



EAST HERTS COUNCIL

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS
AUDIT**

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

JULY 2010

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ **F** 0161 764 7490 ◀ **E** mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ **www.kcp.co.uk**



Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Louise Hunsley. Kirsty Freely	14 th December 2009
Quality control	Claire Fallon	10 th February 2010
Client comments	Jenny Pierce	March 2010
Final approval	Jenny Pierce	July 2010

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	5
PART 2: CONTEXT	7
PART 3: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY METHODOLOGY	17
PART 4: GENERAL SPORTS ISSUES.....	26
PART 5: TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS	33
PART 6: NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES.....	39
PART 7: FOOTBALL	43
PART 8: CRICKET	81
PART 9: RUGBY	100
PART 10: HOCKEY	116
PART 11: BOWLS	125
PART 12: GOLF	132
PART 13: TENNIS.....	141
PART 14: ATHLETICS	150
PART 15: NETBALL	154
PART 16: MULTI USE GAMES AREAS	162
PART 17: LACROSSE.....	164
PART 18: POLO	165
PART 19: EDUCATION PROVISION.....	166
PART 20: SUMMARY	173
APPENDIX ONE: PPM CALCULATIONS	174
APPENDIX TWO: CONSULTEE LIST	181
APPENDIX THREE: SITE VISIT PROFORMAS	190

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment Report for East Herts prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP). It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessment, data analysis and GIS mapping work to deliver:

- ◀ A comprehensive assessment of the supply of, and demand for, outdoor playing pitches (senior, intermediate, junior and mini) in East Herts, through the application of the Sport England Playing Pitch Model;
- ◀ An analysis of the quantity and quality of other outdoor sports facilities in the district;
- ◀ Advice on local standards of provision for planning purposes, for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Consideration of the adequacy of existing provision against these standards;
- ◀ Recommendations on appropriate strategy and policy responses;
- ◀ An approach for developer contributions.

The Strategy is being led by a steering group made up of East Herts Council (EHC) officers from a range of departments. In addition, consultation was undertaken with a variety of stakeholders and users, including EHC officers, town and parish councils, national governing bodies of sport, clubs and leagues.

This factual report provides an audit based assessment of the quantity and quality of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide entitled “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to provide:

- ◀ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of outdoor facilities detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ◀ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for the facilities.
- ◀ A robust evidence base to enable EHC to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

This report incorporates an assessment of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with methodologies provided by Sport England. It provides a quantitative summary for the provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in East Herts. As recommended within PPG17 and Towards a Level Playing Field, the following types of facility are included:

- ◀ Football pitches.
- ◀ Cricket pitches.
- ◀ Rugby pitches.
- ◀ Hockey pitches.
- ◀ Bowling greens.
- ◀ Golf courses.
- ◀ Tennis courts.
- ◀ Athletics tracks.
- ◀ Netball courts.
- ◀ Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)
- ◀ Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- ◀ Lacrosse pitches.
- ◀ Polo pitches.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ Education facilities.

PART 2: CONTEXT

2.1: National context

Consideration of the national context is paramount. The following section outlines planning policy pertaining to the study.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)17

PPG17 defines outdoor sport and recreation facilities as those ‘with either natural or artificial surfaces’, and includes both public and privately owned facilities. It therefore includes:

- ◀ Sports pitches.
- ◀ Synthetic turf pitches (STPs).
- ◀ School and educational institution playing fields.

PPG17 recognises the value of outdoor sport and recreation facilities along with other open spaces in delivering government targets concerned with raising levels of physical activity through:

- ◀ Supporting an urban renaissance.
- ◀ Supporting rural renewal.
- ◀ Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- ◀ (Enhancing) health and well being.
- ◀ Promoting more sustainable development.

Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17

The Companion Guide states that the long term outcomes of a PPG17 study include:

- ◀ Networks of accessible high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors and which are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space, sport and recreation provision.

In order to deliver these outcomes, a local authority needs to identify local needs and opportunities and develop and apply provision standards in a way, which is equitable to both developers and local communities.

This may change in the near future as a proposed new PPS17 which incorporates PPG7, 9 and 17 will be published. This may also include a companion guide.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The Companion Guide recommends use of Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field' methodology to produce an assessment of outdoor sports facilities but taking account of the PPG17 approach which includes a five-step approach:

- Step 1: Identifying local needs.
- Step 2: Auditing local provision.
- Step 3: Setting provision standards.
- Step 4: Applying provision standards.
- Step 5: Drafting policies.

Towards a Level Playing Field

The aims and objectives outlined in PPG17 and its companion guide are reiterated in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003).

It should be noted that 'Towards a Level Playing Field' only deals with the assessment of playing pitch provision and does not cover outdoor sports such as tennis courts and bowling greens. However, the principles and basic methodology are applied to the assessment of other sports.

Sport England strongly recommends that each local authority has an up to date playing pitch strategy. The benefits of having a playing pitch strategy are identified as follows:

Corporate and strategic
<p>It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision.</p> <p>It provides robust evidence for capital funding for sports pitch improvement (to support applications to agencies such as the Football Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England).</p> <p>It helps deliver Government policies.</p> <p>It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services.</p> <p>It improves understanding of the quality and standard of sports pitches and associated changing (and other ancillary) facilities and the extent to which they encourage and enable more people to take part and enjoy pitch sports.</p> <p>It can assist in bringing specific sites back into active use and as a framework to assess sports club requests for improved sites and facilities.</p> <p>It can guide sports pitch provision and improvements through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes and regeneration schemes.</p>
Operational
<p>It can result in more efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Quality of provision can be enhanced.</p>
Sports development
<p>It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.</p> <p>It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches.</p> <p>It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand.</p>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Planning

It is one of the basic tools for implementing PPG17, particularly in relation to establishing a local standard for playing pitch provision.

It allows the presentation of a coherent, up to date assessment and strategy to Sport England in its role as statutory consultee – when the planning authority is faced with development proposals that affect sports pitches.

It provides a basis for establishing the requirement for new pitches or improvements to the quality of existing pitch sites that arise from new housing developments and the use of Section 106 Agreements.

It is one of the best tools to justify protection of pitches in the face of rising development pressure on pitch sites for alternative uses, particularly with respect to new housing in order to meet regional targets.

It provides an important evidence base, which is part of a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection to support the Local Development Framework including local authorities' emerging core strategies. It establishes a policy framework against which to justify existing or new recreation allocations for playing pitches/other leisure activities.

The approach and guidance outlined in 'Towards A Level Playing Field' are fully endorsed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) as the appropriate way of providing detailed local assessments of playing pitch requirements and, as such, have been used in this study. Details of the methodology are outlined later in this document.

PPG17 now requires local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

'Towards a Level Playing Field' does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following needs to be taken into consideration:

- ◀ Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation.
- ◀ Quality of pitches.
- ◀ Provision of changing facilities.
- ◀ Pitch capacity.
- ◀ Future population estimates.

Sport England Strategy (2008-2011)

Sport England has recently clarified its primary role; to grow, sustain and excel participation in community sport. Its ambition is to get more people playing and enjoying sport and to help those with talent get to the very top. It seeks to achieve this through working closely with national governing bodies of sport and building strong partnerships with local authorities.

The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- ◀ One million people doing more sport.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who drop out of five key sports.
- ◀ Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- ◀ A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience.
- ◀ A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

Game Plan

Game Plan is the Government's strategy for sport and physical activity through to 2020. It was published in December 2002 and presents a vision for England to become the most active and successful sporting nation in the world. It sets an ambitious target of encouraging 70% of the UK's population to lead an active life by 2020 and for Sport England to increase participation 1% year on year.

A key premise of Game Plan is that participation levels need to be raised for the whole population, but that interventions should focus upon economically disadvantaged groups and within those, especially on young people, women and older people. For young people, a linked aim is to develop 'physical literacy' (i.e., ability across a range of skills). It also identifies the relevance and the importance of locally available facilities.

Playing to Win

'Playing to Win' is the Government's plan to get more people taking up sport simply for the love of sport; to expand the pool of talented English sportsmen and women; and to break records, win medals and win tournaments for this country.

The vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport. To deliver this vision, there is a need to develop an integrated and sustainable sporting system which will nurture and develop sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England¹. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09) which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

¹ http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/putting_policy_into_practice/playing_fields.aspx

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

National Game Strategy (2007-2012)

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

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players).
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players).
- ◀ Football for All.
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour.
- ◀ Player development.
- ◀ Running the game.
- ◀ Football work force.
- ◀ Facilities.
- ◀ Partnerships and investment.
- ◀ Promotion.

The National Game Strategy reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)

Grounds to Play continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
- ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this new plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance.
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Boards).
- ◀ Developing women's cricket.
- ◀ Attracting volunteers.
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base.
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs.
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket.

The theme of this plan therefore progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the Whole Sport Plan award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

The National Facilities Strategy for rugby union in England

The National Facilities Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England, at a national, regional and local level. The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

2.2: Regional Context

The East of England Plan

The East of England Plan is the revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England. The review for the East of England is the first region wide RSS review to be completed. It embeds, within the statutory planning system, a sustainable long term. It embeds within the statutory planning system a sustainable long term vision for development in a region with particularly strong growth pressures. The Plan states that by March 2021 East Herts is to provide 12,000 new dwellings. It also recognises the need to extend Harlow's growth into Green Belt land in East Herts.

East Herts is required to deliver a minimum of 12,000 additional dwellings for the period 2001-2021. The East Herts Core Strategy will run to 2031 to coincide with the review of the East of England Plan. At the time of writing, the review is still ongoing and final district wide figures for the period 2021 to 2031 have not been published. However, the East of England Plan does state that in the absence of these figures local planning authorities should use the residual annual average for the period 2006 to 2021 as set out in Policy H1. The East Herts target 2001 to 2031 is, therefore, 18,600 dwellings. As housing supply is continuous, the number of additional dwellings built in the eight years 2001/02 to 2008/09 can be deducted from the overall total requirement along with any sites that have been granted planning permission and are anticipated to be built within this period on allocated sites. Taking account of these developments and commitments, the 'to-find' figure for the remainder of the plan period up to 2021 is 2,276 new homes and up to 2031 is 8,876 new homes.

In addition to a growing population, the size of households has reduced over recent years; hence the need to build additional homes. For example, in 1981, the average household size in England was 2.67 persons; in 2021, it is predicted to be 2.15. This implies that even if the total population of England didn't change over this 40 year period, the number of households would still have increased by 25%.

Taking the 'to-find' figure of 8,876 homes multiplied by the average household size of 2.15 and 2.67 persons, there could be an additional population of between 19,084 and 23,699 people respectively.

In accordance with Policy H1 of the RSS, Harlow is required to provide a minimum of 16,000 dwellings for the period 2001 to 2021. However, this figure is for the Harlow area and includes urban extensions to the North of Harlow in the East Herts District and to the south and west of Harlow in Epping Forest District. The RSS indicates that land to the North of Harlow could accommodate up to 10,000 new homes up to 2021.

During the preparation of this Assessment and Strategy, the Government has announced the abolition of the RSS, to be replaced by a localism agenda whereupon local authorities determine their own housing requirements. Future strategies will therefore need to consider local population projections based upon evidence which reflects local circumstances.

Creating Active Places

Creating Active Places - Sports Facilities Strategy for the East of England (October 2007) and Hertfordshire Sports Partnership Active Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy (2008) set out the strategic context and identify the level and need for future sports facility provision in Hertfordshire. They cover the period 2007-2016. Both strategies seek to provide the appropriate number of fit for purpose, quality facilities to address the national target to increase participation in sport by 1% year on year and to meet increased population demands from the growth agenda.

2.3: Local Context

Local Area Agreements

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are three year agreements which set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership) and other key partners at the local level. East Herts has 30 LAA targets known as national indicators (NI) including NI 008 which focuses on adult participation in sport and active recreation.

PPG17 Audit and Assessment

In 2004, EHC commissioned PMP to undertake a PPG17 assessment of local needs and an audit of open space and indoor sport and recreational facilities across the District. The study identified that East Herts is well provided for in terms of total amount of open space as well as specialised types of provision, but there are localised problems and issues in certain typologies within the District. This Playing Pitch Strategy will supersede this, with respect to outdoor sports facilities, but will complement assessments of other open space types.

Sport England's Facilities Improvement Service (FIS) has been working with East Herts Council to produce a Sports Facility Strategy which will include indoor provision.

East Herts Council Corporate Priorities

The Council's corporate priorities aspire to "improve the quality of people's lives and preserve all that is best in East Herts".

In partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership the Council has identified six core aims to:

- ◀ Enhance the quality of life, health, and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.
- ◀ Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.
- ◀ Improve standards of the neighbourhood and environmental management in towns and villages.
- ◀ Care for and improve the natural and built environment.
- ◀ Safeguard and enhance the District's unique mix of rural and urban communities ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.
- ◀ Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with partners and the public.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The LDF will deliver sustainable development and shape the future of East Herts over the next 15 to 20 years. Once adopted, the various LDF documents will replace the East Herts Local Plan and form part of the statutory Development Plan for the District.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will support the production of the LDF and the justified policies/proposals which protect facilities and require new development to make provision and also development of local standards. It will also inform site specific proposals for new sports facilities.

Sustainable Community Strategy

The Sustainable Community Strategy upgrades and replaces the Community Strategy – East Herts Together (2003 – 2015). It will become the over-arching framework for all key services in the District covering the period 2009 to 2024. The Strategy has been developed in close collaboration with the emerging Local Development Framework which will guide future land use and spatial planning in East Herts and other key strategies such as housing, community safety, health, economic and cultural strategies.

It sets out characteristics, opportunities, challenges and ambitions into the following themes:

- ◀ Green East Herts.
- ◀ East Herts people and community safety.
- ◀ East Herts health, wellbeing and play.
- ◀ Housing East Herts.
- ◀ East Herts character (built and natural environment).
- ◀ East Herts economy, skills & prosperity.
- ◀ East Herts on the move.

The East Herts health, wellbeing and play objectives are relevant to the Playing Pitch Strategy which are linked with the Local Development Framework objectives.

PART 3: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY METHODOLOGY

As stated above, the assessment and analysis in this report is based on Sport England's (SE) playing pitch strategy methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (2003). This outlines specific criteria for assessing the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. These criteria and principles have also been applied to other outdoor sport and recreation facilities in East Herts such as tennis courts and bowling greens. It provides clear guidance on assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches and the types and levels of analysis required in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. These include:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
- ◀ Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

Background information

An extensive range of background information has been reviewed and incorporated into the assessment of key issues for each typology. Background documentation reviewed for the study is listed below:

- ◀ Playing to Win
- ◀ Game Plan
- ◀ Sport England Strategy (2008 – 2011)
- ◀ Towards a Level Playing Field (February 2003)
- ◀ Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17
- ◀ Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17
- ◀ The National Facilities Strategy for rugby union in England.
- ◀ The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2005/06 - 2012/13.
- ◀ Building Partnerships: Cricket's strategic plan 2005-2009 - from playground to test arena.
- ◀ Lawn Tennis Association Places to Play Strategy
- ◀ National Game Strategy (2007-2012).
- ◀ A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England.
- ◀ The East of England Plan.
- ◀ East Region Disability Sport Research Project (May 2004)
- ◀ Harlow Council – Adopted Replacement Harlow Local Plan (July 2006)
- ◀ East Hertfordshire - PPG17 Audit and Assessment (2004).
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2007-2012).
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Play Strategy 2007 – 2010.
- ◀ East Hertfordshire 'Culture for All' 2007-2012.
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study (September 2009).
- ◀ A Sustainable Community Strategy for East Herts (2009 to 2024).
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Football Local Area Data Season 06/07.
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Football Local Area Data 07/08
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Football Local Area Data Season 08/09.
- ◀ Hertford & District Football League Club Directory and Book of Rules (2009-2010).
- ◀ Mid Herts Rural Minors League Club Directory (2009-2010).
- ◀ Hertfordshire Football Association County Handbook (2009-2010).
- ◀ The Waltham Sunday Football League website.
- ◀ The East Herts Corinthian Sunday Football League website.
- ◀ Sele Schools Sports Partnership Development Plan

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ Little Hadham Parish Plan 2 (April 2009)
- ◀ Little Hadham Parish Plan Full Report (2006)
- ◀ Hertfordshire County Cricket Association 'Focus Club Bible'.
- ◀ East Hertfordshire Bowling Association website

A comprehensive list of consultees can be found in appendix one.

3.1: Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

The PPM is a temporal supply and demand analysis and is largely applied as a numerical, model. The model is used in three ways:

- ◀ To reflect the existing situation using data on existing teams and pitches.
- ◀ To test the adequacy of current provision by manipulating the variables in the model.
- ◀ To predict future requirements for pitches, by incorporating planned pitches and projected changes in population and participation.

An eight-stage process has been followed to produce the PPM:

Stage	Process
1	Identifying teams/team equivalents.
2	Calculating home games per team per week.
3	Assessing total home games per week.
4	Establishing temporal demand for games.
5	Defining pitches used/required on each day.
6	Establishing pitches available.
7	Assessing the findings.
8	Identifying policy options and actions.

Stages one to seven of this process are covered in this report. Stage eight will be covered in the strategy document.

The 'electronic toolkit', which accompanies 'Towards a Level Playing Field', provides tools for collecting some of the information above.

'Team equivalents' refers to use of pitches by groups other than those playing formal matches. This includes school games lessons, club and school training sessions, sports development sessions etc. By including these in the 'demand equation' a more accurate picture is presented. Information from schools and clubs was collected using the electronic toolkit school and club questionnaires.

Team identification has been undertaken via consultation with leagues, as well as with governing bodies of sport and clubs.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The ownership and accessibility of pitches and outdoor sports facilities will also influence their actual availability for community use. The term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This is likely to embrace:

- ◀ All local authority facilities.
- ◀ School facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements.
- ◀ Other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements.
- ◀ Any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee. The cost of use must be considered reasonable and affordable by the majority of the community.

Auditing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and assessing the level of availability is largely achieved through site visits.

Pitch quality information

It should be noted that the club and school questionnaires and the non-technical pitch assessment sheet in the electronic toolkit all have different scales for rating the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. On this basis, KKP uses the 'non-technical pitch assessment sheet' to assess *all* pitches in order that consistent information is presented.

The pitch assessment sheet is a 'tick box' assessment, which rates various elements of pitch quality with a separate assessment sheet for changing accommodation. It should be noted the pitch assessment also takes into account whether changing rooms and car parking exist on the site. However, the total pitch score is not significantly affected.

This information is scored, converted into a percentage (of the highest score possible) and also into a qualitative rating. The qualitative ratings for pitch quality are:

90% +	An excellent pitch
64-90%	A good pitch
55-64%	An average pitch
30-54%	A below average pitch
Less than 30%	A poor pitch

For ease of analysis, KKP has combined this into a three-point scale. In this report pitches are rated as:

- ◀ An excellent pitch or good pitch = **good quality**.
- ◀ An average pitch = **adequate quality**.
- ◀ A below average pitch or poor pitch = **poor quality**.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The qualitative ratings for changing accommodation quality are listed as:

90% +	Excellent
60-89%	Good
40-59%	Average
30-39%	Poor
Less than 30%	Very poor

Copies of the assessment sheets can be found in appendix two.

Capacity

KKP has developed a capacity rating for football and rugby pitches based on the quality rating given to pitches and the number of teams currently playing at the site (identified through league handbooks, local authority booking sheets and consultation with clubs). These capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation etc.

A capacity rating (as per rugby and football) is not given for cricket pitches and non-pitch facilities as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined and also differs between adult and junior matches, even though both are often played on the same pitch.

Play refers to temporal demand or when the teams play. A figure of 1.0 in this column for instance would be representative of two teams using that pitch on a home and away basis (every other week). This means that that pitch is carrying one game at that time every week.

Calculation of capacity is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines¹ on capacity, pitches have thus been identified to have the following capacity ratings:

- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.

School pitches have been issued with a different capacity rating. This is due to the fact that they generally experience higher usage through curricular and extra curricular school based use and therefore generally receive higher levels of maintenance. School pitches have thus been identified to have the following capacity ratings:

- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as four matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.

Using the pitch and non pitch database, it is possible to enter scenarios and alter the carrying capacity of school and council pitches. This means that it is possible to see how many, if any extra pitches become available.

¹ Sport England – 'Towards a Level Playing Field'

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

A colour coded rating is then given by comparing the above information:

- ◀ Red - the pitch is being used over capacity.
- ◀ Amber - the pitch is played to capacity.
- ◀ Green - the pitch is being used under capacity.

Where it is indicated that the level of provision is 'sufficient', this indicates that none of the pitches in the area (for the particular sports), are rated as poor quality and/or played 'over capacity', nor has any latent demand been identified by users. This is not to say that improvements to sites are not required. Conversely, where an insufficient level of provision is identified this is because one or more sites/pitches have been rated as poor quality and/or are being over-played and/or latent demand has been expressed.

Following consultation with league secretaries, it is noted that U15, U16 and U17 teams play on senior sized football pitches. The capacity rating does not take into account this type of play (i.e. juniors playing on senior pitches). Where a large number of junior/mini teams play on a site, particularly if they are playing on senior pitches this can result in those pitches being overplayed on the capacity rating. Many grounds are able to withstand more matches being played on by junior/mini teams than senior teams.

A number of provisos need to be taken into account as there may be discrepancies between the SE visual rating and the consultation comments. For instance, schools may have been rated as poor via the SE rating and acceptable/good through consultation. This may arise as the SE quality assessment increases rating if changing accommodation is available. A number of schools do not make changing accommodation available for community use.

Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team based on current population and participation. TGRs for each pitch sport and each age group have been calculated. These have been used with the PPM for modelling purposes (e.g., by looking at population projections future TGRs can be estimated). These have been entered into the PPM to predict, where possible, whether current supply would meet future demand.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Consultation

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. These were generally as follows:

Consultee	Consultation responses		Method of consultation
	Consultees identified*	% Response	
Town and parish councils	48	85%	Postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Football clubs	137	65%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Cricket clubs	34	71%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Rugby clubs	6	67%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Hockey clubs	2	100%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Tennis clubs	13	62%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Golf clubs	9	78%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Bowls clubs	17	82%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Netball clubs	4	75%	Face to face/postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Secondary schools (including independent)	14	70%	Face to face/telephone interviews
Primary and junior schools	62	74%	Postal questionnaires/telephone interviews
Overall project response rate		76%	

*Note throughout the course of the project KKP identified additional consultees which has increased the overall number of consultees from those initially identified by EHC.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Analysis areas

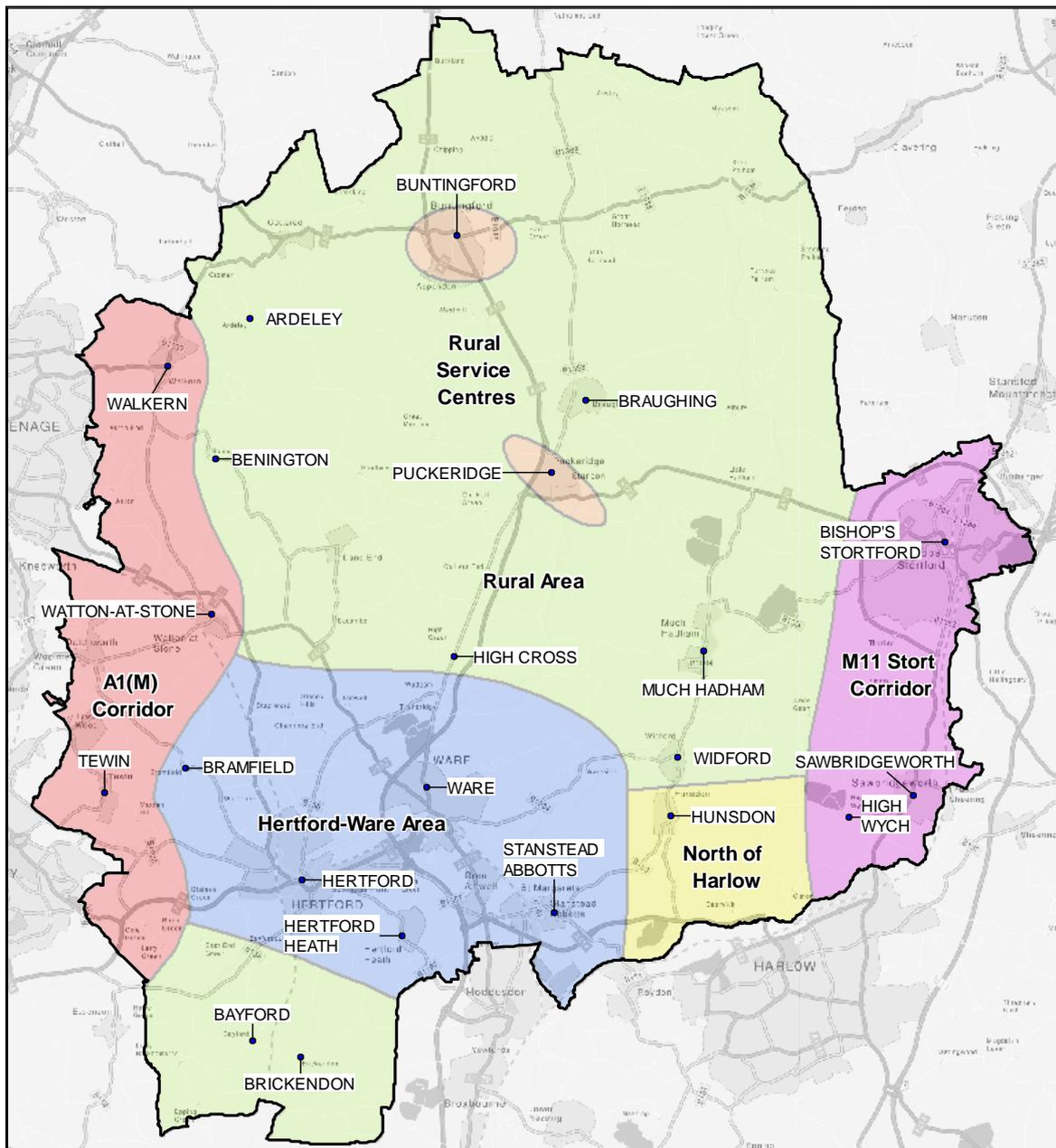
The District of East Herts has been divided into six analysis areas (shown below). These are co-terminus with the District's strategic planning areas. Analysis areas allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Hence the analysis areas are as follows:

- ◀ A1(M) Corridor.
- ◀ North of Harlow.
- ◀ Hertford-Ware Area.
- ◀ M11 Stort Corridor.
- ◀ Rural Area.
- ◀ Rural Service Centres.

