary and Key issues**

8.65 The key issues for tennis are summarised in Section 11.

## Introduction

9.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football. It includes;

- a brief overview of the supply and demand for football;
- an understanding of activity at individual sites;
- a picture of the adequacy of current provision; and
- the future picture of provision for football.

## Wider Area Context

There are numerous football facilities within the greater Leicester, including facilities in Sileby, Mountsorrel, Rothley, Rothley, Watermead, Thurmaston, Syston, Queniborough, East Goscote, Rearsby, Barkby, Hoton on the Hill, Oadby (including Leicester University), Great Glen, Bushby, Great Glen, Wigston, Kilby, Blaby, Whetstone, Cosby, Croft, Huncote, Narborough, Enderby, Thorpe Astley, Kirby Muxloe, Desford, Ratby, Groby, Glenfield, Anstey, Newtown Linford, Markfield, Woodhouse Eaves, Welbeck, Ratcliffe on the Wreke, Leicester Forest East, Thurnby and Huncote.

## Football in Leicester City – An Overview

### Pitch Supply

9.2 There are 152 individual formal football pitches currently available for community use across Leicester. Where additional markings have been added over the top of existing pitches, pitches are only counted once (as the largest size pitch). Table 9.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes and also outlines the level of community access that is available. Site specific detail is provided in Appendix C.

**Table 9.1: Football Pitches across Leicester City**

Pitch Type	Recommended Pitch Dimensions (including run off)	Pitches Available to the Community (Used or not used)	% of Total Pitch provision	Pitches Secured for Community Use (used or not used)	Percentage of Pitches Secured for Community Use
Adult Football (aged 16+)	106 x 70 m	63	41%	57	90%
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	88/97 x 56/61 m	27	18%	20	74%
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	79 x 52 m	24	16%	17	71%
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	61 x 43 m	25	16%	20	80%
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	43 x 33 m	13	9%	8	62%
Total		152		122	80%

9.3 Table 9.1 reveals that; of the pitches that are currently available for community use;

- 41% of pitches are full sized grass pitches while the remainder of facilities cater for younger teams (although some of the pitches classified as adult and youth are interchangeable); and
- 80% of pitches are secured for community use, meaning that there is a reasonable degree of certainty within the pitch stock. While 90% of adult pitches are secure however, this reduces to 62% of 5v5 pitches and 71% of 9v9 pitches and 25% of youth pitches are also unsecured. This suggests that there is a degree of uncertainty in the city about the future pitch stock.

9.4 There is some overmarking evident, on the whole with 9v9 pitches overmarked across adult pitches.

### **Unsecured Pitches**

9.5 While currently available for use, football pitches at some of the school sites in the city must be considered unsecured, as any change to academy status could see schools have the independence to withdraw community use. This may have significant implications for the pitch stock within the city.

9.6 Judgemeanow School has a formal agreement following investment from the football foundation and Ellesmere College and New College are also part of the FIS Investment Strategy scheme. These three sites have therefore been considered to have secured community access.

9.7 Community access to other schools is more adhoc, with some sites having planning conditions for access (Crown Hills and Babington Community College) and currently enabling community use, while Beaumont Leys School also offers a community use policy. These schools have been considered to offer unsecured community use.

9.8 English Martyrs, Rushey Mead, Hamilton College, City of Leicester College and Soar Valley College all also have planning conditions but grass football pitches are not currently being used and it has been advised that either these pitches are not currently available and / or access is not readily available or well promoted. These schools have not been considered to offer community use at the current time, but the impact of enforcing the planning conditions on these sites has been considered. The remaining secondary school sites all offer no community access.

9.9 The majority of primary schools are not open for community access, but do have some playing fields. The majority of these are relatively limited in quality and most are not marked out as formal pitches regularly, instead using cones etc. Most therefore offer limited potential resources for the local community.

### **Closed / Potential Sites**

9.10 There are several sites that have formerly contained playing fields that no longer do so. These sites offer the potential to increase the pitch stock and to address any existing or projected future deficiencies and therefore need to be taken into account when evaluating the adequacy of provision.

9.11 The following sites are known to be redundant former playing fields;

- National Grid Sports Ground, Aylestone Road;
- Blackbird Playing Fields; and
- Saffron Lane Playing Fields.

9.12 There are also proposals for the loss of University of Leicester Playing Fields at Welford Road - this site is currently up for sale, as well as potential changes to provision at Belvoir Drive (Leicester City FC training ground). Welford Road hosts Wigston FC and is a key site with 5 pitches. The loss would mean the club would need to find a new site. Does this need updating?



- 9.13 The information in this assessment and strategy will help decision making relating to the future of these facilities.
- 9.14 The following sites have fewer pitches than they have previously had or are not available for use this season;
- Martin Street Playing Fields;
  - Glenfield Road Playing Fields; and
  - Moorfields Playing Fields.
- 9.15 These pitches are still in Leicester City Council ownership and have been taken out of action due to reduced demand. There is therefore potential to increase supply where required without the introduction of new sites. Several other sites could also accommodate more pitches than are currently doing.
- 9.16 Pitch improvements are currently underway at the Coop Sports and Social Club, Birstall (pitches fall within the boundaries of Leicester City although the postcode of the site falls outside the city) and pitches are closed for this season. Teams are therefore relocated while this takes place, but pitches (2 - 3) are anticipated to reopen within the next year.
- 9.17 Pitches at Beaumont Park are also subject to change, following the recent lease of land secured by DMU from Leicester City Council. Renovations and pitch improvements are currently underway, meaning that some pitches are not provided this season.
- 9.18 Pitches that are not operating as formal playing pitches this year are excluded from all calculations. The loss of any of the playing fields listed in this section would therefore not impact upon the figures outlined in this report. The future of these pitches and their potential role in meeting current or projected demand will be considered within the strategy document. Pitches at Beaumont Park are included as temporary facilities have been provided on site.

### **3g AGPs**

- 9.19 The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register) and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football.
- 9.20 Supplementing the supply of grass pitches are 6 full sized 3g pitches, located at Linwood Playing Fields, Riverside FIS, New College, Judgemeanow Community College and Aylestone Recreation Ground. Beaumont Park 3g was opened in January 2016. There is also a full sized pitch at Leicester City FC but this is not available for community use. Of these, pitches at Riverside, Linwood Playing Fields and New College are listed on the FA 3g pitch register, meaning that they have been tested and approved for use for both matches and training.
- 9.21 There are also smaller pitches at Gateway College and St Margaret's Pastures (4 x small 3g pitches). While these cannot be used for matches, they do supplement the stock of full sized pitches as they can be used for training. Judgemeanow has received planning permission to develop a second smaller 3g pitch.
- 9.22 The Goals Soccer Centre also provides a further resource, accommodating numerous five a side leagues and taking activity that may be otherwise competing for use at other sites.

### Distribution of Playing Fields

9.23 Table 9.2 provides a more detailed breakdown of the distribution of football pitches that are available for community use. It reveals that the bulk of the pitches are located in Leicester South. Just 26% of current facilities are in the west of the city.

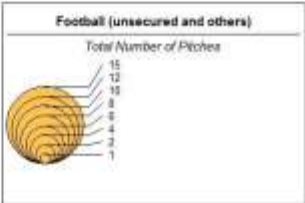
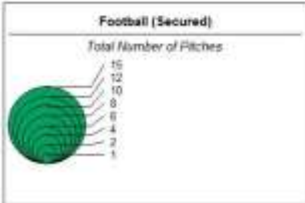
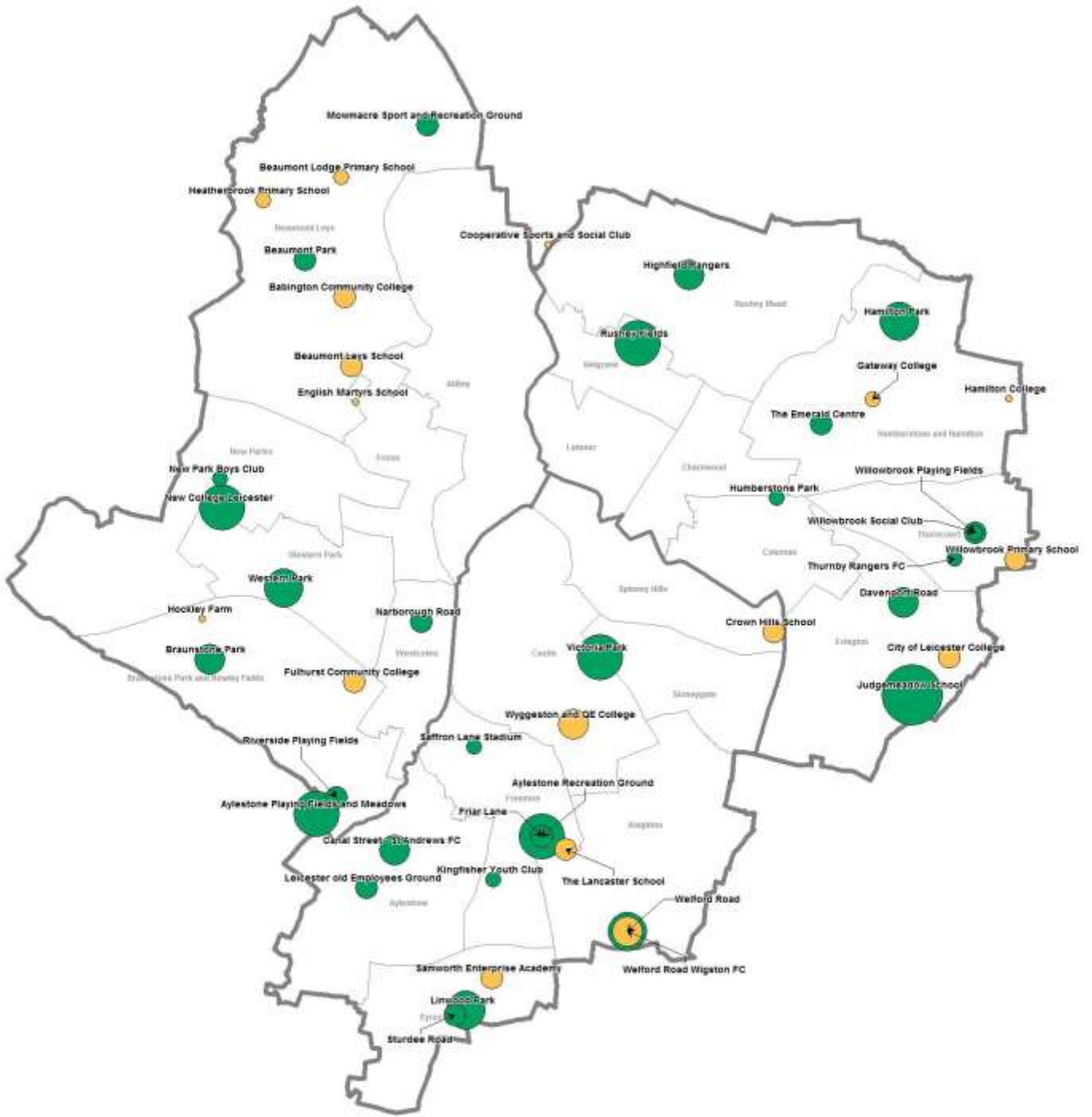
**Table 9.2: Distribution of Pitches across Leicester City**

Area	Adult Football	Youth Football	9v9	7v7	5v5	3g AGP	% of Total Pitch Stock
<b>Leicester East</b>	17	9	7	12	4	0	31%
<b>Leicester South</b>	26	11	10	9	8	2	42%
<b>Leicester West</b>	20	7	7	4	1	2	26%
<b>Total</b>	63	27	24	25	13	4	156

9.24 Building on the information in Table 9.2, Map 9.1 illustrates the scale and distribution of football pitches, as well as the level of access that is available to these sites.

9.25 Reflecting the distribution of AGPs outlined in Table 9.2, Map 9.2 highlights the distribution of 3g AGPs. It indicates that there is a gap in provision to the east of the city. This has arisen primarily as a result of the structure of the FIS programme, which was delivered around key clubs.

### Map 9.1: Distribution and Scale of Football Pitches (overleaf)

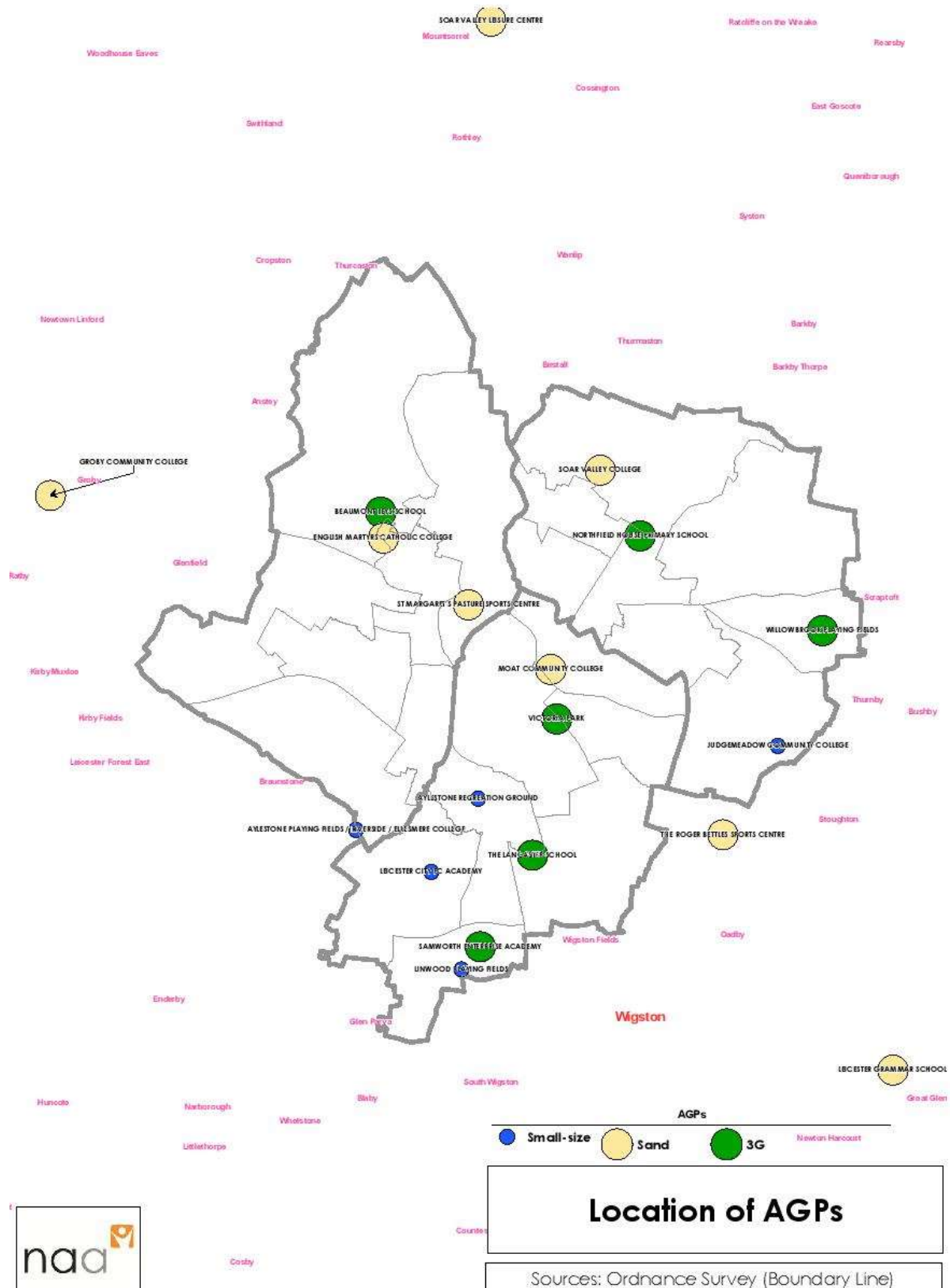


# Location of Football Sites

Sources: Ordnance Survey (Boundary Line)



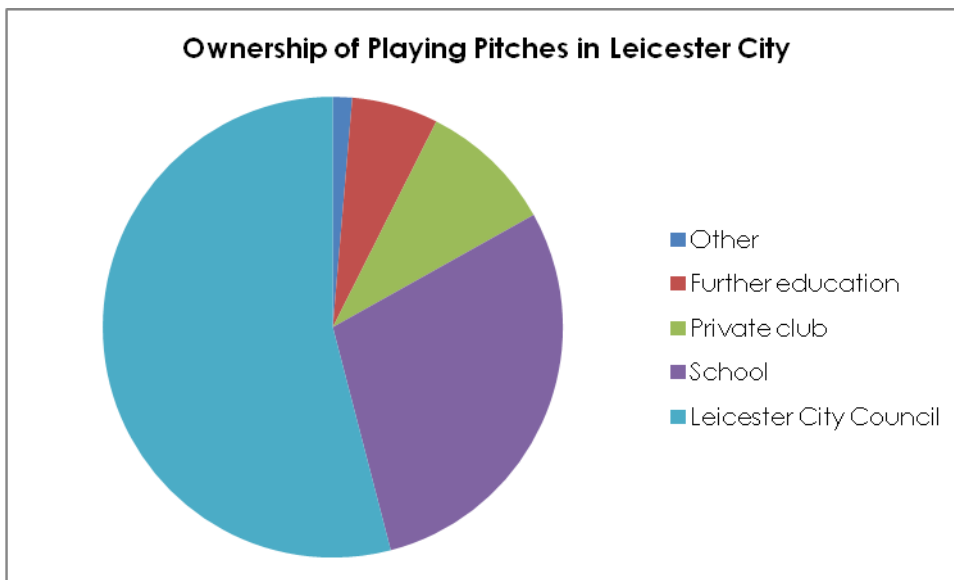
Map 9.2: Distribution of 3G AGPs



## Ownership and Management

- 9.26 Figure 9.1 illustrates that Leicester City Council is the key provider of football pitches in the city, providing more than half of the total pitches that are available for community use. The Council therefore have significant control over the range, type and quality of facilities provided. Facilities are also managed by private clubs, as well as being located at school sites. Schools are the second largest provider of facilities after the Council. This includes the Football Investment sites of Judgemeadow Community College and New College.
- 9.27 The high proportion of facilities managed (and or / owned) by the local authority emphasises the important role that the Council has in enabling football participation and the particular reliance that football has on the public sector. The FA National Strategy recognises the challenges that this reliance brings and seeks to increase the number of asset owning clubs, as well as to work closely with partners to improve the landscape for football.

**Figure 9.1: Management of Playing Pitches (pitches available for community use only)**



## Recent changes to the football scene in Leicester

- 9.28 Linking with the agenda to improve football, Leicester City, in partnership with the FA, local clubs and the local community, launched a Football Improvement Strategy in 2007. Against a backdrop of declining investment (nationally and locally) this improvement strategy sought to address many of the issues identified in Leicester and in particular, aimed to;
- improve the safety, security, quality and standard of football pitches and changing facilities managed or maintained by Leicester City Council across its Parks, Playing Fields and Education sites;
  - to support the County Football Development Plan which sets overall targets for increasing levels of participation and quality by 210 teams by 2012;
  - to ensure equality of access and opportunity for all communities within the City;

- to devolve appropriate sites via lease/licence or partnership arrangements to established clubs delivering a wide range of participation opportunities;
- to work in partnership to deliver large multi-pitch sites for grass roots to senior level football, which can be accessed by a number of city-based clubs;
- to identify other potential sites which could be developed as multi-pitch sites;
- to identify a network of ATP pitches to enable clubs to gain access for training purposes throughout the week;
- to ensure the provision of a number of senior pitches which meet the requirement of the Leicestershire Senior League so that adult city teams can progress;
- to review, modernise and standardise the arrangements for site lettings and leases between different departments; and
- to encourage a culture of shared facilities rather than extensive use in order to maximise opportunities for all Clubs in the City.

9.29 The resulting strategy sought to spread investment and facilities across Council, education and club multi pitch sites, with clubs taking on greater responsibility for the management of facilities, as well as the achievement of sports development goals.

9.30 While assets are owned by Leicester City Council, each partner club has a Service Level Agreement and a Local Management Group oversees the operational management of the facility, as well as club development. Partner clubs were chosen to ensure the long term sustainability of the redeveloped facilities.

9.31 Currently five of the sites are held under a 5 year Licence from the city council by partner clubs. The only exception to this is Linwood Playing Fields, occupied by Aylestone Park FC who have a 40 year Lease.

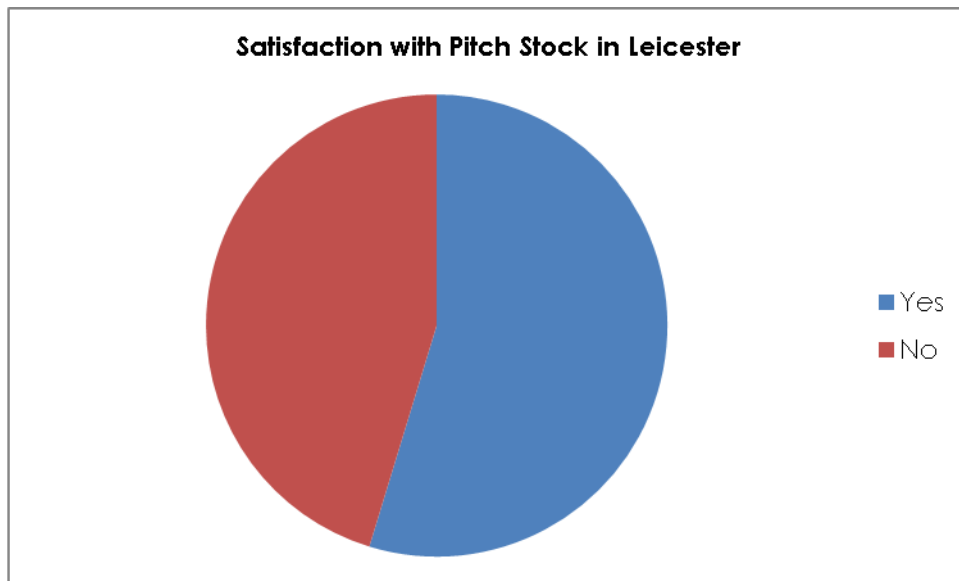
9.32 The sites involved in the FIS are as follows;

- Rushey Fields
- Hamilton Park
- Linwood Playing Fields
- Aylestone Playing Fields
- Aylestone Recreation Centre
- New College
- Riverside (Ellesmere College).

#### **Views on the Pitch Stock across Leicester City**

9.33 Figure 9.2 indicates that there are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in Leicester City, with a broadly equal proportion of responding clubs satisfied and dissatisfied. More clubs are satisfied with the pitch stock than are not, but the proportion of clubs that are not means that there remain improvements to be made.

**Figure 9.2: Satisfaction with Pitch Provision**

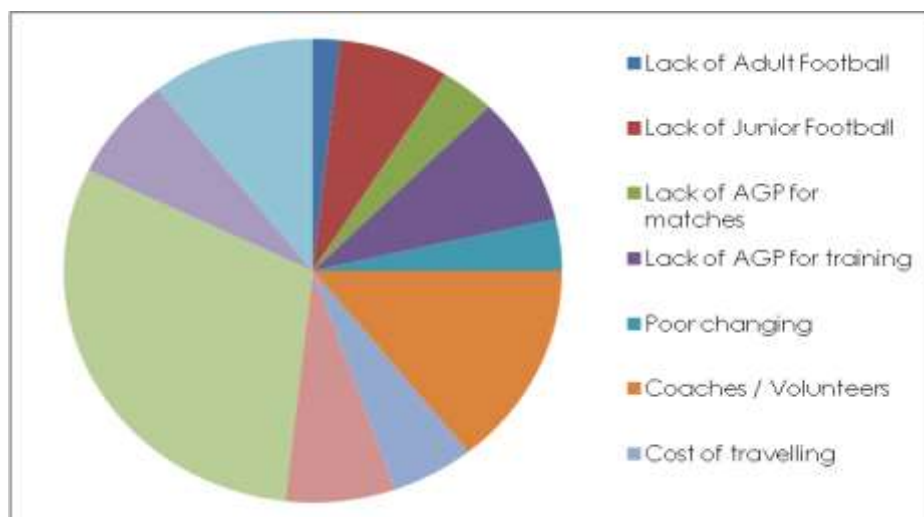


9.34 The key reasons given by those responding clubs that are dissatisfied are;

- perceived poor quality of pitches, particularly drainage, evenness and maintenance;
- quality of changing accommodation;
- cost of pitch hire;
- a lack of access to facilities for clubs not benefitting from the Football Investment Strategy; and
- a lack of access to AGPs at key times (between 6pm and 8pm).

9.35 Figure 9.3 illustrates that a shortage of coaches and volunteers and falling membership of clubs are perceived to be the key barriers to club development. Lack of internal and external funding are also amongst the higher concerns of clubs. It was also noted that many volunteers in clubs are ageing and that there is a lack of succession planning, which represents a key risk for the long term sustainability of football in the city.

**Figure 9.3: Barriers to Club Development**





### **Pitch Quality and Changing Accommodation**

- 9.36 All local leagues running within Leicester City require (within their rules) clubs to keep their grounds in playable condition (and deemed suitable by the Management Committee). Pitch quality is therefore an essential component of an effective pitch stock. Pitches of higher quality also help to attract players and increase participation, as recognised in the 2008 Facility Investment Strategy.
- 9.37 The presence and quality of changing facilities can also be of significance in determining the suitability of pitches and a lack of facilities can impact on the desirability of grounds for clubs, particularly where there is a lack of toilets as well as changing facilities.
- 9.38 There are specific rules relating to pitch quality, changing accommodation and social facilities for clubs participating in leagues at levels on the football pyramid and this will be returned to later. The Nerf Junior Premier League also requires changing accommodation as well as the availability of social facilities, as all teams and coaching staff must enjoy hospitality following the match.
- 9.39 Pitch quality and changing accommodation are therefore as important as the number of pitches.

### **Quality of Pitches in Leicester City**

- 9.40 Site visits reveal that almost all pitches are categorised as standard (based upon the views of providers / users / site visits). There are few pitches of very high quality and site assessment scores range from 43% up to 94%.
- 9.41 The average score achieved by pitches visited is 61%, which falls within the standard range. This is based upon the appearance of pitches and the maintenance programme that has been undertaken. The maintenance procedure currently undertaken by the Council (based upon feedback given by maintenance officers) suggests that some of the pitches should be of a slightly higher standard (in terms of pitch scores) than the current inspections identify that they are. It is thought that this is partly attributable to the lack of drainage in the majority of sites, which causes disruption to pitch surfaces and eliminates some of the benefit of the maintenance that has been undertaken. A range of scores has therefore been provided for Council pitches (based on the actual maintenance procedures and the apparent maintenance). All sites however still fall within the same standard categorisation.
- 9.42 Consultation demonstrates that pitch maintenance is deemed to have improved and clubs have a greater understanding of the importance of effective maintenance programmes. Much effort has been placed by all providers in reviewing and improving maintenance programmes, and there are several schemes in place that can support clubs with maintenance requirements (equipment sharing / bulk buying opportunities reducing the overall cost of materials). Concerns were raised however that with regards Council pitches, while tasks are carried out in line with the specification, some machinery is inappropriate and may result in lower quality facilities than would otherwise be provided. Take up of schemes available for clubs (for example groundsman training) has also been lower than may have been expected.
- 9.43 While the non-technical assessment form provides a means of classifying pitches in order to determine their capacity (triangulating data with consultation findings), the site visits also provide further judgement on pitch quality.



9.44 Site visits and consultation reveal that key issues in particular are;

- across the city in general, the quality of pitches is standard. There are however some examples of good quality pitches and a small number of poor sites. The FIS sites are of particularly high standard (when taking into account the range of ancillary facilities that are also provided at these sites) and there is a step change between the whole offer at these facilities and other sites in the city;
- drainage arises as one of the key issues for pitches across the city, with evidence of poor drainage on the majority of pitches. This is particularly significant as visits took place during November, when preceding weather conditions had been standard, meaning that there is scope for greater drainage issues to arise during the winter months. It is clear that the majority of pitches (particularly those on Council sites) do not have drainage installed and instead are merely marked on recreational land;
- the lack of drainage causes some issues with grass coverage (particularly in goal areas) and surfaces on some sites are uneven. Many of the pitches would benefit from earth quaking and vertidrainage to relieve compaction. Spiking will not necessarily be sufficient to relieve the compaction that is evident;
- maintenance schedules vary across the city and in some cases, across the site, with some sites containing one or two pitches that are much higher quality than others. There are examples where some pitches are compacted and weed infested, while others have an almost perfect grass sward. This may also be due to imbalanced use on some sites. Aylestone Park, GNG, Allexton and New Parks FC all maintain their own first team pitches;
- many sites are subjected to informal use due to their location in public parks, which places further pressures on the pitches. A small number suffer from dog fouling issues. Litter was not particularly evident during the site visits; and
- changing provision is relatively good in that the majority of sites offer access to changing accommodation. This ranges from excellent large clubhouses with changing and bar facilities (generally associated with private clubs and FIS sites) to old and antiquated changing facilities provided at some of the Council sites, which are functional at best. The facilities provided at FIS sites are primarily looked after by clubs and offer excellent standards.

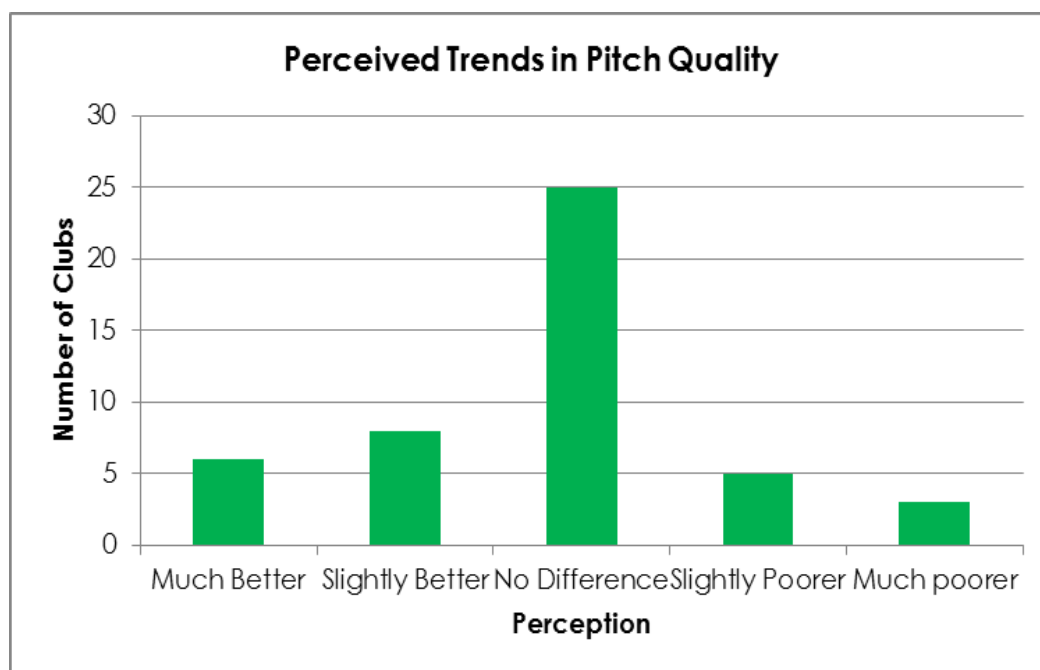
9.45 There is an overall perception that the Council maintenance specification is adequate, but that it is not necessarily tailored to the specific needs of each pitch and the conditions at the time. Maintenance practices at other sites are varied and strongly dependent upon income and expertise.

#### **Views on Pitch Quality**

9.46 Many local leagues highlight the improvements that have been made in Leicester City, but indicate that there remain a lack of good quality parks pitches and in particular a dearth of adequate changing accommodation. Parking is also believed to be lacking on some sites.

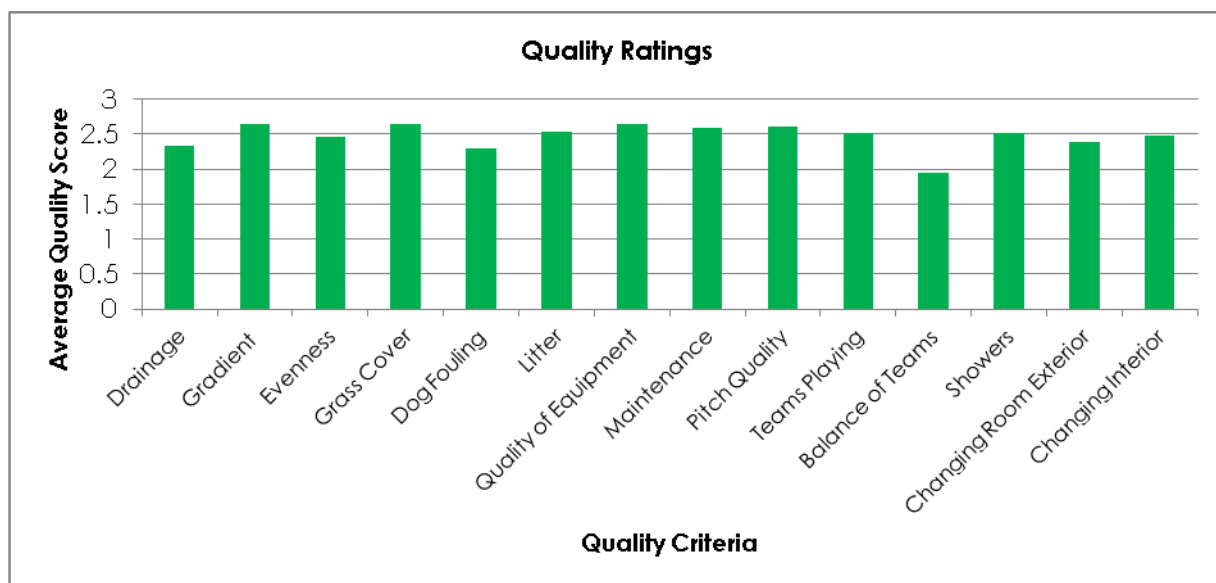
9.47 Figures 9.4 and 9.5 evaluate the user perception (club) of pitch quality. Figure 9.4 illustrates that the quality of provision is believed to be relatively static, although some clubs do highlight an improvement.

**Figure 9.4: Trends in Pitch Quality**



- 9.48 The majority of improvement is perceived to have arisen due to investment and an effort to improve pitch maintenance. Some support has been provided by larger clubs to other clubs managing and maintaining their own facilities with a view to improving the adequacy of facilities.
- 9.49 Notably however, many of the smaller clubs owning and managing their own facilities indicate that they are struggling to invest sufficient funds and time into the maintenance of pitches, particularly as many of these clubs have suffered recent decline in the number of teams run.
- 9.50 Figure 9.4 illustrates the club perceptions relating to quality of pitches and confirms many of the findings of the site visits and other consultations (a score of 3 equates to good, 2 to average and 1 poor). Drainage, evenness and dog fouling are considered to be the key issues for clubs across the city, along with some issues with the changing facilities provided.
- 9.51 Incidents of dog fouling are primarily (but not exclusively) found on Council pitch sites, while concerns with drainage and evenness are found on all sites.
- 9.52 There is also perceived to be a significant step change in the ancillary facilities provided, with sites improved as part of the FIS strategy considered to have excellent changing and clubhouse accommodation, while facilities in parks are in poor repair and requiring modernisation. The income from the bars in the clubhouses on the FIS sites is key to ensuring the sustainability of these sites.
- 9.53 Some clubs also raise concerns with the adequacy of parking (particularly when all pitches are booked) and the proximity of parking facilities to pitches.

**Figure 9.5: Club Perceptions of Quality**



9.54 Quality issues and views specific to each site are outlined in Appendix D and are also summarised in Table 9.6 later in this section.

### Quality of AGPs

Table 9.3 summarises the 3g AGPs across the city and highlights any quality issues identified, as well as the rating of the site.

**Table 9.3: Quality of AGPs**

Site Name	Size	Quality Score (Site Assessments)	FA Register	Quality Issues Identified	Overall Rating
Aylestone Recreation Ground	Full	72	No	Unofficial use (including quad bikes etc) creating greater maintenance requirements. Quality of surface more difficult to control due to open access policy. Day to management and maintenance is challenging. Although pitch has passed FA test, it is thought to require additional rubber crumb to support the pitch surface.	Standard
Judgemeadow	Full	76	No	Pitch quality good, although parking can	Standard

Site Name	Size	Quality Score (Site Assessments)	FA Register	Quality Issues Identified	Overall Rating
				become constrained when both grass pitches and AGP are in use.	
Linwood Park	Full	78	Yes	Pitch quality excellent	Good
New College Leicester	Full	78	Yes	Quality excellent with no issues identified	Good
Riverside	Full	81	Yes	New facility only recently opened. In good condition and no issues	Good
Beaumont Park	Full	Not open at time of assessment	Yes	New facility opened in January 2016	Good
St Margaret's Pasture AGP	3g (4 x small)	78	No	Pitch quality standard although facilities are small and of lower value for training.	Standard
Gateway College	Small	78	No	Pitch quality standard	Standard

#### Demand

#### Current Participation – Match Play

9.55 Table 9.4 summarises the teams currently based in Leicester City. It demonstrates that 38% of teams are senior teams, with the remainder being age group teams. Full details of all teams playing in the city are included in Appendix E.

**Table 9.4: Football Teams in Leicester City (2015)**

Format of Football	Number of Teams	Proportion of Teams in City
Football Adult Male (16-45yrs)	123	36%
Football Adult Female(16-45yrs)	8	2%
Football Youth Male(12-15yrs)	68	20%
Football Youth Female(12-15yrs)	4	1%
Football 9v9 Male (10 – 11 years)	47	16%
Football 9v9 Female	4	1%
7V7 (8 – 9 years)	49	15%

5v5 (6 – 7 years)	29	8%
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- 9.56 While there are strong participation rates for males, female football is less well established, 4 - 5% of teams, which is broadly in line with the national average. It should be noted however that several girls play within mixed teams rather than in dedicated female teams. The inclusion of female teams within a club can place additional pressures on a site, particularly with regards changing accommodation as there is a need to ensure that separate facilities are available.
- 9.57 Research undertaken as part of the development of the FIS Strategy indicated that the number of teams run by clubs in Leicester was below national and regional averages and also indicated that there was a lack of clubs fielding both adult and youth teams. This means that there are barriers in place to progression through the age groups.
- 9.58 Analysis of the club and team structure in 2015 suggests that this has changed slightly. The city is now characterised by a number of very large clubs, primarily playing out of the FIS sites (and most of whom offer teams from aged 6 right through to adult) and an abundance of single adult teams. The remainder of teams are single / dual adult teams predominantly playing recreational football in the local leagues. These teams are largely reliant upon the use of Council and / or school facilities and they do not typically have links with junior clubs. A number of smaller clubs playing at private facilities also remain.
- 9.59 In addition to the teams listed above, disability football is strong in Leicester City, with 12 teams based in the city. These teams primarily use AGPs and indoor facilities for training and travel to central venues (often nationally) for matches.
- 9.60 Leicester City FC are also located within the city, with the main home ground being the King Power Stadium, and a training ground at Belvoir Drive. As well as the First Team and age groups teams, the club run an academy and ladies section. The ladies section use the AGP at New College FIS site. In line with the PPS methodology, as a professional club, these teams are not included in calculations, however their usage on facilities that are publically available is taken into account where relevant.
- 9.61 Table 9.5 provides a more detailed breakdown of the number of teams by sub area.

**Table 9.5: Teams by Sub Area**

Sport and Age Groups	Leicester East	Leicester South	Leicester West	Total
Football Adult Male (16-45yrs)	37	54	32	123
Football Adult Female(16-45yrs)	1	5	2	8
Football Youth Male(12-15yrs)	20	36	12	68
Football Youth Female(12-15yrs)	1	2	1	4
Football 9v9 Male (10 – 11 years)	19	18	10	47
Football 9v9 Female	2	1	1	4
7V7 (8 – 9 years)	17	17	15	49
5v5 (6 – 7 years)	12	5	12	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>85</b>	

- 9.62 Table 9.5 indicates that more than 40% of teams are located within Leicester South. The lowest levels of participation are in Leicester West, where just 25% of teams are based. There is a particular lack of youth and 9v9 teams in Leicester West compared to the other parts of the city, which is the primary reason for the lower levels of participation.
- 9.63 Participation is broadly correlated with pitch provision with the south of the city containing the most teams and the lowest levels of participation found in the west. Participation is therefore likely influenced by the pitch stock to an extent (although it is acknowledged that some teams will travel to different areas of the city to play).

### Club Structure and Participation Trends

- 9.64 The annual report (2014 / 2015) highlights a significant increase in the number of teams playing at sites within the football strategy, with a 52% increase from 2010 to the current time. The diverse selection of clubs, as well as the geographic spread of locations across the city has been considered central to the success of the strategy. Each club individually has achieved targets to date and the creation of a five year development plan for each site ensures that this is likely to continue in the short term. While club growth is positive, it is noted that this needs to be controlled to ensure that the reliance upon volunteers does not become unmanageable.
- 9.65 In contrast to the growth seen at the FIS sites, several other smaller clubs indicate that they have experienced a decline in players. This is primarily thought to be due to the poor quality and range of facilities in comparison to the FIS sites, as well as the clear attractions of being part of large clubs with coherent structures and progression opportunities. This has now emerged as a key issue for the city, with a need to address the sustainability of these smaller clubs.
- 9.66 Local leagues indicate that on the whole, participation is either static or has increased, again highlighting the positive steps for football in the city in recent years.

### Pyramid Clubs

- 9.67 In addition to Leicester City FC, the only professional club in the city (and playing in the National Premier League), there are several clubs playing in the Non League System. As a result of the standard of football played, there are specific requirements that must be adhered to in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground.
- 9.68 Table 9.6 summarises these clubs and highlights the ground grading requirements that must be met. If clubs continue to progress up the pyramid, requirements and regulations for facilities that clubs must adhere to will become more onerous.

**Table 9.6: Pyramid Clubs**

Club	League	Standard	Associated Ground Grading Requirements	Current Location
Leicester Nirvana First	United Counties Football League	STEP 5	Grade F	Highfield Rangers FC
Aylestone Park Seniors (First)	Eastern Counties Football league	STEP 6	Grade G / H	Linwood Playing Fields
St Andrews First	Eastern Counties Football league	STEP 6	Grade G / H	St Andrews FC
Allexton & New Parks First	Leicestershire Senior and Leicestershire	STEP 7	Step 7 Minimum	New College

Club	League	Standard	Associated Ground Grading Requirements	Current Location
	Combination Leagues		Grading	
FC Guru Nanak Gurdwara (GNG) First	Leicestershire Senior and Leicestershire Combination Leagues	STEP 7	Step 7 Minimum Grading	Riverside
Friar Lane & Epworth First	Leicestershire Senior and Leicestershire Combination Leagues	STEP 7		Friar Lane and Epworth

Ground grading specifications are available in full at <http://nav.thefa.com/sitecore/content/TheFA/Home/Leagues/NationalLeagueSystem/GroundGrading>.

- 9.69 Issues identified at each site in relation to meeting these criteria will be evaluated later in this section.

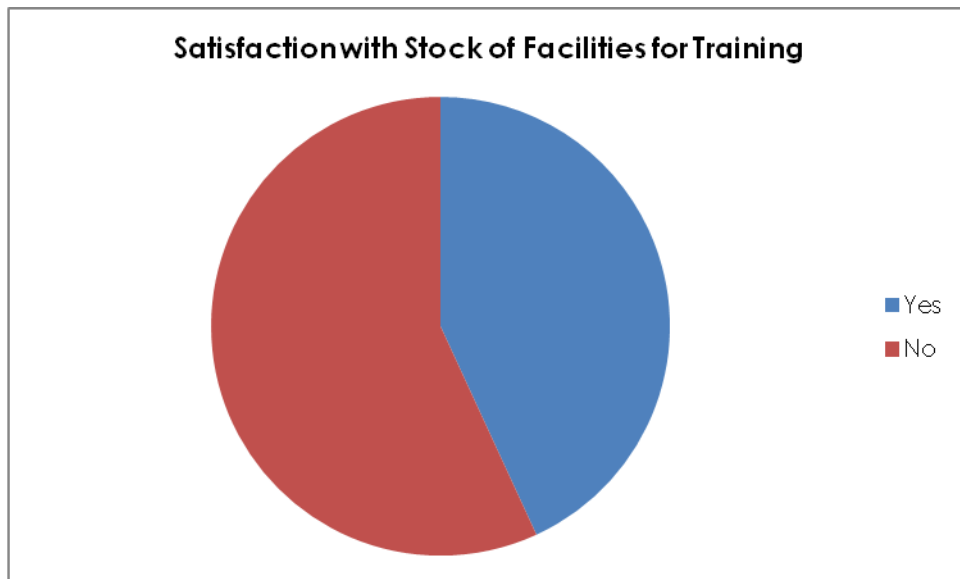
#### **Demand from teams currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary**

- 9.70 Given the close proximity of neighbouring authorities, there is a degree of movement of football clubs although there are no examples of clear relocation out of the city.
- 9.71 There is also limited travel into the city to play, with the only clear example being Oadby Owls. Half of their games are played at Judgemeanow Community College, with the remainder of teams playing at Coombe Park, Oadby (their preferred venue). These teams are therefore travelling outside of the administrative area to play and are not included within demand totals for Leicester City.
- 9.72 South Leicestershire College also travel in to use Linwood Playing Fields.

#### **Training Needs**

- 9.73 The increased stock of AGPs in the city means that many of the teams use AGPs to train. This is particularly true of the clubs using FIS sites.
- 9.74 Partner clubs have priority access to FIS sites in line with their contracts (as well as reduced fees) and each team trains for an hour (although New Parks and Allextion assign 1hr 30 minutes to each team). Facilities are generally divided into halves or thirds and team trainings are arranged individually.
- 9.75 Despite the new 3g AGPs recently provided, club consultation demonstrates that a greater proportion of clubs are dissatisfied with facilities for training than are satisfied. This is set out in Figure 9.6 overleaf.

**Figure 9.6: Satisfaction with Training Facilities**



9.76 A perceived lack of training facilities was considered to be one of the key issues for football in Leicester and concerns raised included;

- the cost of facilities is considered a barrier to usage, particularly for smaller clubs and those not afforded a discount;
- there are perceived to be insufficient pitches - all available slots are either too early (before 6) or late;
- bookings processes are inefficient, with teams from different clubs using facilities on different nights of the week and at varying times. This can make it difficult for other users; and

9.77 Several clubs indicated that they would like to see floodlit grass training pitches for hire (Nelson Mandela Park is currently the only facility in the city).

9.78 Reflecting this, it is clear that some training does take place on grass pitches on a Saturday morning, particularly junior training at large clubs that do have their own AGP. Sites that are known to accommodate grass training as well as matches include;

- Rushey Fields
- Victoria Park
- Linwood Playing Fields
- The Emerald Centre
- Aylestone Playing fields
- Canal Street (St Andrews FC)
- Willowbrook Primary School.

9.79 The majority of single adult teams indicate that they do not train at all, purely playing on a Saturday / Sunday for recreational benefits. Some however indicate that they struggle to access appropriate facilities for training as they are either booked by larger clubs or cost too much. Several single adult teams indicate that floodlights are required on some grass pitches to meet the needs of those that wish to train on grass.



### **Educational Demand**

- 9.80 The majority of secondary schools in Leicester City have their own playing fields. While not all schools mark out their playing field area as formal pitches, most have the capacity to do and there is only ad hoc use of other sites.
- 9.81 There is however only limited use of school facilities for football, with many schools permitting access to other facilities but not grass pitches. For those schools that do permit community use, while curricular use impacts on the overall ability to sustain community play, school use of grass pitches has limited impact on peak time demand and the availability of pitches, as this largely takes place midweek. Almost all secondary schools in the city participate in competitions run by Leicestershire and Rutlands Schools Football Association in at least one age group. School sites are therefore able to sustain fewer community games per week on average than facilities owned and managed by other providers to protect against quality deterioration.