The analysis areas coincide with the EHDC's strategic planning areas and provide a rational basis for dividing the District up for the purposes of assessing supply/demand of pitches.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 3.1: Analysis areas in East Herts



Population growth

Population growth has been forecasted using the Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections. They project forward from the mid-year estimates of 2004 and give an indication of future trends by age and gender for the next 25 years. On this basis, East Herts is estimated to grow by 7.3% between 2010 and 2021. The projections are trend based projections and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies. The population increases are used to forecast demand for pitches in 2021, as described in the PPM, and to calculate Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Report structure

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch and non-pitch sports in the District.

Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

KKP has covered all sports for which there is currently organised, structured play on outdoor playing pitches. It is recognised that there are additional outdoor sports that could also be developed using pitch facilities in East Herts. The sports covered are as follows:

- Part 4: General sport issues
- Part 7: Football
- Part 8: Cricket
- Part 9: Rugby
- Part 10: Hockey
- Part 11: Bowls
- Part 12: Golf
- Part 13: Tennis
- Part 14: Athletics
- Part 15: Netball
- Part 16: Multi use games areas
- Part 17: Lacrosse
- Part 18: Polo
- Part 19: Education provision

PART 4: GENERAL SPORTS ISSUES

4.1: Introduction

Consultation with users and non-users of sports facilities across East Herts covered many issues with regard to facilities in the area. Sport and facility specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section sets out generic issues that cut across more than one sport/facility.

Particularly within the rural parishes and villages there are issues with clashing fixtures where football and cricket clubs are playing across the same pitch space. This also increases the need for maintenance and reduces the amount of time pitches have to rest.

Bishop's Stortford is widely considered to be one of the most thriving areas in terms of sport in East Herts.

Wodson Park Sports Centre is a key focus for sports facilities in Hertford and Ware. The facility was bequeathed by a local farmer to the people of East Herts, for the specific purpose of providing a recreation facility. The site has developed over the years and is used by a number of sports clubs including Herts Phoenix Athletics Club.

4.2: Active People Survey

The Active People Survey 2005/06 (AP1) was a survey of over 360,000 adults aged 16 and over living in England. At least 1,000 telephone interviews were carried out in every local authority in England. Sport England developed a diagnostic tool (APD) to help use the results of the survey.

It gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision. The survey is now in its third year and Active People Survey 3 began on 15 October 2008 and ran for 12 months until mid October 2009.

Nationally, key highlights from Active People Survey include:

- ◀ The number of adults in England who do sport at least three times a week has reached 6.93 million (APS 3).
- ◀ Athletics and cycling have each achieved increases of over 100,000 participants in the past year (between 2007/8 and 2008/9).
- ◀ The number of men playing sport three times a week has risen by 176,000 to 4.203 million.
- ◀ Regular participation among non-white adults has increased by 98,800 to 713,800.
- ◀ Over two million adults in England (age 16 and over) volunteer in sport for at least one hour a week. This has increased by 125,000 between 2005/6 and 2007/8 (from 1.92 million adults to 2.04 million adults).
- ◀ There has been no change in the percentage of the adult population who receive tuition between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- ◀ Between 2005/6 and 2007/8 there has been a statistically significant decrease in the percentage of the adult population that take part in organised competition, and

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

the percentage of the adult population that are members of a club where they play sport.

- ◀ Satisfaction with local sports provision has significantly declined from 2005/6 to 2007/8.
- ◀ Football participation (indoor and outdoor) has grown from 2.91 million adults (7.1%) to 3.12 million adults (7.6%), an increase of 232,000 participants.
- ◀ Participation in golf has increased from 1.46 million adults (3.6%) to 1.54 million adults (3.7%), an increase of 87,000 participants.

Table 4.1 below shows the APS1, 2 and 3 survey results for East Herts in comparison to the England and the Sport England Region of the South East; as well as those for the nearest neighbours.¹ The nearest neighbours are not geographic neighbours, but those which are the closest to East Herts in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the models use a wide range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated.

The following table shows data for East Herts and its nearest neighbours in terms of participation in sport (three sessions a week at moderate intensity for 30 minutes). This is a different measure of participation than the NI8 or KPI1 participation indicators, which look at sport and active recreation (three days a week, moderate intensity, 30 minutes). The results indicate a marginal decrease in participation in sport in East Herts over the survey period (approximately three years) from 26% to 23%. This increase follows a general trend seen at both a national and regional level.

APS1 found that 26.2% of those people surveyed in East Herts participated in sport and active recreation at least three days a week for 30 minutes at a moderate level (KPI 1), which places the local authority above the national average. This decreased marginally to 22.74% following the AP2 survey and again to 23% for APS3.

Of those surveyed, almost two thirds (66%) of people from Herts were satisfied with local sports provision (APS1) which is slightly below the national average (70%) and lower than the comparable areas, with the exception of Devon. However, APS2 found that the satisfaction levels increased in East Herts (71%), bucking national trends but then by AP3 survey satisfaction levels had again fallen below the national average to 66%. The community consultation, as discussed later in the report, helps to shed some light on the causes of this comparable dissatisfaction.

¹ According to www.cipfastats.net East Herts top three nearest neighbours are South Oxfordshire, West Berkshire and Vale of White Horse.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 4.1: Active People survey results

KPI			National (NAT)	South East (REG)	East Herts	South Oxfordshire	West Berkshire	Vale of White Horse
KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	APS1	%	21.00	22.61	26.20	22.34	26.25	25.04
	APS2		21.32	22.34	22.74	26.71	21.73	29.56
	APS3		21.64	22.88	23.08	24.18	25.12	28.37
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	APS1	%	4.71	5.38	7.07	7.05	5.84	6.08
	APS2		4.93	5.29	5.27	7.26	5.65	6.08
	APS3		4.72	5.42	5.33	7.40	6.08	5.36
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	APS1	%	25.11	27.55	31.08	30.57	30.42	28.08
	APS2		24.73	27.48	32.42	32.80	30.32	28.78
	APS3		24.13	26.14	28.79	30.37	29.30	31.38
KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	APS1	%	18.02	20.65	21.79	25.39	21.87	21.39
	APS2		18.14	20.56	24.39	23.64	20.25	21.97
	APS3		17.55	19.52	24.02	21.50	20.61	25.50
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	APS1	%	14.98	17.15	17.84	21.30	19.12	19.39
	APS2		14.65	16.35	17.33	18.00	17.62	20.02
	APS3		14.40	16.00	14.30	17.41	19.90	19.00
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	APS1	%	69.53	71.76	65.60	72.35	72.91	77.77
	APS2		66.65	69.89	70.93	75.69	65.38	71.72
	APS3		68.41	71.18	65.70	72.16	70.66	72.32

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

4.3: Market segmentation

Sport England has also developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments to help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation.

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming for sport and recreation. For example, whilst the needs of the smaller segments should not be ignored, it may be useful for East Herts Council to know the sports enjoyed by the largest proportion of the population. The segmentation may also be able to assist partners to make tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with target market(s) and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles. Those segments found to be most dominant in East Herts are shown in table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Market segmentation results for East Herts

Ref.	Market segment	Key characteristics	% of EHC population	Activities/sports that appeal to segment
BO6	<i>Tim, settling down males</i>	Tim manages trips to the gym, weekends at the canoe club and the odd mid-week game of squash.	16%	Football Golf Squash Cricket Rugby Union Shooting American Football
AO3	<i>Chloe, fitness class friends</i>	Chloe is likely to be a member of a gym or fitness club. She is motivated to train to keep fit and to meet friends. More free time, people to go with and longer opening hours may encourage more participation.	12%	Body combat Swimming Gym Tennis Netball Pilates Running Aqua Aerobics
C11	<i>Philip, comfortable mid-life males</i>	Philip is the most active within his peer group. He enjoys participating in a number of activities, including team sports, racquet games and technical sports. He is likely to be a member of fitness or sports clubs and take part in competitions.	9%	Sailing Gym Football Badminton Cycling Jogging Golf Cricket
A01	<i>Ben, competitive male urbanites</i>	The most active type across the population. Team sports are particularly popular, along with other high intensity activities such as lifting weights at the gym or competitive court games.	9%	Rugby Squash Cricket Tennis Gym Climbing Windsurfing Football

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Ref.	Market segment	Key characteristics	% of EHC population	Activities/sports that appeal to segment
B07	<i>Alison, stay at home mums</i>	Fairly active type within the Group, enjoying keep-fit classes, swimming and racquet sports in particular. Likely to have private gym membership and attend a few classes or swim. May receive tuition for a sport, such as tennis	8%	Swimming Badminton Aerobics Pilates Tennis Cycling Horse-riding Exercise bike

The male market segment with the greatest proportion (16%) of the East Herts population is “Tim”, a settling down male. The female market segment with the greatest proportion (12%) of the East Herts population is “Chloe”, someone who has fitness class friends.

This means that the greatest proportion of residents would benefit from initiatives that appeal to “Tim”; sports such as football, golf, squash, cricket, rugby union, shooting and American football, or “Chloe”; sports such as netball, swimming, pilates, gym, running, tennis, and aqua aerobics.

4.4: Clubmark

‘Playing to Win’ is the Government’s plan to get more people participating simply for the ‘love of sport’. Its stated vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport through developing an integrated and sustainable sporting system which will nurture and develop sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

Sports clubs, and, in particular, Clubmark clubs directly support this aim. Clubmark accredited clubs are externally assessed to ensure they achieve minimum operating standards, regardless of the National Governing Body (NGB) to which they affiliate. Evidence collected independently of NGB’s suggests that they have, over the past two years, increased junior participation, raised the number of active, qualified coaches and improved levels of coach qualification, thus making them, in their own view and that of the evaluators, more effective and sustainable community sports clubs. East Herts has 14 Clubmark clubs plus a further 25 ‘working towards’ their accreditation.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The following 13 Clubmark accredited clubs use outdoor sport and recreation facilities in East Herts:

- ◀ Hertford Cricket Club.
- ◀ Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club.
- ◀ St Margaretsbury Cricket Club.
- ◀ Ware Cricket Club.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Golf Club.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club.
- ◀ Hertford Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Datchworth Rugby Football Club.
- ◀ Legends Tennis Academy.
- ◀ Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club.
- ◀ Royston Rugby Football Club.

EHC may wish to consider future prioritisation of facilities particularly as these clubs can support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities. For example, achieving targets for youth participation, the five hour offer and school-club links.

4.5: Pitch ownership

Pitch ownership is variable in East Herts, with some pitches in private ownership (i.e., by the clubs or sports associations), some pitches owned by parish/town councils and others by East Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council (including those on school sites).

Those pitches owned by parish/town councils are often located in open spaces and are used for a number of purposes. For example, Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields (KKP ref 103) is part of the village recreation ground and as a result is heavily used for a variety of (formal and informal) activities. This means that the quality of provision is variable. The site is currently played over capacity. The Parish Council has recognised that there is need for more football pitch capacity in the village. It is being explored by the sports and social club.

4.6: Lease and rental agreements

The type and cost of lease agreements used varies between clubs, and even type of sport. The length of tenure can affect a club's ability to improve facilities. The ability to raise funds from external sources, such as the Football Foundation, Lottery, or Sport England; and to be granted planning permission for facility improvements, are greatly influenced by the length and type of lease in place. Accessibility to, and availability of, external funding can greatly affect the sustainability and growth of clubs.

A potential solution is to, where possible, consult clubs and landowners with existing short term leases or annual rental agreements to investigate the feasibility of extending current contracts, thereby better enabling the clubs to access external funding and develop facilities.

4.7: Management and maintenance

Management and maintenance of pitches varies considerably. Several sites are leased from EHC or town/parish councils on full-maintenance leases. However, the extent of this arrangement varies. For example, Watton-at-Stone Football and Cricket Club rents the ground from Watton-at-Stone Parish Council for an annual sum. The cricket club is responsible for maintenance of the square, and the Parish Council assist in larger projects such as overall maintenance.

4.8: Section 106 funding

EHC has sought recent Section 106 developer contributions for a number of outdoor sports facilities which include:

- ◀ Building of dwellings to the rear of the Hertfordshire Cricket & Hockey Association site. A Section 106 Agreement has been secured and the Club plans to fund an extension to its existing clubhouse facility, which would provide additional changing and toilet facilities to meet peak demand.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club (BSCC) owns its first team pitch and leases its second team pitch from EHC on a long term lease (99 years). Both pitches are located at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (BSST) site which also houses 11 tennis courts (two macadam, three clay and six grass courts) and one junior football pitch. Land located to rear of the site, owned by a trade union (Gilby's Gin), has been sold for housing development (Croft Group). As part of the Section 106 Agreement, developers have agreed to provide BSCC with an area of land to develop a cricket square and pavilion. In addition, BSST has secured developer contributions as part of another nearby housing development which will also be used to fund the cricket and pavilion project.

PART 5: TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

5.1: Introduction

The role of town and parish councils in the management and maintenance of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities varies. Whilst some parish councils are very proactive and have developed sports associations to oversee the management of sports facilities, others devolve full responsibility to clubs which use the facilities.

Town councils

Bishop's Stortford Town Council

Chapter 11 of the Bishop's Stortford Town Plan (updated October 2009) references resident satisfaction with leisure facilities.

61% of the respondents stated that they were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the facilities currently available in sports and 39% stated that they were either "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied".

Parish/town councils

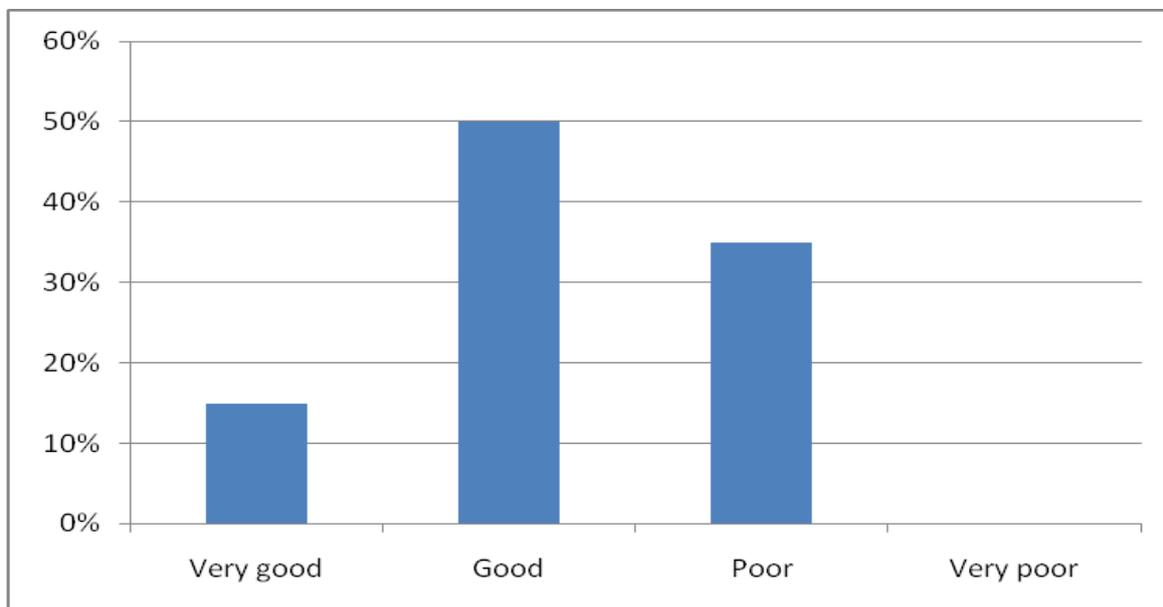
47 parish/town councils in East Herts (including parish meetings) were consulted in order to gain an understanding of the ownership, quality and quantity issues relating to playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities. Of these 43 responded resulting in a 91% response rate.

A number of parish/town councils responded directly to the questionnaire, however, several parish councils indicated that they are not responsible for any pitches in their area. The parish/town councils indicate that provision is varied, both in terms of quality and quantity, as shown overleaf:

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

5.2: Quantity and quality ratings for playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision

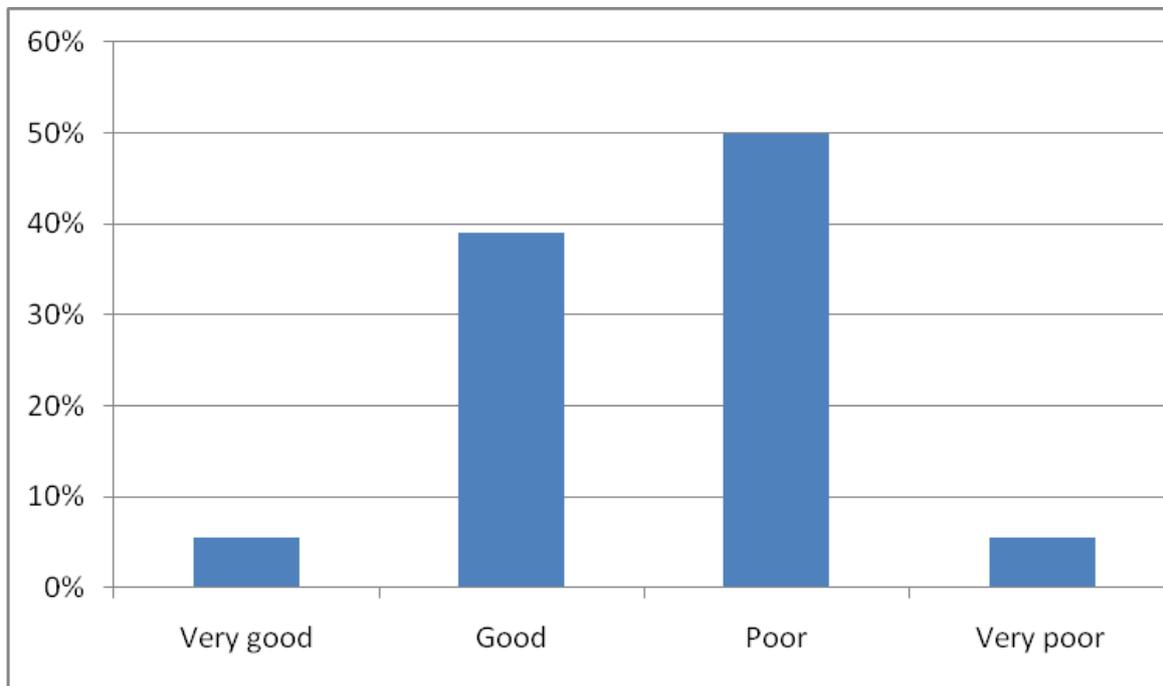
Figure 5.1: Rating of the quality of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities by town/parish councils



Half (50%) of parish council's consulted rate the quality of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as good. Whilst only 15% of parish council's rate the quality of facilities as very good, just over one third (35%) rate the quality as poor.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 5.2: Rating of the quantity of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities by town/parish councils

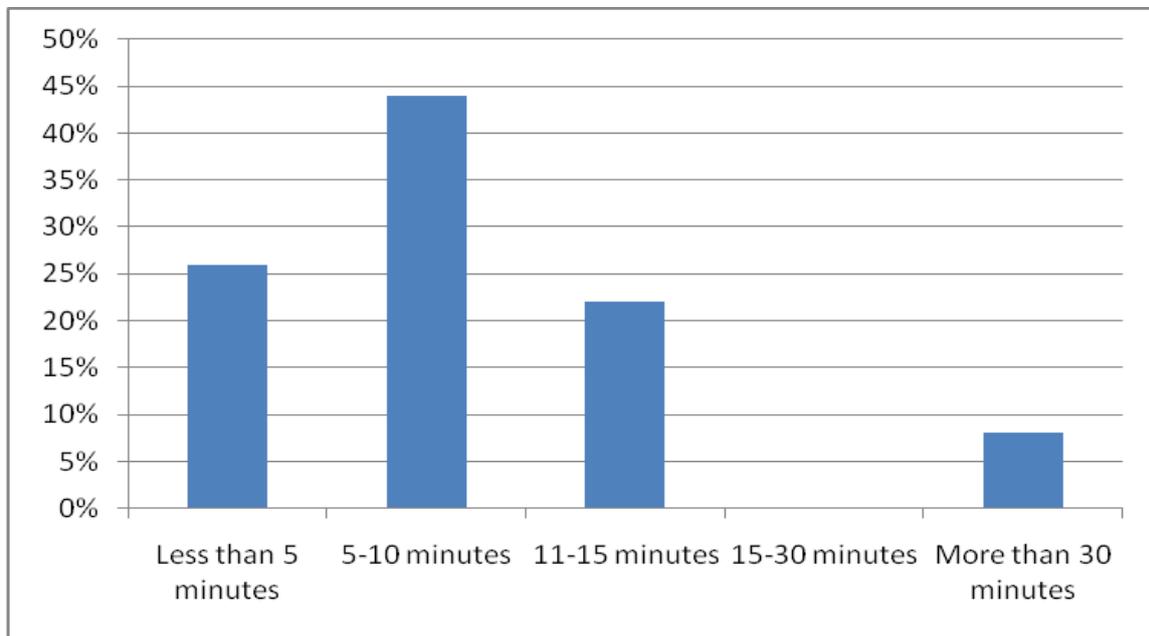


Almost two-fifths (39%) of the parish council's consulted rate the quantity of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as good. Whilst only 6% of parish council's rate the quantity of facilities as very good, half (50%) rate the quantity as poor.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

5.3: Town/parish travel times

Figure 4.3: User travel times



In terms of travel to access playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in East Herts, over two-fifths (44%) travel (by transport) for 5-10 minutes to access provision. Over a quarter (26%) travel less than five minutes whilst just less than one quarter travel 11-15 minutes. In general terms therefore, provision can be identified as being locally accessible with the majority of people using such facilities being able to travel within their locality.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Qualitative questionnaire replies indicate that a number of parish councils have intentions to improve provision in the area. Assistance/plans vary from providing small grants for clubs to developing sports pavilions on site. For example:

5.4: Town/parish council facility development plans

Table 4.4: Town/parish council developments

Parish Council	Notes
Braughing Parish Council	<p>The Braughing Playing Field Association Trust hopes to finish the ladies changing facilities together with upgrading the ladies toilets. It is also intending to improve the football nettings surrounding the field.</p> <p>The Trust has received enquiries from a ladies football team previously seeking to be accommodated at Braughing Playing Fields. However, this was refused at the present time due to the lack of facilities of ladies changing.</p>
Datchworth Parish Council	<p>There is a dilapidated tarmac basketball court at Turkey Farm Playing Fields (KKP Ref 107). The Parish Council is currently seeking to resurface the court with the aspiration of developing it as MUGA. Although it will be the parish council's net project it is estimated that it will take at least two years to find £15,000 to undertake the work.</p> <p>The Parish Council has also given permission for the bowling club (based at Turkey Farm Playing Fields) to extend the car park at the site.</p> <p>The Parish Council has expressed concern regarding parking at the Datchworth Sports and Social Club site (KKP ref 182) which is home to Datchworth Rugby Club. Parking is an issue at the site. Datchworth Sports and Social Club is liaising with the Parish Council to acquire land from a local landowner to create more parking. Thus far the Club has not been successful in gaining access to the land and on street parking is a major issue. The potential threat to the loss of the rugby club from the village is a concern.</p>
Little Munden Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council has cited aspirations to develop a small changing facility with showers to service the football pitch at Horse's Meadow, It also cites demand to increase sports facility provision including tennis courts for example. However, as a small parish council it notes limited funds are available to undertake such developments.</p>
Tewin Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council has plans to refurbish the pavilion and changing facilities which are in very poor condition. It is due to consult the village and has funds in place. However, it comments that more assistance with funding would be of use to secure improvements.</p>
Hertford Heath Parish Council	<p>Proceeds from the village fete used to support clubs will be used to assist with car park improvements.</p>
Benington Parish Council	<p>The Parish Council cites plans to rebuild a new pavilion (at Benington Recreation Ground) to replace the one which burnt down and is, at present, replaced by a portacabin. The Parish Plan also cites that respondents (78%) thought that a larger pavilion would be beneficial to the community.</p> <p>The recreation ground is managed by the Recreation Ground Committee.</p>
Widford Parish Council	<p>Plans are afoot to develop a changing room at Bell Lane Playing Field (KKP Ref 66).</p>
Walkern Parish Council	<p>The Walkern Sports and Community Centre has recently taken on a lease of the site (Jubilee Pavilion) at High Street which is being refurbished as part of the new arrangements.</p>

5.5: Demand

The following town/parish councils cite demand for additional facilities to be developed:

- ◀ Buntingford Town Council - in respect of winter training on MUGA area due to a large number of youth teams.
- ◀ Standon and Puckeridge Parish Council – notes that demand for football is increasing whilst demand for tennis and bowls is perceived to be declining.
- ◀ Watton-at-Stone Parish Council – the need for more football pitch capacity is being investigated.
- ◀ Thorley Parish Council – notes that there is a lack of available sites.
- ◀ Tewin Parish Council – five teams have asked about using the facilities e.g. Knebworth FC. Tewin Parish Council lets the clubs use the facilities for free - but will charge if new changing facility plans go ahead.
- ◀ Hertford Heath Parish Council (HHPC) – team based at Townsend Arms requested use of the football pitch but HHPC are anxious as they maintain and could not take further use. Clubs cannot access provision in Hertford due to cost and high demand.