### **Casual Demand**

- 9.82 Many of the sites in Leicester also function as public recreational areas. This impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling, which emerged as a key issue for many pitch users. While this recreational use is not necessarily extensive enough to reduce the capacity of pitches, particularly during the winter months, it impacts upon the player experience on occasion and also renders pitches which frequently suffer unpopular. Dog fouling was raised by several clubs as the key quality concern and many felt that not enough is done about the issue. Welford Road, Victoria Park, Rushey Fields, Western Park and Aylestone Recreation Ground were highlighted as being particularly problematic for dog fouling.

### **Other Issues**

- 9.83 Other issues raised can be summarised as;

#### ***Cost of facility hire and running the club***

- The cost of facility hire was raised by both adult and junior clubs and was a key concern for clubs using both public and private facilities. For those using public pitches, both leagues and clubs perceive cost to be a key contributing factor for the decline of adult football, particularly with a reduction in the availability of sponsorship. For those at private pitches, both clubs and providers highlighted the pressures of ever increasing costs of maintenance and the difficulties of covering this within the fees paid through subs to clubs. There are opportunities for clubs to work together to share knowledge and equipment, particularly around grounds maintenance skills. This is however limited.

#### ***Impact of FIS on other clubs***

- Many clubs that have not benefitted from partner club status in the FIS believe that they have suffered as a result, with the number of teams declining (as players gravitate towards sites with better facilities). This results in reducing income for the other clubs and as a consequence, they struggle to maintain facilities as effectively. Pitch quality at other sites is now perceived to be deteriorating and the gap in quality is becoming ever greater. Concerns have also been raised in relation to the size of some of the partner clubs, which brings with it challenges for volunteers in running such large operations. Most smaller clubs now set themselves the target to

retain their existing players and to remain stable, while FIS clubs are seeking to grow in line with their development plans

### **Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand information and Views**

9.84 The Sport England Methodology enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided. Adequacy is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using the concept of match equivalents. There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the amount of matches that it can sustain.

#### *Weekly Capacity*

9.85 The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of matches that can be sustained. Table 9.7 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).

**Table 9.7: Capacity based upon Pitch Quality**

Agreed pitch quality rating	Adult Football	Youth Football	Mini Soccer
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

9.86 There are a small number of examples evident of overmarking (where one pitch is marked with two sets of lines to cater for different age groups). Where additional markings have been added over the top of existing pitches, pitches are only counted once (as the largest size pitch). For example, a senior pitch with 9v9 markings is considered to be a senior pitch. The use of the pitch by the 9v9 team is however taken into account. For the purposes of analysis therefore, it has been assumed that where a senior or youth pitch is used by a team playing 9v9, 7v7 or 5v5, this is equivalent to half a match equivalent, due to the more limited wear and tear that such teams generate on the pitch as a result of smaller players and shorter playing periods, as well as reduced numbers. This is in line with existing Sport England guidance.

9.87 It should also be noted that at some sites, pitch provision changes weekly to ensure that supply is matched with demand that weekend. A particular example of this is Judgemeadow Community College. Pitch totals and associated capacity ratings are therefore indicative only.

#### *Peak Time Demand*

9.88 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalents at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place.

9.89 Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. An adult pitch that is not used on a Sunday morning (city wide peak time), but is used more than three times per week at other times (Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon and midweek for example)

would not be considered able to sustain additional play either at peak time, or at other times, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.

9.90 While adult leagues in the area have specific (and non-flexible) kick off times, kick off times for the younger teams can generally be staggered, ensuring that clubs are able to accommodate all desired play. In general, this means that peak time is less focused and that more matches can be accommodated on one pitch (subject to weekly capacity). The patterns of play for each type of football set out below however clearly demonstrate that there is a high peak time demand in Leicester City (On Sunday morning);

- **Senior Football** – more than half of all adult football teams in Leicester play on a Sunday morning, with both the Leicester Sunday League and the Leicester Alliance League kicking off at this time and accommodating the bulk of teams. Teams playing at a higher standard, including those in the Non league Pyramid, kick off on a Saturday afternoon. Ladies football is all played on a Sunday afternoon, meaning that pitch requirements do not clash with those of senior male teams.
- **Youth and 9v9 football** – almost all youth and 9v9 football also takes place on a Sunday, with only a small number of teams playing Saturday (primarily those playing in regional leagues i.e. Nerf Premier, Midland Junior Football League). The Leicester Foxes Sunday League, Leicester and District Sunday Youth League and MDH Teamwear Youth League are the main leagues and all are Sunday based. There is however a degree of flexibility in kick off times, with fixtures staggered. While this means that more games can be accommodated over the course of the day, it also means that adults and youths wish to use facilities at the same time, which places greater pressures on the management of sites to ensure that child protection guidelines are followed
- **5v5 and 7v7** - the majority of mini soccer takes place through the Leicester and District Mutual League, which is played on a Sunday morning.

9.91 The above indicates therefore that demand in Leicester is relatively concentrated. This increases the number of pitches required to accommodate peak time demand but does however limit the demands on pitch quality, with most facilities hosting the majority of their activity on a Sunday. A small amount of training takes place on a Saturday morning on grass pitches.

#### **Measuring Demand on AGPs**

9.92 It should also be noted that the majority of matches take place on grass pitches, with AGPs used as an overspill on the whole, rather than as a key part of the infrastructure for accommodating competitive matches. It is thought that there is still a preference for the use of grass pitches amongst the majority of the football playing community.

9.93 More recently however, AGPs were successfully used to fulfil fixtures during periods of inclement weather and the role that these pitches play as a result has started to increase. Some matches are now routinely scheduled onto AGPs.

9.94 To ensure the full context is understood, the use of AGPs will therefore be considered separately, but evaluated within the context of grass pitch provision and the role that these sites do (and could) play in meeting competitive fixture requirements will be determined.

9.95 Primarily to take evaluate capacity and take up, the methodology indicates that the adequacy of AGPs is measured through;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34 hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00;
- the amount of play that takes place (measured in hours);
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

### **Grass Pitches - Situation at Individual Sites**

9.96 Table 9.8 provides a summary of the activity that takes place at each site offering community use in Leicester City. It sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Any other issues arising with the site, including key quality concerns, are also briefly summarised.

9.97 Quality ratings are derived from a combination of site visits (where as an indication, sites achieving a score of 50% - 80% are rated standard). Sites above this are considered good and below are rated poor) as well as consultation. Site visit scores do not necessarily correlate directly with the rating given, as club and provider feedback, as well as the overall impression at the time of the site visit is also taken into account to produce a final rating. Site visit scores for example may be influenced by a good (and therefore highly scoring) maintenance programme, but if this is ineffective due to underlying issues, quality is reduced.

9.98 Issues will be explored by pitch type, however the key issues emerging from site overviews are as follows;

- The majority of pitches in the city are able to sustain additional play across the week. This is influenced by the strong focus on match play on a Sunday morning, which reduces the amount of games that pitches are required to sustain across the week. There is however evidence of overplay on one or more pitches on several sites and this is caused by a variety of things including heavy use, training on grass pitches, the need to balance curricular requirements with community use and the poor quality of facilities. Overplay is primarily concentrated at Beaumont Park (temporary pitches for this season influenced by poor pitch quality), Friar Lane and Epworth (heavy usage as well as training), Gateway College (heavy usage combined with curricular requirements), Hamilton Park (heavy usage for both match play and training), Judgemeanow College (heavy usage), Rushey Fields (heavy usage for both match play and training), New Parks Boys Club (capacity influenced by poor pitch quality), Canal Street (heavy usage) and Welford Road (Wigston FC)
- In some instances, overplay may be directly influencing the quality issues identified, with this causing compaction of surfaces. Friar Lane and Epworth FC are overplaying their pitch in order to generate income to maintain the facility and several other clubs believe that levels of use are starting to cause pitch deterioration (including clubs playing at Rushey Fields and Canal Street)

- It is clear that some overplay is concentrated at FIS clubs that do not have access to 3g AGPs on site - as clubs have grown, facilities have become more constrained and the use of the grass pitches to train on a Saturday as well as play on a Sunday means that the number of games sustained across the week is high. Many of these clubs however have higher quality facilities than smaller sites and in part it is this that is attracting the overplay. Other clubs experiencing high levels of use are also impacted by training, particularly those smaller clubs that have a floodlit pitch and / or are struggling for playing numbers and therefore must let out the facility in order to address this. Where sites are experiencing heavy levels of use, the quality and maintenance programme is of particular importance, as it is this that increases the capacity of a site
- There are few sites that are available to the community but have limited use. The only sites with very limited use currently are Crown Hills Community College (although used for curricular purposes) and Kingfisher Youth Centre. Beaumont Leys School, Fulhurst Community College, Leicester Old Employees Ground and Samworth Enterprise Academy all however have scope to increase the amount of play significantly
- The high focus of activity at peak time therefore means that for the majority of pitches, the ability to sustain multiple games across several weekend slots is of lower importance than the availability at peak time
- Reflecting this, availability at peak time is much lower than the total spare capacity that is available across the week. There are 46 pitches (almost 1/3 of the total pitch stock) that have no remaining spare capacity on a Sunday morning. These are focused on 25 sites. Many pitches without capacity at peak time are those also suffering from overplay, however there are also some pitches on Aylestone Recreation Ground, Davenport Road, Linwood Playing Fields, New College Playing Fields, The Emerald Centre, Victoria Park, Welford Road and Willowbrook Social Club and Primary School that are unable to accommodate more fixtures. Aylestone Playing Fields, Braunstone Park and Judgemeanow Community College are the only sites with any pitches able to accommodate two or more matches per week
- Spare capacity is primarily found at unsecured school sites.

9.99 Looking across the city, it is clear that these issues are evident in equal measure in each area;

- Overplay in the east is concentrated at Hamilton Park and Rushey Fields, both due to a lack of facilities for training. There is also heavy use of some pitches on Judgemeanow School and Gateway College. This means that all of the large sites are heavily used and approaching capacity. While Highfield Rangers and The Emerald Centre (smaller club sites) are able to accommodate more play, both also demonstrate relatively limited availability at peak time. There are few other sites in the area with capacity, highlighted by the use of Willowbrook Primary School for a local club.
- Provision in the south is also relatively compromised, with the smaller club venues of Friar Lane and Canal Street at capacity, and Linwood Park also heavily used
- Despite lower levels of provision, there is perhaps more limited overplay in the west, with spare capacity at several school sites, and the only overplay focused at Beaumont Park (which will soon be addressed through new facilities) as well as

heavy use at New College and Riverside Investment (although there are satellite facilities available to the club to ensure that overplay does not impact.

9.100 It should be noted that Beaumont Park 3g was not open at the time of the assessment.

**Table 9.8: Site Specific Usage at each site (community sites that are available regardless of whether they are used or not)**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
South	Aylestone Playing Fields and Meadows	Secured Community Use	1	7v7	4	Standard	0	0	4		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Pitches demonstrating evidence of wear and tear, with some examples of unevenness and poor grass coverage. Would benefit from decompaction and there are some issues with flooding. Scope for additional pitches on site, but all existing pitches are able to sustain additional play both across the week and with the exception of the 2 youth pitches, at peak time. There is no remaining spare
			2	9v9	4	Standard	1.5	2	2.5		0.5	2	Able to sustain additional play	
			3	Adult 11v11	6	Standard	0	0	6		3	3	Able to sustain additional play	
			2	youth 11v11	4	Standard	3	3	1		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
														capacity for youth football and only 0.5 match equivalents available on the 9v9 pitch. Limited use of adult pitches currently. Large changing field block (12 rooms) but underused as pitches are primarily used for youth and younger team play.
South	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	1	3g	0		2	2	-2		0	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	Important FIS site with 3g AGP. Good quality changing facilities (6 rooms) but site suffers from drainage issues. Club believe pitch quality has deteriorated recently due to drainage and



Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
														<p>pitches are starting to become heavily used. Modelling suggests that outside the 7v7 pitches, there is very little remaining spare capacity at peak time, with only 0.5 match equivalents available on the adult pitch. The club believe that a shortage of facilities is starting to inhibit growth. There is however some spare capacity for use across the week.</p>
			1	5v5	4	Standard	1	1	3		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			3	7v7	12	Standard	1.5	2	10.5		1.5	3	Able to sustain additional	

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													play	
			2	9v9	2	Standard	1.5	2	0.5		0	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1.5	2	0.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2	2	0		0	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	
West	Babington Community College	Unsecured	1	7v7	4	Standard	1	2	2		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	School site accommodating small club as well as curricular use. Facilities considered adequate and good changing is available on site. Once curricular activity is taken into account, there is little remaining spare capacity, with no

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														further capacity for 7v7 at peak time and just 0.5 match equivalents available on each of the other pitches.
			1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	2	0.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	adult 11v11	2	Standard	0.5	2	0.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
West	Beamont School	Leys	Unsecured	1	9v9	2	Standard	0	1	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play	School sites offering a range of pitches but limited community use currently. Facilities are of standard quality and school also offers a good standard of changing accommodation.

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														Site has capacity to sustain at least 1 match per week at peak time on youth and 9v9 pitches, as well as further activity on adult pitches.
			1	adult 11v11	2	Standard	0.5	2	0.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
West	Beamont Lodge Primary School	Unsecured	1	9v9	2	Standard	1	2	0		0	0.5	Played to level site can sustain	Venue used as overspill this season whilst renovation work is undertaken at Beaumont Town. Taking into account the school use, there is no remaining capacity for further activity.

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														Pitch standard basic with no other facilities provided.
West	Beaumont Park Pitch	Secured Community Use	1	7v7	2	Poor	3.5	4	-1.5		0	1	Site overplayed	Important FIS site currently undergoing renovation work and the creation of new pitches, including a 3g AGP. Temporary pitch provision this season is of poor quality, with evidence of drainage issues and compaction. Concerns as to whether pitches are sustainable across whole season, however improvement works are scheduled as part of the improvement plans. No remaining spare capacity at peak

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														time and all pitches overplayed. Changing accommodation is however good, with bar which supports income to facility.
			2	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	2.5	3	-0.5		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
West	Braunstone Park Pitch	Secured Community Use	4	Adult 11v11	8	Standard	2.5	4	4.5		2	4	Able to sustain additional	Pitches predominantly serving single team clubs, also

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													play	used for some training on a Saturday morning. Pitch quality varying, with some pitches clearly more heavily used than others (those nearer the changing and car parking). Some pitches on site would benefit from decompaction and some evidence of poor drainage. A better spread of play would improve pitch condition. Changing accommodation considered adequate by clubs, with sufficient rooms for teams playing.

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South	Canal Street - St Andrews FC	Secured Community Use	1	5v5	4	Standard	1.5	2	2.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site is location for pyramid club that is expanding, with growing numbers of youth teams. Club experiencing pitch quality issues as pitches are built on an old tip and are slowly sinking, creating an uneven surface. This is particularly evident on the youth pitches. Both the adult and youth pitches are heavily used although there is scope for a small amount of additional play on the 5v5 and 7v7 areas. Very limited remaining capacity on a Sunday morning (no further play



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														available except on 5v5 pitch) and some matches scheduled consecutively in order to accommodate existing programming. Club seeking 3g AGP to improve pitch quality and increase site capacity.
			1	7v7	4	Standard	2	2	2		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	adult 11v11	2	Standard	2	2	0		0	1	Played to level site can sustain	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	3	3	-1		0	-0.5	Site overplayed	
	City of Leicester College	N/a	2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	0	1	3		2	2	Able to sustain additional play	

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	Cooperative Sports and Social Club	N/a	0	None - currently undergoing refurbishment. Scope for 2 - 3 pitches	0	Standard	0	1	-1		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Crown Hills School	Unsecured	1	9v9	2	Standard	0	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site available for community use but no existing use of football pitches. Scope to increase play at both peak periods and across the week. Pitch quality standard
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	0	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
East	Davenport Road	Secured Community	1	5v5	4	Standard	0.5	1	3		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional	Site accommodates both training and

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		Use											play	matches. Pavilion of limited quality with just one communal room, which can be restrictive as site accommodates clubs of a variety of ages. No remaining spare capacity for 11v11 or 7v7 at peak time, but scope to accommodate other play outside these periods. Pitch quality standard with some evidence of unevenness and a need to improve fertilisation.
			1	7v7	4	Standard	1	2	2.5		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	

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			1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	1	1		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	3	4	0		0	2	Able to sustain additional play	
West	English Martyrs School	N/a			0	Standard	0	5	-5		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Eyres Monsell Community Centre	N/a		1 post for 11v11 and 1 for 9v9, used for informal games only	0	Standard	0	1	-1		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Friar Lane	Secured Community Use	1	5v5	4	Standard	0	2	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Pitches are overplayed as a result of accommodating both training and matches. Club renting out pitches to other users to increase income (to enable

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														<p>maintenance of site) but this is having a detrimental effect on quality. Wooden changing hut also of limited quality. Ongoing quality deterioration likely if overuse cannot be addressed, but club indicate that they struggle to access 3g pitches and have no option but to train on facilities.</p>
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	3	4	-2		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
West	Fulhurst Community College	Unsecured	1	5v5	4	Standard	0	1	3		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	<p>Pitches in reasonable condition although evidence of compaction. Relatively limited use by the local</p>

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														community and therefore spare capacity both across the week and at peak time, even taking into account curricular requirements.
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Adult 11v11	2		0.5	2	0.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
East	Gateway College	Unsecured	1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1.5	3	-0.5		0	0.5	Pitch overplayed	Site accommodates teams across the weekend and provides access to changing facilities although pitch is susceptible to waterlogging. Inclusion of curricular activity

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														means that site is overplayed and there is no remaining spare capacity across the week or at peak time.
East	Hamilton College	N/a			0	Standard	0	4	-4		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
East	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	1	5v5	4	Standard	1	3	1.5		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	Important FIS site for large club, facilities include good quality changing accommodation. Without taking into account the impact of the club training on site (Saturday morning) there is spare capacity. The use of pitches for training however means that pitch capacity is much more

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														compromised and there is no remaining spare capacity on adult pitches, youth pitches or 9v9 pitches. Club are currently seeking 3g AGP to accommodate training activity and some matches.
			2	7v7	8	Standard	1.5	2	5.75		0.5	2	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	9v9	2	Standard	2	4	-2		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	2	3	-1		0	0	Site overplayed	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2.5	5	-2.5		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
West	Heatherbrook Primary School	Unsecured	1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	2	0.5		0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional	Site currently functioning as overspill venue



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													play	for Beaumont Town while facilities are being refurbished. Evidence of some heavy use and no changing accommodation on site. Remaining spare capacity is limited due to need to also accommodate curricular activity.
East	Highfield Rangers	Secured Community Use	1	7v7	4	Standard	0	0	4		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site accommodates pyramid team as well as teams from Leicester Nirvana who require this standard of pitch. All pitches are currently able to sustain additional play and teams train off site to maintain pitch

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														quality. Recent investment into maintenance has seen pitch quality improve, particularly the adult pitch although further work is required on other pitches. Changing rooms (4 rooms) enable adult play on 2 pitches. Club seeking AGP to enhance capacity
			1	9v9	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	3	3	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
	Hockley Farm	N/a		Not used	0	Standard	0	1	-1		0	0	Able to sustain additional	

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													play	
East	Humberstone Park	Secured Community Use	1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1	1	1		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site able to sustain additional play across the week but no remaining capacity at peak time. Pitch quality basic with some uneven patches and divots although changing facilities are ageing and of limited quality. Site contains changing accommodation with just 2 rooms, but this is sufficient for the one pitch.
East	Judgemeadow School	Secured Community Use	5	7v7	20	Standard	0	5	15		5	5	Able to sustain additional play	Site is large playing fields which is marked flexibly according to demand and pitch layout

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														<p>therefore varies. The pitches are heavily used, including for teams travelling from other authorities. Taking into account curricular use, there is spare capacity on the 7v7 and youth pitches, but adult and 9v9 pitches are heavily used (caused in part by overmarking of 9v9 pitches on adult pitches). Site has AGP that is used for training and on site manager. Car parking can be constrained on pitch days but pitch quality perceived to be adequate overall by clubs. Site visit confirms</p>

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														adequate pitch quality but longer term concerns over the ability of the site to sustain high levels of wear and tear over the season
			1	9v9	2	Standard	3	4	-2		0	1	Site overplayed	
			3	Adult 11v11	6	Standard	5.75	9	-2.75		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
			6	Youth 11v11	12	Standard	3.5	10	2.5		2.5	6	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Kingfisher Youth Club	Secured Community Use	1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Leicester Employees Ground	Secured Community Use	1	9v9	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site receives relatively limited use and therefore has spare capacity on all pitches at peak time. The

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														site is relatively damp and suffers from waterlogging and the posts are in poor condition. Changing accommodation also of restricted quality
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1	1	1		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	1	3g	0		5	5	-5		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	5v5	4	Standard	2	2	2		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	Busy site including an AGP and a high quality grass pitch. Extensively used but well

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														maintained and of standard to good quality. Changing facilities excellent. Small amount of spare capacity remaining across the week but at capacity at peak time on all pitches, matches scheduled to allow high number of games to be played. AGP use also well integrated within club match scheduling.
			1	7v7	4	Standard	3.5	4	0.5		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	9v9	2	Standard	2	2	0		0	0.5	Played to level site can sustain	

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			2	Adult 11v11	6	Good	7	7	-1		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2	2	0		0	0.5	Played to level site can sustain	
	Madani Boys School / Girls School	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
	Martin Street	n/a		Not used this season (no goals up)	0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
	Moorfields Rec	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
West	Mowmacre Sport and Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	1.5	2	2.5		0.5	2	Able to sustain additional play	Pitch quality basic but functional, with some evidence of standing water and uneven patches. Changing accommodation also limited.



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														Activity focused at peak time meaning that there is spare capacity across the week but only limited remaining capacity (0.5) at peak time.
West	Narborough Road	Secured Community Use	1	7v7	4	Standard	0	0	4		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site has scope to accommodate additional use and is currently used by teams from other districts travelling in. Facility improving in quality although some evidence of fairy ring fungus.
			1	9v9	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
West	New College	Secured Community	1	7v7	4	Standard	4	5	-1		0	1	Site	Large FIS site that includes AGP.

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	Leicester	Use											overplayed	Pitches heavily used when taking into account curricular need (although some spare capacity on all pitches when excluding curricular activity). Facilities of good quality and large bar and changing accommodation block available on site (6 rooms). Pitch quality adequate with good first team pitch, but require strong maintenance regimes to accommodate the level of use to which they are subjected.
			2	9v9	4	Standard	2	4	0		0	2	Played to level site can sustain	

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			1	adult 11v11	3	Standard	1.5	3	0.5		0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	
			4	Youth 11v11	8	Standard	3.5	8	0.5		0.5	3	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	3g	0		3	3	-3			1	Able to sustain additional play	
West	New Park Boys Club	Secured Community Use	1	Adult 11v11	1	Poor	1.5	2	-0.5		0	1	Site overplayed	Pitch capacity limited by poor quality of facility and site is overplayed across the week, meaning that there is no remaining spare capacity at peak time. Improvement to quality to standard would see potential to accommodate a further game at

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														peak time.
	Portishead Road Playing Fields	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
West	Riverside Investment	Secured Community Use	1	AGP	0		2.5	3	-2.5		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site newest FIS site and contains AGP, used in conjunction with Aylestone Recreation Ground meaning that any overplay can be rectified. Quality of pitches improving and adult pitch is now maintained by club who have secured support and advice on this. Changing accommodation and clubhouse also provided. Site has no remaining capacity at peak time and all

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														further use is located at the Recreation Ground.
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	2.5	3	-0.5		0	0.5	Overplayed	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2	2	0		0	1	Played to level site can sustain	
East	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	1	5v5	4	Standard	0	3	1.5		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site is FIS site accommodating three clubs at current time and there is a perception that demand is starting to outstrip supply. Level of play heavily influenced by use of pitches for training on a Saturday as well as match play on a Sunday. No remaining capacity at peak time for youth or 9v9 play, while spare capacity

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														for other age groups is also very limited. Reflecting the high levels of use, pitches are compacted and there are some issues with drainage. Clubs seeking use of AGP to improve capacity of site.
			2	7v7	8	Standard	2.5	5	3		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			2	9v9	4	Standard	2	4	0		0	1	Played to level site can sustain	
			2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	2.5	5	-1		0	2	Site overplayed	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2	4	-2		0	0	Site overplayed	
East	Rushey School	Mead	N/a		0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional	

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													play	
South	Saffron Lane Stadium	Secured Community Use	1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	1	1.5		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	Limited use of existing pitch. Quality standard and scope to accommodate play both across the week and at peak time
South	Samworth Enterprise Academy	Unsecured	1	7v7	4	Standard	0	0	4		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site acts as overspill for Linwood Playing Fields which is at capacity. Important venue which also accommodates school use. Spare capacity at peak time but this is used by clubs at Aylestone Park PF depending upon fixture scheduling, which are all allocated to the Linwood Playing Fields site.