5.6: Other town/parish bodies

A number of parish councils have separate sports associations which have a remit to represent all sports clubs and organisations and seek opportunities to improve facilities where necessary which will promote, encourage development and participation in a wider range of sport and leisure activities in the local area generally.

PART 6: NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

Cross-boundary migration is limited. A small number of clubs from Stevenage use facilities in East Herts as do a small number of clubs from Broxbourne. However, there is also some out-migration of clubs to Harlow and Broxbourne as access to facilities, for clubs based in the south of the District, is perceived to be good.

The following sections take account of neighbouring authority plans and proposals which may impact upon the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in East Herts. It summarises the finding of existing playing pitch strategies (where applicable) and references any plans for new housing development which may impact upon provision in East Herts.

6.1 Broxbourne Borough Council

In 2007, Broxbourne Borough Council commissioned a PPG17 Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Assessment. The study informed the preparation of the Broxbourne Local Development Framework (LDF) and aims to help shape the strategic direction for open space in the Borough.

The Strategy identifies the current level of provision is 268.07 ha spread across 82 sites, which equates to an average site size of 3.27 ha. Excluding the three golf courses in the borough total provision equates to 163.84 ha. This results in a current level of provision of 1.88 ha per 1,000 population.

There is a good distribution of outdoor sport facilities across the borough and as a result the majority of residents fall within the accessibility catchment. However, there is a large variety in the scale of outdoor sport facilities meaning that whilst some residents are in close proximity to large sites, other neighbourhoods are only served by very small sites or school sites.

The application of the local quantity standards reveals an appropriate level of current provision but a requirement of circa 15 ha of new provision up to 2021. While there are few accessibility deficiencies and therefore few clear priorities for new provision, consideration should be given to providing new facilities in areas where there is currently little variety. This is particularly important considering participation in sport and physical activity in Broxbourne is below the national and regional average. Improvements to the quality and accessibility of existing facilities should also be prioritised.

6.2: Epping Forest District Council

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) undertook a district Playing Pitch Strategy in 2007. Epping Forest compares favourably nationally, in terms of the number of adult sports pitches (one pitch to every 647 adults in the District) and is particularly strong in terms of adult football pitches. However, such pitches are generally of an 'average' to 'good' quality.

Epping Forest also currently has an adequate supply of pitches for cricket, hockey and rugby. Some sites in the District currently have a surplus of adult pitches at certain times, but this is offset by the reduction in availability of pitches that are subject to flooding and this is particularly the case for pitches situated in the Roding Valley.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The key deficiencies in provision are, however, junior and youth pitches, which are considerably less than other districts. There is a distinct need for district providers to meet existing and potential demand, by either installing new junior size pitches on existing sites; re-designating adult size pitches, or, by establishing new facilities specifically for junior use.

The Strategy recognises that the Council and town/parish councils have a key role in planning, providing and coordinating provision of playing pitches in the District and as such, should assist and encourage other providers such as local schools; college and clubs to allow community access and to maintain and enhance the quality of their pitch provision.

Opportunities for new pitch facilities in the District are acknowledged to be very limited, but occasionally become available as part of new housing developments in the area. Without these opportunities, the likelihood of new pitch provision particularly in the south of the District is limited, due to the lack of designated open space. It is therefore suggested that every possible opportunity to secure land for new pitch provision is considered as part of new housing developments in the District.

Where Section 106 Agreements are negotiated to establish new pitch facilities, it is possible to attract external funding to the District through organisations such as the Football Foundation. Leisure Services has a track record of securing external funding for local projects and will aim to work with local partners to maximise funding for new pitch provision where deficits have been highlighted.

Availability of open space for conversion to playing pitches is also an issue in the central parts of the District.

EFDC is currently in the very early stages of preparing the Core Strategy for the district. However, there are no large schemes with planning permission currently awaiting implementation close to the boundary with East Herts.

6.3: Harlow Council

It's Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the Area, which should be implemented from 2009 to 2021. It should be recognised that the Strategy and Action Plan is outlined to provide a framework and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partnerships and possible sources of external funding have been identified. There is a need to build key partnerships with schools, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 contributions). This document provides clarity about the way forward, and allows the Council to focus on key issues that it can directly influence and achieve.

Residents in villages to the south of East Herts are likely to travel to Harlow to access outdoor sports provision as oppose to key settlement areas in the District. This would be exacerbated if development were to occur in the future to the north of Harlow on land that could be within the EHDC area.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

6.4: North Hertfordshire District Council

Land Use Consultants were commissioned by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) in June 2009 to prepare standards for provision of green space in the District. The resulting standards will feed into the developing Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) for North Hertfordshire District and Stevenage and will also feed into the Local Development Framework, specifically the proposed Planning obligations SPD for North Herts.

It identifies that residents living in urban areas in the District have access to 1.42 ha per 1,000 population. Residents living in rural areas in the District should have access to 1.85 ha per population.

6.5: Hertsmere Council

Research undertaken could not identify a Playing Pitch Strategy for Hertsmere. However, the Local Plan (Adopted in 2003) proposes the Local Authority uses the standard 2.8ha per 1,000 population divided in the following proportions:

- ◀ Children's play – 0.7ha
- ◀ Sports ground 1.7 ha

6.6: Stevenage Borough Council

The Council is in the process of updating its 2006 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study through the preparation of a Sports Facility Strategy which will incorporate a Playing Pitch Strategy.

It is likely migration between Stevenage and villages in East Herts. Building Schools for the Future in Stevenage (Wave 4) may have implications as secondary school sites will have secured community use. There will also be a new secondary school which will replace Thomas Alleyne School proposed at Great Ashby, located in North East Stevenage, close to the boundary of East Herts.

Stevenage Borough Council anticipates that any new housing developments in the Borough should meet all their playing pitch (and other open space) requirements either within the Borough or within the SNAP area (SNAP being the joint area action plan which is being prepared with North Herts District Council). It is not envisaged that future plans and proposals for the Borough will impact upon provision in East Herts.

6.7: Uttlesford District Council

The Council does not have a playing pitch strategy. An audit was produced several years ago but it has not had resources to progress to policy.

In terms of housing developments the nearest housing development of significance is land south of Stansted Mountfitchet at Forest Hall Park. It is currently under construction for about 680 units.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

6.8: Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

The Council's PPG17 Open Space, Outdoor Sport and Recreation Assessment identifies that most residents in the Borough have access to an outdoor sport facility (82 outdoor sports facilities, 207ha or 655ha including golf courses) but there are a number of neighbourhoods which lack provision of publicly accessible facilities.

The current supply of playing pitches is generally good, although there is a small shortage of hockey, cricket and junior rugby pitches. The majority of the outdoor sport facilities surveyed were of average quality or above and only 3% of facilities were classified as poor quality.

The recommended local standard outlined is 2.12 ha per 1,000 population and 1km walk (15 minutes) to provision. Recommended local quality features include well-maintained pitches and courts, good access and adequate facilities (e.g. toilets).

The Council is also currently in the process of updating its Sports Facility Strategy to 2026 which will incorporate a strategy for playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities. Whilst it is not yet published some of the emerging issues to date include:

- ◀ Welwyn Hatfield currently has 1.50 ha of outdoor sports provision per 1,000 population, including 1.40 ha of playing pitches per 1,000 population (based on 2008 mid-year population estimates).
- ◀ The University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield is a high quality, strategic sports facility, meeting countywide demand. As such it attracts some criticism from local clubs for being expensive and for availability being limited.
- ◀ There is a need for a number of additional grass pitches in the Borough across a range of sports including junior football, cricket, lacrosse and rugby. In broad terms there is a good provision of senior football pitches across the Borough to meet demand.
- ◀ There is a need for two new synthetic pitches suitable for football training, hockey and lacrosse.
- ◀ There is a need for more floodlit multi use games areas.
- ◀ The Borough has good provision of tennis facilities, including strategic provision at Goslings Sports Centre (Welwyn Garden City) and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Tennis Centre at Queenswood School.

PART 7: FOOTBALL

7.1: Introduction

The Hertfordshire County Football Association (HCFA) is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in the East Herts District. It is also responsible for the administration in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, county cups and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

HCFA undertook detailed consultation with local authorities in 2003 to ascertain current facility provision and the priorities for development over the next few years. This informed gaps in provision and a number of strategic headlines were developed, which any successful facility project would need to address moving forward:

- ◀ Improving the facilities available in adult league football.
- ◀ Promoting the female game.
- ◀ Improving the current provision of mini-soccer pitches.
- ◀ Promoting the community use of school facilities.
- ◀ Addressing the local needs of quality full size grass football pitches.
- ◀ Ensuring that all facilities are accessible for people with disabilities.
- ◀ Supporting the growth of small sided football.
- ◀ Supporting the development of FA Community Clubs.
- ◀ Using football as a tool to promote social inclusion.

Data from the FA Local Area Data (LAD)² report suggests that there are 411 teams currently playing competitive football in the District which comprise:

- ◀ 115 adult teams (KKP data identified 128).
- ◀ 165 youth teams (KKP data identified 152).
- ◀ 87 mini soccer teams (KKP data identified 93).

The remaining teams are small sided (five a side), playing on artificial turf, and hence are not included for the purposes of this study.

² There are discrepancies between the FA data and KKP data. Consultation with the FA acknowledges that teams in the FA LAD do not always reflect playing venues and hence the KKP data is likely to prove more accurate.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Local area data changes in participation

Conversion rates estimate the number of individuals playing football (expressed as a percentage of the population). The following table summarises conversion rates for East Herts from the last three seasons, compared with national and East of England averages. The conversion rates provide a useful baseline for the District.

Table 7.1: Summary of participation trends 06/07 - 08/09

	Adult male (11v11)	Adult female (11v11)	Youth male (11v11)	Youth female (11v11)	Mini soccer	FA Charter Standard
East Herts 06/07	7.1%	0.2%	41.5%	1.9%	10.6%	
East Herts 07/08	7.1%	0.2%	47.5%	2.5%	12.4%	
East Herts 08/09	6.4%	0.3%	49.4%	2.8%	12.5%	64.3%
East Average 08/09	6.2%	0.2%	29.1%	2.0%	11.0%	
National Average 08/09	5.0%	0.2%	23.9%	2.0%	8.9%	58.1%

Red - indicates figures below the national average.

Amber - indicates figures in line with the national average.

Green - indicates figures above the national average.

In general terms, conversion rates for East Herts are higher than regional (East of England) and national averages across all categories. The conversion rates are significantly higher than regional and national averages for youth male football, and reflect the prevalence of a number of strong clubs in the District, operating a large number of teams.

Further analysis of the trends over the last three years illustrated by the LAD data, highlights a number of key trends which should be considered in the context of this report and the subsequent strategy:

- ◀ Adult male conversion rates show a decrease of 0.8% over the past three years.
- ◀ Adult female conversion rates show an increase of 0.1% over the past three years.
- ◀ Youth male conversion rates show a significant increase of 7.9% over the past three years. This can be attributed to the consistent growth of a number of clubs such as Buntingford Cougars, Bury Rangers and Hormead Hares FC for example.
- ◀ Youth female conversion rates also show an increase of just under 1% which places East Herts above the national average for youth female football. Bishop's Stortford FC and Stevenage Borough Vixens both field at least three girls teams. Furthermore a number of clubs cite aspirations to increase the number of girls teams.
- ◀ Mini soccer conversion rates have increased by almost 2% over the last three years.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

5.2: Current provision

Following extensive consultation via questionnaires and telephone interviews, KKP has identified a total of 373 teams playing in East Herts. This includes youth and mini provision but excludes small sided games such as five aside, which is consistent with guidelines set out by Sport England in "Towards a Level Playing Field".

The audit identifies 55 sites available for community use, providing a total of 125 pitches. In addition, there are 16 sites containing 24 pitches which are not currently accessible to the community. The majority of these are located on primary school sites and tend to comprise mainly junior pitches (of which, 13 are not currently available for community use).

It is important to note that community use is identified as "yes" at a number of school sites; however, there is no current use of these. They have been marked as such because other pitches including cricket and rugby at the site have current community use and an assumption has been made that they are available.

Table 7.2: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini-soccer
A1(M) Corridor	4	1	1	8	2	5	2	-
North of Harlow	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	40	4	9	57	1	83	-	53
M11 Stort Corridor	21	4	6	33	1	38	4	26
Rural Area	13	2	7	22	-	20	-	8
Rural Service Centres	6	3	-	4	-	-	-	6
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	84	15	23	124	4	146	6	93

Towards A Level Playing Field identifies that a senior football pitch is defined as 90m x 46m (minimum size) with 1.4 hectares maximum safety boundary. The minimum size of a junior football pitch is 70m x 42m and a mini football pitch 46m x 27m.

There are a number of pitches, as summarised below (Table 7.3), which have been excluded from the supply and demand analysis because they are not available for community use (primarily school sites). These sites could offer potential capacity/additional pitches if the current supply does not meet expressed demand in the District.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

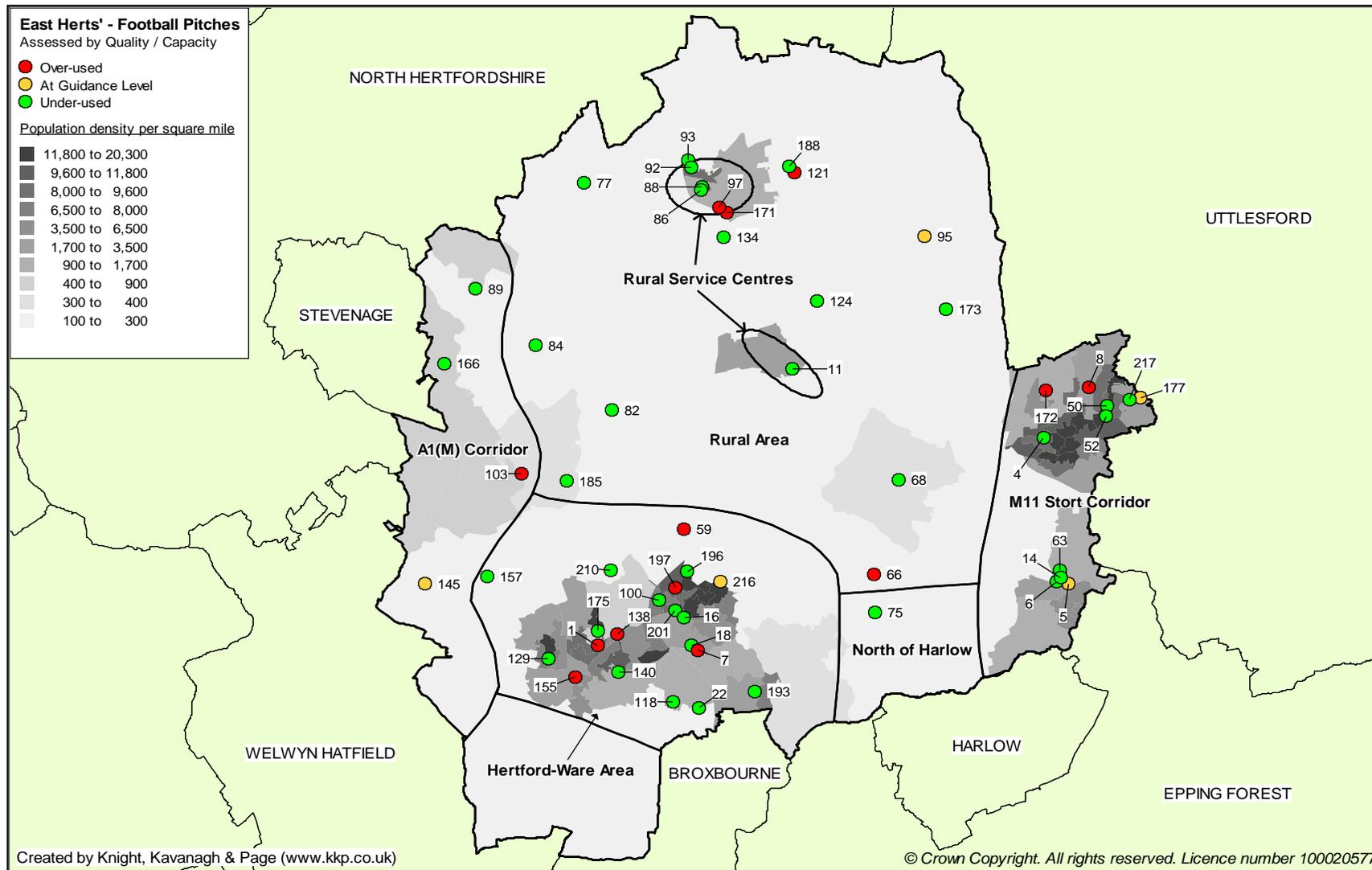
Table 7.3: Summary of pitches not available for community use

Analysis area	No. of pitches NOT available for community use		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
A1(M) Corridor	-	1	-
North of Harlow	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	1	3	7
M11 Stort Corridor	2	8	-
Rural Area	1	1	-
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	4	13	7

Of those pitches not currently available for community use, or without teams allocated to the site, the majority of senior pitches are located on secondary school sites, and junior/mini pitches on junior/primary school sites. This indicates that there may be potential to increase community access to school sites to help alleviate overplay from existing sites.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 7.1: Location of football pitches available for community use in the District of East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 7.1 indicates that there is generally an even distribution of football pitches across the District. Areas with high population density are generally well served by football pitches (e.g., Bishop's Stortford and Hertford). However, several sites have high levels of use and as such are overplayed (red dots on the map). This affects their quality, and subsequently playing capacity. Therefore, whilst there is a good distribution of pitches throughout the District, they are not all available/suitable for additional use.

Table 7.4: Key to map of football pitches available for community use

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Senior pitches total	Junior pitches total	Mini pitches total
Aston Playing Fields	166	A1(M) Corridor	1		
Upper Green	145	A1(M) Corridor	1		
Walkern Playing Fields	89	A1(M) Corridor	1	1	1
Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	103	A1(M) Corridor	1		
Hunsdon School	75	North of Harlow		1	
Allenburys Sports & Social Club	201	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Bengeo Sports Field	175	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Bury Lane	157	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Crouchfield	210	Hertford-Ware Area	2		
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	9		
Hartham Common	1	Hertford-Ware Area	3	1	1
Hertford Town FC	155	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Kings Mead	138	Hertford-Ware Area	2	1	3
Middleton School	18	Hertford-Ware Area		1	
Presdales Recreation Ground	7	Hertford-Ware Area	4	1	2
Sacred Heart School	16	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Sele School	129	Hertford-Ware Area	4		
Simon Balle School	140	Hertford-Ware Area	2		
St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	193	Hertford-Ware Area	2		
The Chauncy School	100	Hertford-Ware Area	2		2
Thundridge Sports Pavilion	59	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Trinity Playing Fields	216	Hertford-Ware Area	3		3
Trinity Road	118	Hertford-Ware Area	1		1
Ware Football Club	196	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Wodson Park Sports Centre	197	Hertford-Ware Area	1		
Bishop's Stortford FC	177	M11 Stort Corridor	1		
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	172	M11 Stort Corridor	1		
Bullfields Rec Ground	5	M11 Stort Corridor	1		
Crofters, Mandeville Junior School	6	M11 Stort Corridor			2

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Senior pitches total	Junior pitches total	Mini pitches total
Hockerill Anglo-European College	50	M11 Stort Corridor	2		
Pearce House	217	M11 Stort Corridor	2		
Sawbridgeworth Town FC, Crofters	14	M11 Stort Corridor	2		
The Barons	4	M11 Stort Corridor	1	1	1
The Grange Paddocks	8	M11 Stort Corridor	7	3	3
The Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College	52	M11 Stort Corridor	1		
The Leventhorpe School	63	M11 Stort Corridor	3		
Albury Playing Field	173	Rural Area	1		
Bell Lane Playing Fields	66	Rural Area	1		
Benington Playing Fields	84	Rural Area	1		2
Braughing Playing Fields	124	Rural Area	1		
Brookside Playing Fields	95	Rural Area	1		
Cottered Recreation Ground	77	Rural Area	1		
Freman College	93	Rural Area	1		
Hare Street Playing Fields	121	Rural Area		1	2
Heath Mount School	185	Rural Area			2
Hormead Hares Football Club	188	Rural Area	1	1	1
Horse's Meadow	82	Rural Area	1		
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	68	Rural Area	1		
Sainsbury's Depot Playing Fields	171	Rural Area	2		
Westmill Recreation Ground	134	Rural Area	1		
Buntingford Community Centre	86	Rural Service Centres	2		
London Road Playing Field	97	Rural Service Centres		1	
Millfield Junior School	88	Rural Service Centres		2	
Norfolk Road, Buntingford	92	Rural Service Centres	2		
Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre	11	Rural Service Centres	2		

Accessibility

It is noted that at young age groups i.e. mini and junior levels the majority of players tend to play for teams with home grounds close to where they live and will only travel locally. However, players aspiring to play at larger or clubs which are perceived to offer a higher standard of competition (including the District's Charter Standard clubs), are willing to travel further (i.e. up to five miles) to play.

5.3: Development

Semi professional clubs

The senior non-league divisions in England administered by the FA are often known as football's "Pyramid". Promotion at all levels within the National League System is subject to FA ground grading requirements as well as league specific rules and requirements.

The FA announced that there would be a complete review of the current league boundaries during the course of the 2009/10 season.

There are three semi professional clubs in East Herts:

- ◀ Bishop's Stortford FC plays in the Blue Square South League (Step Two), recently missing promotion to the Conference (Premier) National. It plays at Woodside Park, opened in 1999, which has a capacity of 4,000.
- ◀ Hertford Town FC plays in the Spartan South Midlands League (Step Five) at Hertingfordbury Park.
- ◀ Ware FC play in the Ryman League Division One North (Step Four) at Wodson Park.

Club development

In East Herts the club to team ratio is 1:2.9 (i.e. each club runs on average 2.9 teams). This compares to a national ratio of 1:2.4 and a regional ratio of 1:2.6. In general terms, the higher ratio is attributed to the number of youth clubs in the area, which run multiple teams. In total, 22 clubs in East Herts field youth teams (137). This equates to an average club to team ratio of 1:6.2. Conversely, almost three quarters (74%) of adult-only clubs, have only one team. There is thus, a prevalent pattern of large entity youth football clubs and a preponderance of single team adult clubs.

In total 13 football clubs in East Herts have been awarded FA Charter Standard accreditation. Two clubs, Bishop's Stortford Community FC (one of the largest clubs in the Country) and Bury Rangers FC have achieved the highest standard of accreditation (Community Club status). Furthermore, Buntingford Cougars FC and Hertford Town Youth FC both have Development Club status. This is slightly above the England average for clubs with Charter Standard status.

There is an increasing trend in East Herts towards the development of large clubs with multiple teams, where 20-30 teams are commonplace. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have to use facilities across a range of sites. Participation rates for youth male football are the highest in the Region.

A number of clubs, for example, Bury Rangers comment that it has doubled in size in the past five years. In particular, mini football is continuing to grow. Whilst clubs have also seen an increased interest in girl's football, it is noted that there is very little consistency in the numbers of girls retained in order to create teams.

Furthermore, a number of clubs which have junior and youth sections have also developed vets teams through the interest of parents.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Bishop's Stortford FC

Bishop's Stortford FC is one of the largest clubs in the Country. It developed following the merger of three clubs and currently has 63 teams (with approximately 7-8 teams per age group). Its youth section is FA Charter Standard accredited. Consultation suggests that it is currently outgrowing the facilities available. This season has been a slight decline in its membership. However, this decrease is attributed to the fact that its facilities cannot accommodate current demand.

Buntingford Cougars

Based across three venues in Buntingford including, Norfolk Road, Seth Ward Community Centre, London Road and The Bury (Sainsbury's Depot), it reports that the quality of facilities at Norfolk Road (the home venue of Buntingford Tennis Club) is poor. It currently uses two all-weather sand based pitches (marked as tennis courts and five-a-side) which become unplayable during the winter months due to waterlogging and a frozen surface. Users also comment that the facility is in a poor state of repair, particularly the surrounding fencing.

The Buntingford (Seth Ward) Community Centre is a parish council managed facility. The Club currently accesses a junior pitch at the site. It comments that the pitches at this venue are generally of adequate quality.

The London Road site (owned by St Albans diocese), requires significant work to address the uneven surface and a lack of drainage. Furthermore the changing provision at the site is amongst the poorest quality in the District.

The Bury is also the home ground of Buntingford Town FC and is on a short term lease to the Club. It uses land to the rear of the main pitch to accommodate informal mini soccer as required.

Bury Rangers

Bury Rangers is a FA Community Charter Standard status club. As part of its development plan it hopes to create a football development officer role to create better links to schools.

Ware Youth FC

Ware Youth FC has recently developed a playing pitch site opposite the former Trinity School. The site is leased to the Club (long term) from Hertfordshire County Council. A pavilion with changing accommodation was provided using Sport England funding. Ideally, all of its teams would be based at this site but it utilises a range of facilities in order to fully accommodate current demand.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The football questionnaire asked clubs to detail which issues are a problem for development and growth. The most common issues reported in East Herts include:

- ◀ Lack of internal funding, such as subs and fundraising (41% of respondents believe this is an issue).
- ◀ Lack of external funding, from agencies such as the FA (38% of respondents believe this is an issue).
- ◀ Lack of appropriate local facilities (28% of respondents believe this is an issue).

League development

There are a number of leagues which service the East Herts area. Some leagues only service a small number of teams whilst others service the District as a whole. Whilst there is variety in the number of senior leagues, in general terms, junior football is accommodated by the Royston Crow Youth League or the Mid Herts Rural Minors League.

Table 7.5: Senior leagues servicing East Herts

League name	League synopsis
North West Essex Sunday League	<p>The League has increased its number of teams over the last five years and has introduced a fourth division. The increase is attributed to reputation for good management and referees.</p> <p>League regulations state that clubs must have adequate changing accommodation with a running water supply and toilets. In addition, a member of the club must have completed the referees' course.</p>
Hertfordshire Senior County League	<p>The Hertfordshire Senior County League is at step seven of the national pyramid system – the main obstruction for team progressing to step six of the pyramid is floodlights. There are four clubs from East Herts playing in it including, Allenburys Sports FC, Buntingford Town FC, Codicote FC and Hertford Heath FC, Standon & Puckeridge FC and Walkern Rangers FC.</p> <p>The League has seen a decreased in its membership, brought about by the proliferation of five-a-side football on floodlit facilities and the perceived loss of facilities. Clubs are also reluctant to move up into the League as many would require significant work to the facilities to bring them up to standard.</p> <p>League requirements include indoor changing facilities to be separately provided for each team and official. Where teams use new facilities there must also be separate areas for women.</p> <p>In addition, clubs in the premier division must have hard standing along two sides of the pitch, a post and rail fence around the pitch and covered accommodation for twenty spectators. Consultation suggests that hard standing is not favoured, particularly on parish council owned sites which are open to the public.</p>
Hertford and District Football League	<p>It accommodates 30 clubs and 48 teams. A significant number of the clubs play at Hartham Common or Presdales. The League is currently operating at capacity but notes that there are a couple of clubs which have registered interest in joining. There has been an increase in the number of teams in the League since last season by eight teams.</p> <p>League requirements include teams using facilities with running water and toilets.</p>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The Royston Crow Youth League and the Mid Herts Rural Minors League are the main providers of junior football in the area.

Table 7.6: Junior leagues servicing East Herts

League name	League synopsis
Royston Crow Youth League	<p>The League draws from a 25 miles radius from Royston and thus encompasses key swathes of East Herts. There are over 150 teams from the East Herts area playing in the League.</p> <p>It has experienced a decline in the number of teams entering over the past five years. It is felt that this is due to lifestyle changes. However, this trend is not replicated across the District.</p> <p>The League notes that it is increasingly imposing fewer facility restrictions on clubs in order to accommodate those clubs which play on poor quality facilities. It is currently considering working towards becoming an FA Charter Standard League.</p>
Mid Herts Rural Minors League	<p>There are currently 48 clubs in the League, varying from one team to multiple teams. It runs U7s to U18s divisions. There tends to be the fewest teams at U18s, whilst U11s are the largest group.</p> <p>It comments that it has seen a decrease in the number of teams this year. Consultation suggests that a number of teams have transferred to the Eastern Junior Alliance. However, it is felt that this league is proving too costly for a number of teams who are keen to re-join next season. The League had previously accepted clubs within 15 miles of Hertford but is anticipating extending this further to a 25 miles radius to encourage an increase in membership.</p> <p>In terms of facility requirements, clubs must have access to changing facilities. It suggests, however, that many of these facilities are very basic and of a poor quality.</p> <p>85% of its clubs are not affiliated to senior clubs and play as separate entities.</p>

Ladies and girls football

A number of clubs cite aspirations to develop a girls' team but comment that there are often insufficient numbers to maintain a regular team. To some extent, clubs suggest that the lack of appropriate facilities discourages girls from joining.

Hoddesdon Owls is one of the largest girls' clubs in the area. Bishop's Stortford Community FC also currently operates six teams. However, it notes that there are limited facilities and that girls often have to play alongside mens' and boys' teams. It also cites aspirations to establish a ladies team.

North East Herts School Sports Partnership has developed a girls' football extra-curricular club targeting middle schools within its partnership. Each middle school entered a girls' football team and received six weeks of coaching which was followed by a girls' football festival. Birchwood School Sports Partnership has also targeted middle schools within its family and each school has formed a girls' football team. Each school has partaken in six weeks of coaching followed by a partnership girls' football festival. Consultation reports this has been a success and is likely to generate an increased interest in club participation.

Disability football

Bishop's Stortford Community FC is working with St Elizabeth's Centre to promote football in the area.

5.4: Key issues for football

This section provides a summary of the key issues for football in the District. The summaries are based on:

- ◀ KKP qualitative site visits.
- ◀ Supply and demand analysis using the Playing Pitch Methodology as outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field.
- ◀ Consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including the governing body and clubs.

The report does not, at this juncture, include any strategic recommendations. The subsequent Strategy and Action Plan will incorporate plans for the future.

Ownership and lease agreements

There are a large number of single pitch sites (for example, Braughing Playing Fields and Horse's Meadow) East Herts, many of which are owned by parish councils (often through a playing field association or sports association) and maintained by sports clubs. This combination can result in variable quality of provision, especially ancillary facilities.

Ownership and lease agreements vary, largely depending on the size of the Club. There are a number of clubs with very good facilities, some of which also have stadium seating including Woodside Park (home of Bishop's Stortford FC, playing in the Blue Square South League) and Wodson Park (home of Ware FC, playing in the Ryman League Division One North). However, there are also a number of facilities which have suffered from a lack of investment which means that these facilities are aging and may require remedial attention in the near future.

A number of clubs cite aspirations to gain ownership to land which can then be developed for the purposes of the club. There is widespread recognition that funding can only be achieved where clubs own or have a long lease of a site. Whilst this would be a totally inappropriate arrangement for some clubs it is more appropriate for clubs which have achieved a quality standard (Charter Standard) and are likely to be able to sustain such facilities in the future. An example of such clubs includes Buntingford Cougars and Hertford Town Youth FC.

Analysis of the returned questionnaires reveals that:

- ◀ 14% of pitches are *owned* by clubs.
- ◀ 8% of pitches are *leased* from landowners to clubs, with the average lease of less than 20 years.
- ◀ The remaining 78% of pitches are *rented* from landowners, the majority of which are EHC or parish councils.
- ◀ The cost for renting pitches ranges from free, to between £230 to £6,000 per season.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ The cost, for those teams which rent a pitch, ranges from free, to between £30 to £60 per game (with £47 being the average).

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

There is a fair perception that EHC pitches offer overall value for money. As shown in Table 7.7 (below), East Herts provides a competitive rate when compared to neighbouring authorities. The main issue which users relate to the cost of pitch hire occurs when problems are identified at the site and there is a perception that value for money is not being achieved, for example when grass has not been cut or lines left unmarked. EHC may wish to work in tandem, potentially via a forum, with local leagues and clubs to offer feedback concerning maintenance regimes, using it as an opportunity to identify issues.

Table 7.7: Pitch hire charges comparison table

Name of authority	Average pitch charge (Senior)
East Herts	£47
Broxbourne	£65
Harlow	£52
Welwyn Hatfield	£48
North Herts	£28

Pitch quality

Site assessments suggest that generally the quality of pitches in the Area is good. The audit of pitches available for community use identifies one senior and three junior to be poor quality. The remaining pitches are assessed to be good or average quality³. The table below summarises pitch quality, following site visits to all pitches (including those not available for community use).

However, quality of pitches should not be considered in isolation as the level of play on a site can affect the quality, Table 7.13 (below) outlines current site capacity issues.

Table 7.8: Pitch quality assessments following site visits

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
84			15			23		
Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	Poor
78	5	1	10	2	3	22	1	-

Consultation highlights a general opinion that pitches in the District are good quality and this is reinforced through the site visit results. Pitches which score as average or poor quality, tend to be found on recreation grounds, which are often open to public access and can suffer from problems such as dog fouling and litter. Examples include Hartham Common (KKP Ref 1), Presdales Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 7) and The Grange Paddocks (KKP Ref 8). However, EHC operates a campaign to target dog fouling across the District. These pitches are also prone to mole infestations which can cause lasting damage to the surface.

³ KKP site visits took place in October/November/December 2009. There is recognition that pitch quality deteriorates throughout the season due to overplay and the decline in weather conditions.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

EHC pitches assessed as poor quality is most often a result of overplay. The low scores are not attributed to standards of maintenance.

Reasons identified by the questionnaires for increases in quality to designated pitches since the 2008/09 season include:

- ◀ Ground improvement works (often by a designated groundsman), which have improved pitch quality.
- ◀ Pitch rotation at the start of each season to prevent worn goalmouths
- ◀ Changes in the maintenance regime.

There is a perception that some key sites are overplayed and that pitches are not adequately rested. It is felt that this is the case in Buntingford, where limited provision of STPs results in grass pitches also being used for training and creates increased wear and tear of the surface.

Unofficial use (i.e. teams using facilities without making the requisite booking or payment) of pitches is a problem across the District, particularly on open parks and recreation grounds. This creates additional costs associated with repairing the facilities. There is a need for greater policing and management of these sites particularly during the summer period, when the level of damage is often greatest.

Reasons identified by the questionnaires for decreases in quality to designated pitches since the 2008/09 season include:

- ◀ Rabbit and mole infestations creating divots in the surface.
- ◀ Perceived lack of regular maintenance throughout the season.
- ◀ Limited number of repairs or re seeding in the closed season.
- ◀ As a public open space the surface gets trampled.
- ◀ Unofficial use of pitches causes overplay and deterioration in surface quality.
- ◀ Rubbish and dog fouling is a recurring problem and has to be cleared by teams before matches.

Management and maintenance

Management of EHC pitches (including Grange Paddocks, Hartham Common, Kingsmead and Presdales) is delivered through an external company, Sports and Leisure Management (SLM), whilst John O'Conner Ltd undertakes the maintenance contract during the playing season. It is also responsible for pitch marking.

Analysis of the club questionnaire responses found that:

- ◀ Only 13% of clubs maintain their home grounds.
- ◀ Over two fifths (43%) of grounds are maintained by EHC and a further quarter maintained by parish councils (27%)
- ◀ 17% of clubs report that grounds are either maintained by other agencies or the club was unable to identify the body.
- ◀ 13% of respondents consider quality to be 'much better' or 'slightly' better than in 2008/09.
- ◀ Over half (54%) of respondents consider the quality to be no different than in the 2008/09 season.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ Almost one third (30%) of respondents consider quality to be slightly/much poorer than in 2008/09.

Teams comment that there are annual frustrations (at the start of the season) in booking pitches. A proportion of clubs suggest that there should be greater prioritisation for successive bookings and recognition of accreditation i.e. FA Charter Standard status.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play than the site is able to sustain (which is dependent upon pitch quality). In summary, 13 sites (comprising 21 senior, three junior and nine mini pitches) are overplayed by 27 matches each week. The greatest levels of overplay occur in the Hertford-Ware (19 matches) and along the M11 Stort Corridor (i.e. Bishop's Stortford) (4.5 matches) which is indicative of the presence of large multi-team clubs in these areas.

Some overplay is attributed to junior and mini teams being assigned to a particular site and that particular site not containing formal marked out pitches of that size. So, for example, junior matches being playing across senior sized pitches or mini pitches being informally marked out by cones across the site. An increase in formally marked out junior and mini pitches through creation of dedicated junior sites will help to reduce levels of overplay and reduce wear and tear of senior pitches.

A good example of a site where this occurs is Hartham Common. In addition to senior use of senior pitches, these are also being used by junior teams and mini-soccer teams for matches. In this instance this results in the site being overplayed by six matches each week.

The table below summarises the full extent of overplay expressed in East Herts. This is based on the following assumptions:

- ◀ Good quality pitch – 2 matches per week
- ◀ Average quality pitch – 1 match per week
- ◀ Poor quality pitch – 0.5 matches per week

Table 7.9: Summary of pitch overplay

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Watton-at-Stone Playing Field	A1(M) Corridor	1.0
Hatham Common	Hertford-Ware Area	9.0
Presdales Recreation Ground	Hertford-Ware Area	6.5
Thundridge Sports Pavilion	Hertford-Ware Area	4.0
Kings Mead	Hertford-Ware Area	1.5
Hertford Town FC	Hertford-Ware Area	1.0
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Hertford-Ware Area	4.0
The Grange Paddocks	M11 Stort Corridor	3.5
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	M11 Stort Corridor	1.0
Bell Lane Playing Fields	Rural Area	0.5
Hare Street Playing Fields	Rural Area	0.5

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Sainsburys Depot Playing Fields	Rural Area	1.0
London Road Playing Field	Rural Service Centres	0.5
Total		34.0 matches

Ancillary facilities

A number of leagues require clubs to have access to changing facilities. This is proving problematic in East Herts, where a number of sites do not have changing rooms, or have very poor provision. In recognition of this fact, leagues are increasingly lowering entry standards to allow clubs to play.

Clubs also stress the importance of offering good quality changing accommodation to support the recruitment and retention of players at both senior and junior levels. In particular, junior clubs wishing to introduce girls' teams highlight the need for better changing facilities. In particular, this relates to increasing quality, the need for segregated changing and larger changing rooms.

Consultation identifies that a number of clubs have inadequate changing accommodation, primarily because they don't cater for both males/females and junior/seniors concurrently. As a result, a number of parish councils⁴ and clubs are currently raising funds to develop/improve ancillary provision. For example:

- ◀ Braughing Playing Field Association Trust hopes to finish the ladies changing facilities and upgrade the ladies toilets.
- ◀ Little Munden Parish Council has cited aspirations to develop a changing facility to service the football pitch at Horse's Meadow.
- ◀ Tewin Parish Council has plans to refurbish the pavilion and changing facilities at Upper Green.
- ◀ Benington Parish Council plan to rebuild a new pavilion at the Recreation Ground to replace the one which burnt down.
- ◀ Widford Parish Council has plans to develop changing at Bell Lane Playing Field.
- ◀ Walkern Parish Council intends to refurbish the Jubilee Pavilion at Walkern Recreation Ground.

There is an apparent need for investment in ancillary facilities, primarily because they are not keeping pace with improvements in pitch quality. When prompted to make observations about facility provision, the majority of users commented on poor quality changing facilities across the District. Clubs also identify that a lack of good quality changing sites across the District is a concern in terms of attracting and retaining players.

Car parking is also cited as an issue during consultation at a number of the District's key multi-pitch sites i.e. Hartham Common and Grange Paddocks. However, it is noted that there is significant car parking capacity at both sites with several car parks available and that in some respects the issues are created by users not parking appropriately.

⁴ A more detailed summary of plans is identified in Table 4.1.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 7.10: Site-by-site key issues

Site	Key issues
Hartham Common	Consultation indicates that there are regular cancellations (by referees) at the site despite the fact that the KKP pitch visit assessed pitches as generally being in good condition. However, users note some minor issues with dog foul as the pitches are located on common ground which is also used by the public as an amenity space.
Kingsmead	Evidence suggests that the pitches nearest to the car parks are most often overplayed despite attempts to rotate use. The site is not considered to be suitable for girls' football given that there are no changing facilities.
Grange Paddocks	There are seven changing rooms at the site which are only considered to be of sufficient size to accommodate one team. The Terry Reed North West Essex Sunday League is required to alternate kick off times due to the limited size of the changing facilities. The site is prone to flooding and waterlogged pitches as it is located on the floodplain and adjacent to the river. Parking is a significant problem at the site, caused by the volume of cars carrying individual players. This regularly causes conflict with users. League consultation suggests that the site has poor facilities.
Presdales Recreation Ground	The site also suffers from problems with parking. Improving the surface and markings may alleviate these issues and the development planned for commencement prior to the 2010/11 season includes car park works. Rabbits are also a problem on the pitches. However, users comment that the fencing has ameliorated the problem to some extent. There is significant revenue expenditure in maintaining the fencing (which does get damaged during the season) to address the problem. Bury Rangers currently occupies 55% of the booking slots at Presdales.

Demand

The FA suggests that there is good provision of facilities in East Herts in terms of quantity. However, it is recognised that these facilities have to support high local demand. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a perception that whilst the District has sufficient provision of senior pitches that there is insufficient provision of junior pitches.

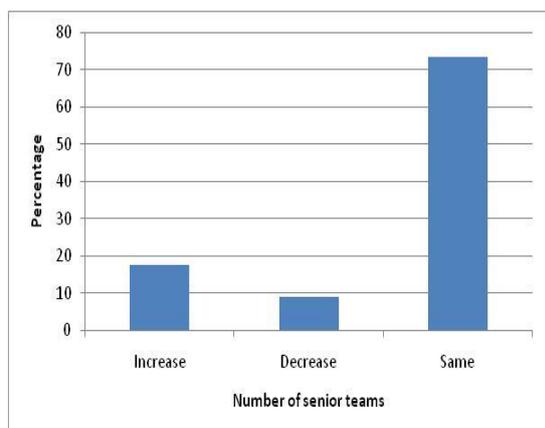
There is a perception across the majority of leagues that the number of pitches has not kept pace with the increases in participation and that over the coming years the perceived lack of facilities will inhibit growth of the game. Clubs also suggest that there are an insufficient number of pitches to accommodate existing demand, particularly where clubs are vying for the use of the same key sites.

Furthermore, East Herts also shows no recent decline in adult male participation. Indeed, it is felt to be a growth area particularly in surrounding villages.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

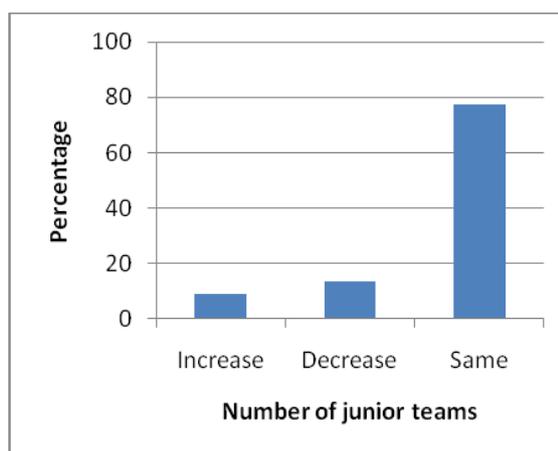
Clubs in the North of the District display high levels of participation, for example, Buntingford Cougars (14 teams) and Hormead Hares (19 teams). Although these settlements are significantly smaller than the main towns of Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, they draw from a wider catchment. Both clubs are anticipated to grow and it is expected that in the future they will outgrow their current provision and require access to larger sites.

Demand trends



Club consultation indicates that there has been little change in the number of senior teams provided at clubs, in the last five years. Over 70% of clubs report that the number of senior teams has remained static. One fifth of the clubs surveyed have seen an increase in the number of senior teams whilst fewer than 10% have experienced a decrease in the number of senior teams.

Club consultation highlights that the majority (80%) of clubs report that the number of junior teams it operates has remained static over the previous five years. The numbers of clubs which have experienced a decrease in the number of junior teams is just over 13%. In some instances clubs are unable to run the number of teams desired due to lack of access to facilities. Almost 10% of clubs have increased the number of teams it operates.



Latent demand

Although the majority of clubs report that membership levels have remained static over the previous five years, high levels of latent demand are expressed (as outlined in Table 7.15). This is likely to be as a result of both clubs and facilities operating at capacity and although clubs may believe demand still exists to create more teams, the pitches do not exist (or are not available) to cater for this.

Given the already high levels of participation in football in East Herts and a significant amount of pitches provided (notwithstanding quality and accessibility issues), it is not recommended that new provision is sought as an immediate priority but that issues around securing access to appropriate provision with changing accommodation and accessibility to school sites is the main focus.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Some clubs also highlight plans to increase the number of teams they provide. However, when asked to identify where these teams will be accommodated, they are unable to cite specific venues. This infers that this is actually suppressed latent demand, as pitches are not available to accommodate these planned increases.

Demand is also expressed for more large, multi pitch sites in the District to service the main towns of Bishop's Stortford and Hertford. For example, Bishop's Stortford Community FC currently fields 63 teams and is one of the largest community clubs in the Country. It has aspirations to develop its own facilities as it is currently based across a range of sites to accommodate the teams.

Equally in the rural areas, there is also significant pressure on facilities in Buntingford, for example, through both current and latent demand expressed by Buntingford Cougars and Hornead Hares.

Facility development

A number of clubs cite aspirations for facility development to support growth. In general terms clubs on private sports clubs tend to grow more easily than clubs using public facilities. Site specific issues:

- ◀ Grange Paddocks is a large multi-pitch site (one of the only such facilities in the District).
- ◀ Bury Rangers had been involved in a project to re-develop the Presdales site to provide new changing accommodation and a clubhouse (which would have involved shared use with Ware Cricket Club). Although pitch drainage has recently been improved, the Club is still interested in development of this site.

In order to accommodate demand many of the districts larger clubs are scattered across a range of sites. For example, Hertford Town Youth FC uses facilities at Hartham Common, Kingsmead, Hertingfordbury Park and County Hall.

School facilities

Clubs are increasingly being encouraged to approach schools in the area in order to access facilities particularly in the Hertford area where the availability of land to develop as playing pitches is limited. Consultation reveals that the quality of playing pitches at schools is good. However, there is some reluctance from clubs to use school facilities as only a limited number make changing facilities accessible. For example, there are no toilets available at Leventhorpe School.