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			1	9v9	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
	Scraptoft Primary School	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
	Sir Jonathan North	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
	Sir Thomas More Playing Field	N/a		7v7	0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
East	Soar Valley College	N/a	1	youth 11v11	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Spinney Hills Park	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain	



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													additional play	
South	Spinney Park (next to New Parks Social Club)	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
East	St Pauls Catholic School	N/a			0	Standard	0	0	0		0	0	Able to sustain additional play	
South	Sturdee Road	Secured Community Use	3	Adult 11v11	6	Standard	1.5	2	4.5		1.5	3	Able to sustain additional play	Pitches of standard quality although approaching poor categorisation, limited quality including burnt lines and issues with fertilisation. Low levels of demand have seen only two pitches marked out in recent times. Spare capacity at both peak time and across the week.

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
														Supply would equal demand if pitches became poor condition.
East	The Emerald Centre	Secured Community Use	2	Adult 11v11	4	Standard	2.5	3	1		1	2	Able to sustain additional play	Limited remaining spare capacity at peak time or across the week, influenced by use of floodlit pitch for a small amount of training as well as matches. Drainage problems one of the larger pitches impact pitch quality later in this season.

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	1.5	2	0.5		0	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	Deterioration to poor would see these facilities overplayed. Changing rooms for 4 teams currently.
South	The Lancaster School	Unsecured	2	Youth 11v11	4	Standard	0.5	3	1.5		1.5	2	Able to sustain additional play	Spare capacity both across the week and at peak time, even taking into account school use. Pitch quality standard.

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
East	Thurnby Rangers FC	Secured Community Use	1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1	1	1		0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	Pitch currently in standard condition and well maintained. Floodlights also provide opportunity for training. Capacity more limited on Sunday morning when just 0.5 more match equivalents could be accommodated.
South	Victoria Park	Secured Community Use	1	5v5	4	Standard	1	2	2		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site currently able to sustain additional play across the week, but spare capacity is more limited at peak time. Used by New Era Football Academy as well as for competitive match play. Pitch quality, particularly

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
														evenness and drainage lacking in parts and changing is dated with a lack of shower facilities. Some evidence of fairy ring. Site also functions as public events arena which can impact upon ability to sustain matches.
			1	7v7	4	Standard	1	2	2		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	2	0.5		0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	
			5	Adult 11v11	10	Standard	4	7	3		1.5	4.5	Able to sustain additional play	

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
South	Welford Road	Secured Community Use	6	Adult 11v11	12	Standard	7	7	5		0	6	Able to sustain additional play	Site able to sustain additional play across the week but no remaining capacity at peak time. All pitches compacted and uneven underfoot but would benefit from improved goal posts. Some line markings are burnt on and crossing the athletics track which causes a trip hazard. Changing facilities old and dated and would benefit from upgrade.

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
South	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	5v5	4	Standard	0	0	4		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	Site currently used by Wigston FC but at risk of closure as up for sale. Used for both training (Saturday morning) and matches (Sunday). Limited spare capacity available on a Sunday morning, with only the small sized pitches able to accommodate further play. The youth pitch is overplayed once training is taken into account. Pitch quality standard but club are looking to purchase site in order to secure long term access to site.
			1	7v7	4	Standard	0.5	1	3		0.5	1	Able to sustain	

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
													additional play	
			1	9v9	2	Standard	0.5	1	1		0.5	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	2	4	-2		0	0.5	Site overplayed	
			1	Adult 11v11	2	Standard	1	2	0		0	0	Played to level site can sustain	
West	Western Park	Secured Community Use	6	Adult 11v11	12	Standard	4.5	5	7.5		1.5	6	Able to sustain additional play	Spare capacity both across the week and at peak time, all play takes place on a Sunday morning. Pitch quality is adequate and consistent across the pitches. Dog fouling is perceived to be the main issue.



Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
East	Willowbrook Playing Fields	Secured Community Use	2	Adult 11v11	4		1	1	3		1	2	Able to sustain additional play	Spare capacity across the week and at peak time. One pitch is barred and there is evidence of other more informal use taking place as well as more formal competitive games. Clubs believe site to be one of the better quality Council facilities.
East	Willowbrook Primary School	Unsecured	1	7v7	4	Standard	1.5	4	0		0	1	Played to level site can sustain	Site at capacity as it is used for curricular use, as well as training and match play. Small site with basic facilities and changing facilities in adjacent youth club (2 rooms), but adequate condition. Club have aspirations

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
														for expansion and limited opportunities for them to achieve this.
			1	5v5	4	Standard	1	3	1		0	1	Able to sustain additional play	
East	Willowbrook Social Club	Secured Community Use	1	9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1	0		0	1	Played to level site can sustain	Poor quality facility with line markings etc not really evident. Site includes changing accommodation (shared with teams using primary school facilities) but would benefit from improved maintenance and more formal pitch markings.
South	Wyggeston and QE College	Unsecured	2	5v5	8	Standard	0	0	8		2	2	Able to sustain additional	

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Pitch Capacity	Rating	Total Match equivalents (Club Only)	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM	Current Position	Site Overview
													play	
			1	adult 11v11	2	Standard	0	0	2		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	
			1	youth 11v11	2	Standard	1	1	1		1	1	Able to sustain additional play	

### **Current Picture**

9.101 The site overviews set out in Table 9.8 provide an understanding of the issues regarding the adequacy of pitch provision across Leicester and the situation at individual sites.

9.102 Issues can be further evaluated looking first at the adequacy of provision for each type of pitch, as well as exploring whether the situation differs in the three sub areas of the city.

9.103 The key issues arising are summarised in the sections that follow and the overarching issues identified are pulled together in a summary table (Table 9.9).

### **Adult Football Pitches (11v11)**

9.104 Table 9.9 overleaf summarises the use and spare capacity at full size grass football pitches. Peak time analysis reflects the peak time for adult football (Sunday morning).

**Table 9.9: Full Sized Football Pitches**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Rating	Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sun AM	Current Position	Availability at Peak Time	Availability across the week
East	Davenport Road	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	4	0	0	Able to sustain additional play	7 across the week, but just 1.75 match equivalents taking into account overplay	3.5
	Gateway College	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	2.5	-0.5	0	Pitch overplayed		
	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	3	-1	0	Site overplayed		
	Highfield Rangers	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	3	1	1	Able to sustain additional play		
	Humberstone Park	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	1	1	0	Able to sustain additional play		
	Judgemeadow School	Secured Community Use	3	Standard	6	8.75	-2.75	0	Site overplayed		
	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	5	-1	0	Site overplayed		

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Rating	Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sun AM	Current Position	Availability at Peak Time	Availability across the week
	The Emerald Centre	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	3	1	1	Able to sustain additional play		
	Thurnby Rangers FC	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	1	1	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Willowbrook Playing Fields	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	1	3	1	Able to sustain additional play		
	Aylestone Playing Fields and Meadows	Secured Community Use	3	Standard	6	0	6	3	Able to sustain additional play		
	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Crown Hills School	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play		
South	Friar Lane	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	4	-2	0	Site overplayed	23 match equivalents, but 20 taking into account overlay	9

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Rating	Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sun AM	Current Position	Availability at Peak Time	Availability across the week
	Kingfisher Youth Club	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play		
	Leicester old Employees Ground	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	1	1	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	2	Good	6	7	-1	0	Site overplayed		
	Canal Street - St Andrews FC	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain		
	Sturdee Road	Secured Community Use	3	Standard	6	1.5	4.5	1.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Victoria Park	Secured Community Use	5	Standard	10	7	3	1.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Welford Road	Secured Community Use	6	Standard	12	7	5	0	Able to sustain additional play		

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Rating	Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sun AM	Current Position	Availability at Peak Time	Availability across the week
	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain		
	Babington Community College	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Beaumont Leys School	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Beaumont Park Pitch	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	2	2.5	-0.5	0	Site overplayed		
	Braunstone Park Pitch	Secured Community Use	4	Standard	8	3.5	4.5	2	Able to sustain additional play		
	Fulhurst Community College	Unsecured	1		2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
West	Mowmacre Sport and Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	1.5	2.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	15 match equivalents, 13.5 taking into account overplay	6



Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Rating	Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents including Other Activity	Match Play and Other Use (Spare Capacity)	Sun AM	Current Position	Availability at Peak Time	Availability across the week
	New College Leicester	Secured Community Use	1	Good	3	2.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	New Park Boys Club	Secured Community Use	1	Poor	1	1.5	-0.5	0	Site overplayed		
	Riverside Investment	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	2.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed		
	Western Park	Secured Community Use	6	Standard	12	4.5	7.5	1.5	Able to sustain additional play		

9.105 Table 9.9 reveals that there is some spare capacity in the existing stock of adult pitches across the city. The key issues arising from the Table are;

- taking into account overplay, across the week, there are 37 match equivalents available on adult pitches. This however reduces to 18.5 at peak time. This suggests that pitch provision for adults remains sufficient;
- there are nine sites that are currently overplayed – Gateway College, Hamilton Park, Judgemeadow Community College, Rushey Fields, Friar Lane and Epworth, Linwood Playing Fields, Beaumont Park, New Park Boys Club and Riverside Investment Centre. With the exception of Gateway College, New Park Boys Club and Friar Lane and Epworth, these are all large clubs that benefitted from the FIS and have seen participation increase at a rapid rate. Issues at Beaumont Park are likely to be temporary as improved facilities are installed. There is limited overplay of any of the Council parks facilities, which have fewer facilities and tend to attract more grass roots single / two team clubs;
- only Aylestone Playing Fields and Braunstone Park are able to accommodate more than 2 additional games at peak time; and
- there are however, several Council owned pitch sites that are out of action this season due to lack of demand, or are able to accommodate more pitches than are currently doing so. This suggests that supply could be boosted if demand arose. As highlighted however, the majority of overplay is associated with popular venues and large clubs and there is more limited demand for the Council venues.

9.106 Supplementing the availability of grass pitches, at peak time, there are four AGPs on the FA register that can be used for competitive football fixtures. There is scope to increase match play on these sites, although all pitches are currently used for other activity on a Sunday morning, suggesting that within the existing stock opportunities to reduce pressures on adult pitches are minimal.

9.107 Looking in more detail at the location of spare capacity on grass pitches:

#### **East**

- There is a degree of spare capacity in each area of the city. This is most compromised in the east, where spare capacity is just 3.5 at peak time, suggesting that there are limited opportunities for growth. Spare capacity is greatest in the South of the city (9)
- In the east, overplay is focused on Hamilton Park, Rushey Fields and Judgemeadow (all large multi pitch sites accommodating large clubs) as well as Gateway College. This is primarily caused by use of grass pitches for training, as well as high demand at the identified sites. There is limited remaining spare capacity at peak time, with just Highfield Rangers, The Emerald Centre, Willowbrook Playing Fields and Thurnby Rangers having spare capacity. There is therefore limited scope to expand adult football in this part of the city within the current infrastructure

#### **South**

- Facilities are less compromised in the South with just Friar Lane and Epworth experiencing overplay, as well as heavy use of the pitches at Linwood Playing Fields. There is also limited remaining spare capacity at other club sites, with Canal Street (FC St Andrews) and Welford Road (Wigston FC) at capacity. While overall there is

spare capacity therefore, it is clear that there are some issues at club bases that need to be addressed

- There is spare capacity at Aylestone Recreation Ground, but this facility acts as overspill for GNG FC from the Riverside Investment site. The majority of spare capacity is therefore at the Council venues of Aylestone Playing Fields, Sturdee Road and Victoria Park. Crown Hills School provides further spare capacity and is not currently accommodating any community use

### **West**

- With the exception of New Park Boys Club and Beaumont Park FC (both impacted by poor quality) the only remaining overplay in the west takes place at Riverside Investment. There is however spare capacity at the clubs overspill ground (in the south) and fixtures can be scheduled here. The remainder of sites all have a small amount of spare capacity and all are able to accommodate more play at peak time as well as during the week. Unlike the east and the south, there are no smaller clubs in this part of the city with capacity issues.

9.108 For adult football therefore, provision is sufficient to meet current demand overall but there is little room for growth at some of the larger clubs. The high peak time demand means that the quality of facilities has a lower impact than it may otherwise do, as activity on pitches (particularly those on Council sites serving single team clubs) is primarily focused on one day.

### **Impact of none secured community use**

9.109 There is a lower reliance on unsecured pitches for adult football than for other forms of the game, with 90% of adult pitches used currently secured.

9.110 There are six sites each containing one adult pitch that are unsecured - Babington Community College, Beaumont Leys School, Crown Hills School, Fulhurst Community College, Gateway College and Welford Road Wigston FC. With the exception of Gateway College, all of these pitches currently have spare capacity. There are only 4 community match equivalents currently playing across these sites.

9.111 When unsecured pitches (which are all located at school sites) are excluded, the total spare capacity at peak time reduces to 16 match equivalents, while spare capacity across the week (taking into account overplay) is equivalent to 34.75 match equivalents. The four match equivalents currently accommodated at the school sites would also need to be relocated (34 match equivalents across the week and 12 match equivalents remain at peak time). This remains sufficient to meet current demand overall, although as identified there are some site specific issues that need to be addressed.

### **Youth Football**

9.112 In reality, some sites are used by both adult teams and youth teams and there is little difference in terms of the size of pitches. The capacity of smaller youth pitches is however summarised in Table 9.10. It indicates that spare capacity is much more limited than for adult pitches.

**Table 9.10: Capacity at Youth Football Pitches**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Total Pitch Capacity	Total Match Equivalents Including all Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Availability at Peak Time
East	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	4.5	-2.5	0	Site overplayed	No spare capacity - 1.5 taking into account overplay	2.5
	Judgemeadow School	Secured Community Use	6	Standard	12	9.5	2.5	2.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	4	-2	0	Site overplayed		
	The Emerald Centre	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	1.5	0.5	0	Able to sustain additional play		
	Aylestone Playing Fields and Meadows	Secured Community Use	2	Standard	4	3	1	0	Able to sustain additional play		
	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Able to sustain additional play		
	Crown Hills School	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play		
South	Leicester old Employees Ground	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play	4.5 taking into account overplay	4.5
	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain		
	Samworth Enterprise Academy	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play		
	Canal Street - St Andrews FC	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	3	-1	0	Site overplayed		
	The Lancaster School	Unsecured	2	Standard	4	2.5	1.5	1.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	4	-2	0	Site overplayed		
	Beamont Leys School	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play		
West	Fulhurst Community College	Unsecured	1	Standard	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play	2.5 match equivalents	2.5
	New College Leicester	Secured Community Use	4	Standard	8	7.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play		
	Riverside Investment	Secured Community Use	1	Standard	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain		

- 9.113 Table 9.10 reveals that overall, there is a small amount of spare capacity at specific youth pitches. Spare capacity across the city overall equates to just 5.5 match equivalents when taking into account overplay. (Overplay is equivalent to 7.5 match equivalents while spare capacity is 13 match equivalents).
- 9.114 Overplay is concentrated at larger sites that are also used for training, specifically Hamilton Playing Fields, Rushey Fields, Welford Road (Wigston United) and Canal Street.
- 9.115 While there is some spare capacity, this is relatively limited with only Judgemeadow Community College able to sustain more than two additional match equivalents per week. This site is managed flexibly in terms of pitch layout and so the spare capacity may not always be available depending upon the fixtures that week. There is an element of spare capacity at Samworth Enterprise Academy, although this venue acts as overspill for Linwood Playing Fields and no use of the existing pitch at Leicester Old Employees Ground. Noticeably, spare capacity is focused at satellite and schools sites while club bases are constrained.
- 9.116 Geographically, there is little variation within the city in terms of the amount of spare capacity available, with pitch provision relatively constrained in all areas. Like adult pitches however, pitch provision is most constrained in the east of the city, where there is no spare capacity when taking into account overplay and just 2.5 match equivalents at peak time. This is influenced by the overuse of both Rushey Fields and Hamilton Park.
- 9.117 There is greater capacity in the south to accommodate additional demand, with only Canal Street and Welford Road at capacity and no further capacity at Linwood Playing Fields. Like adult pitches, these are the club bases and all spare capacity is at satellite sites.
- 9.118 A similar situation also exists in the west of the city, with heavy demand on the Riverside Investment site and at New College and spare capacity at the nearby school sites. There is limited remaining scope to accommodate adult play.
- 9.119 As with adult football pitches, the sites containing 3g AGPs are already used at peak time for youth football although there would be potential for further use outside Sunday morning (for example Sunday afternoon matches).

### **Unsecured Pitches**

- 9.120 Table 9.10 reveals that there are 6 sites containing unsecured youth pitches. The already existing low levels of spare capacity mean that this is a particular concern, especially given that much of the spare capacity is located at these sites. There are 2 match equivalents per week however taking place at Welford Road, Wigston FC, which is considered unsecure due to the site currently being up for sale.
- 9.121 Excluding unsecured sites, spare capacity equates to just 1 match equivalent across the week and 4 match equivalents at peak time. There are 2.5 match equivalents associated with the community taking on youth pitches at unsecured sites and these would need to be relocated. There would be insufficient capacity to do so if all unsecured sites were to be lost.
- 9.122 As there are no unsecured pitches in the east, the impact would be felt in the south and the west of the city and supply would broadly equate to demand in all areas.

## 9 v 9 Pitches

9.123 Table 9.11 summarises the use and spare capacity at 9 v 9 football pitches. It reveals that like for youth pitches, there is very limited spare capacity across the city, with spare capacity equating to just 12 match equivalents across the week and 9 match equivalents at peak time.

- Hamilton Playing Fields and Judgemeadow Community College are the only sites in the city to be overplayed, while Rushey Fields, Linwood Playing Fields, New College and Willowbrook Social Club are played to the level that the site can sustain. Again this suggests that high levels of activity are concentrated on the club bases and that spare capacity is primarily located on the wider satellite sites
- There are no sites able to accommodate more than one additional match equivalent at peak time, although the shorter nature of games on 9v9 pitches means that where spare capacity is available on the site, matches could be staggered. This would see a further 6.5 match equivalents created at peak time, which alleviates many of theoretical pressures on pitches, but does not address the capacity issues at sites that are already overplayed.

**Table 9.11: 9 v 9 Football Pitches**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity	Total Match Equivalents Including Other Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Additional capacity if accommodating two consecutive fixtures
East	Davenport Road	Secured Community Use	1	2	1	1	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	Spare capacity -1 taking into account overplay	1.5	0.5
	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	1	2	4	-2	0	Site overplayed			
	Highfield Rangers	Secured Community Use	1	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Judgemeadow School	Secured Community Use	1	2	4	-2	0	Site overplayed			
	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	2	4	4	0	0	Played to level site can sustain			
	Willowbrook Social Club	Secured Community Use	1	1	1	0	0	Played to level site can sustain			
South	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	1	2	1.5	0.5	0	Able to sustain additional play	Spare capacity 8.5	4.5	0.5
	Crown Hills School	Unsecured	1	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play			
	Leicester old Employees Ground	Secured Community Use	1	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	1	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain			1
	Samworth Enterprise Academy	Unsecured	1	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play			
	Victoria Park	Secured Community Use	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			
	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	2	1	1	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			0.5
	Saffron Lane Stadium	Secured Community Use	1	2	0.5	1.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			1

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity	Total Match Equivalents Including Other Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Additional capacity if accommodating two consecutive fixtures
West	Babington Community College	Unsecured	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			
	Beamont Lodge Primary School	Unsecured	1	2	2	0	0	Played to level site can sustain			
	Beamont Leys School	Unsecured	1	2	1	1	1	Able to sustain additional play			
	Heatherbrook Primary School	Unsecured	1	2	1.5	0.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			
	Narborough Road	Secured Community Use	1	2	0	2	1	Able to sustain additional play			
	New College Leicester	Secured Community Use	2	4	4	0	0	Played to level site can sustain	Spare capacity 4	3	



- 9.124 Looking in more detail at the geographical spread of capacity, it can be seen that again pressures are greatest in the east of the city. There are insufficient pitches to accommodate demand across the week (-1) and only 1 match equivalent available at peak time. The staggering of fixtures will only create a further 1.5 match equivalents at peak time, meaning that there is very little scope for growth of 9v9 football. These pressures are caused by the overplay at Hamilton Park and Rushey Fields, as well as high levels of use at Judgemeadow Community College and Willowbrook Social club. Highfield Road is the only site with spare capacity and this is limited.
- 9.125 In the south of the city, there is a greater level of spare capacity although provision still remains finely balanced with demand. There are no pitches that are overplayed although both Linwood Playing Fields and Aylestone Recreation Ground are played to the level that they can sustain. Most of the remaining pitches have at least some spare capacity.
- 9.126 There is no overplay in the west of the city although spare capacity equates to just 3 match equivalents (4 if staggering fixtures). Notably, several primary schools are accommodating teams from Beaumont Leys this season in advance of the move back to Beaumont Park next year, where capacity will increase. Staggering of fixtures would further increase spare capacity to 8.5 although this would again not impact on the sites that are already constrained. New College is already at capacity and so there is no scope for further activity at this site.

#### **Impact of Unsecured Pitches**

- 9.127 There are 7 sites with unsecured pitches for 9v9. The most significant of these are Welford Road (Wigston United) and Samworth Enterprise College, both of which currently accommodate community use. The pitches at Beaumont Leys are primary schools are a temporary solution to address shortages while work is being carried out to Beaumont Park. Pitches at Babington Community School are also important for community use.
- 9.128 There are 2.5 match equivalents community use currently taking place on unsecured pitches. Loss of these sites would see a need to relocate these games, leading to an overall reduction in spare capacity to 9.5 (6.5 at peak time). There would therefore remain sufficient capacity but with limited scope for the growth of 9v9 football.

#### **7 v 7 Pitches**

- 9.129 Table 9.12 summarises the use and spare capacity at 7 v 7 football pitches. It indicates that pitch provision for 7v7 football is much less constrained than the larger pitch types, with 52.25 match equivalents available over the week across the city although capacity at peak time is more limited (11 match equivalents). If fixtures are to be staggered, which is possible due to the short timeframe of current games, this increases to 20.5 match equivalents, suggesting that provision is sufficient to meet demand.
- 9.130 Pitches at Beaumont Park (influenced by the poor quality) and New College are the only pitches that are currently overplayed. Spare capacity at all other sites is however relatively minimal, with few sites being able to sustain more than 1 game per week (Judgemeadow Community College is the only site that could).

**Table 9.12: Use and Spare Capacity at 7 v 7 Football Pitches**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity	Total Match Playing Including Other Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Additional capacity if accommodating two consecutive fixtures
East	Davenport Road	Secured Community Use	1	4	1.5	2.5	0	Able to sustain additional play	30	7	1
	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	2	8	2.25	5.75	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			2
	Highfield Rangers	Secured Community Use	1	4	0	4	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Judgemeadow School	Secured Community Use	5	20	5	15	5	Able to sustain additional play			5
	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	2	8	5	3	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			2
	Willowbrook Primary School	Unsecured	1	4	4	0	0	Played to level site can sustain			0
South	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	3	12	1.5	10.5	1.5	Able to sustain additional play	22	3	3
	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	1	4	3.5	0.5	0	Able to sustain additional play			0.5
	Samworth Enterprise Academy	Unsecured	1	4	0	4	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Canal Street - St Andrews FC	Secured Community Use	1	4	2	2	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Victoria Park	Secured Community Use	1	4	2	2	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	4	1	3	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			1
West	Babington Community College	Unsecured	1	4	2	2	0	Able to sustain additional play	3.5 taking into account overplay	1	1
	Beaumont Park Pitch	Secured Community Use	1	2	3.5	-1.5	0	Site overplayed			0
	Narborough Road	Secured Community Use	1	4	0	4	1	Able to sustain additional play			1

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Total Capacity	Total Match Playing Including Other Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Additional capacity if accommodating two consecutive fixtures
	New College Leicester	Secured Community Use	1	4	5	-1	0	Site overplayed			0

- 9.131 Geographically, there is spare capacity in both the eastern (30 match equivalents per week, 7 available at peak time and 18 if games are staggered) and southern (22 match equivalents per week, 3 available at peak time and 10.5 if games are staggered) areas of the city. There are no sites that are overplayed and only Willowbrook Playing Fields that is played to the level the site can sustain with no remaining capacity.
- 9.132 Provision is much more compromised however in the west, where Beaumont Leys Park (impacted by poor quality) and New College are located and there is just one additional match equivalent available at peak time.

### **Unsecured Pitches**

- 9.133 There are four sites with unsecured access, specifically Willowbrook Primary School, Samworth Enterprise Academy, Welford Road (Wigston FC) and Babington Community College. Three match equivalents take place on these sites, primarily at Willowbrook Primary School and Welford Road.
- 9.134 Loss of these sites for 7v7 would not generate shortages in provision, but would place greater pressures, particularly in the west (Babington Community College) where there would be no remaining spare capacity at peak time once usage was relocated.

### **5 v 5 pitches**

- 9.135 Table 9.13 outlines the spare capacity that is available at 5 v 5 pitches. It reveals that like at 7v7 pitches, there is good availability across the week and at peak time, particularly if matches are accommodated consecutively. Across the city as a whole, spare capacity equates to 33.5 while there are 7 match equivalents at peak time. This however increases to 20 match equivalents if two games are accommodated consecutively on each pitch.

**Table 9.13: 5 v 5 Pitches**

Sub Area	Site Name	Access	Number of Pitches	Total Match Playing Including Other Activity	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity across the week	Spare Capacity at Peak Time	Current Position	Availability across the week	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Additional capacity if accommodating two consecutive fixtures
East	Davenport Road	Secured Community Use	1	0.5	1	3	0.5	Able to sustain additional play	7	1.5	1
	Hamilton Park	Secured Community Use	1	1	2.5	1.5	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Rushey Fields	Secured Community Use	1	0	2.5	1.5	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Willowbrook Primary School	Unsecured	1	1	3	1	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
South	Aylestone Recreation Ground	Secured Community Use	1	1	1	3	0	Able to sustain additional play	24	4.5	1
	Friar Lane	Secured Community Use	1	0	2	2	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Linwood Park	Secured Community Use	1	2	2	2	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Canal Street - St Andrews FC	Secured Community Use	1	1.5	1.5	2.5	0.5	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Victoria Park	Secured Community Use	1	1	2	2	0	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Welford Road Wigston FC	Unsecured	1	0	0	4	1	Able to sustain additional play			1
	Wyggeston and QE College	Unsecured	2	0	0	8	2	Able to sustain additional play			2
West	Fulhurst Community College	Unsecured	1	0	1	3	1	Able to sustain additional play	3	1	1

9.136 There is no evidence of overplay on any 5v5 pitches currently and all sites are able to sustain additional play. Capacity is more constrained at peak time at the club bases (Hamilton Park, Willowbrook Primary School, Aylestone Playing Fields, Linwood Playing Fields and Victoria Park).

9.137 Pitch provision is most constrained in the west of the city, where Fulhurst Community school is the only site. There is however no unmet demand in this area as 5v5 games are accommodated over pitches of other size. Pitch provision in the east is relatively limited, as pitch usage is heavy at Hamilton Park and Rushey Fields.

### Adequacy of Provision for Pyramid Clubs

9.138 As outlined earlier in this section, there are six clubs playing within the National League pyramid and therefore having specific requirements. The adequacy of provision for these clubs is summarised in Table 9.14. All clubs currently meet baseline specifications, although it should be noted that the quality of facilities is poor in comparison to some other clubs playing at the same level.

**Table 9.14: Adequacy of Provision for Pyramid Clubs**

Club	Comments Made	Additional Requirements
Leicester Nirvana First	Club currently using pitches at Highfield Rangers due to lack of available pitch at own site.	Club currently seeking full size 3g AGP on Hamilton Park.
Aylestone Park Seniors	Pitch quality and ancillary facilities excellent, site well maintained	Club currently meet requirements for specification
St Andrews First	Pitches built on tip and sinking and uneven.	Club currently seeking full size 3g AGP on own site to increase capacity.
Allexton & New Parks	Pitch quality at New College site good	Club currently meet requirements for specification
FC Guru Nanak Gurdwara (GNG)		First team pitch of good quality, club maintain this themselves and facility is in line with required specifications.
Friar Lane & Epworth	Changing facilities are basic and pitches are overused, meaning that quality is becoming inadequate. Club must rent out pitches to other clubs in order to fund maintenance. Quality deterioration will lead to lack of compliance with required standards.	Improved maintenance required.

### Overall Spatial Picture

9.139 Overall therefore, analysis has demonstrated that there is some spare capacity across the city, particularly for 5v5, 7v7 and adult football. There is however a lack of spare capacity for youth and 9v9 games. Access is particularly pressured on a Sunday morning, which is when the majority of activity takes place for all age groups.

- 9.140 It is also evident that the majority of instances of overplay / pitches approaching capacity are associated with larger (and often FIS) clubs, while the spare capacity is located at Council pitches serving single clubs (adult pitches) and school sites (all sizes of pitch).
- 9.141 The high levels of use at many of the FIS sites and other club bases in particular places great pressures on the quality of pitches, as it is pitch quality that dictates capacity. Any deterioration in quality will see pitches become further inadequate, but similarly, improvements to maintenance and quality will see pitches able to sustain further play. Many FIS clubs are now working to improve maintenance and quality and this should see capacity improve. Other smaller clubs are however experiencing capacity issues but are seeing quality deteriorate due to overplay and a lack of finances to invest in maintenance (often due to a loss of players and therefore income streams to other clubs). Friar Lane and Epworth and The Emerald Centre are examples of this.
- 9.142 Some of the overuse is caused by training on grass pitches (on a Saturday morning) and this doubles the amount of activity that pitches are required to sustain. Training was identified as a key concern for many of the clubs in the city and if this was to be addressed, greater capacity for competitive football may be realised.
- 9.143 While on some sites therefore capacity is constrained due to a requirement to accommodate play in several time slots, for many sites, peak time demand is the only use and there is a lower emphasis on quality. This may also help to maintain the quality of sites where it may otherwise be lower, for example where drainage issues are experienced.
- 9.144 The role of unsecured pitches is also evident and this represents a key threat to the city in future years. Much of the spare capacity is currently provided by school sites and the loss of access to these facilities would see supply precariously balanced with demand. Several smaller clubs are also reliant upon these sites for facilities. The recent closure of Rushey Mead School to the community is an example of this, as the relocation of a club has caused overplay at the nearest available site (Rushey Fields).
- 9.145 Pitch provision is most closely matched with demand in the east of the city, where there are shortages of some types of provision. The current quantitative picture with regards spare capacity is summarised in Table 9.15 overleaf. It illustrates the number of spare match equivalent sessions for each sport and includes all pitches, regardless of whether they are secured for community use.

**Table 9.15: Summary of Spare Capacity (Match Equivalents)**

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9 Football		7v7 Football		5v5 Football	
	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity	Peak Time Spare Capacity
East	1.75	3.5	-1.5	2.5	-1	1.5 (3 if consecutive matches)	30	7 (18 if consecutive matches)	7	1.5 (5.5 if consecutive matches)
South	20	9	4.5	4.5	8.5	4.5 (8.5 if consecutive matches)	22	31 (10.5 if consecutive matches)	24	4.5 (12.5 if consecutive matches)
West	13.5	6	2.5	2.5	4	3 (4 if consecutive matches)	3.5	1 (3 if consecutive matches)	3	1.5 (5.5 if consecutive matches)
TOTAL	35	18.5	5.5	9.5	11.5	9 (15.5 if consecutive matches)	56	11 (31.5 if consecutive matches)	33.5	7 (20 if consecutive matches)

9.146 Table 9.16 builds upon this, providing an area specific overview of the issues identified and the sites where capacity issues are currently experienced.



**Table 9.16: Area Specific Issues Identified**

Sub Area	Overall Adequacy of Provision	Specific Issues Identified
<b>East</b>	<p>Minimal spare capacity for adult football</p> <p>Lack of spare capacity for youth football - both overplay and issues with peak time availability</p> <p>Lack of 9v9 football opportunities taking into account overplay</p> <p>Sufficient facilities for 5v5 and 7v7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy use of Gateway College for adult football (unsecured)</li> <li>• Overplay on several pitches at both Hamilton Park and Rushey Fields - caused by use for training as well as matches for high numbers of teams. Clubs believe pitch quality becoming constrained. Pitch quality particularly important at these sites</li> <li>• Heavy use of Willowbrook Primary School which is unsecured and has only basic facilities</li> <li>• Importance of Judgemeadow as community venue. 3g pitch not currently on FA register</li> </ul>
<b>South</b>	<p>Spare capacity for adult football both across the week and at peak time</p> <p>Highest levels of provision for youth football but facilities still compromised (just .4.5 match equivalents available at peak time)</p> <p>Spare capacity on 9v9 pitches, 7v7 and 5v5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with capacity at Friar Lane and Epworth and Canal Street - both sites also have quality concerns</li> <li>• Heavy use of Linwood Playing Fields means Samworth Enterprise Academy is important overspill venue (currently unsecured). Pitch quality and maintenance regimes essential to sustain levels of play currently experienced</li> <li>• Potential sale of Wigston FC would generate pressures on pitches, particularly for youth football. Most spare capacity is on unsecured sites</li> <li>• Some sites have limited use</li> </ul>
<b>West</b>	<p>Spare capacity for adult football both across the week and at peak time</p> <p>Restricted provision for youth football (just 2.5 match equivalents available at peak time)</p> <p>Facilities for 9v9 also limited - only 4 match equivalents available even if facilities are used consecutively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of improved facilities at Beaumont Park as well as new AGP should increase provision</li> <li>• Quality of pitches at Beaumont Park and New Park Boys Club currently restrict capacity</li> <li>• Heavy use of Riverside Investment and New College emphasises importance of quality maintenance programme</li> <li>• Most spare capacity exists on school sites, many of which offer only</li> </ul>

Sub Area	Overall Adequacy of Provision	Specific Issues Identified
	Provision for 7v7 and 5v5 restricted	unsecured access.

## Potential Impact of budget / Quality Reductions

9.147 As demonstrated throughout this section, given the high peak time demand, many of the pitches are only used at peak time, and few are used in several time slots across the weekend. This can be beneficial to the quality of the pitches as it means that they are required to sustain lower levels of play than may otherwise be the case. The importance of high quality maintenance is however clear as many of the more popular venues are reaching their capacity and are sustaining high levels of activity with games played consecutively at peak time to meet demand. Added to this, many clubs feel that levels of use are starting to impact on facilities on certain sites while the quality of other pitches is considered to deteriorate during the season, particularly as issues with standing water and poor drainage are one of the most common concerns across the city pitches.

9.148 Financial and budget pressures were highlighted as one of the key concerns by many clubs, and local authorities are also facing an era of budgetary cuts and pressures to reduce services. Added to this, while in theory pitches are of standard quality and able to sustain two games per week, some sites achieved scores very close to the border between standard and poor. Site visits were undertaken in November and it is therefore possible that pitch quality will deteriorate further during the season, with pitches becoming poor quality as drainage issues arise.

9.149 It is therefore necessary to consider the implications of a reduction in playable pitches in the city.

9.150 To provide an estimate of the impact of this, Table 9.17 sets out the amount of spare capacity that would remain if demand remained equivalent to current levels, but the number of pitches was reduced by 25%. It reveals that spare capacity at peak time becomes very limited in all forms of the game.

**Table 9.17: Reduction in Pitches Available by 25%**

Pitch Type	Available Pitches	Reduction by 25%	Capacity of Pitches (Standard)	Match Equivalents (Current Matchplay only)	Spare Capacity	Match Equivalents (All Activity)	Peak Time Demand	Spare Capacity	
Adult Football (aged 16+)	63	47.25	94.5	69.5	25	90.25	4.25	37	10.25
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	27	20.25	40.5	28.5	12	48.5	-8	19	1.25
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	24	18	36	18.5	17.5	33	3	15	3
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	25	18.75	75	23.5	51.5	38.25	36.75	21	-2.25
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	13	9.75	39	8	31	18.5	20.5	7	2.75

9.151 Table 9.18 reveals the situation if all pitches were retained, but 25% fell from fall to standard. It indicates that the impact is lower, as supply is more tightly matched with demand at peak time than it is across the week.

**Table 9.18: Impact of 25% of pitches becoming poor**

Pitch Type	Available Pitches	Reduction by 25%	Capacity of Pitches (Standard)	Match Equivalents (Current Matchplay only)	Spare Capacity	Match Equivalents (All Activity)	Peak Time Demand	Spare Capacity
Adult Football (aged 16+)	63	15.75	110.25	69.5	40.75	90.25	20	26
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	27	6.75	47.25	28.5	18.75	48.5	-1.25	8
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	24	6	42	18.5	23.5	33	9	9
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	25	6.25	43.75	23.5	20.25	38.25	5.5	4
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	13	3.25	22.75	8	14.75	18.5	4.25	6

9.152 On the whole, and reflecting the balance of play where the more popular pitches are heavily used and the spare capacity is largely at sites with less use, any reduction in quality would be most significantly felt on sites that are already heavily used.

### **FA Demand Modelling**

9.153 AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football. The FA facility strategy (2013 – 2015) seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches.

9.154 The FA vision (November 2014) which is the result of extensive analysis on the facilities used for football (including grass roots) places greater emphasis on the benefits of 3g pitches and their importance for the future delivery of football. The vision seeks to build a sustainable model to ensure that the development of significantly higher numbers of AGPs can happen. In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations.

9.155 The vision sets several targets for 2020 including;

- the creation of football hubs in 30 cities – this will include increasing the number of top quality AGPs in urban areas by 130%. These hubs will be owned and managed by a new football organisation or trust;
- a 50% increase in the total number of full size, publicly accessible 3g AGPs across England, to over 1000; and
- more than 50% of all mini soccer and youth football matches being played on the best quality AGPs.

9.156 To an extent, the FIS in Leicester, which has already been delivered, puts the city ahead of the game with regards the provision of 3g AGPs, with many clubs already having access to such facilities through the innovative partnership arrangements. The requirement for further provision however arose through consultation, and these facilities remain a key means of delivering football moving forward.

9.157 FA data modelling therefore evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 42 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand).

9.158 Assuming that there is a total of 360 teams (including Disability teams but excluding those associated with Leicester City FC, who have their own private AGP), this would mean that there is a requirement for at least 8.6 full size AGPs in the city.

9.159 There are currently 6 full size pitches that are accessible and these are supplemented by smaller sized facilities at St Margaret's Pastures and Gateway College.

9.160 This would therefore suggest that in broad terms, there is a theoretical requirement for a further 2 x 3g pitches across the city. While this presents a theoretical perspective, it is however important to look at the use of facilities on the ground to determine the need for further AGP provision, particularly given the issues that were raised through consultation.

## The Local Situation

9.161 Football demand for AGPs can be categorised into three areas;

- matchplay (requires use of a 3g pitch that is included on the FA register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches and it was outlined that the 3g AGPs are becoming increasingly important;
- information / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and
- training (The FA would like to see all clubs having access to a 3g pitch – they discourage the use of sand based facilities).

### *Competitive use*

9.162 Pitches at Linwood Playing Fields, New College, Riverside and Aylestone Park are all currently used for competitive fixtures although there is scope to increase match play further.

### *Informal Leagues*

9.163 The pitches at St Margaret's Pastures accommodate the majority of informal football play, with most activity at FIS sites taken up by club usage.

### *Training*

9.164 The FIS sites are used by partner clubs, as well as by other local teams, some of whom are travelling into the city. The majority of clubs that do not use AGPs are small single team clubs, many of whom do not train at all or indicate that they cannot afford to access AGPs. Several larger clubs are however also currently without access to AGPs and indicate that they wish to use these facilities. These include Leicester Nirvana, Friar Lane and Epworth, Leicester Ladies, Leicester Santana, Leicester Bharat, Hamilton Youth, Thurnby Willows, Highfield Rangers, Stoneygate Lions and Oadby Owls. These are located particularly in the east of the city, where mapping indicated that there is a slight gap in provision. Note fa considering replacing old sand at Lancaster school with 3g.

9.165 Table 9.19 therefore outlines the current use and spare capacity on 3g AGPs across the city. It reveals that reflecting the findings of consultation, there is very little spare capacity available, and almost none within the desirable time slots.

9.166 It should also be noted that concerns have been raised about the lack of use of AGPs during the summer, as clubs tend to resort to training on grass once evenings are sufficiently light.

**Table 9.19: Current Use and Spare Capacity on 3g AGPs**

Site	Midweek Spare Capacity	Weekend Spare Capacity	Comments
Aylestone Recreation Ground	4 hours (all 5 - 6) ad hoc 1/3 of facility available	Saturday PM after 1.30. Sunday PM	Site could support adult senior play on Saturday PM or youth football on Sunday
Judgemeadow	2 hours (5pm	Access	Not currently on FA register and therefore not suitable for match play

Site	Midweek Spare Capacity	Weekend Spare Capacity	Comments
	slots or 9-10	available	
Linwood Park	2 hours (5pm slots or 9-10)	5pm onwards Saturday, 4pm to 6pm Sunday	Pitch used for competitive play as well as training.
New College Leicester			Pitch used for competitive play as well as training.
Riverside	4 hours (all 5 - 6 or 9-10)	1pm onwards Saturday fortnightly, Sunday from 3pm	Pitch used for competitive play as well as training.
St Margaret's Pasture AGP			Pitches not suitable for competitive play
Gateway College		Access available	Pitches not suitable for competitive play (although could potentially accommodate small sided game)

9.167 Table 9.19 therefore demonstrates that there is very limited spare capacity across the week. This also does not take account of Beaumont Park. Although there is scope to increase use at the weekend, this is either on pitches that are not on the FA register or outside of peak times. Further use of the AGPs would however reduce levels of demand for grass pitches, particularly where training currently occurs.

9.168 Analysis of current training patterns suggests that several existing clubs use grass pitches for training due to lack of access (and would desire 3g pitches). Many of these clubs are directly responsible for overplay on existing sites including Hamilton Park, Rushey Fields and Friar Lane and Epworth.

9.169 This suggests that the creation of further AGPs may reduce overuse of grass pitches rather than purely relocate any other activity. This is also supported by club consultation, which indicates that there is a belief that there remain insufficient 3g AGPs in the city.

9.170 In terms of both theoretical position and reality on the ground there therefore appears the need for additional 3g provision.

9.171 Several clubs / venues have expressed an aspiration for AGPs at their site, some of which are pyramid clubs looking for stadia pitches. These include;

- Judgemeanow College – planning permission received for second smaller 5 v 5 3g facility
- The Lancaster School - replacement of existing poor quality sand based pitch with 3g
- St Andrews FC -stadia pitch
- Highfield Rangers - Stadia Pitch
- Leicester Nirvana - 3g pitch / stadia pitch



- Clubs at Rushey Fields.

### Future Picture of Provision

9.172 The future requirement for playing pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population;
- changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- club specific development plans and aspirations; and
- amendments to the current facility stock.

9.173 These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand for playing pitches.

### Population Change

9.174 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth.

9.175 Table 9.20 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football in Leicester City. It reveals that

- the number of adult football teams is likely to increase, with growth of up to 11 male and 1 female teams;
- there will also be substantial increase in the number of youth teams (17) and 9v9 teams (15) placing significant extra pressures on the pitch stock; and
- an additional 10 mini soccer teams are likely to be created.

**Table 9.20: TGRs for Football in Leicester City**

Sport and Age Groups	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current Population in Age Group	Current TGR	Population in Age Group (2036)	Population Change in Age Group	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current – 2030
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	123	76984	626	83766	6782	10.8
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	8	76984	9623	83766	6782	0.7
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	68	8038	118	9958	1920	16.2
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	4	8038	2010	9958	1920	1.0
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 yrs)	47	3848	82	4846	998	12.2
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 yrs)	4	3848	962	4846	998	1.0
Football Mini	78	18075	232	20387	2312	10.0

9.176 These increases would significantly impact the adequacy of capacity the city, specifically;

9.177 There is likely to remain sufficient capacity for adult football, with capacity equating to 29 match equivalents, 12.5 of which are available at peak time;

- there would be no remaining spare capacity on youth pitches (-3) and a supply would equal demand at peak time;
- spare capacity on 9v9 pitches would equal just 6.5 games across the week, 10 at peak time if consecutive matches were played; and
- there are slightly higher quantities of availability on 7v7 and 5 v5 pitches and pitch provision would remain sufficient.

### **Aspirations of Clubs**

9.178 Added to the impact of population growth, it is also necessary to consider the potential for participation increases. Many clubs in the city have aspirations for growth and all clubs that are part of the FIS programme are working towards specific development plans, which are scheduled to be updated shortly.

9.179 Stated aspirations of clubs include;

- 8 additional adult male teams and 2 female teams (5 match equivalents)
- 22 youth teams and 15 9v9 teams (11 and 7.5 match equivalents respectively)
- 22 mini football teams (11 match equivalents).

9.180 These aspirations primarily link to clubs who are already at / approaching capacity, specifically; AFC Andrews, Stoneygate Lions, AFC Andrews, St Andrews FC, New Era Boys Academy, Hamilton Youth, Leicester Santana, Friar Lane and Epworth, Leicester Bharat, Aylestone FC and Allexton and New Parks.

### **Summary**

9.181 The key issues for football in Leicester City are summarised in Section 11.

## Introduction

10.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for rugby union. It provides;

- An overview of the supply and demand for pitches
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision to meet current and projected future demand.

## Wider Area Context

There are numerous Rugby Union facilities within the greater Leicester area including Sileby, Rothley, Wigston (including Leicester Grammar School), Oadby, Stoughton, Leicester Forest East, Anstey, Welbeck and Scraptoft.

## Overview – Supply and Demand

### Pitch Supply

10.2 There are 13 sites containing rugby union pitches in Leicester City (containing a total of 19 pitches). Table 10.1 summarises the distribution of grass pitches and outlines the level of access that is available.

**Table 10.1: Rugby Pitches across Leicester City**

Sub Area	Sites	Facility Type	Total Rugby Pitches	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Level of Community Use	Provision by Sub Area
Leicester East	Hamilton Community College	School	1	0	Not available for community use	6 pitches (1.5 floodlit) but only 2 available for secured community use and a further 2 unsecured
	Rushey Mead School	School	1	0	Not available for community use	
	Belgrave RUFC	Club (leased from city council)	2	1.5	Secured Community Use	
	Judgemeadow School	School	1	0	Unsecured Community Use	
	Soar Valley College	School	1	0	Unsecured Community Use	
Leicester South	The Lancaster School	School	2	0	Not available for community	10 pitches (2.5 floodlit). Of these, 5

Sub Area	Facility Type		Total Rugby Pitches	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Level of Community Use	Provision by Sub Area
	Sites					
					use	are secured community use and a further pitch is currently available
	Leicester Tigers RUFC	Professional Club	1	1	Not available for community use	
	Welford Road Rugby Pitch	University	1	0	Not available for community use	
	Aylestonians RFC	Leicester City Council	2	0.5	Secured Community Use	
	Victoria Park	Leicester City Council	2	0	Secured Community Use	
	Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College	School	1	0	Unsecured Community Use	
<b>Leicester West</b>	English Martyrs School	School	1	0	Not available for community use	2 pitches, none of which are secured for community use and only 1 is currently available
	Beaumont Leys School	School	1	0	Unsecured Community Use	

10.3 Table 10.1 indicates that;

- almost half of the rugby pitches in Leicester are located in the south of the city. Provision in the west is particularly low, with just 2 pitches;
- less than half of all rugby pitches are secured for community use. Other than Leicester Tigers (professional club) all other pitches that have no access are at school sites. School sites that currently offer access have been considered to offer unsecured use, as the potential for these facilities to convert into academies and gain greater independence remains a threat; and
- the amount of pitches containing floodlights is relatively minimal - there are just 2.5 pitches in the South and 1.5 in the east. Neither of the pitches in Leicester West have floodlights, meaning that opportunities for training are limited.