There is a perception that school facilities are operating at capacity and that new clubs struggle to form partnerships with schools. Whilst some clubs suggest that schools are reluctant to open their community clubs. There is demand for a common dual use agreement to be established.

Freman College has previously been in previous discussions with Buntingford Cougars about using some of its land to develop pitches for the Club. The Club is currently based at a number of sites across the town in order to accommodate the number of teams but believe that it would be preferable to consolidate club activity onto one site.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Consultation highlights a number of secondary schools who convert their football pitches into rugby pitches during the Autumn term for example, Birchwood High School which prevents season-long use and is cited as a factor for the limited use of school facilities.

Bishop's Stortford High School has been granted planning permission to develop a large playing field site on Much Hadham Road (Jobbers Wood). The planning permission states that the facilities could only be used for education purposes and not community use. It is felt that this is a particular frustration given the large number of clubs which operate in the Bishop's Stortford area and the perception of a lack of facilities in this area particularly. Consultation suggests that the site could be made available for community through opening it up with a footpath.

Multi-pitch sites

The District has three key multi-pitch sites servicing the main population which are owned by EHC and operated on its behalf by SLM. These sites service many clubs each week. However, as the largest sites they also suffer from overplay and all are publicly open sites which also suffer problems such as dog fouling and litter. There is widespread demand for the facilities both playing pitch and ancillary facilities to be upgraded in order to support the high levels of play at these sites.

Grange Paddocks is a large multi-pitch site in Bishop's Stortford and is one of the key local authority venues for the District. It has been prioritised for the development of changing accommodation at a cost of three million pounds.

Presdales was recently subject of a scheme of proposals which would have seen the re-development of the site in partnership with Bury Rangers FC and Ware CC with the overall aim of encouraging greater use of the site throughout the year. The plans would assume that there is no reduction in the number of pitches and that football would be the lead partner. However, the proposed partnership proposals, working with Ware CC to develop a pavilion and changing facilities have fallen through as sufficient funds to match the Football Foundation funding could not be identified. In order to access ECB funding Ware CC required an agreement of exclusive use for 9-10 years. The overall aim of the partnership was to increase use of the site during the summer months.

However, the site proposals proved too costly and now only involve EHC (with SLM as the preferred partner) and Bury Rangers. It is proposed that EHC fund the improvements to the changing facilities whilst Bury Rangers will develop a clubhouse on site. The Football Foundation funding is on hold until the clubhouse has been built.

Changing rooms are scheduled for demolition and replacement by modular building with the shower block remaining. It is envisaged that the clubhouse development will be completed concurrently (by summer 2010) and that the development of an STP may proceed in 2011 with the support of the Football Foundation.

Bishop's Stortford Community FC (BSCFC)

Bishop's Stortford is cited as a key growth area for East Herts. BSCFC places significant pressure on the local facilities in the area. The influence of the Club affects not only the playing pitch facilities but also ancillary facilities including car parking. Consultation with the FA suggests that it would require access to a site offering at least six to eight full size

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

pitches. One of the key issues for the Playing Pitch Strategy to address is the continuing growth of the Club and the on-going sustainability of the Club's facility use. It has also recognised the issues of access to facilities and has launched a new facilities committee to examine the facility issues facing the Club.

The Club's major frustration relates to spreading across a range of sites to accommodate demand. It believes that a facility model which is similar in specification to that of Wodson Park should be developed to support a range of sports across the Bishop's Stortford area given that Grange Paddocks is already overplayed.

It notes that on some Sundays the pitches which the Club uses are forced to accommodate three matches which exceeds the Sport England recommended thresholds of two matches for good quality pitches.

BSCFC has access to a training facility at Birchwood High School. It was involved in the funding and development of the full sized, floodlit, third generation STP project at Birchwood and are able to use this every weekday evening for training. However, the single facility is still deemed to be insufficient to accommodate the breadth of opportunities required throughout the week.

Bury Rangers

The FA is working with Bury Rangers to deliver pitch drainage and changing improvements at Presdales which is a multi-pitch site. Whilst the drainage works have gone ahead, the changing project has been stalled.

Hertford Town Youth FC

Hertford Town Youth FC is also seeking to acquire land which it can develop into pitches. It has potentially identified agricultural land along Brickendon Lane (south of Hertford) which may be appropriate for the development of pitches. It notes that Bengeo FC has also been seeking to acquire land along the B100 corridor (Welwyn Road/Archers Spring). The Club notes that discussions concerning the potential use of the site have been difficult to progress because a proportion of the area had been earmarked for development as a new school to service the Sele area of the District. Furthermore, a site at Archers Spring is also subject to potential development as a David Lloyd Sports Centre following planning permission for the site being granted.

Sawbridgeworth Town FC

The Club has planning permission to rebuild their clubhouse/changing facilities and are now trying to access funding. This will eventually comprise a two storey building but the first phase will be a single story with changing rooms, showers, bar and kitchen. The Club has also just completed a programme of fundraising to purchase a £250, 000 stand for the home ground to meet with league requirements.

Watton Youth FC

The Club is examining the potential to raise funds to develop their own pitch on local farmland in either Datchworth or Watton-at-Stone. However, this is the long term plan and the Club is in the very initial stages of considering this option.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

West Bridgford Colts FC: good practice case study

West Bridgford Colts in Nottinghamshire has developed a new home ground at Regatta Way. It formerly shared a ground with two Cricket Clubs, Gedling and Sherwood CC and Wilsons CC who have moved with the Club to the new facilities. Working together the clubs jointly ensure all-year use of the excellent facilities and work together in the development, management and maintenance of the ground.

Training facilities

There are a significant number of teams in the District which require access to floodlit training provision during the winter months. There is a perception that there are insufficient facilities to accommodate the number of teams wishing to access these facilities including competition from hockey clubs. Training facilities are available at schools including Birchwood High School, Hockerill Anglo-European College and Bishop's Stortford College. Many clubs suggest that they find it difficult to access school facilities as they are already being used to capacity.

Analysis of the club questionnaire responses found that:

- ◀ 13% of responding clubs train on their home ground pitches.
- ◀ 4% of responding clubs train elsewhere on their home ground i.e. training grids.
- ◀ 83% of responding clubs train off-site.

For clubs training off site, Haileybury College is the main venue. However, clubs note that they are often unable to access provision as venues can be fully booked due to priority bookings given to more established users.

The Sport England Facilities Planning Model concludes that the relative provision of STPs in East Herts is good, and that there is little unmet demand in the District. Per capita, provision is twice the regional and national average, and relative share is 36% above the average. Throughput at pitches is very high, and almost all available capacity is used. All pitches but one are operated at (or near) capacity. 99% of the population of East Herts lives within 20 minutes drive of one STP.

The small amount of unmet demand is caused almost entirely by lack of capacity at existing pitches, and exacerbated by some demand which is imported from neighbouring local authority areas. Additional STPs in East Herts cannot be justified at present, but some spare capacity would be released by additional pitch construction in neighbouring towns and districts.

There have been no five-a-side facilities identified in the District. Consultation with users groups has not identified demand for such facilities in the future.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

There are a significant number of open spaces/play areas where goal posts are erected. These facilities are intended for casual play for children and young people. However, there are issues locally with local teams using these sites for training. Consequently, there is an impact upon the quality of these sites which are maintained only as informal provision.

The sites which this may impact upon include:

Beacon Road Play Area.	Presdale Drive Play Area.
Bishop's Park Play Area.	Rowley's Road Play Area.
Burleigh Road Play Area.	Sacombe Road Play Area.
Cecil Road.	Sainsbury's Thorley.
Dimsdale Crescent Play Area.	The Bourne.
Foxholes Avenue Play Area.	The Ridgeway Play Area.
King George Road Play Area.	Vantorts Play Area.
Lower Bourne Gardens Play Area.	Watermill Lane Play Area.
Northern Parkland.	Waytemore Road Play Area.
Parsonage Lane Play Area.	

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

7.5: Provision of football pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

This section presents the current pitch stock available for football in the District. It illustrates the:

- ◀ Number of pitches rated as Good (G), Average (A) and Poor (P) on each site.
- ◀ Type of pitch(es) on each site (i.e., senior, junior, mini).

The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:

- ◀ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◀ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
- ◀ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration Sport England guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.	Green
If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.	Amber
If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.	Red

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 7.11: Football provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
89	Walkern Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	1			1			1			3.0	6.0		Large sports field at southern edge of village. Fenced all round. Sizeable brick built clubhouse.
103	Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	1									3.0	2.0		Village recreation ground.
145	Upper Green	A1(M) Corridor	1									2.0	2.0		Village playing fields with traditional wooden pavilion.
166	Aston Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	1									0.5	2.0		Village recreation ground with football pitch. Site assessments suggest the site is not in current use.
75	Hunsdon School	North of Harlow				1						-	2.0		No current community use.
1	Hartham Common	Hertford-Ware Area	3			1			1			16.0	7.0		Main leisure facility for Hertford town. Football pitches by river, with bowling green, public tennis courts, Hertford Tennis Club courts. Site is extensively overplayed.
7	Presdales Recreation Ground	Hertford-Ware Area	4			1			2			20.5	14.0		Main football pitch site for Hertford. Pitches have recently been reconfigured. Site noted as being a popular area for dog walking.
16	Sacred Heart School	Hertford-Ware Area			1							-	1.0		No current community use.
18	Middleton School	Hertford-Ware Area						1				-	1.0		No current community use.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
22	Haileybury College	Hertford-Ware Area	9									1.0	36.0		School site with exceptional facilities. Generally there is greater football use of the STP.
59	Thundridge Sports Pavilion	Hertford-Ware Area	1									6.0	2.0		Sports field at back of village with pavilion in need of attention. Site is used by a range of teams including Thundridge FC and Wodson Park Youth FC.
100	The Chauncy School	Hertford-Ware Area	2					2				5.5	16.0		Site is used by a range of football teams including Three Churches FC and Ware Lions FC.
118	Trinity Road	Hertford-Ware Area	1					1				3.5	4.0		Trinity Road is the home ground of Hertford Heath FC.
129	Sele School	Hertford-Ware Area	4									8.0	16.0		Bengeo Tigers (Junior) FC make extensive use of the site.
138	Kings Mead	Hertford-Ware Area		2			1			3		2.5	1.0		Hertford Town Youth FC use the pitches at Kings Mead.
140	Simon Balle School	Hertford-Ware Area	2									-	8.0		The School has good playing fields to rear. However, there is no community use of these facilities. There is no access to changing for community use.
155	Hertford Town FC	Hertford-Ware Area	1									3.0	2.0		This is a semi-professional football club with floodlights, spectators stand, dugouts and perimeter fence. Due to the quality of the facilities clubs travel from outside the area to use the site and include Codicote FC and Hoddesdon Owls Ladies FC.
157	Bury Lane	Hertford-Ware Area	1									1.0	2.0		There is some use of the site by White Lion FC.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
175	Bengeo Sports Field	Hertford-Ware Area	1									1.0	2.0		Site is the home ground of Bengeo Trinity FC.
193	St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	Hertford-Ware Area	2									3.5	4.0		Large sports and social club with extensive facilities and large clubhouse. There is also a training area at the site with lights but no line markings.
196	Ware Football Club	Hertford-Ware Area	1									1.0	2.0		Semi-professional football ground which is fenced with floodlights, spectator stands and substantial clubhouse.
197	Wodson Park Sports Centre	Hertford-Ware Area	1									6.0	2.0		Large leisure centre with extensive facilities. Used by Wodson Park Youth FC.
201	Allenburys Sports & Social Club	Hertford-Ware Area	1									0.5	2.0		This is a large Glaxo Smith Kline site with extensive facilities in its (Allenburys) Sports and Social Club grounds.
210	Crouchfield	Hertford-Ware Area	2									3.5	4.0		Good pitches with signage for Wodson Park Youth FC. No changing accommodation in immediate area.
216	Trinity Playing Fields	Hertford-Ware Area	3					3				12.0	12.0		This site is fenced and locked when not in use. There is a modern brick pavilion on site which has signage for Ware Youth Football Club.
4	The Barons	M11 Stort Corridor	1			1		1				5.5	6.0		Pleasant ground with natural boundary in residential area. Home of Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club.
5	Bullfields Rec Ground	M11 Stort Corridor	1									2.0	2.0		Pitch located behind Bullfields Community Centre in the centre of a housing estate. Evidence of a second pitch which is not used; no line markings and uneven surface. Use of the site is restricted to U21s.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
6	Crofters, Mandeville Junior School	M11 Stort Corridor							2			2.0	8.0		Good field to rear with mini football pitches marked. Site used by Sawbridgeworth Town Youth FC.
8	The Grange Paddocks	M11 Stort Corridor	7			3			3			29.5	26.0		Extensive area of pitches in flat site adjacent to the River Stort. Evidence that some pitches liable to water logging. Changing accommodation provided by Grange Paddock Pool and Gym which is undergoing refurbishment.
14	Sawbridgeworth Town FC, Crofters	M11 Stort Corridor	2									3.5	4.0		Semi -professional football club with enclosed ground. Brick clubhouse with portacabin changing. First team pitch has perimeter fence, dugouts and floodlights.
50	Hockerill Anglo-European College	M11 Stort Corridor	2									-	8.0		No community use of football pitches on site.
52	The Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College	M11 Stort Corridor	1									-	4.0		No community use of football pitches on site.
63	The Leventhorpe School	M11 Stort Corridor	3									2.0	12.0		School with large playing field to rear. Some water logging evident. Site is used by Sawbridgeworth Town Youth FC.
172	Bishop's Stortford RUFC	M11 Stort Corridor	1									3.0	2.0		Bishop's Stortford Swifts have access to one football pitch on site of Bishop's Stortford RUFC.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
177	Bishop's Stortford FC	M11 Stort Corridor	1									2.0	2.0		Semi-professional football club. Ground fenced all round with spectator stands, floodlights, clubhouse and bar.
217	Pearce House	M11 Stort Corridor	2									1.5	4.0		This site is owned by Birchwood High School. Access from Summercroft Junior School or through woodland of Raynham Road. Site is used By Bishop's Stortford Community FC.
66	Bell Lane Playing Fields	Rural Area		1								1.5	1.0		Playing field set back from main road. No changing accommodation apparent. Upgrading site quality would increase capacity.
68	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1									1.0	2.0		Recreation Ground located in the centre of the village with access to a wooden pavilion.
77	Cottered Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1									1.0	2.0		The football teams change in the village hall next to the pitch. Football club has expressed interest in having a second pitch in place of cricket field.
82	Horse's Meadow	Rural Area		1								0.5	1.0		Slight slope on the pitch. No changing accommodation available.
84	Benington Playing Fields	Rural Area	1					2				1.0	6.0		This site does not appear to be in current use. However, the Parish Council report that two teams currently play at the site. Changing accommodation is provided in a vandalised portacabin.
93	Freman College	Rural Area	1									-	4.0		No current community use of football pitches.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
95	Brookside Playing Fields	Rural Area		1								1.0	1.0		Single football pitch at edge of small village. No changing accommodation.
121	Hare Street Playing Fields	Rural Area				1			2			6.5	6.0		Site used extensively by Hormead Hares FC. Old wooden pavilion at the site has been extensively renovated.
124	Braughing Playing Fields	Rural Area	1									1.5	2.0		Sloping pitch with average surface.
134	Westmill Recreation Ground	Rural Area	1									1.5	2.0		Attractive small site which is bounded by roads and river. Well fenced with a modern wooden pavilion
171	Sainsbury's Depot Playing Fields	Rural Area	2									5.0	4.0		The site is also known as 'The Bury' and 'Buntingford Town FC'. The depot at the site is closed. However, the pitches and clubhouse remain in use. The clubhouse is well maintained There are mini pitches coned out on second senior pitch.
173	Albury Playing Field	Rural Area	1									0.5	2.0		Dilapidated pavilion on site. It is not clear whether it is in current use. Signage for Albury Football Club.
185	Heath Mount School	Rural Area						2				1.0	4.0		There is limited use of the pitches by Watton-at-Stone FC.
188	Hormead Hares Football Club	Rural Area	1			1			1			3.0	5.0		Fenced field adjoining Hare Street Playing Fields, but owned by club.
11	Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre	Rural Service Centres	2									1.0	4.0		Only one pitch is in current use with potential for the second pitch to be used.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Consultation comments
			G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating	
86	Buntingford Community Centre	Rural Service Centres	2									1.0	4.0		Two terraced football pitches beside the Seth Ward Community Centre which is used for changing.
88	Millfield Junior School	Rural Service Centres						2				-	1.0		Poor quality junior pitches which do not have community use.
92	Norfolk Road, Buntingford	Rural Service Centres	2									0.5	4.0		Traditional town playing field.
97	London Road Playing Field	Rural Service Centres				1						2.5	2.0		Changing in portacabin.

Note: A number of school football pitches have been identified for community use due to other pitches (i.e. cricket/football pitches at the site) being available for community use. However, there is no current play identified for these sites.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

5.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'

Current demand for grass pitches is high and is largely led by the high incidence of large junior clubs in the District.

Summary of current demand

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 7.12: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Watton-at-Stone Playing Field	A1(M) Corridor	1.0
Hatham Common	Hertford-Ware Area	9.0
Presdales Recreation Ground	Hertford-Ware Area	6.5
Thundridge Sports Pavilion	Hertford-Ware Area	4.0
Kings Mead	Hertford-Ware Area	1.5
Hertford Town FC	Hertford-Ware Area	1.0
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Hertford-Ware Area	4.0
The Grange Paddocks	M11 Stort Corridor	3.5
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	M11 Stort Corridor	1.0
Bell Lane Playing Fields	Rural Area	0.5
Hare Street Playing Fields	Rural Area	0.5
Sainsburys Depot Playing Fields	Rural Area	1.0
London Road Playing Field	Rural Service Centres	0.5
Total		34.0 matches

Analysis of supply and demand has found that:

- ◀ Hertford-Ware Area and M11 Stort Corridor analysis areas have the greatest levels of overplay.
- ◀ Hartham Common (KKP ref 1) is the site with the highest level of overplay by nine matches per week.

A number of sites are not currently played to capacity; where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. These pitches represent an opportunity to reduce overplay on other sites in the area.

As indicated earlier, some overplay (i.e. Hartham Common) is attributed to junior and mini teams being assigned to a particular site and that particular site not containing formal marked out pitches of that size. So, for example, junior matches being playing across senior sized pitches or mini pitches being informally marked out by cones across the site. An increase in formally marked out junior and mini pitches through creation of dedicated

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

junior sites will help to reduce levels of overplay and reduce wear and tear of senior pitches. Further recommendations regarding overplay will be included in the Strategy and Action Plan and will be site specific.

Temporal demand

Temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day. It shows times of peak demand and use of pitches throughout the week. For all football i.e. adult, junior and mini, the peak time use is Sunday. It is important that findings are considered within the context of pitches which are available to meet demand. For example, at peak time there is a need for 50.5 adult games to be accommodated, 71.5 junior games and 45.5 mini games. By establishing the pitches available across the District 84 adult pitches are identified, 15 junior pitches and 23 mini pitches. This indicates that there is capacity to re-designate a proportion of senior pitches to accommodate more junior and mini pitches without affecting the overall demand for adult games. However, this should be considered on an area by area basis (see appendices for full analysis). Furthermore it is also important that overplay (34 matches) is factored in as there are currently insufficient pitches to accommodate existing playing commitments in some areas.

Imported and exported demand

There is likely movement of clubs and teams across the East Herts boundary. A number of teams from Stevenage for example, use facilities in the west of the District, whilst some teams from the Bishops Stortford area, travel into the north of Harlow to access provision.

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Consultation identifies that there are several clubs that currently consider themselves to have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to facilities.

The table overleaf summaries the latent demand identified by consultation.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 7.13: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Latent demand	Analysis area	Pitch requirement	
			Number	Type
Buntingford Cougars	6 junior teams	Rural Service Centres	3	Junior
Buntingford Wanderers FC	1 senior team	Rural Service Centres	0.5	Senior
Buntingford Town FC	1 senior team	Rural Service Centres	0.5	Senior
Bishop's Stortford Community FC	10 junior teams	M11 Stort Corridor	5	Junior
Bury Rangers FC	8 junior teams	Hertford-Ware Area	4	Junior
Hertford Town Youth FC	6 junior teams	Hertford-Ware Area	3	Junior
Sawbridgeworth Town FC	1 senior team	M11 Stort Corridor	0.5	Senior
Totals			1.5	Senior
			15	Junior

Anecdotal evidence suggests that clubs perceive there to be a lack of junior pitches. This is further supported in the high levels of latent demand expressed for junior pitches.

Large clubs tend to be accommodated across a number of sites without a permanent base and are thus often perceived as 'roaming'. This has resulted in these clubs expressing significant levels of latent demand, for example, Buntingford Cougars FC express demand for three junior pitches (i.e. six junior teams), Bishop's Stortford Community FC for at least eight junior pitches (i.e. fifteen junior teams) and Bury Rangers FC for at least five junior pitches (i.e. ten junior teams).

This could be further exacerbated in that some clubs highlight plans to increase the number of teams it provides. However, when asked to identify where these teams will be accommodated, they are unable to cite specific venues. This infers that this is actually suppressed latent demand, as pitches are not available to accommodate these planned increases.

Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables a comparison of participation to be made between different analysis areas and where similar studies have been undertaken. TGRs can help to quantify where and why to target sports development activities at a particular area where participation may be low.

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each of the analysis area based on the current supply and demand. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for football, in that area.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 7.14: Football TGRs

Analysis area	Senior (16-45) Men's	Senior (16-45) Women's	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
A1(M) Corridor	1:185	1:612	1:65	1:138	-
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware area	1:204	1:9,513	1:22	-	1:50
M11 Stort Corridor	1:291	1:7,511	1:48	1:448	1:95
Rural Area	1:119	-	1:26	-	1:103
Rural Service Centres	1:368	-	-	-	1:74
EAST HERTS	1:218	1:5,440	1:34	1:825	1:75
HARLOW	1:259	1:4,759	1:64	1:632	1:116
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:452	1:19,647	1:195	1:4,038	1:431

Relative to national averages, participation rates in East Herts are significantly higher than national averages. For example, there are higher levels of senior football participation for both men and women in East Herts. Junior participation for boys and girls is also generally greater than national averages across the District. Furthermore mini-soccer is also significantly higher than the national average and particularly in the Hertford-Ware analysis area. Furthermore, TGRs for East Herts also compare favourably to neighbouring authority Harlow in the cases of senior men's, junior boys and mini-soccer. However, senior women's and junior girl's football is stronger in Harlow.

Future TGRs (2021)

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 7.15 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2021. The greatest area of growth is in senior football. The need for additional pitches, based on TGRs and population growth will be discussed on an analysis area basis in the Strategy.

On this basis, it is assumed for modelling purposes that there will be a 7.3% increase in participation (based on population increases) over the next eleven years. This increase is applied below to give an indication as to how many additional football teams will be generated.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 7.15: Future football TGRs (Number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
A1(M) Corridor	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
North of Harlow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hertford-Ware area	4.1	0.1	7.4	0.0	4.1
M11 Stort Corridor	2.4	0.1	3.2	0.3	1.8
Rural Area	1.6	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.6
Rural Service Centres	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
EAST HERTS	9	0.3	12.6	0.4	7

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 12.6 teams by 2021. These teams are most likely to occur in the Hertford-Ware area and M11 Stort Corridor. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of nine senior teams and seven mini-soccer teams.

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times. The current TGRs identified above are applied to the PPM to illustrate any pitch shortfalls. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below.

Table 7.16: PPM summary

Analysis area	Football pitches		
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
A1(M) Corridor	0.5	-1.0	1.0
North of Harlow	0	1.0	0
Hertford-Ware Area	16.5	-37.0	-16.5
M11 Stort Corridor	9.0	-15.0	-7.0
Rural Area	3.5	-7.5	3.0
Rural Service Centres	4.0	3.0	-3.0
EAST HERTS	33.5	-56.5	-22.5

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should not be used in isolation and should be considered within the context of other report findings/outcomes. For example, there is a significant surplus of senior pitches, but a significant deficit of junior football pitches. The deficit of junior pitches broadly equates to the surplus of senior pitches, as the majority of juniors play on senior pitches. The lack of designated junior pitches is further exaggerated by the latent demand expressed for a further eight junior pitches. Therefore, the current playing pitch stock should be protected and consideration should be given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior football. After taking into account latent demand, there is a current need to provide more junior and mini pitches across the District.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The deficit of junior and mini pitches is most pronounced in the Hertford-Ware Area which accommodates, for example, a large number of junior clubs including Bury Rangers FC, Hertford Town FC, Ware Youth FC and Wodson Park Youth FC. In addition the M11 Stort Corridor also shows a deficit of junior and mini pitches which again is attributed to the high incidence of junior and mini teams playing across senior pitches.