- 10.4 Schools are the main providers of rugby pitches. Outside of this, the majority of the remainder of provision is maintained by the City Council for the benefit of local clubs. The pitch at Welford Road is owned by Leicester University. This site is no longer available for community use and is also not used by the university any more.
- 10.5 It should also be noted that some of the pitches at school sites, particularly those not available for community use are not fully prepared this season. The pitch at English Martyrs currently only has one goal post while building work is still underway at Hamilton Community College.
- 10.6 There is also one rugby post at Nelson Mandela Park. This site is floodlit and therefore accommodates training activity but cannot be considered a formal pitch as it is not marked out and does not contain two posts. It is however an important site and should be protected. It is an important training site for Aylestone Athletic.

### **Pitch Quality**

- 10.7 Table 10.2 explores the pitches that are available for community use in more detail. It highlights the pitches that are provided at each site, and the key issues relating to site quality that were identified through both site visits and club and key stakeholder consultation.
- 10.8 Assessments of pitch quality for rugby are based on guidance produced by the RFU and Sport England (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>). As well as recording key characteristics of the site, including pitch condition and available ancillary facilities, the assessment also evaluates the frequency and type of maintenance, and the drainage that is installed on the site.
- 10.9 Table 10.2 reveals that the key issues for quality in relation to club based pitches in Leicester City are;
- a requirement for additional and improved maintenance. Some sites demonstrate evidence of compaction and a need for fertilisation;
  - improvement to existing floodlights and / or a need for new provision; and
  - a lack of appropriate changing facilities / clubhouse.

**Table 10.2: Quality of Community Use Sites in Leicester City**

Area	Site	Senior Pitches	Maintenance Rating	Ancillary Provision	Site Assessment Comments	Quality Issues identified through consultation
Leicester East	Belgrave RUFC	2	M0/D1	The club upgraded their Social Area in preparation for the Rugby World Cup in September 2015 with financial support from the RFU. As well as enhancing the appeal of the club to players and potential players, it is hoped that the ability of these facilities to be used by the local community will enhance overall financial sustainability. Facilities include 6 changing rooms and 2 officials rooms. Full clubroom, showers, toilets, and access for disabled. Quality considered standard to good.	Two pitches one floodlit the other partially. Pitch condition reasonably good overall and ancillary facilities are adequate.	The club are identified by the Leics Rugby Union's Facility Group – 2015-19 Facility Plan as a key priority for Training Floodlight investment and power upgrade.  No maintenance undertaken other than basic mowing. Club seeking to expand pitches to reduce overplay and to improve changing accommodation. Club rates pitches as standard overall. Grass cover could be improved and some pitches suffer from damage to the surface, litter and dog fouling. Pitch quality has deteriorated as a result of increased usage with little or no maintenance.
Leicester East	Judgemeadow School	1		Full changing room provision available within sports centre.	Pitch marked in same location as football and site heavily used for football at peak times.	
Leicester East	Soar Valley College	1		Changing rooms available as part of community school.	Pitch located to front of school. In reasonable condition.	

Area	Site	Senior Pitches	Maintenance Rating	Ancillary Provision	Site Assessment Comments	Quality Issues identified through consultation
Leicester South	Aylestone Recreation Ground	2		Clubroom maintained and owned by club. Contains four showers and an officials changing, although the officials must share showers with the club rooms. The overall condition of the facilities is poor and club believe that this impacts on player recruitment.	Pitches are in reasonable condition and are not scuffed. Evidence of recent weed eradication as there are relatively few weed species in the sward. Both pitches demonstrating some compaction.	Pitches are average to good overall and unlike many others in the city do not waterlog. Pitches suffer as a result of location in public parks - issues with dog fouling and the impact of recreational public use can also be felt. Poor condition of changing facilities highlighted as key issue. Floodlighting of only half the pitch means that all training activity is focused in one area. Several bulbs have gone in the existing floodlights and they do not focus entirely on to the pitch. Funding has previously been secured for new floodlights but these have never been provided.
Leicester South	Nelson Mandela Park	1		None available	Site has new posts. Grass coverage poorer than most other facilities in the city, demonstrating high levels of use. Floodlit facilities so can be used for training. Wider use than rugby, also hosts American Football, university ultimate Frisbee etc. Not a formal pitch and evidence that heavy use may start to impact on overall quality.	Grass coverage can become poor particularly when heavily used. Functions as a useful training area for a variety of sports.
Leicester South	Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College	1		School changing facilities available for use with pitch hire.	Appears to have limited use, pitch on slight slope away from the sports centre and has new goalposts.	Pitch of average quality overall.
Leicester South	Victoria Park	2		2 changing rooms but no official's room. Club consider existing condition to be	Pitch 1 has yellow tinge (fertiliser issues) and appears roughed, while pitch 2 is also	Pitches of average quality overall. Main cause of cancellations is waterlogging, but the pitches also suffer from the impact of

Area	Site	Senior Pitches	Maintenance Rating	Ancillary Provision	Site Assessment Comments	Quality Issues identified through consultation
				relatively poor. No clubhouse or bar facilities. Clubhouse located over the road from the main pitches in the park.	evidently used with a good grass sward although grass coverage is more limited. Site is large park area that also functions as key events park for the city.	many events taking place on the park. Considered to be standard overall. Poor condition of changing accommodation.
Leicester West	Beaumont Leys School	1		School changing facilities available for use with pitch hire.	Pitch in reasonable condition, appears to be receive little use.	Changing facilities located within schools but in good condition overall. Pitches relatively new and therefore play well with good surface.



## Demand

- 10.10 There are four community rugby clubs in Leicester City running a total of 11 adult teams and 9 age group teams. Belgrave RUFC are the only club offering junior rugby - all of the remaining clubs accommodate senior teams only meaning that there are relatively few opportunities for junior development.
- 10.11 In addition, Leicester Tigers are based within the city. The Tigers are a professional club with the first XV playing in the Aviva National Premiership, and the club also running an A league team as well as an academy. While the club stadium is situated on Welford Road, the remainder of club activity takes place at Oval Park (club training ground) which is in Oadby and Wigston District. The teams associated with this club are excluded as a result of the professional status of the club, as well as the location of the bulk of activity outside of the city.
- 10.12 Table 10.3 summarises the clubs and provides a breakdown of teams that they are running as well as their recent participation trends. It indicates that club rugby is split between the south of the city (although clubs are adults only) and the east (where Belgrave RUFC offer a full range of teams) are located.
- 10.13 Table 10.3 includes teams based at De Montfort University which is located within the city. Teams have historically travelled to different venues to play (both within the city and outside) but this season are playing competitive fixtures at Aylestone St James RFC (Scraptoft). The teams are considered to be travelling outside of the administrative boundary to play and this will be returned to later.

**Table 10.3: Rugby Clubs in Leicester City**

Area	Club	Adult	Colts	Youth	Midi	Other	Trends
Leicester South - Old Aylestonians	Old Aylestonians	1					Club has experienced decline, having previously run. 4 adult teams. The decline is primarily attributed to the lack of facilities that the club provides in comparison to others - the clubhouse needs renovating, the quality of the training facilities is poor, there is a lack of good floodlights and they only cover half of the pitch. The club has never had junior teams and would be interested in doing so but first needs adult section to become sustainable. The RFU are currently working with Old Aylestonians to support increases in participation.
Leicester South - Victoria Park	Aylestone Athletic	2					Participation has increased and club now runs two teams. The presence of permanent posts on Victoria Park has helped this situation as it has improved visibility and consequently awareness of the club. Club also ran a touch programme with support from RFU which again is thought to have helped increase participation. Since the

Area	Club	Adult	Colts	Youth	Midi	Other	Trends
							collation of initial data, and following events linking in with the Rugby World Cup, the club have also started to run a third friendly side in the last couple of weeks. Demand for facilities is therefore growing.
Leicester East - Belgrave RUFC	Belgrave RUFC	3	0	3		6	Senior participation static, youth and midi rugby increasing. There was a brief increase in senior rugby but the club is now back to original levels.
Leicester South -	De Montfort University	4	0	0	0	0	Participation has recently increased and club now have sufficient ladies to make a second team. Lack of home ground makes it difficult for sustained growth. Club are however playing home fixtures outside the city this season at Aylestone St James (Scraptoft) and are travelling outside the administrative boundary to play.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	

### Training Needs

10.14 Club training takes place as follows:

- Belgrave RUFC - training takes place at their home ground, as both pitches have floodlights (although the second pitch is only partially floodlit). Senior teams all train twice per week (equivalent to 3 match equivalents) and youth teams train once (1.5 match equivalents). Midi teams either play or train on a Sunday morning except the U12 team, who also have one training session (0.5 match equivalents).
- Old Aylestonians train once per week at their home ground (0.5 match equivalents). They indicate that they struggle due to the lack of strong floodlights
- De Montfort University train twice per week (each team) (equivalent to 4 match equivalents). The team train at Aylestone St James (outside of the city) but have to hire a bus to reach this site.
- There are no floodlights at Victoria Park and so Aylestone Athletic travel off site to Nelson Mandela Park. They train once per week (1 match equivalent).

10.15 The availability of training floodlights is highlighted as a key concern by Old Aylestonians as well as De Montfort University. Clubs believe that access to 3g pitches that are approved for rugby would be of benefit for clubs looking to train, particularly where existing pitches suffer from waterlogging. Belgrave RUFC are also looking to improve the floodlighting on their existing rugby pitch.

### **Educational Demand**

10.16 Although there is a premiership rugby club in the area, there are few opportunities within the city for junior and midi rugby play with Belgrave RUFC being the only club to offer opportunities for younger players currently. There are however also clubs playing in relatively close proximity to the borders of the city which may also serve residents of Leicester.

10.17 The RFU are keen to build partnership in the city through links with Schools and English Martyrs, Beaumont Leys School and Soar Valley College are all currently working with Belgrave RUFC. Judgemeadow Community School have also been given funding to develop the game. Belgrave RFC are also running a Tag league with 12 primary schools over the winter (at St Margarets Pastures) and will return to the club ground in better light. It is hoped that this will benefit all clubs across the city.

10.18 Several schools also highlight links with Leicester Tigers RFC, including Ellesmere College and The Lancaster School. Along with the potential impacts of hosting the Rugby World Cup in the city (which as yet are unknown), this means that overall; there are increasingly strong foundations for the growth of rugby within the city.

### **Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views**

10.19 The adequacy of pitch provision for rugby is measured through the use of match equivalents. The ability of the pitch stock to service both training needs and competitive requirements is taken into account. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

10.20 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

*Capacity over the course of a week*

10.21 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 10.4.

**Table 10.4: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)**

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

10.22 Demand from each rugby club is converted into match equivalent sessions. This takes into account of both the requirement of pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures, and also the impact that training sessions will have on the capacity of pitches.

*Peak Time Demand*

10.23 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available.

- Senior men's rugby union - Saturday PM;
- Youth rugby union - Sunday AM;
- Mini/midi rugby union - Sunday AM; and
- U18-U19 yrs 'Colts' rugby union –Sunday AM (male) and Sunday PM (female).

10.24 Table 10.5 therefore provides a summary of activity at each site that is available for community use and the adequacy of provision to meet demand. Further detail is provided in the spreadsheet accompanying this assessment of need.

10.25 The text that follows then explores the issues identified for each club in more detail, highlighting the areas of key concern based upon the calculations undertaken. It should be noted that for Council venues, calculations include assume that the minimum maintenance programme is undertaken. On some occasions maintenance may be supplemented to improve pitch quality.

**Table 10.5: Site Overview**

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Capacity multiplier	Senior Pitches	Floodlit Pitches	Match Play	Match Equivalents per week (other play)	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Overview
Belgrave RUFC	Mo/D1	1.5	2	2	4.5	5	-1.5	0.5	0	-6.5	Site capacity is restricted by poor maintenance, which reduces capacity per pitch to just 1.5 games per week. Despite this, pitches were in reasonable condition at the time of site visit. Pitch quality is believed to have deteriorated due to a lack of maintenance coupled with overuse and the club see securing new facilities as one of their big priorities. Further refurbishments to the changing accommodation are also required. Modelling demonstrates that there is no spare capacity either during the week or at peak time and that particularly when taking into account the impact of training, pitches are heavily overused. The floodlights are now of limited quality and

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Capacity multiplier	Senior Pitches	Floodlit Pitches	Match Play	Match Equivalents per week (other play)	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Overview
											require upgrade to ensure that training can be spread across two pitches and not one.
Aylestonians RFC	M0/D1	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.5	1.5	2	2	Although the maintenance of the pitches is relatively limited, there is spare capacity available on the site due to the lack of teams currently using the facility, with spare capacity for both match play and training. The floodlights are however poor meaning that training activity can be difficult and changing facilities are also poor, which the club believe impacts on their capacity to attract players. Spare capacity equates to 2 match equivalents per week.
Nelson Mandela Park	M0/D1	1.5	1	1	0	2	1.5	1	1	-0.5	The site is used for training only however it is important. It is heavily used by other sports, becoming chopped up over the course of a season. It is shared by a variety of sports and has no further capacity if quality is to be

Site	Maintenance / Capacity Rating	Capacity multiplier	Senior Pitches	Floodlit Pitches	Match Play	Match Equivalents per week (other play)	Spare Capacity (Match Play)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (Adult Play)	Spare Capacity Peak Time (Youth Play)	Spare Capacity Including Training	Overview
											maintained.
Victoria Park	M0/D1	1.5	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	Pitches are required to sustain match play only as there are no floodlights provided. The quality of the pitches is adequate to meet demand (able to sustain a further 2 match equivalents per week) although again the maintenance schedule restricts capacity. Pitches are also impacted by the wider role of Victoria Park as the main events park in the city. There is capacity to accommodate further play on the pitches, although the club has experienced recent growth, which means that capacity is becoming more constrained.

## Current Picture of Provision

10.26 Table 10.5 therefore indicates that;

- There is no community use of any of the school sites by rugby clubs – all of these facilities just accommodate curricular use. This means that there are four rugby pitches in the city that are available but not used. Taking into account the impact of curricular use, spare capacity at school sites is therefore equivalent to 4 match equivalents. Two of these pitches are located in Leicester East, while there is one each in Leicester West and Leicester South. None of the pitches at school sites are floodlit, meaning that they realistically offer only spare capacity for matches rather than training
- There is no remaining spare capacity at Belgrave RUFC; even just taking into account the use of pitches for matches (-1.5). These pitches are also used for training (5 match equivalents) meaning that pitches are heavily overplayed. The pitches are also used as an important venue for representative teams by the Leicestershire RFU, placing further demand across the season, although this is outside peak time. The club have recently secured a lease for additional land to create a further youth pitch adjacent to existing facilities although funding has not yet been identified. The supply and demand calculations however confirm that a minimum of one additional pitch is required to meet current demand (not withstanding any potential increases in participation that may follow). While there is spare capacity in other parts of the city at club sites (and at school sites within Leicester East) research demonstrates that rugby clubs are more successful when all activity is accommodated on one home ground and this is therefore preferential
- There is spare capacity this season at Aylestone Recreation Ground. While the basic maintenance programme restricts overall capacity of the site, the low levels of use mean that spare capacity is available at both peak time (1.5) and across the week (2.5 match equivalents, 2 when taking into account the impact of training). The pitches were also used by De Montfort University last season but this use has been relocated and the only use this year is by Old Aylestonians. The use of the facility by De Montfort University was particularly valuable in maintaining sustainability (bar income) but was restricted in particular by the poor floodlights that limit training opportunities as well as the issues that the university had with pitch and ancillary facility quality. Pitches were also heavily overused when accommodating the additional teams. Training takes place on the second pitch (partially floodlit) and the existing pitches are sufficient to accommodate this
- There is also sufficient capacity at Victoria Park (spare capacity 2 across the week, 1 match equivalent available at peak time) for the existing club, with pitches only used for matches due to a lack of floodlights. The basic maintenance regime at the site therefore in this instance does not restrict the adequacy of provision. The use of this site can however be restricted by waterlogging, as well as the events that take place at the park
- There is no remaining spare capacity at Nelson Mandela Park, which is used by the rugby club for training (1 match equivalent) as well as for American Football and ultimate Frisbee. This site is starting to become heavily worn due to the high levels of evening training activity for these other sports that it is sustaining. This site is the only current grass pitch option for teams wishing to train that do not have access to floodlights at their own site.

10.27 Although there are unused facilities at school sites, it should be noted that rugby is primarily a club focused sport and facilities are an essential part of the way a club is



run. Use of facilities that are outside of the club base is therefore avoided as far as possible. Added to this, there are no existing floodlights at any of the school sites, meaning that they cannot be used for training.

**Latent Demand and Demand from teams currently travelling outside of the administrative area.**

10.28 As highlighted in Table 6.3, the teams at De Montfort University are currently travelling out of the city and have been nomadic in recent years due to a lack of suitable facilities within Leicester. The club have recently played at Oadby and Wigston, as well as Leicester Forest, South Leicestershire and Old Aylestonians. All relationships have broken down and the club continue to struggle to access facilities. With 4 teams, demand is equivalent to 2 match equivalents weekly for competitive fixtures, and 4 match equivalents for training (each team trains twice weekly).

10.29 The key issues that the club have with identifying appropriate facilities are;

- clubs that agree to host the university expect their players to fill in to boost player numbers - this is difficult for the university as many students are unable to play at weekends;
- pitch quality is an issue at several sites (for example dog fouling and poor ancillary accommodation was the key cause of the termination of the relationship with Old Aylestonians); and
- the requirement for the club to travel means that there are significant costs associated with training and match play.

10.30 The university have recently bought land at Beaumont Park and the first phase of this development will include a new 3g AGP as well as refurbished grass football pitches. It is thought that this pitch will be World Rugby Compliant although no certificate has yet been issued for RFU approval. If it is not suitable for use by the rugby club the club will continue to travel outside of the administrative boundary, following the development.

10.31 The university hope that further phases of the Beaumont Park development (which will require the purchase of further land) will include rugby pitches, allowing the club to relocate back into the city. Based on current participation, the club would require at least 2 pitches to accommodate their needs. The plans for Beaumont Park are currently hoped to be delivered over a five year strategy period.

10.32 Belgrave RUFC also identifies latent demand, indicating that they would run more teams if they had access to more pitches on their home grounds. The RFU feel that at least 2 additional pitches or equivalent should be secured through a series of potential actions; maintenance, conversion of secured land to playing fields, access to mid-week training venues off-site or pitch drainage.

**Future Picture**

10.33 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted upon by changes to the population profile, as well as club specific aspirations and changing participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

**Population Change**

10.34 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. The application of TGRs to population projections

enables the projection of the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and provides an understanding of future demand.

10.35 Table 10.6 summarises the current TGRs for rugby and projects the impact of population growth. It indicates that;

- the increase in people aged 19 - 45 will see the creation of up to 1 additional adult male rugby team;
- similarly, an additional youth male rugby team will be created; and
- the number of players in the midi rugby age group will also increase, and up to 1 team may be created.

**Table 10.6: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile**

Sport and Age Groups	Current population in age group within the area	Number of teams in age group within the area	Current TGR	Future population in age group within the area (2021)	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group Current – 2030	Potential Change in Team Numbers in Age Group (Number of Teams) Current - 2026
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	72186	10	7219	77907	5721	0.8
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	72186	1	72186	77907	5721	0.1
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	12910	4	3228	15604	2694	0.8
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	12910	0	#DIV/0!	15604	2694	#DIV/0!
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	25103	3	8368	29829	4727	0.6

### Changes in Participation Trends and club development plans

10.36 While TGRs provide an indication of the potential impact of club growth directly attributable to increases in the population, the RFU believe that this is less indicative of the likely growth as a whole for rugby. Some clubs have development plans in place to drive increases in the number of teams, supported by RFU development officers, while the impact of the Rugby World Cup 2015 (some of which was hosted in Leicester) is also currently unknown). In addition to the use of TGRs therefore, consideration has also been given to club aspirations for growth and the deliverability of these.

10.37 Rugby across the city is relatively static. While Old Aylestonians have seen a decline in participation (and are now being supported by the RFU), they are looking to grow, both to support immediate sustainability of the club but also to drive long term development. The club are working directly with schools and other establishments to promote the club - they can offer immediate games to new players. The club hope to

develop another male and a female team in the short term, with a junior section longer term.

10.38 Aylestone Athletic are also looking to create at least one further adult team in the next five years particularly building on the foundations of their successful recent growth.

10.39 DMU continue to develop their sports teams and have seen an increase in participation in rugby this season. It is hoped that this will continue however struggles to source facilities inhibit long term development opportunities.

10.40 Belgrave Rugby Club have a specific growth plan in place with the RFU. The club are looking to increase male adult participation by 12% with the hope of fielding a further team from 3 to 4 teams and are also looking to increase male youth teams by 25% (this equates to at least one team). The club are identified as a growth club by the RFU and Leicester RU and it is hoped that participation increases will be delivered in part through RFU All Schools Programme which sees the club act as the central venue for secondary schools competition and the transition club for players. The club are also hoping to run a ladies team within the next two years and hope that the increase in younger teams will feed through the senior section in later years.

10.41 Table 10.7 therefore draws upon the application of TGRs as well as the aspired levels of growth at each club to evaluate the degree to which existing pitches at the club bases are able to accommodate the projected increase in demand, and the issues that would need to be addressed to ensure that growth can be accommodated. It should be noted however that growth plans are over a shorter term than the strategy period and should therefore be reconsidered as part of the monitoring process.

10.42 It should also be noted that the below does not include teams from De Montfort University who are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary and looking for appropriate facilities within the city.

**Table 10.7: Adequacy of Existing Provision to Meet Projected Future Demand**

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely from Development (Club / RFU)	Growth Club	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
Belgrave RUFC	Unmet demand equivalent to 1.5 (Match play only) which increases to - 6.5 when taking into account training. This is influenced by the limited maintenance programme which reduces capacity.	As the only club with youth and midi teams in the city, it is likely that additional teams will be directed to this club. 0.5 match equivalents training and 0.5 match equivalents matches for youth teams, plus 0.5 match equivalents for midi teams.	1 additional adult team (0.5 match equivalents training, 0.5 match equivalents competitive play).  1 additional youth team (0.5 match equivalents training, 0.5 match equivalents competitive play).	0.5	Capacity of site already exceeded by demand. Growth cannot be sustained (overall shortage equivalent to 9.5)  To accommodate match play alone (6.5 match equivalents) At least 3 at peak adult time, 3.5 at youth peak time. Requires 3 - 4 pitches. Equivalent training demand would mean the	Improved maintenance practices  At least 2 additional grass pitches  Further floodlighting to spread impact of training

Club	Current Position	Impact of Population Growth	Likely from Development (Club / RFU)	Growth Club	Ability of Site to sustain growth	Issues to address to ensure growth can be accommodated
					site would need to accommodate 12 match equivalents - capacity of 4 pitches with capacity of 3 match equivalents each.	
Old Aylestonians	Spare capacity equivalent to 2.5 (match play) and 2 when accounting for training	Potential up to 0.5 match equivalents if not directed to other clubs	Club seeking to develop 1 match equivalent adult (0.5 match equivalents competitive, plus training), plus longer term youth section.		Additional adult growth can be accommodated within existing pitches, particularly if capacity was enhanced through maintenance. Some junior activity could also be accommodated. Small floodlit area on second pitch for training likely to become restrictive as club grows. Club	Improved and additional floodlights (or access to alternative training venue)  Enhanced basic maintenance regime  Improved changing accommodation / clubhouse facilities
Aylestone Athletic	Access to Victoria Park, with spare capacity of 2 match equivalents (1 at peak time). There are no floodlights on site so club must train elsewhere. This site is at capacity	Potential up to 0.5 match equivalents if not directed to other clubs	Club seeking to create additional male team (0.5 match equivalents competitive play, 0.5 match equivalents training).		Additional competitive play can be accommodated at Victoria Park. Training facility close to capacity due to use also by American Football Club and Ultimate Frisbee, as well as basic maintenance procedures.	Enhanced maintenance regime  Improved drainage at Victoria Par  Access to alternative training venue

### Forthcoming Changes to Supply

10.43 There are no confirmed changes to the supply of rugby pitches in Leicester City, although Belgrave RUFC have secured land for additional pitches, but funding to deliver this has not yet been determined. This assessment provides evidence that the additional pitches are required.

10.44 DMU have recently bought land at Beaumont Park and the first phase of this development will include a new 3g AGP as well as refurbished grass football pitches although this will not meet with the needs of the universities' rugby teams. The university are currently planning further phases of the development, to include rugby, but these are not yet confirmed.