Taking account of latent demand slightly reduces the perceived surplus of senior pitches to 32 in the PPM calculations. Whilst the deficiency of junior pitches is exacerbated to 71.5 pitches in total.

There are likely to be opportunities for greater community use in the long term across school sites in East Herts through BSF. Furthermore, the potential relocation of two schools in Bishop's Stortford is likely to have implication for pitch provision in this area.

Football summary

- ◀ KKP identified a total of 373 teams playing in East Herts.
- ◀ FA demand trend analysis and team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in East Herts are significantly higher than national and regional averages.
- ◀ There is an increasing trend in East Herts towards the development of large clubs with multiple teams, where 20-30 teams are commonplace. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have to use facilities across a range of sites. Participation rates for youth male football are the highest in the Region.
- ◀ The audit identifies 55 sites available for community use, providing a total of 122 pitches. In addition, there are 16 sites containing 24 pitches which are not currently accessible to the community.
- ◀ 13 sites are overplayed by 34 matches each week.
- ◀ Clubs report that membership levels have remained static over the previous five years. However, clubs in East Herts report high levels of latent demand which is likely to be as a result of both clubs and facilities operating at capacity.
- ◀ There is an apparent need for investment in ancillary facilities, primarily because they are not keeping pace with improvements in pitch quality.
- ◀ Large clubs tend to be accommodated across a number of sites without a permanent base and are thus often perceived as 'roaming'. This has resulted in these clubs expressing significant levels of latent demand.
- ◀ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 12.6 teams by 2021.
- ◀ The PPM highlights a significant deficit of junior and mini pitches across the District. In some respects this is attributed to the high incidence of junior and mini teams using senior pitches.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 8: CRICKET

8.1: Introduction

The Hertfordshire County Cricket Board (HCCB) is the governing and representative body of all cricket within the County, including East Herts. The Board's aim is to promote the game of cricket at all levels through partnerships with the professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies within the County. There is a Cricket Development Manager for Hertfordshire which services clubs in the District.

The Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League (SHCL) is the main opportunity for competitive senior cricket in the County, providing seventeen divisions. A small number of clubs from the District also compete in the Herts & Essex Cricket League (HECL).

Hertfordshire Junior League provides the principle opportunities for junior cricket within the District. It has ten divisions (ranging from U9 to U16's). A small proportion of clubs also enter teams into the West Essex Cricket Board League (neighbouring county cricket board league).

8.2: Current provision

Pitch ownership and management across the District varies from parish/town council ownership to private sports associations/village committees or, in most instances clubs. Clubs range from those offering friendly, recreational cricket to the larger more established clubs such as Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club, which provides competitive opportunities for all age groups (and are also Clubmark accredited).

Table 8.1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams			
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
A1(M) Corridor	4	-	-	6	-	8	-
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	18	-	-	27	2	20	1
M11 Stort Corridor	7	-	-	23	-	15	-
Rural Area	14	-	-	22	-	4	-
Rural Service Centres	2	-	-	5	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	45	-	-	83	2	47	1

Towards A Level Playing Field identifies that a senior cricket pitch is defined as 46m x 46m (minimum size) with 1.6 – 2.0 hectares maximum safety. The minimum size of a junior cricket pitch is 37m x 37m.

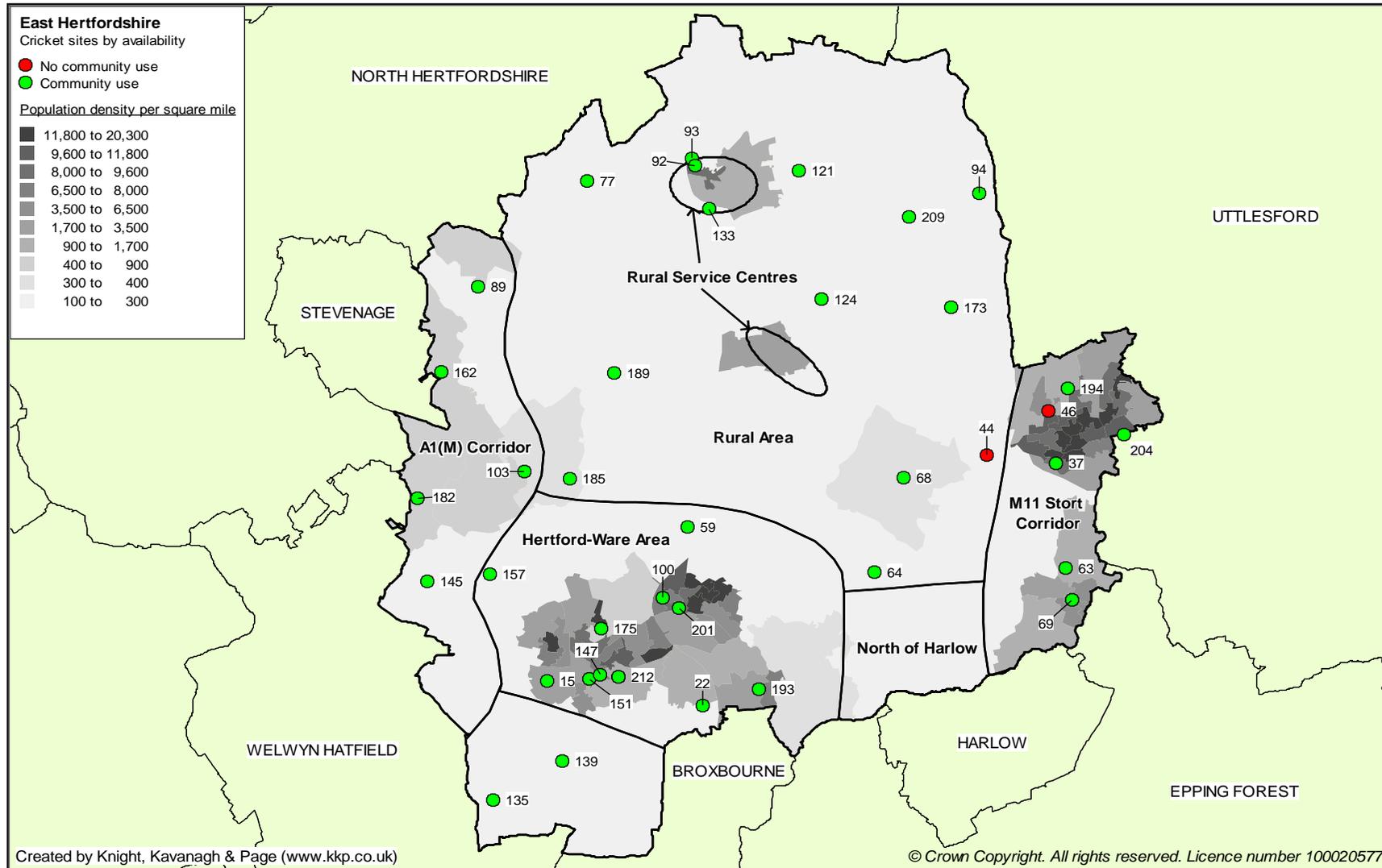
There are 31 clubs in East Herts, generating 133 teams, which are generally comprised of senior and junior cricket teams. This also includes a number of smaller clubs playing in the rural settlements within the District. For example, The Hare Street & Hormeads and Allenburys cricket clubs. Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware are regarded as the main clubs in the District.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 8.1 indicates a good distribution of cricket pitches across the District. However, there is no pitch provision in the North of Harlow. Ware Cricket Club (KKP Ref 64) is located close to this analysis area and is accessible. Similar to football and rugby, areas with high population density are well served by cricket pitches. There is also provision in the smaller settlement areas (i.e. rural parishes).

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 8.1: Location of cricket pitches in East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 8.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Number of cricket pitches
Aston Cricket Ground	162	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Datchworth Sports Club	182	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	3
Upper Green	145	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Walkern Playing Fields	89	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Watton at Stone Playing Fields	103	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Allenburys Sports & Social Club	201	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Bengeo Sports Field	175	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground	151	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Bury Lane	157	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
Hertfordshire Cricket and Hockey Association	136	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
Hertfordshire Cricket and Hockey Association (2nd team pitch)	212	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Hertingfordbury Cricket Ground	15	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Richard Hale School	147	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	193	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
The Chauncy School	100	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Thundridge Sports Pavilion	59	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Hockerill Sports Club	204	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Maze Green Heights	46	M11 Stort Corridor	No	3
Springhall Road Cricket Ground	69	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	194	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	2
The Leventhorpe School	63	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Walnut Drive (also known as Thorley Cricket Club)	37	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Cokenach Cricket Club	202	OUTSIDE	Yes	1
Reed Cricket Club	218	OUTSIDE	Yes	1
Albury Playing Field	173	Rural Area	Yes	1
Bayford Cricket Ground	139	Rural Area	Yes	1
Braughing Playing Fields	124	Rural Area	Yes	1
Cottered Recreation Ground	77	Rural Area	Yes	1
Ferneux Pelham Cricket Club	209	Rural Area	Yes	1
Freman College	93	Rural Area	Yes	1
Ginns Road Playing Field	94	Rural Area	Yes	1
Hare Street Playing Fields	121	Rural Area	Yes	1

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Number of cricket pitches
Heath Mount School	185	Rural Area	Yes	2
Jobbers Wood	44	Rural Area	No	1
Little Berkhamstead Recreation Ground	135	Rural Area	Yes	1
Little Munden Cricket Club	189	Rural Area	Yes	1
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	68	Rural Area	Yes	1
Ware Road Cricket Ground	64	Rural Area	Yes	1
Aspenden Recreation Ground	133	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1
Norfolk Road, Buntingford	92	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1

Datchworth Cricket Club is in the process of developing a second cricket pitch (also highlighted in Section Nine of the report) on land purchased by Datchworth Rugby Union Football Club located along Datchworth Green. This will support the Club in development of its junior section. It currently uses Datchworth Sports Club (KKP Ref 182) and will continue to do so.

8.3: Development

Focus clubs have been identified strategically by the Hertfordshire County Cricket Association (HCCA). These clubs are committed to long-term junior development and must adopt a development plan (for the purposes of the development of the sport and facilities) and achieve Clubmark accreditation. In return, clubs receive support (both technical and financial) from the ECB. There are six focus clubs in the District:

- ◀ Bishop's Stortford.
- ◀ East Herts Ladies.
- ◀ Hertford.
- ◀ Reed.
- ◀ Sawbridgeworth.
- ◀ Ware.
- ◀ Cokenach

There is a generally a high level of junior participation at clubs in the District, which provide 48 junior teams in total ranging from U8s to U17s. Focus clubs provide the majority of junior teams.

Cricket development group's (CDG's)

CDG's consist of partners including local authorities, school sports partnerships, clubs, coaches and HCB. Their aim is to increase participation and provide opportunities for young people to be involved in the sport. There are two CDG's serving East Herts; East (North) and East (South). The majority of focus clubs in East Herts are members of the East (North) CDG.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The Hertfordshire County Cricket Association (HCCA) Facilities Strategy (4th Draft)

The HCCA Facilities Strategy outlines a series of recommendations where appropriate for the action that focus clubs should take and where the available resources should be concentrated. It focuses on six important criteria including tenure, fine turf, changing facilities, practice facilities and ancillary facilities in the form of sightscreens and covers.

The recommendations include that:

- ◀ Clubs with leased grounds and considering making applications for development funding should seek to extend the period of the lease, if necessary, to at least 25 years.
- ◀ All clubs should undergo a full pitch inspection by a County Pitch Adviser at intervals of five years.
- ◀ Clubs should also become equipped to carry out their own measurements of pitch quality, through a training programme to be run by the County Pitch Adviser.
- ◀ Clubs should consider whether their squares are of adequate size to meet the demand for usage over the next five years, and plan for enlarging them where necessary and practicable.
- ◀ Clubs should ensure that their investment plans include adequate, good quality practice nets.
- ◀ Clubs are urged to give consideration to the adequacy of their changing facilities and to bring them up to standard when an opportunity arises.
- ◀ Clubs are urged to review the facilities provided for their scorers in consultation with them, and to make improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Clubs with two sightscreens should plan to attain the intermediate standard where they wish to accommodate Minor County or two-day cricket.
- ◀ All clubs should plan to meet at least the basic standard for covering as soon as possible.

School cricket

The ECB encourages links between clubs and schools through the development of Kwik Cricket festivals. However, links tend to be “driven” by individual clubs, and are almost invariably underpinned by active club members and the partnership development managers (PDM’s) at school sports partnerships (SSP’s) across the District. Kwik Cricket is focused around a small-sided game, which is delivered in playgrounds and/or generic halls.

The Chance to Shine scheme (CSC)⁵ was launched in 2005 and aims to restore cricket to more than a third of schools within England within the next ten years by delivering high quality, sustainable cricket programmes. Each project provides a structured coaching and competition programme for a group of around six primary and secondary state schools. Each group of schools is supported by professional, qualified coaches engaged by one local cricket club. It is delivered during curricular and extra curricular activities in partnership with Sawbridgeworth CC via the Birchwood School and Reed and Cokenach cricket clubs via the North East Herts SSP. Consultation reveals The Sele SSP has plans to deliver the scheme with Ware CC.

⁵ <http://www.chancetoshine.org/about/campaign>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Seven cricket pitches are located at school sites in East Herts. Schools have a tendency to convert football/rugby pitches into cricket pitches during the summer term. Birchwood High School has an arrangement with Hockerill CC to use its cricket pitches for competitive school fixtures. This is good practice of schools sharing their cricket facilities with clubs in the District. Sharing of cricket pitches has helped schools overcome issues with the maintenance and preparation of cricket pitches. For example, Ware CC use the pitch at The Chauncy School, Ware (KKP Ref 100) and Sawbridgeworth CC also access the pitch at The Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth (KKP Ref 63). This also encourages schools to allow community use of their pitches.

Women and girls' cricket

There are two senior womens' teams; East Herts Ladies CC and Bishop's Stortford Ladies CC and one girls team; Hertford Cricket Club. The East Anglia Women's Cricket League is the main league servicing the Region (playing on a Sunday).

Birchwood SSP is working with Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club to deliver a girls' cricket project, with the aim to develop a girls' cricket team.

In the season 2011/2012, the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League (SHCL) will establish a women's county cricket league playing Twenty20 cricket. A Twenty20 game involves two teams; each has a single innings, batting for a maximum of 20 overs. It is also known as T20 cricket. To date, seven teams from the County will enter the League. However, there are no clubs (to date) competing from East Herts.

8.4: Key issues for cricket

Demand

SHCL reports the number of teams participating over the previous three years has increased from 250 to 260. However, the number of clubs has remained static at 97. It suggests it is close to capacity and may have to consider introducing a waiting list. Temporal demand for senior cricket is a Saturday. Consultation reveals demand for Sunday cricket in East Herts has declined over the previous three years. This is not uncommon in comparison to national trends.

Over three fifths of clubs (65%) report that the number of senior teams competing has remained static over the last five years. Six clubs report that senior membership has increased due to a number of reasons including the transition of junior to senior cricket (which has enabled clubs to field additional senior teams) and the increase in population. Static membership levels were also mirrored in junior membership levels with two thirds (67%) of clubs reporting the number of junior teams have remained the same. Bengeo Cricket Club previously had a colts section but disbanded due to a lack of volunteers.

Four clubs; Buntingford, Watton-at-Stone, Cokenach and Thorley, have plans to increase the number of teams it provides (a total of two senior and three boy teams). Clubs report any increase in teams will be accommodated at their existing home ground.

Consultation and analysis of supply/demand suggests that the number of cricket pitches in the District is sufficient to meet levels of current demand. Many clubs already have complete junior sections, and future demand is thought unlikely to increase significantly.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

However, two clubs; Watton-at-Stone and Cokenach, express latent demand for an additional senior pitch each. The clubs believe if there was access to additional pitches it would have more teams.

Training facilities

Access to training nets is important, particularly for pre season/winter training. The Herts and Essex Cricket Centre, near Sawbridgeworth is the main provider for indoor training nets and is used by cricket clubs across the County. Consultation suggests it is well used by clubs. Clubs located in the North and West of the District tend to access indoor training nets at schools sites including Bishop's Stortford, Birchwood and Heath Mount schools. Clubs generally rate the quality of indoor nets as adequate.

Hertford CC is seeking to relay its four lane outdoor cricket net facility. It has self funded one lane but requires financial assistance for the remaining lanes. Buntingford Cricket Club has obtained funding to erect a two lane outdoor net facility.

Pitch quality

In cricket the quality of the pitch is the most important aspect as if the wicket is poor it means the quality of cricket is affected and can even become dangerous. It is impossible to conduct a full technical assessment of a cricket wicket quality within the methodology of this assessment. In order to obtain an accurate assessment a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) report would need to be produced.

Site assessments rate the quality of all pitches (with the exception of Reed Cricket Club) as good. No sites received a poor score. The large majority of clubs are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated groundsmen, to carry out cutting and maintenance.

All clubs in the District are invited to become a member of The Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Groundsman which is the body responsible for the continued professional development of groundsmen within the County. It also provides clubs with access to the most up to date machinery and techniques to enhance playing conditions. It regularly coordinates courses and workshops for members of the Association and leases machinery to Hertfordshire clubs. All focus clubs are members of this body. In addition, Hertford CC also offers its groundsmen services to other clubs in the District.

The SCHL has introduced a 'Mark Clubs' facility. This has been designed to help improve standards throughout the League; each away team captain should complete the Mark Club facilities form after each fixture. It has recently introduced a system where forms can be completed by PDA's and mobile phones. The minimum score which all clubs have to meet is 6.5 out of ten. The table below summarises the scorings of pitches falling below the minimum standard located in East Herts:

Team scores	Overall 'Mark Facility' score	Site
Datchworth IIV pitch	6.15	Datchworth Sports Club
Sawbridgeworth V pitch	6.19	Springhall Road Cricket Ground
Sawbridgeworth IV pitch	3.17	Springhall Road Cricket Ground
Sawbridgeworth III pitch	5.75	Springhall Road Cricket Ground

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Ancillary facilities

Natwest CricketForce⁶ is an ECB volunteering initiative aimed at rejuvenating the nation's cricketing facilities. A number of clubs in the District have participated in the scheme which has helped to increase the quality of existing clubhouse and ancillary facilities.

League consultation suggests the stock of ancillary facilities and pavilions in the District are old and in need of attention. Almost a third (28%) of clubs considers the quality of their changing facilities to be good quality. Another third (33%) considers the quality of their changing to be of poor quality and in need of modernisation, including Little Munden, Cokenach, Thorley, Bramfield, Hertingfordbury and Ardley Walkern.

The table below summarises the quality of changing accommodating and shower facilities from club questionnaires:

Table 8.3: Summary of the quality of changing accommodation and showers

Changing accommodation			Showers		
Good	Average	Poor	Good	Average	Poor
28%	39%	33%	37%	50%	13%

*figures have been rounded to the nearest ten

Thorley Cricket Club has plans to erect a permanent pavilion (including changing rooms). It believes better ancillary facilities at its home ground Thorley Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 3) could help to attract more teams.

A number of clubs report instances of vandalism to their clubhouse facilities with instances such as attempted break ins, vandalism to the clubhouse exterior and equipment and damage to the square. These include Alderley, Walkern and Buntingford cricket clubs.

Table 8.4: Summary of quality issues for cricket pitches

Site name	Number of pitches	Changing accommodation	Quality issues
The Chauncy School (KKP Ref 100)	1	Yes	Ware CC has recently obtained funding from The Lord Taverners Fund ⁷ to re-lay the existing cricket square at the School, Ware. The Club propose to consolidate its junior fixtures to this site.
Cokenach Cricket Club (KKP Ref 202)	1	Yes	Its home ground is located at Cokenach Private Estate and it holds a long term lease on the pitch and clubhouse facility (21 years). The recent change of ownership of the Estate has resulted in relocation to another part of the estate.

⁶ <http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/natwest-cricketforce/natwest-cricketforce-2009,1540,BP.html>

⁷ <http://www.lordstaverners.org/charity/our-mission.htm>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	Number of pitches	Changing accommodation	Quality issues
			This Club plans to erect a new pavilion and is currently raising funds for this. The existing clubhouse facility is in poor condition and as a result has seen a loss of members.
Bury Lane (KKP Ref 157)	1	Yes	There are plans to improve the quality of the square. It is the home ground of Bramfield Cricket Club.
Hockerill Sports Club (KKP Ref 204)	1	Yes	The site is the home ground of Hockerill Cricket Club. It has plans for minor pitch improvements including; refurbishment of the artificial wicket, repairing the outdoor cricket nets and improving the covers of the wickets.
Bengeo Sports Field (KKP Ref 175)	1	Yes	Bengeo Sports Association manages the site on behalf of the Trustees of the ground. Car parking is limited at the site during peak times.
Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club (KKP Ref 103)	1	Yes	The cricket pitch is located at a recreation ground and is not protected. As a result, it is often used by local residents for recreational use and dog walking. Changing provision is available at the nearby community hall.
Little Berkhamsted Playing Fields (KKP Ref 135)	1	Yes	The cricket outfield is poor quality and there is demand for this to be improved. Consultation reports it is uneven and in need of levelling and filling.
Fremans College (KKP Ref 93)	1	Yes	Reed Cricket Club has an agreement with the College. It maintains the pitch in return for exclusive use of the pitch at weekends. A portacabin at the site as storage for equipment. The Club has access to the sixth form changing facilities and common room/kitchen.

Club issues

Ware Cricket Club

Ware Cricket Club's home ground is located on Bell Lane, Widford. The site is privately owned and is rented to the Club on an annual basis. It reports the owner is reluctant to lease the site. EHC is in negotiation with Ware CC regarding the lease of two cricket squares and an artificial strip at Presdales. It is also in negotiation with Ware CC and Bury Rangers FC regarding a lease for a clubhouse facility at Presdales. The Council is replacing the changing facilities this year (2010) with a clad modular build changing facility as well as upgrading the parking in a £500,000 capital build project. The overall aim of the partnership is to increase use of the site during the summer months.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Hertford Cricket Club (also known as Hertford Cricket and Hockey Association HC&HA)

Site assessments and consultation rate the changing facilities at HC&HA as adequate quality. The clubhouse facility includes a kitchen and licensed bar facility. Developers are currently building new dwellings to the rear of the site. A Section 106 Agreement has been negotiated and HC&HA plans to fund an extension to its existing clubhouse facility, which would provide additional changing and toilet facilities. This will meet peak demand, particularly when the cricket and hockey seasons overlap in September.

Parking at HC&HA is limited and is not sufficient to accommodate members and visiting teams during peak times. As a result, the cricket outfield is often used for parking, impacting on the pitch quality. The Club is investigating ways to address this.

Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club

The Club fields 18 teams and accesses cricket pitches at three sites in the District; Leventhorpe School (KKP Ref 63), Much Hadham Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 68) and Springhall Road Cricket Ground (KKP Ref 69). It has a formal sports development plan which includes strengthening its squads and increasing its number of coaches. There are also plans to build an academy building that will include changing provision.

Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club

The Club owns its first team pitch and leases its second team pitch from East Herts Council on a long term lease (99 years). Both pitches are located at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (BSST) site which also houses 11 tennis courts (two macadam, three clay and six grass courts) and one junior football pitch. Land located to rear of the site, owned by a trade union (Gilby's Gin), has been sold for housing development (Croft Group). As part of the Section 106 Agreement, developers have agreed to provide BSST with an area of land to develop a cricket square and pavilion. In addition, BSST has secured £10,000 in developer contributions as part of another nearby housing development which will also be used to fund the cricket and pavilion project. It will need to seek planning permission for this development.

Junior membership levels stand at 180 playing members. Consultation reveals this has declined since 2008/2009 season which stood at 275 junior playing members. The Club believes this is due to the recent national recession.

The existing clubhouse facility (serving the bottom cricket pitch) is dilapidated and in need of replacement. It provides two changing rooms, shower and toilet facilities. Consultation reports the size of changing rooms is not sufficient to accommodate peak time usage.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

8.5: Provision of cricket pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

A capacity rating (as per rugby and football) is not given for cricket pitches as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined and also differs between adult and junior matches, even though both are often played on the same pitch.