The RFU AGP Strategy (2015)

10.45 The RFU Council has recently approved a strategy to invest in Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) which will see 100 artificial, floodlit pitches installed across the country over a four-year period. The strategy will see the creation of;

- 60 AGPs on rugby club sites to be used by the host club and other local clubs; and
- 40 on community sites with a guaranteed number of hours for use by rugby.

10.46 The key drivers for this are to sustain and grow participation while addressing the increasing pressure on natural turf pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

10.47 There are two clubs in Leicester City currently struggling to access appropriate training facilities (Old Aylestonians and Aylestone Athletic), while De Montfort University are also without access to appropriate match day or training facilities (although a 3g pitch is currently being built which could be tailored to meet their requirements). Belgrave RUFC are also over capacity at their existing site. Although in it's infancy, the new strategy may provide opportunities for the development of a Rugby Compliant 3g AGP either within the city to serve the needs of the club, or on the borders of the city at another community club, but with access for other clubs including those identified within Leicester City.

### **Key Issues and Summary**

10.48 The key issues to address for rugby are summarised in Section 11.

# 11: Conclusions

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## **Introduction**

- 11.1 This section brings together the findings for each sport set out in Sections 4 – 10 and summarises the key issues emerging for each sport. These in turn form the basis of the Action Plans set out in the separate report.

## Cricket

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<p><b>Cricket</b></p> <p><b>Supply</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 sites containing grass facilities for cricket in Leicester City, with a total of 19 pitches. The only grass pitches not available for community use are the facility at the County Ground at Grace Road, a high standard facility and the pitches at City of Leicester College. The remainder offer secured community access, with the exception of Soar Valley College and Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth College</li> <li>Spatially, pitches are spread across the city, but with a greater concentration in the east 8 pitches - almost 50%. Provision in the west (6 pitches but on fewer sites) and in the south (5 pitches) are broadly even</li> <li>There is high dissatisfaction amongst the existing cricket teams, with one just club (a private club) satisfied with current levels of provision across the city</li> <li>Consultation with all stakeholders revealed pitch quality as a citywide key issue and this was also evidenced during site visits. There is a hierarchy of facilities, with the poorest facilities being in public ownership, school facilities of a higher quality than public pitches and the highest quality facilities being those managed and maintained by clubs. This hierarchy reflects the challenges of providing cricket pitches in a public setting, where they are subject to other uses as well as formal cricket play. Key issues raised include the maintenance (and in particular the specifications used), the unevenness of outfield and the poor condition of grass squares, which impacts upon the quality of games that can be played. For the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League, which has strict criteria around the quality of sites, pitch condition in the city is poor and in some instances, prevents teams from being promoted. Analysis of weekly marks achieved during the 2015 season highlights the key concerns with regards pitch quality, with sites in Leicester City Council management receiving much lower average quality scores than all other sites in the league</li> <li>As well as general trends, site specific issues were evident at almost every site in the city. Added to issues relating to pitch quality, there is a particular lack of training facilities (nets and non turf wickets) and some sites have clubhouses that are in need of repair. Training facilities at more than half of the sites are either limited in function or none existent</li> <li>As well as grass pitches, there are several sites containing non turf wickets, which are used for more informal play as well as Last Man Stands activities. Many of these sites are new for the 2015 / 2016</li> </ul>	<p>Review of existing maintenance procedures.</p> <p>Pitch improvements and enhanced maintenance procedures represent the key priority for most of the clubs in the city, and particular concerns were raised at Aylestone Recreation Ground, Leicester Electricity, Evington Park, Mowmacre Sports Ground, Soar Valley College, Spinney Hills Park and Western Park. In addition to these sites, clubs at Highfield Rangers and Davenport Road Playing Fields also emphasise the need to improve maintenance of pitches at these sites.</p> <p>Improvements to clubhouse / pavilion at Ethel Road, Leicester Electricity, Soar Valley College.</p> <p>Lack of training facilities at Leicester Banks, Highfield Rangers, Soar Valley College and QE and Wyggeston College, as well as at Council sites, Davenport Road, Mowmacre Sports Ground, Aylestone Playing</p>

<b>Demand</b>	season.	Fields.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 25 adult male teams currently playing in Leicester City. The majority of these play in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League (which serves the whole of Leicestershire) and offers formal cricket on a Saturday afternoon. The Mutual Cricket League (Leicester City based) also plays on a Saturday afternoon but offers a slightly shortened form of the game (35 overs)</li> <li>• In addition, 12 adult teams play in the Last Man Stands League (game last 2 hours and are played midweek). This league is believed to attract different players than the Mutual League and the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League</li> <li>• Junior cricket is relatively poorly developed, with 22 teams. Activity is focused at a small number of clubs and many other clubs indicate that the quality of facilities and lack of provision inhibits junior development</li> <li>• The lack of safe grass provision in the city and the travelling of adult teams to play outside of the administrative boundary make it difficult for the clubs that want to develop junior sections to do so.</li> <li>• There are 14 teams that are currently travelling out of the city to play due to a perceived lack of capacity within Leicester, as well as the poor quality of facilities and lack of facilities of appropriate standard. None of the clubs travelling out of the city have security of tenure on their sites, and have several have folded in recent years due to the pressures of travelling. There is a potential longer term impact on cricket development if the issue of teams travelling outside of the administrative boundary is not addressed. Of the identified teams, 9 teams are considered to be of high priority for relocation. Four of these currently play in Division 9 or below and could therefore use non turf wickets (although 3 are gunning for promotion that would see them ineligible)</li> <li>• The Mutual League and Last Man Stands league are both growing, but neither are inhibited by pitch provision in the same way that clubs requiring more formal cricket environments in the Leicester and Rutland league are. Only one team currently playing in the city is in Division 9 or below and therefore eligible to use non turf wickets.</li> </ul>	Requirement for additional pitches (at least 5) and / or use of none turf pitches to meet demand.
<b>Adequacy of Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of existing grass pitches is poor overall and this is restricting the quality of cricket that can be played within Leicester, as well as club progression through the leagues. The quality of cricket is also impacting on club development, with players travelling to other clubs rather than play on poor quality facilities</li> <li>• Across the season - There are no sites that are overplayed and almost all sites can sustain further play. Davenport Road Playing Fields and Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College are the only sites that</li> </ul>	



are at capacity

- Spare capacity across the season amounts to sufficient to accommodate circa 21 teams across the city as a whole, if all available wicket strips were used
- While across the season there is scope for additional play, capacity is much more restricted at peak time. While Soar Valley is not currently used on a Saturday, the outfield is insufficient in size to enable senior play as the school buildings are located too close to the square. Theoretical capacity does therefore not translate into practical capacity at this site. There are no further pitches available that are currently suitable for use by the Leicestershire and Rutland league. The lack of capacity at peak time therefore represents the real issue for cricket in the city and this is evident in each of the three constituency areas
- Both Soar Valley College and Queen Elizabeth and Wyggeston College are heavily used facilities. These are unsecured for community use, with access in control of the school / college. The reduction in capacity for use of these facilities would add significant pressure to the already insufficient stock of facilities
- With no peak time match equivalent slots available, there is no scope for the immediate relocation of teams currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary without additional capacity. The need to accommodate 9 teams as a priority means this means that there is a requirement for at least 6 additional pitches (each with capacity to accommodate at least 20 games over the season). Spatially, the majority of clubs are willing to travel within the city to find a suitable ground to play, although some clubs have expressed a preference for where their cricket grounds would be located in an ideal scenario. The existing requirement for clubs to travel is causing several teams to fold, as well as restricting their opportunities to develop junior cricket
- Although there are no peak time match equivalent slots available at sites with suitable grass wickets, new non turf wickets have been established at Humberstone Park, Rushey Mead Park. Non turf wickets have recently been approved for use in the lower divisions of the Leicestershire and Rutland league
- Population growth will also impact on demand for cricket. Taking into account both teams travelling outside of the administrative boundary (4.5 match equivalents at peak time) and the impact of population growth alone (1 match equivalent at peak time), there is a requirement for an additional 6 pitches (5.5 match equivalents) at peak time (6 match equivalents at peak time if teams travelling outside the administrative boundary are included in TGR calculations). If all teams, including those considered to be of lower priority were to be accommodated, this would rise to 8 pitches. These can be delivered either through new grass pitches or non turf wickets of appropriate quality where clubs play in low divisions of the Leicestershire and Rutland League
- Many clubs, as well as the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket Board also have significant aspirations for

<b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b>	<p>growth, and if achieved these would place further pressures on demand for pitches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For teams playing in the Mutual League and On Last Man Stands, the quality of facilities is more in line with demand, although some reinstatement work is required to new non turf wicket.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The quality of existing pitches is poor and many are unsuitable for play in the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket League. Quality is also thought to be inhibiting club development, with players joining clubs with better facilities and junior development limited to a lack of facilities. Quality issues are varying and include the maintenance of existing provision, the condition of the square and the outfield and the appropriateness of clubhouses and pavilions</li> <li>Although in quantitative terms, there are sufficient facilities to meet demand across the season, with spare capacity for circa 21 teams (quality permitting), there are insufficient grass squares to accommodate demand at peak time, with no spare capacity</li> <li>14 teams are currently travelling outside the administrative boundary (of which 9 are high priority for relocation back into the city). This equates to a requirement for at least 5 additional pitches (or the use of non turf wickets where teams are in the lower levels of the Leicestershire and Rutland league)</li> <li>Population growth will have further impact, with demand rising to at least 6 pitches (or 8 if all teams currently travelling outside the administrative boundary are to be accommodated). These could be delivered through new grass pitches and / or non turf wickets</li> <li>Some schools have indicated a desire to host cricket</li> <li>The availability of outdoor training facilities is also poor which further limits club development and in particular the retention of junior players. Club and development structures for juniors are particularly poor across the city.</li> <li>Discussions need to take place between the Council and Leicestershire Cricket Board to address the site issues</li> </ul>	

## Rugby League

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Rugby League</b>		
<b>Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no existing rugby league pitches within Leicester City. New College, Saffron Lane and Aylestone Playing Fields have all been previously used as rugby league pitches but are no longer marked for the sport.</li> </ul>	<p>New facilities for Leicester Storm - demand equivalent to up to 2- 3 pitches (or access to a 3g pitch</p>

<p><b>Demand</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting the lack of rugby league pitches in the city, there are no rugby league clubs playing within the city boundaries. Until season 2015, Leicester Storm Rugby Club at New College. The club were the only rugby league club in the city and ran 3 senior teams and a big youth section containing 6 teams</li> <li>• At the start of season 2015, and as a result of a lack of available facilities within Leicester, the club relocated to Brooksby Melton College - a high quality site where the club have access to two rugby league pitches, one of which is a 3g all weather surface, as well as a high specification indoor performance gym and classrooms for video analysis</li> <li>• Despite high quality facilities, over the course of the season that has just finished, the club has lost circa 50% of its players. The club are now struggling to put out two senior teams while the youth section has completely folded. The relocation of the club, in particular the travel distance, cost and inconvenience are thought to be the main contributing factors</li> <li>• The club are therefore looking to relocate back into the city in order to revitalise their playing squads and to reinvigorate the club</li> <li>• Reflecting the lack of rugby league played in the city, there is a lack of participation in the sport in schools and a lack of dedicated rugby league pitches at school sites. The RFL do not see growth of rugby league in the city as a key aspiration and are not currently targeting schools within any participation programmes.</li> </ul>	<p>to replace need for one pitch). One pitch to meet Tier 3 Ground grading requirements.</p>
<p><b>Adequacy of Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As there are no existing rugby league clubs in the city, no supply and demand assessment can be undertaken. These parameters can however be used to determine the potential requirements for Leicester Storm. The club are seeking an immediate relocation in order to reverse the trend of membership decline and are looking to re-establish the teams that were running during the 2014 season, prior to the relocation. The club may therefore require facilities to meet the needs of up to 3 senior and 6 youth teams (although it is acknowledged that growth back up to these levels is likely to take several seasons)</li> <li>• if these levels of participation are achieved, the club would require up to 2 pitches, with access to either a 3g pitch or a further grass pitch to support training. one of the pitches would need to meet ground grading requirements for a Tier 3 Rugby League competition</li> <li>• Population growth alone will have little impact on demand for rugby league, with no existing play in the city. Even when including teams at Leicester Storm, additional rugby league teams are unlikely to be generated through population growth alone. , with just two additional midi teams, and no increase in junior / adult participation. The main growth in rugby league in the city is therefore likely to be directly driven by Leicester Storm Rugby club and will be dependent upon the club securing a venue.</li> </ul>	

<b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b>	•	
	•	Lack of rugby league pitches in city to meet demands of Leicester Storm who are keen to move back into the city and are actively seeking a new venue

## Hockey

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Hockey</b>		
<b>Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the nine full sized pitches available in the city, four have a surface suitable for hockey. Of these, three can be used for competitive play. The pitch at Moat Community College is too narrow for use</li> <li>The stock of facilities is varying in terms of age and quality. The pitch at English Martyrs is new, only opening in 2015 and is a high quality facility marked only for hockey. The pitch at St Margaret's Pastures was refurbished in 2011; although this coincided with the loss of the second pitch (which was formerly a sand based hockey facility and some quality issues have been identified, including rips in the surface and concerns about the maintenance procedures undertaken. The remaining facility at Soar Valley College is also good, with no rips or damage. The pitch has been the subject of recent investment</li> <li>Spatially, all of the sand based pitches in the city are located to the centre / north of the city. There is however at least one sand based pitch in each of the constituencies, with one in each of Leicester South and Leicester East and two in Leicester West</li> <li>The nearest two pitch site is at Leicester Grammar, outside of the city boundaries.</li> </ul>	<p>Relocation of Leicester Ladies HC -there is currently a lack of availability at peak time for the club all on one site (although there is sufficient spare capacity if other clubs could be relocated and reprogramming could take place. There are no pitches of sufficient quality to meet the needs of the club.</p> <p>Improvements to pitch at St Margaret's Pastures required if site is to be sustainable to meet ongoing hockey need.</p>
<b>Demand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are nine hockey clubs running 19 senior teams. Leicester Westleigh are the only club with a separate junior section playing within the city, suggesting that junior hockey is relatively underdeveloped. Almost all of the clubs are single / two team clubs with limited pathways for junior development</li> <li>Participation trends are fluctuating, but despite a decline in the number of teams, the Leicestershire and Rutland Mixed Hockey Association indicate that the number of participants is actually growing,</li> </ul>	<p>Enhanced development structures and junior pathways.</p>

	<p>particularly those in junior age groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs currently playing in the city identify several barriers to the further growth of hockey. These include the cost of facility hire, lack of pitches, the quality and maintenance programme of the facility at St Margaret's and concerns about sustainability of the sport in terms of the replacement of facilities provided, and the poor development pathways that currently exist</li> <li>In addition, Leicester Ladies Hockey Club are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary to play. They run five senior ladies teams as well as U18, U16 and U14 teams and are a high performing club, with the 1st team playing at National Premier League Level. The club are based outside the city due to a lack of water based or high quality pitch surfaces within the city (required due to the club's national premier league status). They are keen to move back into Leicester and hope that this would enable them to promote access to elite hockey for both ladies and men, as well as to grow the game at a junior level. The existing location of the club means that it is not accessible by public transport from the city, restricting opportunities for those living in Leicester to travel</li> <li>There are six JAC / JDC taking place in Leicestershire and St Margaret's Pastures is an important venue for these sessions. The quality of the pitch is however a limited standard for coaching at this level, however it is considered important that such sessions are delivered within the city</li> <li>Until recently, there was limited participation in school hockey from schools in Leicester City, with the majority of activity undertaken at private schools. The School Sports Partnership has set up a new initiative (Team Leicestershire) which spans a range of sports and enables schools to pay a one off affiliation fee. This seen an increase in participation and up to 40 schools across Leicestershire have opted to participate in hockey this year. Matches will be played at English Martyrs and St Margaret's Pastures which will raise the profile of hockey in the city and may have a future knock on effect to the demand for hockey.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adequacy of Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is spare capacity at sites that are suitable for hockey across the week and at weekends. In particular, this is influenced by the introduction of the new pitch at English Martyrs for 2015 / 2016 season, which has seen usage relocated from St Margaret's. There is spare capacity at both St Margaret's and English Martyrs, and hockey usage is prioritised at both of these sites</li> <li>At peak time, demand equates to 7 match equivalents. There is scope to increase this by 10 teams (5 match equivalents) before hockey use would need to be extended to another site. There are no pitches however with more than 2 match equivalents at peak time. Peak match times (12 - 4) are also fully booked at all three sites</li> <li>The above excludes Leicester Ladies, who currently require 2.5 match equivalents at peak time on one site. There are no facilities in the city offering both the spare capacity to accommodate all of this this usage and the quality of facilities that the club require. There is however capacity to accommodate</li> </ul>	

the requirements of Leicester Ladies across the pitch stock as a whole, but to accommodate it all at one site would require other teams to be relocated (in terms of both venue and time) and potentially the relocation of the JAC / JDC. Even with relocation of other teams, there are no existing facilities of appropriate quality to meet the needs of Leicester Ladies. Current training activity would also need to be rescheduled

- Population growth will have limited impact upon the demand for hockey with less than one team generated overall (mixed hockey). This means that population growth would result in demands for pitches increasing by 0.5 match equivalents per week, which can be accommodated within the existing pitch stock
- If Leicester Ladies, who wish to relocate back into the city are included within the above totals, then calculations would suggest a further adult female team is generated, along with another youth team
- This could be accommodated (leaving 1.5 match equivalents spare capacity at peak time) if play was spread across the existing sites, or other clubs were relocated and reprogrammed
- Spare capacity would increase to 5.5 match equivalents at peak time (future) if a new facility was developed for Leicester Ladies. This would allow significant scope for development of hockey, but if significant participation increases were not to increase, may create commercial viability problems
- England Hockey are focusing upon a strategy of retention, and the development of new players through participation in non traditional forms of the game (which do not require formal hockey pitches) but identify both Leicester Ladies and Leicester Westleigh as key delivery vehicles for increases in participation across Leicestershire. Increases in participation through sports and club development activity, including school club links are therefore the most likely means of participation growth
- The Mixed Hockey Association are also seeking to generate additional participants, thorough initiatives such as subsidising coaching and umpiring training if those taking up the offer give back to the league. This will increase sustainability in the sport and is designed to see continued growth in the city
- Without an additional pitch for Leicester Ladies HC, if relocated back into the city, spare capacity would be 1.5 match equivalents at peak time, meaning growth of up to 3 teams. This may see opportunities for hockey growth restricted longer term, with significant aspirations for increases in participation for both Leicester Hockey Club and Leicester Westleigh
- If a new facility was provided, spare capacity would increase to 5.5, enabling the generation of a further 11 teams at peak time through participation increases. While this amount of growth is possible with the aspirations of clubs and key stakeholders in the area, it is likely to be longer term that this is achieved. In this scenario however, participation would not be constrained.

<b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although there is spare capacity, Leicester Ladies, the largest club and club playing at the highest standard are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary. They require one pitch of a good standard to relocate back to the city. There are no existing pitches with both availability and appropriate quality. There is however spare capacity within the city if relocation and reprogramming of other teams was to take place, although there remain no facilities of sufficient quality. Longer term, the existing infrastructure may constrain opportunities for participation growth as spare capacity will be minimal without existing facilities</li> <li>The condition and long term sustainability of the hockey surface at St Margaret's Pastures is questioned, with the site already displaying some wear and tear, including rips to the surface</li> <li>Clubs have aspirations for the further growth of the sport, which until recently (with the opening of a new facility) have been particularly restricted by pitch provision. There are however poor development pathways in the city for juniors, with the majority of clubs being single / two team clubs.</li> </ul>
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## Bowls

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Outdoor Bowls</b>		
<b>Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 18 active greens containing 23 greens in total. This represents a decline in recent years, with former greens at Leicester Electric, Tower Gardens and Rushey Fields all no longer existing</li> <li>The quality of greens is varying, with private facilities of much higher quality than public sites. All existing sites are functional, but grass cover and the proportion of grass was identified as a key area for improvement, with several greens exhibiting bare patches and patches of weeds despite it being relatively early in the season. For greens scoring more poorly, the quality of the surface (uneven, divots and patchy) was the key issue</li> <li>Clubs are however relatively negative about the stock of facilities and all those dissatisfied raise concerns about the quality of provision. Clubs based on Council greens exhibit much more negative perceptions than those representing private clubs. As well as greater issues relating to green quality and maintenance at private sites, clubs on Council greens also point to more limited clubhouse / bar facilities, meaning that there is a lack of opportunities for social events which restrict their potential to grow the sport</li> <li>Several site specific issues are identified, including both green surface improvements and renovations to the pavilion / social facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Review of maintenance procedures - all LCC greens.</p> <p>Improvements to playing surface - Evington Park, Humberstone Park, Rushey Fields, Western Park, Monks Rest, Mowmacre Sports Ground.</p> <p>Leicester Bowls Club - watering system (club of high playing standard).</p> <p>Pavilion works - Evington Park (toilets), Humberstone Park (upgrades and improvement to appearance, toilets and kitchen), Spinney Hills Park (disabled toilets) and size of pavilion, Victoria Park (potential</p>

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Demand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are active clubs on all current sites and on some, more than one club share a green</li> <li>• Most participants play local to their home, more than 60% travel less than 3 miles. The existing distribution of greens is good, with few areas of the city outside of the catchment for new facilities</li> <li>• While all current sites have active clubs, the majority have experienced a decline. Key reasons include natural decline, lack of interest in bowls and connotations associated, restricted competition times, lack of volunteers, costs associated with joining facilities and the perceived poor quality of facilities. Declining membership impacts on clubs ability to fulfil fixtures as well as the income used for maintenance and renovation works</li> <li>• Private clubs in general have larger memberships and are more sustainable due to income from bars etc. They can also be more attractive to members for these reasons, although memberships are more expensive</li> <li>• All clubs have capacity for new members and are actively seeking new participants. Higher levels of membership help maximise sustainability through increased income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. Key issues relating to sustainability raised include challenges of managing and maintaining facilities, the importance of appropriate ancillary facilities, the challenges of recruiting and retaining new members. Most of these concerns were also recognised by Bowls England in a recent national survey of participants</li> <li>• The profile of existing bowls participants does not match the profile of the population of the city as a whole, with a particular dearth of players from ethnic minorities.</li> </ul>	<p>to convert existing unused facilities), Brookfield Bowls Club (ageing clubhouse).</p> <p>Review of social opportunities for parks teams? Even public facilities tend to have large facilities and there may be potential to improve functionality?</p> <p>Support with increasing participation and sports development initiatives, eg social media, new sectors of the population.</p>
<b>Adequacy of Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no supply and demand models for bowls, but triangulation of data collated indicates that there is no evidence of demand for additional facilities. There is spare capacity at all greens and most are actively seeking to retain new members - retention of existing members and recruitment of new is highlighted as a key priority for clubs</li> <li>• Guidance suggests that a bowling green becomes particularly unsustainable where club memberships drop below 20 members. While there are no examples of this in Leicester City currently, several greens accommodate few more members than this, most notably Evington Hill Park (sustainable and proactive club but with 2 greens, Spinney Hill Park, Monks Rest, Mowmacre and Rushey Mead). The average club membership is currently 47, but this is influenced by membership at private clubs where there is a higher number of participants. Both types of facility are however considered essential for the growth of bowls, with private greens serving a different market to the public facilities</li> </ul>	



Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the existing infrastructure for bowls is to remain sustainable, growth in participation will be of key priority. Several barriers to growth were identified, with a lack of evolution to accommodate modern day working practices, a lack of awareness of opportunities available and a lack of online presence highlighted, alongside the facility rated challenges of the quality and ancillary facilities</li> <li>There are some quality issues evident and the quality of facilities is a key concern for existing clubs. This is a particular concern at LCC facilities where the quality of green surfaces is limited on some sites. While these sites cater for grass roots bowling on the whole, it is essential that they are fit for purpose if participants are to be retained</li> <li>Population growth is likely to have a greater impact on the supply and demand for bowls than for other sports and based on existing membership, is likely to increase by 213 players up to 2026 and 379 up to 2036. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of circa 56 players at each bowling club by 2033, which is still serviceable within the existing stock and potentially more sustainable</li> <li>A strategy of reduction of some greens (potentially through the loss of greens with low levels of usage where there are two greens on one site) may support a better balance of income against expenditure, but would ensure that the locations currently offering bowls are retained. Indeed, higher levels of membership are likely to be a key way of maximising the sustainability of clubs as increased numbers of members will bring with it higher levels of income, which will be required to support the management and maintenance of greens. It should be noted however that due to the mobility of the older population, most choose to play at their local green - this highlights the importance of retaining the existing playing locations, which are well distributed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a desire from the bowling community to retain the existing sites containing outdoor bowling greens, as all have active clubs on site. For this to be sustainable however there is a need to maximise participation and maximise awareness of opportunities that are available. This is key to the future of all clubs, but in particular those clubs using Council facilities where numbers are lower. There are sectors of the population where there is currently minimal engagement with bowls and an ageing profile of participants, meaning that there are opportunities to engage new sectors of the population</li> <li>There is no requirement for new bowling greens at the current time and there is not projected to be in future years unless initiatives to increase participation are successful. If initiatives to increase bowling are not successful, then the number of greens currently provided is likely to be above recommended levels</li> <li>There are several quality issues that need to be addressed - these include improvements to the green surface and maintenance procedures. Some sites would also benefit from enhanced ancillary facilities.</li> </ul>	

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing participation is a key priority to ensure that the current network of facilities remains sustainable</li> </ul>	

## Tennis

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
Tennis		
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 117 active tennis courts with community use. These courts are split between public (park) sites, schools and private clubs and school sites make up more than a third of courts available. 65% of these courts are floodlit, with a particularly high proportion of floodlit courts available at school sites. Many of the schools have formal community use agreements, but are difficult to access for tennis however. Just 25 courts can be considered readily accessible at the current time to the local community, with the remainder having access agreements but proving more difficult to book</li> <li>Although the stock of facilities in terms of number of courts is equitable across the city, a high proportion of courts at club site are in the Leicester South, with just one club in each of Leicester East and West constituencies. This restricts the type of opportunities that are available to residents in these areas</li> <li>All active sites are functional but quality varies significantly. Site visits reveal a hierarchy in the quality of provision, with club based facilities of highest quality, followed by schools and then parks courts. While the quality of these facilities is vastly different, in general these three levels of facility serve different requirements and different target markets, with clubs often attracting more serious players and parks courts being used for more informal play (and free to access). The differentiation in quality is therefore expected</li> <li>In general, the quality of equipment and court surface are identified as key areas for improvement across the facility stock, with several sites exhibiting cracks, weeds and uneven patches. At club sites, as well as maintaining the quality of the surface, improvements to existing clubhouses were also considered to be key priority.</li> </ul>	
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing participation in Leicester takes place in many forms, including membership of clubs, structured coaching at parks and school sites, pay and pay activity at school sites and more informal (free of</li> </ul>	

	<p>charge) play in public parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the unmonitored access to public parks means that exact levels of participation are not known (although people counters have now been placed in these facilities) anecdotally, there is significant scope to increase usage of the facilities. Linking with their new strategy, the LTA see increasing participation in public parks as a key priority. A pilot project is currently underway at Victoria Park in partnership with the Council and it is hoped that learning from this will enable similar schemes to be rolled out across the city</li> <li>• like at public parks, responding schools reveal that there is scope to increase use of facilities, with all school courts underused outside of curricular hours. There is relatively limited engagement in the sport of tennis currently within secondary schools, but Crown Hills, Judgemeadow, Rushey Mead, Soar Valley, Hamilton; West: Lancaster, Sir Jonathan North and Beaumont Leys Schools have all signed up to a year 7/8 development league this year. A new initiative through the Premier League for Sport initiative will soon be launched at New College, and it is also anticipated that satellite clubs linking with Westfields Tennis Club will be set up at English Martyrs Catholic College and Fulhurst Community College. this suggests that participation in the school age sector may start to increase and interest within the curricular setting may expand to wider levels of activity</li> <li>• Existing clubs are experiencing fluctuating membership, but all suggest that the cost of membership, lack of internal and external funding and a shortage of volunteers are barriers to growth. most are seeking to develop links with schools in order to maximise development opportunities</li> <li>• Reflecting the three forms of participation in Leicester City, the LTA strategic plan seeks to get more people playing tennis more often through the delivery of initiatives in three strands, specifically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivering service to clubs</li> <li>- Participation focus - delivery of strong local park and community tennis venues</li> <li>- Enhancing the tennis offer in education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adequacy of Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no formal models for evaluating supply and demand for tennis and it is not possible therefore to provide definitive requirements in terms of number of courts needed</li> <li>• LTA research indicates that on average 65% of those playing during the summer will use public facilities, while 50% playing all year round will choose to play at community sites rather than as part of a club. Based on this, and using indicative LTA court capacity parameters, analysis suggests that there is capacity within the existing club base to accommodate both current and projected participation, assuming that the proportion of residents playing tennis (1%) doesn't change. The existing stock of</li> </ul>	

facilities can accommodate circa 6240 players, while existing participation equates to circa 3056. Based upon the total playing population of 3056, as an estimate, circa 67 courts would be required (however this assumes all are at capacity and well distributed). Of these at least 50% should be public / school facilities (34). There are currently 36 public courts and 25 school courts with ready community access.

- Spare capacity is also reflected in more detailed analysis of use of facilities at the club base, which indicate that there is capacity at all sites where membership numbers are known and scope to accommodate more than 800 additional members
- Active People however indicates that there is significant latent demand for tennis, suggesting that there is an opportunity to increase participation above current levels. If this latent demand was realised, provision would fall below levels required
- There is however no real evidence for the provision of additional tennis courts to meet current needs, as there is scope to increase activity levels within the existing infrastructure. Further reinforcing this, and looking at the distribution of facilities spatially, based upon the current population, the amount of participants is below capacity levels in all three constituency areas (ranging from 24 participants per court in Leicester South to 35 participants per court in Leicester West). Optimum levels are 45 per standard court and 60 players where a court is floodlit
- Assuming that participation remains constant at 1% and applying this to future growth forecasts, there would be an increase in demand of up to 823 people by 2036 (806 by 2026). The baseline requirement for number of facilities is broadly equivalent to 67 courts, population growth would generate demand for up to a further 18 (52 in total)
- Activity could therefore be accommodated within the existing club and public infrastructure, assuming that significant increases in participation over and above estimated levels do not occur. Based upon the assumption that only 25 courts at school sites are readily accessible however, it demonstrates that supply will be relatively closely matched with demand in future years (when it will be necessary to improve access to school facilities)
- The degree of spare capacity in the city therefore indicates that there is no requirement for additional courts to meet current demand. Indeed, to ensure the sustainability of the existing network in facilities, there is a need to increase participation and maximise usage. To deliver this, the key barriers identified for participation in Leicester will need to be reduced, including;
  - Quality of some facilities, particularly public sites
  - The poor distribution of club based facilities, which limits opportunities for residents outside

<b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b>	<p>the south of the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The awareness of courts and lack of use of school sites, many of which are high quality.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are sufficient tennis courts overall offering a variety of access arrangements and no evidence of a requirement for additional facilities. There is however insufficient awareness, promotion and use of many of these facilities and a need to drive tennis participation to ensure that facilities remain sustainable and that all sites within the existing infrastructure are valuable. In addition to the existing club infrastructure, at least 34 public / school sites are required to meet current need and up to 18 further courts to meet projected future need</li> <li>• Local and national insight demonstrates that key barriers must be removed if participation increases are to be successfully achieved. The quality of existing public courts was highlighted as a key area for improvement and poor quality facilities are known to act as a deterrent for the use of facilities. LTA research suggests that play is usually split between public tennis courts and private club membership and effective provision of public facilities may drive participation increases</li> <li>• Some quality issues have been identified with existing club based facilities, some of which are believed to inhibit the attraction of new members. None of the existing clubs are currently at capacity (or likely to reach capacity without significant participation increases) but qualitative improvements will be required to ensure that courts remain attractive to users</li> <li>• While there is an even distribution of parks facilities, club courts are primarily focused in the south of the city, meaning that there is a gap in access to this type of facility for residents in other areas. Community use of courts at school sites would provide an opportunity to address these gaps.</li> </ul>	

## Rugby Union

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Rugby Union</b>		
<b>Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 13 sites containing rugby union pitches in Leicester City (containing a total of 19 pitches). Almost half of the pitches are located in the south of the city. Provision in the west is particularly low, with just 2 pitches</li> <li>• Less than half of all rugby pitches are secured for community use. Other than Leicester Tigers (professional club) all other pitches that have no access are at school sites. School sites that currently offer access have been considered to offer unsecured use, as the potential for these facilities to</li> </ul>	<p>Protect Nelson Mandela Park for training for Aylestone Athletic</p> <p>Belgrave RUFC - additional pitch provision (at least 2 pitches),</p>

<b>Demand</b>	<p>convert into academies and gain greater independence remains a threat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the amount of pitches containing floodlights is relatively minimal meaning that there are few opportunities for training for rugby clubs</li> <li>the quality of club based rugby pitches is standard and the key issues identified include a requirement for additional and improved maintenance, and a need for decompaction and fertilisation, the poor condition (or lack of) floodlights, and a lack of appropriate changing facilities / clubhouse.</li> </ul>	<p>improved clubhouse and further floodlighting. Improved maintenance practices</p> <p>Old Aylestonians - improved floodlighting / access to training facilities and enhanced clubhouse. Opportunity to increase maintenance to improve capacity</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are four community rugby clubs in Leicester City running a total of 11 adult teams and 9 age group teams. Belgrave RUFC are the only club offering junior rugby - all of the remaining clubs accommodate senior teams only meaning that there are relatively few opportunities for junior development</li> <li>In addition, Leicester Tigers are based within the city. The Tigers are a professional club with the first XV playing in the Aviva National Premiership, and the club also running an A league team as well as an academy. While the club stadium is situated on Welford Road, the remainder of club activity takes place at Oval Park (club training ground) which is in Oadby and Wigston District</li> <li>While three of the four clubs play within the city, De Montfort University (4 teams) are currently travelling outside of the administrative boundary due to a lack of facilities The club are therefore looking to relocate back into the city in order to revitalise their playing squads and to reinvigorate the club</li> <li>Belgrave RUFC (5 match equivalents) and Old Aylestonians (0.5 match equivalents) train at their own grounds, while Aylestone Athletic (1 match equivalent) use Nelson Mandela Park. Training for De Montfort University (4 match equivalents) is located at Aylestone St James RFC</li> <li>The RFU are keen to build partnerships in the city through links with Schools and several schools also highlight links with Leicester Tigers RFC, including Ellesmere College and The Lancaster School. Along with the potential impacts of hosting the Rugby World Cup in the city (which as yet are unknown), this means that overall; there are increasingly strong foundations for the growth of rugby within the city.</li> </ul>	<p>Aylestone Athletic - improved access to training facilities and enhanced clubhouse. Opportunity to increase maintenance to improve capacity</p> <p>De Montfort University - access to at least two rugby pitches (or equivalent AGP) to address issues relating to teams travelling outside of the administrative boundary.</p>
<b>Adequacy of Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no community use of any of the school sites by rugby clubs – this means that there are four rugby pitches in the city that are available but not used (4 match equivalents spare capacity). None of the pitches at school sites are floodlit, meaning that they realistically offer only spare capacity for matches rather than training</li> <li>There is no remaining spare capacity at Belgrave RUFC; even just taking into account the use of pitches for matches (-1.5). These pitches are also used for training (5 match equivalents) meaning that pitches are heavily overplayed. The pitches are also used as an important venue for representative</li> </ul>	

teams by the Leicestershire RFU, placing further demand across the season, although this is outside peak time. The club have recently secured a lease for additional land to create a further youth pitch adjacent to existing facilities although funding has not yet been identified. The supply and demand calculations however confirm that a minimum of one additional pitch is required to meet current demand (not withstanding any potential increases in participation that may follow)

- There is spare capacity this season at Aylestone Recreation Ground. While the basic maintenance programme restricts overall capacity of the site, the low levels of use mean that spare capacity is available at both peak time (1.5) and across the week (2.5 match equivalents, 2 when taking into account the impact of training). The pitches were also used by De Montfort University last season but this use has been relocated and the only use this year is by Old Aylestonians
- There is also sufficient capacity at Victoria Park (spare capacity 2 across the week, 1 match equivalent available at peak time) for the existing club, with pitches only used for matches due to a lack of floodlights
- There is no remaining spare capacity at Nelson Mandela Park, which is used by the rugby club for training (1 match equivalent) as well as for American Football and ultimate Frisbee. This site is starting to become heavily worn due to the high levels of evening training activity that it is sustaining. This site is the only current option for teams wishing to train that do not have access to floodlights at their own site
- The teams at De Montfort University are travelling outside of the administrative boundary and require access to at least two pitches (or equivalent AGPs).
- Population growth may see the creation of one additional rugby team at each age group within the city. The RFU however believe that TGRs are less indicative of likely growth of rugby in the city Belgrave RUFC have a club development plan and recent growth at other clubs suggests that development is likely to be significant. Aspirations equate to at least 4 additional teams. While pitch provision at Victoria Park and Old Aylestonians could accommodate the incumbent clubs, overplay at Belgrave RUFC would become even greater (at least 2 additional pitches required) and De Montfort University would continue travelling outside of the administrative boundary.

**Key Issues to Address - Summary**

- There is a demand for additional pitches to support clubs within the city. Some clubs are travelling outside of the administrative boundary because of lack of pitches. There is also a desire to improve the quality of provision for two clubs and there is scope to improve the capacity of some pitches through enhanced maintenance procedures.
- There is a requirement for additional pitches to support Belgrave RUFC (land currently secured but no funding). De Montfort University RFC are travelling outside of the administrative boundary due to a lack of facilities. At least two grass pitches (or access to appropriate World Rugby compliant AGP) are required to meet club needs and ensure that club development is not inhibited

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are limited training opportunities for Aylestone Athletic and Old Aylestonians also have poor floodlighting, restricting their training opportunities. There is a need to improve access to training facilities for both clubs through either the provision of floodlighting or alternative venues. Protect Nelson Mandela Park for training for Aylestone Athletic.</li> <li>• The RFU and private sports clubs, such as DMU should take the lead in providing a new 3G World Rugby Compliant training facility, which could also help provide American Football and Football provision.</li> <li>• There is scope to improve the capacity of some pitches through enhanced maintenance procedures.</li> </ul>
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## Football

Summary	Assessment Findings	Specific Facility Needs
<b>Football</b>		
<b>Supply</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 152 individual formal football pitches currently available for community use across Leicester.</li> <li>• There are several sites that have formerly contained playing fields that no longer do so. These sites offer the potential to increase the pitch stock and to address any existing or projected future deficiencies and therefore need to be taken into account when evaluating the adequacy of provision.</li> <li>• Supplementing the supply of grass pitches are 6 full sized 3g pitches, located at Linwood Playing Fields, Riverside FIS, New College, Judgemeadow Community College and Aylestone Recreation Ground. Beaumont Park 3g was opened in January 2016. There is also a full sized pitch at Leicester City FC but this is not available for community use. Of these, pitches at Riverside, Linwood Playing Fields and New College are listed on the FA 3g pitch register, meaning that they have been tested and approved for use for both matches and training.</li> <li>• There are also smaller pitches at Gateway College and St Margaret's Pastures (4 x small 3g pitches). While these cannot be used for matches, they do supplement the stock of full sized pitches as they can be used for training. Judgemeadow ave received planning permission to develop a second smaller 3g pitch.</li> <li>• Leicester City Council is the key provider of football pitches in the city, providing more than half of the total pitches that are available for community use. The Council therefore have significant control over the range, type and quality of facilities provided. Facilities are also managed by private clubs, as well as being located at school sites. Schools are the second largest provider of facilities after the Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Football pitches across the city are at capacity particularly for youth football and 9v9. The unmet demand is primarily focussed around clubs rather than single adult teams</p> <p>Larger clubs on the larger FIS sites are particularly struggling and club growth will exacerbate this. Maintenance is important for these clubs to increase site capacity</p> <p>FIS sites with no artificial 3g pitches are under particular pressures with clubs training on grass pitches e.g. Rushey Fields and Hamilton Park</p> <p>Clubs not benefitting from the FIS are also struggling to access</p>



Demand	<p>This includes the Football Investment sites of Judgemeanow Community College and New College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in Leicester City, with a broadly equal proportion of responding clubs satisfied and dissatisfied. More clubs are satisfied with the pitch stock than are not, but the proportion of clubs that are not means that there remain improvements to be made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>perceived poor quality of pitches, particularly drainage, evenness and maintenance;</li> <li>quality of changing accommodation;</li> <li>cost of pitch hire;</li> <li>a lack of access to facilities for clubs not benefitting from the Football Investment Strategy; and</li> <li>a lack of access to AGPs at key times (between 6pm and 8pm).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Site visits reveal that almost all pitches are categorised as standard (based upon the views of providers / users / site visits). There are few pitches of very high quality and site assessment scores range from 43% up to 94%.</li> <li>The average score achieved by pitches visited is 61%, which falls within the standard range.</li> <li>Many local leagues highlight the improvements that have been made in Leicester City, but indicate that there remain a lack of good quality parks pitches and in particular a dearth of adequate changing accommodation. Parking is also believed to be lacking on some sites.</li> </ul>	<p>appropriate facilities, particularly for training</p> <p>Access to training by non FIS clubs is difficult there is a need for further 3g provision, circa 2-3 full-size 3g pitches</p> <p>Supply is therefore tight and there is no capacity to lose existing sites accommodating larger clubs</p> <p>Quality improvements could help however the capacity issues are at peak times when all play takes place so quality improvements will only have limited impact</p> <p>Second tier club sites e.g. Friar Lane and Epworth are seeing facilities decline and members being lost to the larger clubs. Sites require quality improvements and help with management and maintenance</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a total of 360 teams (including Disability teams but excluding those associated with Leicester City FC) who play across the city</li> <li>While there are strong participation rates for males, female football is less well established, 4 - 5% of teams, which is broadly in line with the national average. It should be noted however that several girls play within mixed teams rather than in dedicated female teams. The inclusion of female teams within a club can place additional pressures on a site, particularly with regards changing accommodation as there is a need to ensure that separate facilities are available.</li> <li>Research undertaken as part of the development of the FIS Strategy indicated that the number of teams run by clubs in Leicester was below national and regional averages and also indicated that there was a lack of clubs fielding both adult and youth teams. This means that there are barriers in place to progression through the age groups.</li> <li>Analysis of the club and team structure in 2015 suggests that this has changed slightly. The city is now characterised by a number of very large clubs, primarily playing out of the FIS sites (and most of whom offer teams from aged 6 right through to adult) and an abundance of single adult teams. The</li> </ul>	<p>The key issue on Council pitches is the quality of changing accommodation e.g. Braunstone Park. Pitch quality is also limited and focus should be on improving quality at the larger sites, particularly in terms of drainage</p> <p>There is also a reliance on school pitches some of which are not</p>

	<p>remainder of teams are single / dual adult teams predominantly playing recreational football in the local leagues. These teams are largely reliant upon the use of Council and / or school facilities and they do not typically have links with junior clubs. A number of smaller clubs playing at private facilities also remain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local leagues indicate that on the whole, participation is either static or has increased, again highlighting the positive steps for football in the city in recent years</li> </ul>	<p>secured for community use</p> <p>There is a need to review the current model of delivery at FIS sites to make them less club dominated and work better for football, to strike a better balance between club development and football development</p>
<p><b>Adequacy of Provision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall analysis has demonstrated that there is some spare capacity across the city, particularly for 5v5, 7v7 and adult football. There is however a lack of spare capacity for youth and 9v9 games. Access is particularly pressured on a Sunday morning, which is when the majority of activity takes place for all age groups.</li> <li>It is also evident that the majority of instances of overplay / pitches approaching capacity are associated with larger (and often FIS) clubs, while the spare capacity is located at Council pitches serving single clubs (adult pitches) and school sites (all sizes of pitch).</li> <li>The high levels of use at many of the FIS sites and other club bases in particular places great pressures on the quality of pitches, as it is pitch quality that dictates capacity. Any deterioration in quality will see pitches become further inadequate, but similarly, improvements to maintenance and quality will see pitches able to sustain further play. Many FIS clubs are now working to improve maintenance and quality and this should see capacity improve. Other smaller clubs are however experiencing capacity issues but are seeing quality deteriorate due to overplay and a lack of finances to invest in maintenance (often due to a loss of players and therefore income streams to other clubs). Friar Lane and Epworth and The Emerald Centre are examples of this.</li> <li>Some of the overuse is caused by training on grass pitches (on a Saturday morning) and this doubles the amount of activity that pitches are required to sustain. Training was identified as a key concern for many of the clubs in the city and if this was to be addressed, greater capacity for competitive football may be realised.</li> <li>While on some sites therefore capacity is constrained due to a requirement to accommodate play in several time slots, for many sites, peak time demand is the only use and there is a lower emphasis on quality. This may also help to maintain the quality of sites where it may otherwise be lower, for example where drainage issues are experienced.</li> <li>The role of unsecured pitches is also evident and this represents a key threat to the city in future years. Much of the spare capacity is currently provided by school sites and the loss of access to these facilities would see supply precariously balanced with demand. Several smaller clubs are also reliant upon these sites for facilities. The recent closure of Rushey Mead School to the community is an example of this, as the relocation of a club has caused overplay at the nearest available site (Rushey</li> </ul>	<p>Management of the 3g stock to be part of the above. Seek to develop club nights on the FIS sites</p> <p>Address peak time issues by looking at kick-off times and seeking to utilise 3g infrastructure more for matchplay</p> <p>Support recreational football across the city; volunteers, disability and woman and girls football</p>

	<p>Fields).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch provision is most closely matched with demand in the east of the city, where there are shortages of some types of provision.</li> <li>• FA data modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 42 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand).</li> <li>• Assuming that there are a total of 360 teams (including Disability teams but excluding those associated with Leicester City FC, who have their own private AGP), this would mean that there is a requirement for at least 8.6 full size AGPs in the city.</li> <li>• There are currently 6 full size pitches that are accessible and these are supplemented by smaller sized facilities at St Margaret's Pastures and Gateway College.</li> <li>• This would therefore suggest that in broad terms, there is a theoretical requirement for a further 2 x 3g pitches across the city. While this presents a theoretical perspective, it is however important to look at the use of facilities on the ground to determine the need for further AGP provision, particularly given the issues that were raised through consultation.</li> <li>• The theoretical position is also supported by club consultation, which indicates that there is a belief that there remain insufficient 3g AGPs in the city. In terms of both theoretical position and reality on the ground there therefore appears the need for additional 3g provision across the city</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Issues to Address - Summary</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football pitches across the city are at capacity particularly for youth football and 9v9. The unmet demand is primarily focussed around clubs rather than single adult teams</li> <li>• Larger clubs on the larger FIS sites are particularly struggling and club growth will exacerbate this. Maintenance is important for these clubs to increase site capacity</li> <li>• FIS sites with no artificial 3g pitches are under particular pressures with clubs training on grass pitches e.g. Rushey Fields and Hamilton Park</li> <li>• Clubs not benefitting from the FIS are also struggling to access appropriate facilities, particularly for training</li> <li>• Access to training by non FIS clubs is difficult there is a need for further 3g provision, circa 2-3 full-size 3g pitches</li> <li>• Supply is therefore tight and there is no capacity to lose existing sites accommodating larger clubs</li> <li>• Quality improvements could help however the capacity issues are at peak times when all play takes place so quality improvements will</li> </ul>	

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only have limited impact

- Second tier club sites e.g. Friar Lane and Epworth are seeing facilities decline and members being lost to the larger clubs. Sites require quality improvements and help with management and maintenance
  - The key issue on Council pitches is the quality of changing accommodation e.g. Braunstone Park. Pitch quality is also limited and focus should be on improving quality at the larger sites, particularly in terms of drainage
  - There is also a reliance on school pitches some of which are not secured for community use
  - There is a need to review the current model of delivery at FIS sites to make them less club dominated and work better for football, to strike a better balance between club development and football development
  - Management of the 3g stock to be part of the above. Seek to develop club nights on the FIS sites
  - Address peak time issues by looking at kick-off times and seeking to utilise 3g infra-structure more for matchplay
  - Support recreational football across the city; volunteers, disability and woman and girls football
-