Table 8.6: Cricket provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches		Matches					Peak use
				Senior	Junior	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
89	Walkern Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1		-	-	3.0	-	-	300%
103	Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	1.0	100%
145	Upper Green	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	-	-	100%
162	Aston Cricket Ground	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	-	50%
182	Datchworth Sports Club	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	3		-	1.5	1.0	-	3.5	117%
15	Hertingfordbury Cricket Ground	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	-	-	100%
22	Haileybury College	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3		-	-	0.5	-	0.5	17%
59	Thundridge Sports Pavilion	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	2.0	200%
100	The Chauncy School	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches		Matches					Peak use
				Senior	Junior	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
136	Hertfordshire Cricket and Hockey Association	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2		-	1.0	-	-	0.5	50%
147	Richard Hale School	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	-	1.0	-	0.5	100%
151	Bullocks Lane Cricket Ground	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	-	100%
157	Bury Lane	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	-	-	100%
175	Bengeo Sports Field	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	50%
193	St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2		-	1.5	0.5	-	-	75%
201	Allenburys Sports & Social Club	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	-	50%
212	Hertfordshire Cricket and Hockey Association (2nd team pitch)	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		-	1.5	-	-	1.5	150%
37	Walnut Drive	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	-	100%
63	The Leventhorpe School	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1		-	-	1.5	-	1.5	150%
69	Springhall Road Cricket Ground	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1		-	3.0	0.5	-	0.5	300%
194	The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	2		-	2.0	2.0	-	3.0	150%

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches		Matches					Peak use
				Senior	Junior	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
204	Hockerill Sports Club	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1		-	1.5	1.5	-	1.5	150%
202	Cokenach Cricket Club	OUTSIDE	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	2.0	200%
218	Reed Cricket Club	OUTSIDE	Yes	1		-	1.0	2.0	-	-	200%
64	Ware Road Cricket Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	-	-	100%
68	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	-	1.0	-	1.0	100%
77	Cottered Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	-	-	-	50%
93	Freman College	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	-	-	100%
94	Ginns Road Playing Field	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	-	0.5	-	-	50%
121	Hare Street Playing Fields	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	-	0.5	-	-	50%
124	Braughing Playing Fields	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	1.0	100%
135	Little Berkhamstead Recreation Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	-	50%
139	Bayford Cricket Ground	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	-	100%
173	Albury Playing Field	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	-	50%
185	Heath Mount School	Rural Area	Yes	2		-	0.5	-	-	-	25%
189	Little Munden Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	-	-	-	50%
209	Ferneux Pelham Cricket Club	Rural Area	Yes	1		-	0.5	-	-	-	50%

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches		Matches					Peak use
				Senior	Junior	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
92	Norfolk Road, Buntingford	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1		-	1.0	0.5	-	-	100%
133	Aspenden Recreation Ground	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1		-	0.5	0.5	-	-	50%

Note: A number of school cricket pitches have been identified for community use due to other pitches (i.e. football pitches at the site) being available for community use. However, there is no current play identified for these sites.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

8.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were sufficient pitches. The table below summarises specific latent demand expressed by clubs for additional pitches.

Table 8.5: summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site (KKP Ref)	Level of latent demand	Pitch requirement
Cokenach Cricket Club	Cokenach Cricket Club (KKP Ref 202)	Senior team	0.5 cricket pitch
Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club	Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields (KKP Ref 103)	Senior team Colts team (under 18's) Junior team (under 12's)	1 cricket pitch
Total			1.5 cricket pitches

Summary of current demand

Although it is difficult to identify overplay by calculating the capacity of cricket pitches (as the length of a cricket match varies), it would appear that pitches are currently operating at capacity whilst some pitches on private sites appear to be overplayed. For example, Walkern Playing Fields (KKP Ref 89), Thundridge Sports Pavilion (KKP Ref 59) and Springhall Road Cricket Ground (KKP Ref 69). This is largely due to the number of juniors playing on pitches (as well as senior teams).

Temporal demand

The temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day on each pitch. Temporal demand identifies the time of peak demand and the percentage of matches played each day.

An analysis of match play identifies that current demand for cricket pitches is Saturday for senior cricket and midweek for junior cricket. Even at times of peak demand (28 pitches) there are a sufficient number of pitches to accommodate all playing commitments.

Imported and exported demand

It is highly probable that sites located on the perimeter of the District may import members living in neighbouring local authorities. For example, Hockerill Cricket Club (KKP Ref 204) is situated on the border with Uttlesford District Council and reports the majority of its members travel two to five miles. Implications of imported and exported demand in the District should be accounted.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Cricket team generation rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables comparison of participation between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each analysis area. Where none is shown, no teams operate at that age group, for cricket, in that area.

Table 8.7: Cricket TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior (18-55) Men	Senior (18-55) Women	Juniors (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
A1(M) Corridor	1:193	-	1:23	-
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	1:541	1:6,270	1:106	1:2,146
M11 Stort Corridor	1:672	-	1:263	-
Rural Area	1:166	-	1:145	-
Rural Service Centres	1:384	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	1:419	1:14,726	1:118	1:5,467
HARLOW	1:1,482	-	1:449	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE				
	1:1,415	1:54,815	1:1,480	-

There is no national TGR for junior girls' cricket (11 – 17). Participation rates are higher than national averages. In particular, there are high senior TGRs recorded for senior men and senior boys'. East Herts compares favourably against Harlow's TGRs for cricket across all sections.

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient to meet peak time demand. A summary of current surpluses and deficiencies is shown overleaf.

In order to calculate the number of home games per week, guidance has been sought from Towards A Level Playing Field (in the absence of local data). The value applied in the District for adult matches is 0.7 and 0.3 for junior matches. This reflects that more junior matches are likely to be played on one pitch and that more than one match every other week is played on cricket pitches to take account of midweek league fixtures.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 8.8: PPM summary

Analysis area	Cricket pitches
A1(M) Corridor	2.1
North of Harlow	0
Hertford-Ware Area	6.3
M11 Stort Corridor	-2.1
Rural Area	7.0
Rural Service Centres	0.5
EAST HERTS	13.8
LATENT DEMAND	1.5
TOTAL	15.3

* Negative numbers indicate a shortfall.

The PPM analysis of cricket pitches shows a surplus in the provision of cricket pitches across the District. However, a shortfall of pitches is shown in the M11 Stort Corridor analysis areas. It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should not be used in isolation and should be considered within the context of other report findings/outcomes.

The surplus does not really equate to one whole pitch being surplus and is more likely made up of many pitches being slightly underused; therefore we conclude that in real terms there is not a real surplus of provision. For example, the perceived surplus can be attributed to the number of cricket pitches in the rural settlements of the District which appear to have some spare capacity i.e. Aston Cricket Ground (KKP Ref 162) and Cottered Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 77) which only provide one or two teams. The surplus is further increased as the analysis also takes into account Haileybury College which provides three senior cricket pitches and is only used by two cricket teams (Hertford Cricket Club).

Known proposals for playing pitch provision should be considered within the context of the PPM summary findings. For example, Bishops Stortford Cricket Club, as part of the Section 106 Agreement with developers has plans to develop an additional cricket square and pavilion.

There will also be greater community use of school sites as part of BSF, particularly in Stevenage. The potential merge of The Hertfordshire Essex High School and Science College and Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys (also highlighted in section 17 of the report) may also impact on the availability of pitches.

The PPM summary also takes into account latent demand identified in Table 8.5. The impact of adding latent demand of 1.5 cricket pitches would slightly increase the surplus of cricket pitches expressed.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 45 cricket pitches available for community use in East Herts, accommodating 133 teams (including senior and junior).
- ◀ Site assessments score the quality of cricket pitch provision as good.
- ◀ There is a strong senior and junior league structure which supports high levels of participation.
- ◀ Partners should support clubs to develop women's and girl's teams, where there is demand for such provision.
- ◀ Although it is difficult to fully express overplay through calculating the capacity of cricket pitches, it would appear, through analysis of play that there are a number of pitches operating over capacity i.e. Walkern Playing Fields (KKP Ref 89) and Springhall Road Cricket Ground (KKP Ref 69).
- ◀ Latent demand for two cricket pitches has been reported by Cokenach and Watton-at-Stone cricket clubs.
- ◀ Although there is an anticipated surplus of cricket pitches in the District, this can be attributed to the large number of cricket pitches located in the rural settlements that are used below capacity.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 9: RUGBY

9.1: Introduction

The Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union (HRFU) administers rugby union across the Region. Six clubs play on rugby pitches provided at privately owned sports clubs in East Herts, generating 80 teams. Hertford and Bishop's Stortford rugby clubs are regarded as the strongest and largest clubs in the District. Clubs in East Herts provide a comprehensive range of teams from U7's through to youth teams.

London Manx RUFC is a representative club and plays three matches per season on pitches outside of East Herts. Royston RUFC is located outside of East Herts. However, consultation identifies a number of members travel from the area to compete at the Club.

9.2: Current provision

Table 9.1: Summary of rugby union pitches available for community use and teams

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of competitive teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
A1(M) Corridor	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	1
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
M11 Stort Corridor	12	2	7	22	1	24	-	29
Rural Area	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	24	3	7	24	1	25	-	30

Towards a level playing field identifies that a length of a senior rugby union pitch is 144m x 69m and a junior pitch is 70m x 43m. The audit only identifies dedicated, marked out pitches (i.e. with line markings).

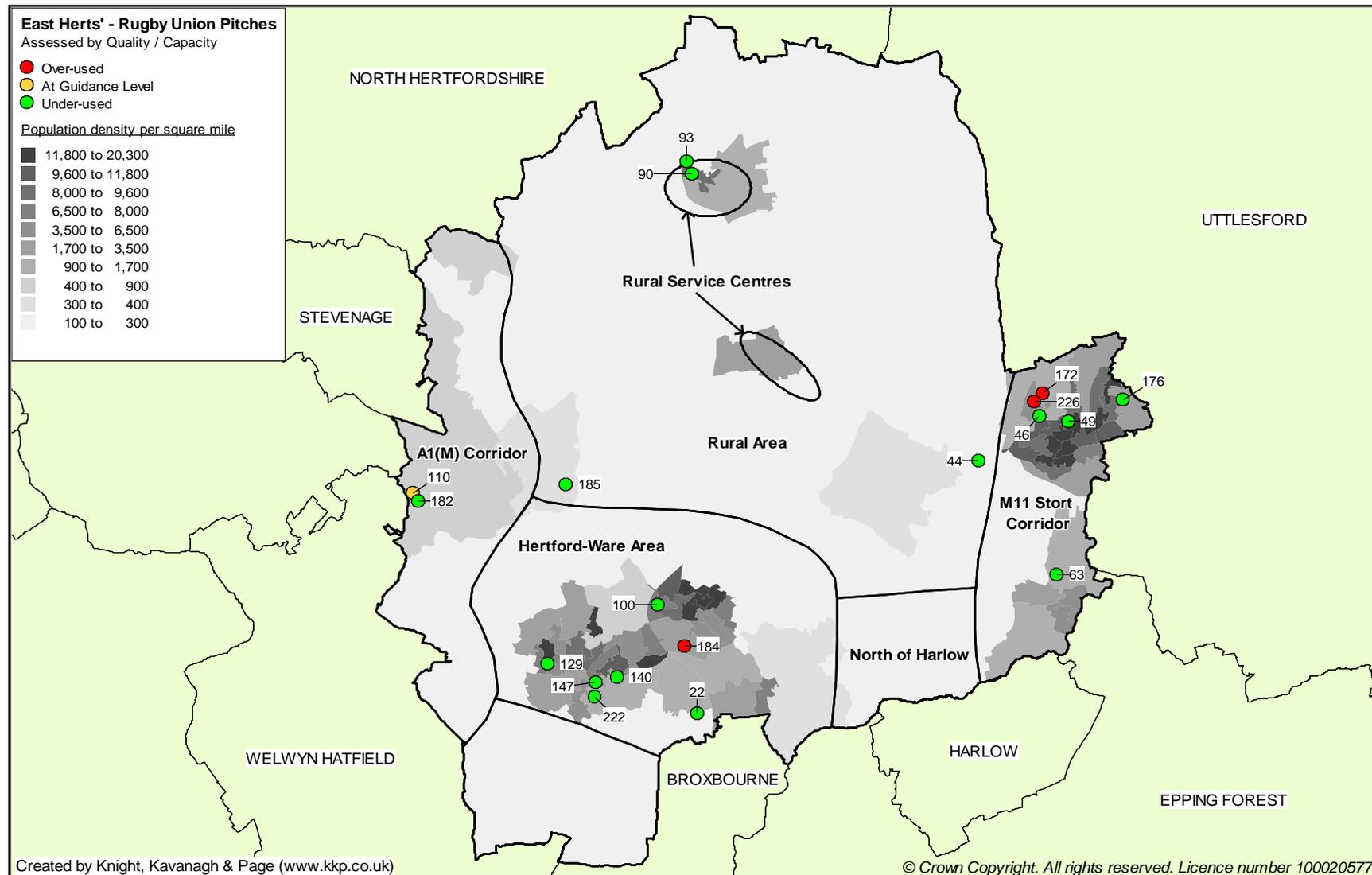
The audit identifies 34 rugby union pitches available for community use in East Herts. This figure also includes rugby pitches located on secondary school sites (where there is other community use i.e. football pitches). However, they are only used for curricular and extra curricular sport.

There are seven mini rugby pitches. In addition, mini rugby is also played across senior pitches or informally marked out with cones. This is also the case for junior rugby, where the majority is played on senior pitches.

Figure 9.1 indicates that the distribution of rugby pitches is concentrated in the M11 Stort Corridor and the Hertford-Ware analysis areas. Areas with high population density are generally well served by rugby pitches (e.g., Bishop's Stortford and Hertford). However, this includes several sites without community use (see below) and some with high levels of use, which affects their quality and subsequently their playing capacity.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 9.1: Location of rugby pitches in East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 9.2: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Rectory Lane Playing Fields	110	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2		
Datchworth Sports Club	182	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2		3
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2		
Morgans Walk	222	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1		
Richard Hale School	147	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes		1	
Sele School	129	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		
Simon Balle School	140	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		
The Chauncy School	100	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1		
Hertford Rugby Football Club	184	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	5		4
Birchwood High School	176	M11 Stort Corridor	No	2		
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	172	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	4		
Bishop's Stortford RUFC (Fire Brigade)	226	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes		2	
Maze Green Heights	46	M11 Stort Corridor	No	7		
St Mary's Catholic School	49	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1		
The Leventhorpe School	63	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1		
Freman College	93	Rural Area	Yes	2		
Heath Mount School	185	Rural Area	Yes	3		
Jobbers Wood	44	Rural Area	No	6		
Edwinstree Middle School	90	Rural Service Centres	No	2		

9.3: Development

National league structure

There has recently been a restructuring of the national league format, announced in November 2008 by the RFU, for implementation from 2009-2010.

Under this new structure, the top league remains the 12-team Guinness Premiership. The second tier league has been rebranded and restructured; the RFU Championship has replaced the old National Division One. It also has 12 teams, and like the Premiership, will be fully professional.

The national leagues have been restructured to include a new National League One (16 teams), National League Two South and National League Two North. The four top regional leagues are now part of National League Three. In addition, level six teams now form the eight top regional leagues. Promotion and relegation throughout the system remains. Datchworth, Bishop's Stortford and Hertford rugby clubs both have teams playing within the national league structure.

Facility development

National Facilities Strategy

The Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England at a national, regional and local level. The framework will enable partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

Investment into facilities is targeted at priorities and areas of greatest need through county facilities plans. The Hertfordshire County plan has recently been ratified by the County Board and highlights Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club as a priority investment project.

9.4: Key issues for rugby

Club summary

Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club

The Club competes in National League Three London and South East (Level 5). It fields 25 teams (including minis, midis, juniors and seniors) and has a strong membership of approximately 793 registered playing members from U7s to senior players. The membership of the mini section is significant and comprises almost 35% of the clubs members (i.e. 273 members). Junior membership has increased by approximately 100 members over the previous three years. It believes the increase in population (i.e., new residential development) has created a greater demand for sporting facilities and has contributed to the increase.

There are four senior rugby pitches and a senior football pitch at its home ground at Bishop's Stortford RUFC (KKP Ref 172), including one floodlit rugby match pitch and one floodlit rugby training pitch. The Club owns two rugby pitches and holds a long term lease on the remaining pitches (approximately 46 years left). The site was prioritised as a year one (2009/10) capital investment project to improve drainage through the installation of a new drainage system to the match pitch (located to the north of the clubhouse). It received a £35,000 grant from the RFU through the Capital Investment Programme and additional funds to deliver the £59,000 project were received from Viridor Landfill Credits, East Herts Council and internal club fundraising.

In order to accommodate much of its mini and youth section, it also accesses pitches at the 'Fire Brigade Ground' (KKP Ref 226) which is located south of the A1250 from the Club. The site is owned by Hertfordshire County Council and the Club held a rolling year lease, which has now expired. The site had previously been threatened by rationalisation to which both the RFU and Sport England objected. The Club believes if it did not have access to the pitches it would need to seek access to alternative pitches. It believes a possible solution would be for Bishop's Stortford Swifts Football Club (which access the football pitch at the main home ground) to relocate elsewhere, which would then enable the Club to convert the football pitch at its main home ground into a rugby pitch.

The Club has been awarded the RFU's Mini and Youth 'Seal of Approval' accreditation and is also working towards Whole Club 'Seal of Approval'.

Hertford Rugby Union Football Club (HRUFC)

Hertford Rugby Club also play in National League Three London and South East (Level 5). It fields 38 teams including mini, midis, juniors and seniors (male and female) and has been awarded the RFU's Mini and Youth 'Seal of Approval' accreditation.

The Club's home ground is located in Ware and houses five senior rugby union pitches and four mini rugby union pitches. It has a floodlit training pitch, a floodlit match pitch and a second floodlit training area. However, consultation with the RFU suggests that the second floodlit training area may not be to RFU specification.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The RFU County Facilities Plan outlines the need for a new access road to the site. It also cites that changing provision is required for women and girls to improve the capacity for concurrent activity.

Datchworth Rugby Union Football Club (DRUFC)

The Club plays in National League Three London and North West (Level 5). In total, it has access to five pitches (including two senior and three mini pitches) of which two are located at its home ground, Datchworth Sports Club (KKP Ref 182) and a further two are located Rectory Lane Playing Fields (KKP Ref 110) which is owned by East Herts Council.

The Club has also recently lease purchased additional land along Datchworth Green (located to the existing site) to provide an additional senior and three mini pitches. The development will also include provision of a cricket pitch (as highlighted in section eight of the report). It is envisaged that this will be the first teams pitch and will be ready for competitive matches for the season 2010/2011. It has received a Rugby Football Foundation grant of £6,000 to install pipe and slit drainage at the site.

The Club suggests as soon as the pitches are in operation at Datchworth Green it will no longer require access to Rectory Lane Playing Fields. However, it will still use pitches at Datchworth Sports Club. Its long term vision (over the next 5 – 10 years) is to undertake a 2nd phase development plan at Datchworth Green to provide an additional senior rugby pitch and car parking. This would then able the Club to designate the site as its home ground and lose access to Datchworth Sports Club.

There is a lack of car parking at Rectory Lane Playing Fields. However, planning permission has been granted to convert a rugby pitch into a car park area. Senior training takes place on the floodlit pitch at Datchworth Sports Club. The floodlights can only be used three hours per week and as a result, junior and youth training is held indoors at Knebworth Village Hall, Knebworth (located outside East Herts approximately two miles from Datchworth).

Royston Rugby Union Football Club (RRUFC)

Senior membership levels have remained static over the previous three years. It fields three senior and nine junior teams (including five mini teams). The Club plays its home matches at Therfield Heath, Royston (located outside of the East Herts area, approximately seven miles from Buntingford) and holds a 24 year lease on the site. The site accommodates two senior rugby pitches, two five-a-side pitches, a cricket pitch and changing rooms. An area of land at Therfield Heath is on a slope and is not used by clubs. Consultation reports if this area was levelled it could house an additional mini pitch.

Furthermore, it also accesses Greenway Middle School, Royston (also located outside East Herts).

The changing facilities at Therfield Heath are managed by the Heath Club. Royston RUFU pay for the use of changing as required. The RFU recently funded the development of an additional changing area (housing two modular changing rooms). RRUFC plans to install electricity and water for next season (2010/2011) and intends to make full use of the facilities.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Although the Club plays at sites located outside East Herts it does have a small proportion of members travelling from within the Area to play at the Club. It also works in closely with North East Herts SSP to deliver coaching in East Herts primary schools.

Demand

Consultation with the RFU suggests that there is a dearth of provision for mini rugby across East Herts. The main clubs field a large number of mini rugby teams and report a significant increase in their mini sections.

For example, Royston RUFC has experienced an increase in its mini section. As a result the Club suggests there are not enough rugby pitches to accommodate all juniors during peak usage (Sunday morning). As a result, it overflows onto football pitches at Therfield Heath and uses areas of the cricket outfield to host matches, marking out pitches with cones.

Latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Consultation reveals that clubs do not express latent demand because they are already operating at capacity in terms of the existing club structures and access to facilities.

Clubs in East Herts are well structured and field strong mini, junior and senior sections. Over the previous five years membership levels have increased and clubs have, in return, secured access to additional pitches for example, Datchworth RUFC. Consultation suggests clubs main focus at present is to consolidate access to pitches and continue to undertake ground and pitch facility improvements whilst retaining its membership structure.

Quality

All rugby pitches in East Herts are provided at either school or privately owned sports clubs. There are no local authority rugby pitches. Those at privately owned sports grounds are maintained by either clubs themselves or site owners to a good standard.

A common issue raised during consultation and also identified during consultation was poor drainage on pitches specifically located in the M11 Stort Corridor analysis area. Bishop's Stortford 1V team pitch can no longer be used for team games and matches are played on the remaining senior pitches at the main home ground, resulting in overplay and impacting on pitch quality. The site has been proposed for year two pitch (2010/11) improvements by the RFU.

Pitches at education sites are often of poorer quality, compared to club pitches. Clubs provide their own specialist maintenance on pitches and undertaking pitch improvements. Datchworth RUFC has recently undergone pitch improvements. Site assessments identify the rugby pitches at Freman College are poor quality. The School reports the area is poorly drained and the pitches often become waterlogged.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Royston RUFC is seeking to increase the quality of its first team pitch at Therfield Heath as it believes there is not enough top soil which results in the pitch becoming churned up.

Ancillary facilities

The quality of the clubhouse facilities at Bishop's Stortford RUFC has been improved over the previous five years. Developments included providing additional segregated changing facilities and updating the existing changing facilities.

There is demand to provide segregated changing for women and girls at Hertford and Datchworth rugby clubs. This has been identified by the Clubs as a priority and has been included within the RFU's County Facilities Strategy.

Education pitches

Consultation reports clubs tend not to access rugby pitches at school sites as access to changing facilities is often an issue. Usage of more than one site is also not conducive to the growth and sustainability of a club.

Training facilities

The large majority of clubs in the District train at their home grounds on either floodlit training or match pitches. There is a 3G pitch located at Birchwood High School. However, this is not used by rugby clubs in the District to accommodate training.

School/club links

Rugby participation is strong at schools and is delivered at the majority of primary and secondary schools in East Herts. Birchwood and North East Herts school sports partnerships are working with rugby clubs (Bishop's Stortford and Royston) to develop and deliver rugby as follows:

Club	School/club links
Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club	In conjunction with Birchwood SSP, the Club has joint funded a Rugby Community Coach (three year post) to develop girls rugby within all primary and secondary schools in the Partnership. A girls' festival is organised and is well attended by local schools. Consultation reports there is uncertainty whether this role will continue as this is dependent on funding.
Royston Rugby Club	Working closely with North East Herts SSP, as well as the Saracens Sport Foundation, the Club has delivered a six week rugby programme to all primary and first schools in the Buntingford and Puckeridge area of the SSP, which culminated in Festivals of Tag Rugby.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

9.5: Provision of rugby pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 9.3 overleaf shows the ratings of each rugby pitch based on the non-technical quality assessment and the carrying capacity for each pitch. Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week	
If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.	
If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week	

The following section presents the current pitch stock available for rugby in the District. It illustrates:

Number of pitches rated as good (G), average (A) and poor (P) on each site.

The type of pitch(es) on the site (senior, junior, mini).

The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:

- ◀ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◀ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
- ◀ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 9.3: Rugby provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	Play	Capacity	Rating	
110	Rectory Lane Playing Fields	A1(M) Corridor	Yes		2								2.0	2.0		The pitches are played to capacity due to its average quality rating.
182	Datchworth Sports Club	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2						3			6.0	10.0		There is spare capacity at this site to accommodate more teams.
22	Haileybury College	Hertford-Ware Area	No	2									-	8.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
100	The Chauncy School	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1									-	4.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
129	Sele School	Hertford-Ware Area	No		1								-	2.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
140	Simon Balle School	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1									-	4.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	Play	Capacity	Rating	
147	Richard Hale School	Hertford-Ware Area	No						1				-	1.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
63	The Leventhorpe School	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1									-	4.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
172	Bishop's Stortford RUFC	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	4									10.0	8.0		The site is overplayed due to the amount of junior/mini teams assigned to this site but that either play across senior pitches or play on pitches marked out with cones i.e. not designated pitches.
184	Hertford Rugby Football Club	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	5					4				19.0	18.0		The site is overplayed due to the amount of junior/mini teams assigned to this site but that either play across senior pitches or play on pitches marked out with cones i.e. not designated pitches.
226	Bishop's Stortford RUFC (Fire Brigade)	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes					2					3.0	2.0		The pitches are played to capacity due to its average quality rating.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week			Comments
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	Play	Capacity	Rating	
93	Freman College	Rural Area	No	2									-	8.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.
185	Heath Mount School	Rural Area	No	3									-	6.0		There is no current use of these pitches although they are available. Other pitches at the School do have community use.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

9.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement '

Summary of current demand

The table below summaries the sites in each analysis area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. the number of matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 9.4: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Bishop's Stortford RUFC	M11 Stort Corridor	2.0
Hertford Rugby Football Club	Hertford-Ware Area	1.0
Bishop's Stortford RUFC (Fire Brigade)	M11 Stort Corridor	1.0
Total		4 matches

The majority of sites were assessed as good quality. Overplay largely relates to junior and mini teams (marked out with cones) playing across or on senior pitches in addition to senior matches. This will, over time, have an impact on pitch quality. The RFU places significant importance on facility developments which ensure that mini pitches are separate to adult pitches.

Temporal demand

Temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day. It shows times of peak demand and use of pitches throughout the week. For pitches across the District is highest for senior games on a Saturday and junior games on a Sunday.

For example, at peak time for each type of game there is a need for 12.5 adult games to be accommodated, 12.5 junior games and 15 mini games. By establishing the pitches available across the District 24 adult pitches are identified, 3 junior pitches and 7 mini pitches. This indicates that there is capacity to re-designate a proportion of senior pitches to accommodate more junior and mini pitches without affecting the overall demand for adult games. However, this should be considered on an area by area basis (see appendices for full analysis). Furthermore it is also important that overplay (4 matches) is factored in as there are currently insufficient pitches to accommodate existing playing commitments in some areas.

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded given access to sufficient pitches. No latent demand has been identified by clubs during consultation.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Rugby Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in an area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables participation comparisons to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The following current TGRs have been calculated on a District basis.

Table 9.5: Rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior (18-45) Men	Senior (18-45) Women	Junior (13-17) Boys	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
A1 (M) Corridor	1:279	-	1:48	1:91
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	1:1,103	1:8,953	1:167	1:180
M11 Stort Corridor	1:1,004	-	1:135	1:516
Rural Area	-	-	-	-
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	1:1,066	1:20,390	1:155	1:284
HARLOW	1:4,023	1:13,286	1:505	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE				
	1:7,032	1:43,770	1:2,105	-

Rugby is concentrated in three analysis areas; A1(M) Corridor, Hertford-Ware and M11 Stort Corridor. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams for/at that age group, for rugby, have a home base location in East Herts.

TGRs for rugby in East Herts are good compared to national averages, particularly at senior mens' level and junior boys'. There is currently no participation recorded for junior girls'; this is a possible area for development in the future. However, this is the case across the Country and not just an issue for East Herts. There is currently no recognised national average TGR for mini-rugby but TGRs for the District suggest a high level of participation.

Consultation reports there is a drop off in junior girls particularly at U13s (playing 15-a-side) where mixed gender teams are not allowed. Mixed gender teams can play competitively up to U12s (playing 13-a-side). As a result, Royston and Bishop's Stortford rugby clubs have both introduced a girls' training squad which trains on a weekly basis. Representatives from Stevenage RUFC (located outside the assessment area) are also members of the squad at Royston RUFC and it aims to introduce an U16 girls' team to play against other local teams in the near vicinity.

Likewise, Bishop's Stortford RUFC intends to field two girls' teams (Under 15s and 18s) for the rugby season 2010/2011. The team will compete on a Sunday and will play at its main home ground.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Future TGRs (2021)

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2021, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 9.7 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2021. The greatest area of growth is in mini rugby. The need for additional pitches, based on TGRs and population growth will be discussed on an analysis area basis in the Strategy.

On this basis, it is assumed for modelling purposes that there will be a 7.3% increase in participation (based on ONS population increases) over the next eleven years. This increase is applied below to give an indication as to how many rugby teams will be generated.

Table 9.6: Future TGRs (Number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior (18-45) Men	Senior (18-45) Women	Junior (13-17) Boys	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
A1(M) Corridor	0.7	-	0.6	0.8
North of Harlow	-	-	-	-
Hertford-Ware area	1.3	0.1	1.2	2.4
M11 Stort Corridor	1.2	0.0	1.4	0.8
Rural Area	-	-	-	-
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	3.2	0.1	3.4	4.1

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times. The current TGRs identified are applied to the PPM to illustrate any pitch shortfalls. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below.

Table 9.7: PPM summary

Analysis area	Rugby union pitches		
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
A1 (M) Corridor	1.5	-2.5	0
North of Harlow	0	0	0
Hertford-Ware area	4.5	-3.5	-5.0
M11 Stort Corridor	0.5	-3.5	-3.0
Rural Area	5.0	0	0
Rural Service Centres	0	0	0
EAST HERTS	11.5	-9.5	-8.0

* Negative numbers indicate a shortfall.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Across the District, there is a significant deficit of junior and mini pitches, in particular in the Hertford-Ware area, M11 Stort Corridor and A1 (M) Corridor (junior pitches only) analysis areas. It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predictions should be treated with caution and should not be used in isolation, but rather put in the context of other report findings/outcomes.

Overplay equating to two pitches is recorded. The level of overplay expressed largely relates to junior and mini teams and therefore, if added to the PPM summary, would further exacerbate the requirement for additional junior and mini pitches across the District.

In part the surplus can be attributed to juniors not having dedicated pitches and currently playing across senior pitches or playing on informal pitches marked out with cones. However, the biggest contribution to this is the classification of the pitches at school sites, which although are identified as being available for community are currently not used by clubs. Schools have been classified in this way because other grass pitches i.e. football; do have some level of community use.

Rugby summary

- ◀ There are 34 rugby union pitches in the District. Six clubs play on rugby pitches provided at privately owned sports clubs in East Herts, generating 80 teams (including senior, junior and mini).
- ◀ The distribution of rugby pitches is concentrated in the A1(M) Corridor, Hertford-Ware and M11 Stort Corridor analysis areas.
- ◀ Datchworth RUFC has recently lease purchased additional land alongside Datchworth Green (located next to the existing site) to provide an additional senior rugby pitch and three mini rugby pitches.
- ◀ Pitches at Bishop's Stortford RUFC, Bishop's Stortford RUFC (Fire Brigade) and Hertford RUFC are overplayed on a weekly basis (due to juniors playing on senior pitches).
- ◀ No latent demand has been identified by clubs.
- ◀ There is much spare capacity at the secondary schools in East Herts, where although there are rugby pitches, they are not used for community use. This is due to a number of reasons including poor quality and lack of demand from local clubs to use school facilities.
- ◀ TGRs for rugby in East Herts are good compared to national averages, particularly at senior mens' level and junior boys'.
- ◀ There is a deficit of junior and mini pitches, in particular in the Hertford-Ware, M11 Stort Corridor and A1 (M) Corridor (junior pitches only) analysis areas. This can be attributed to juniors not having dedicated pitches at club sites and the inclusion of school rugby pitches not current in use although available.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

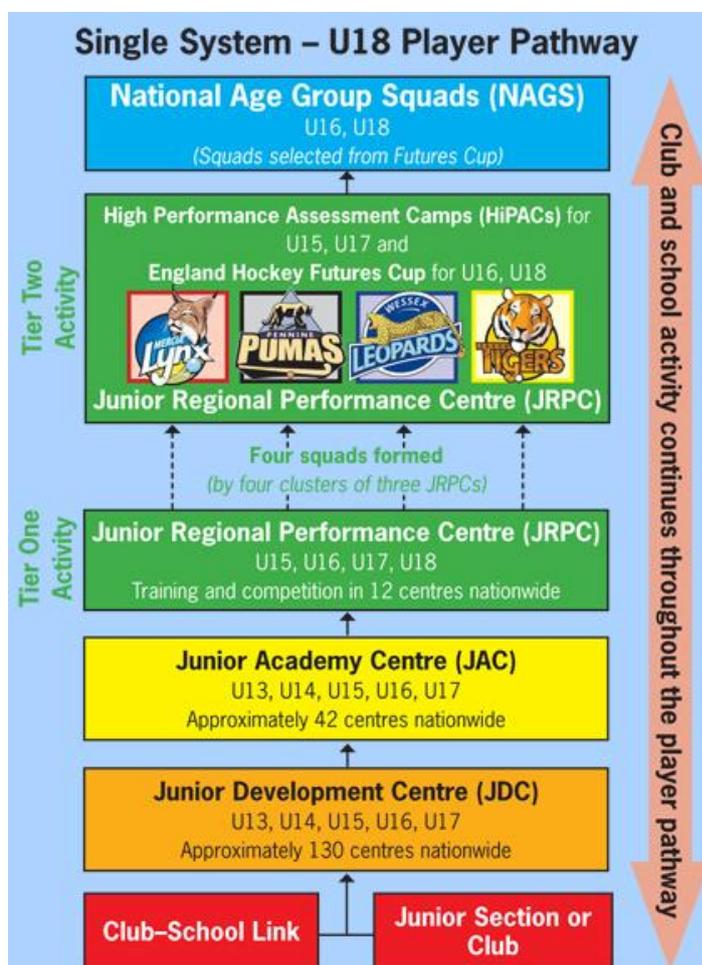
PART 10: HOCKEY

10.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations. The game is played almost exclusively on synthetic turf pitches (STP's). This surface enables players to control the ball more readily and allows the game to be played all year round. EH recommends that long pile pitches (e.g., 3G pitches) are not suitable for competitive hockey. It is further recommended that for training and community facilities that the long pile surface is not a preferred option for the teaching of hockey. It is noted that access to long pile surfaces for introducing the game to beginners would be preferable to a poor grass or tarmac surface.

EH is currently working on its Facilities Strategy which is expected to launch mid to late 2010. However, consultation reports its strategic priority lies around its Single System pathway:

Figure 10.1: England Hockey Single System Pathway



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

10.2: Current provision

There are two clubs located in East Herts; Hertford Cricket & Hockey Association (known also as Hertford Hockey Club) accessing Simon Balle High School STP and Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club accessing Hockerill Anglo-European College STP.

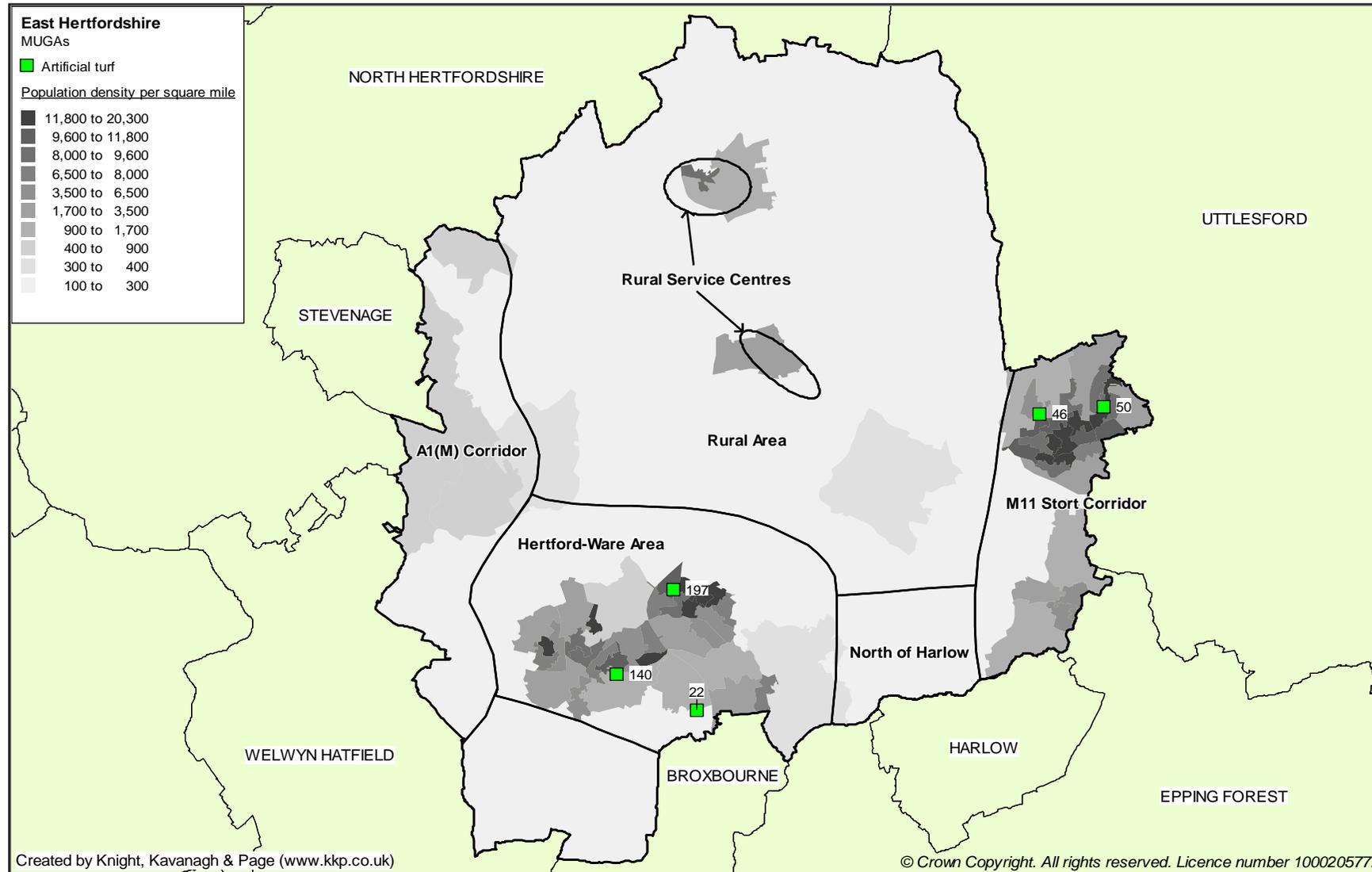
There are six, full sized, floodlit, sand based STPs, suitable for competitive hockey in the District (located on five sites). The majority (with the exception of Wodson Park Sports Centre) are provided at education sites:

- ◀ Simon Balle High School (KKP ref 140).
- ◀ Wodson Park Sports Centre (KKP ref 197).
- ◀ Haileybury College (KKP ref 22).
- ◀ Hockerill Anglo-European College (KKP ref 50).
- ◀ Maze Green Heights (KKP Ref 46).

Maze Green Heights is an 'off site' sports facility owned by Bishop's Stortford Sports College. It provides an impressive portfolio of both outdoor and indoor sports provision including two floodlit STP's, five football, 10 rugby, three grass hockey and three cricket pitches.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 10.2: Location of STPs in East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 10.2 indicates STP provision is concentrated in Hertford Ware Area and M11 Stort analysis areas.

Table 10.1: Key to STP location map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	No of STP's	Surface	Floodlit
Simon Balle High School	140	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1	Sandbased	Yes
Wodson Park Sports Centre	197	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1	Sandbased	Yes
Maze Green Heights (Bishop's Stortford College)	46	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	2	Sandbased	Yes
Hockerill Anglo-European College	50	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1	Sandbased	Yes
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1	Sandbased	Yes

10.3: Development

Junior Development Centres (JDC)

A Junior Development Centre is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each Centre is open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. Hertfordshire provides two centres of which one; Haileybury College, Hertford (KKP Ref 22), is located within East Herts and Queenswood School, Hatfield located outside of East Herts.

Junior Academy Centres (JAC)

A JAC is the next step on the Player's Pathway. There is a JAC located at Queenswood School, Hatfield. EH is in discussions with the Hertfordshire County Hockey Association to relocate this to Haileybury College, Hertford. This is due to the deteriorating quality of the pitch at Queenswood, which is prone to flooding and does not drain well. As a result, a large number of coaching sessions are cancelled, impacting on player development.

Grass hockey pitches

Nationally, in recent years, the number of grass hockey pitches has reduced significantly as EH does not sanction the use of grass pitches for competitive play. However, grass pitches are still important in terms of introducing the game to beginners and still make an important contribution to the stock of hockey pitches, particularly in terms of school facilities.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

There are eight grass hockey pitches in the District; all are located at education sites. Schools actively use grass pitches to deliver PE lessons but will access STP's for competitive matches. For example, Freman College access Wodson Park Sports Centre to play its competitive matches.

10.4: Key issues for hockey

Development

Hertfordshire Hockey Association (HHA)

The role of Hertfordshire Hockey Association is to provide support and information for schools, clubs, local authorities, coaches and players of hockey development in the County.

East Region Hockey Association (ERHA)

ERHA represent and promote the interest of all hockey in the region. It has a number of objectives which include to:

- ◀ Implement policy laid down by EH.
- ◀ Develop plans at regional level to ensure the game of hockey prospers at all age groups.
- ◀ To develop umpires, officials, players, managers and coaches so that, where appropriate, they achieve regional, national and international recognition
- ◀ Manage and organise all regional competitions and the regional stages of the national programme.

ERHA also includes a youth panel of members aged 14 – 21 years old who help to organise and run the East Clubs Festival and support the East Schools Championships. The group meet four times per year. The Association is delivering the one year County Development Plan which includes a number of outcomes including:

- ◀ Formation of a Herts Junior League at U11, U13 and U15 boys/girls and U18 girls.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to develop Young Umpires and Leaders to support the development pathway for young leaders.
- ◀ Liaise with clubs/SSPs and Community Sports Networks in respect of planned facility developments.

Hertford Cricket & Hockey Association (HC&HA)

Also known as Hertford Hockey Club, its home pitch is located at Simon Balle High School. The Club holds an agreement with the School for exclusive use of the STP each Saturday to fulfil league fixtures. On occasions, depending on the number of home matches per season, it also accesses Wodson Park Sports Centre STP.

The Club's social base is located adjacent to Simon Balle High School at HC&HA, which accommodates a senior cricket pitch and clubhouse facility. The Association site is also the home ground of Hertford Cricket Club. A joint management committee (with representation from both the hockey and cricket clubs) oversee the management of the

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

site. During the winter months, the Hockey Club is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the clubhouse facility

The Club's membership levels have increased in the previous three years currently standing at 120 adult and 80 junior playing members, fielding eight senior and four junior teams. It believes the increase in the number of junior members is due to its active promotion of the sport at Simon Balle and Richard Hale secondary schools. It also delivers hockey during extra curricular activities and school holidays.

Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

It currently fields eight men's, four ladies' and three junior teams and report membership levels are increasing on an annual basis. It has almost 100 junior and over 150 senior members.

Its home pitch is located at Hockerill Anglo-European College, Bishop's Stortford. The Club has formed a partnership with the College known as The Hockerill Sports Trust for the operation of the STP. In addition, it also accesses Maze Green Heights STP to accommodate fixtures. Its social base is located at Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust, (BSST) which was the original home ground of the Club when hockey was played on grass pitches. BSST is also the home ground of Bishop's Stortford Tennis and Bishop's Stortford Cricket clubs.

In 2009, the Club submitted planning permission for the provision of a floodlit STP at BSST, on land accommodating a junior football pitch. Consultation reports there have been requests from local football teams to use the pitch. However, it is not currently available for community use due to poor drainage. Planning permission has been refused by EHC and the Club then appealed against this. As a result, The Secretary of State visited the site at the end of November 2009 but the appeal has been refused.

During the consultation, the Club suggested that if planning permission was not approved it would investigate relocating to alternative grounds in East Herts. The Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth is currently investigating the provision of an STP. However, this would not provide a club social base and is located five miles away (a 12 minute drive away) from Bishop's Stortford, which is where the majority of club members originate from.

Quicksticks⁸

EH has devised the Quicksticks hockey programme which is aimed at 7 – 11 year olds. Its aim is to introduce the sport to teachers and students who have little or no prior knowledge of hockey. The programme is delivered using a standard netball court. Birchwood Schools Sports Partnership (SSP), in conjunction with Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club, has delivered the programme to all primary link teachers in the SSP which was followed by a hockey festival at Hockerill Anglo-European College. This was well attended by schools. The SSP has plans to establish a satellite club that will use the netball courts at Birchwood High School and provide a school/club link into Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club.

⁸ <http://www.englishhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=325§ionTitle=Quicksticks>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Pitch quality

KKP site assessments rate the quality of STP's in East Herts as good quality. All pitches scored a minimum of 77%.

Consultation reports the STP's at education sites Simon Balle High School and Hockerill Anglo College will both need to be re-carpeted in the next two years. A sinking fund is in place for both pitches to fund this, as and when required. A management board (with representation from Hertford Hockey Club, Simon Balle School and local football clubs) oversees the management and maintenance of the pitch. There are issues with littering, poor lighting (as a result of missing bulbs on the floodlights) and heavy usage during break time by school pupils. As a result, there has been more wear and tear on the pitch than originally anticipated.

Ancillary facilities

Site assessments, supported through the consultation, rate the changing facilities at HC&HA as adequate quality. The clubhouse facility includes a kitchen and a licensed bar. Housing developers are currently building new dwellings to the rear of the HC&HA site. A Section 106 Agreement is in place and £60,000 has been agreed to fund an extension to the existing clubhouse facility. This would provide additional changing and toilet facilities to meet demand when the cricket and hockey seasons overlap in September.

Parking at HC&HA is limited and is not sufficient during peak times to accommodate members and visiting teams. As a result, areas of the cricket outfield are used for parking. Consultation suggests this has impacted on the quality of the cricket outfield. The Club is investigating ways to address this.

Accessibility

Research conducted by Sport England into the use of STPs has suggested that they play two principal roles – midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. Often, the size of the pitch is divided up for training purposes.

Clubs consider the cost of hiring the STP at Haileybury School to be expensive. A high cost for hiring/leasing such facilities can lead to hindering the long-term sustainability of existing clubs in the area (and may prevent teams from forming). The cost of hiring the Wodson Park Sports Centre STP is considered as reasonable.

Demand

Towards a Level Playing Field suggests that an STP should not accommodate more than four competitive matches on a peak day (normally a Saturday). Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club (BSHC) fields ten teams in total on a Saturday (five home and five away). This results in an overplay by one competitive match per peak day.

Hertford Hockey Club fields eight senior (men's and ladies) on a Saturday and four junior teams (on a Sunday). Based on the assumption of playing four home and four away matches it appears the STP at Simon Balle High School is used to capacity on a peak day.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

BSHC also reports latent demand for one STP (i.e. two senior teams). However, analysis of play on STP's in East Herts identifies there is capacity to accommodate additional temporal demand on existing sites for example at Maze Green Fields, which provides two STP's. The Club already accesses Maze Green Fields on a Sunday to accommodate its veteran teams.

HC&HA reports any further increase in its junior teams could be accommodated at Simon Balle STP, likewise for the seniors who could access Wodson Park Sports Centre STP.

The table below indicates the established temporal demand for pitches and defines the pitch usage for each day.

	Game type	Simon Balle High School	Wodson Park Sports Centre	Haileybury Anglo-European College	Maze Green Heights
Number of games per week					
Saturday	Adult games	5	-	12	-
	Junior games	-	-	-	-
	Mini games	-	-	-	-
Sunday	Adult games	3	-	2	-
	Junior games	5	-	3	-
Midweek	Adult games	-	-	-	-
	Junior games	-	-	-	-

There is no hockey community use at Wodson Park Sports Centre and Maze Green Heights.

It is not thought that current or future demand for hockey will attribute to the need for more STP provision in East Herts. Accessibility and management issues at existing sites, is more of a priority to tackle.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are six STP's and eight grass hockey pitches in East Herts. The majority of STP's are located at education sites.
- ◀ Site assessments generally rate the quality of all STP's in East Herts as good quality. STP's at education sites Simon Balle High School and Hockerill Anglo College will both need to be re-carpeted in the next two years. A sinking fund is in place for both pitches to fund this, as and when required.
- ◀ Membership levels at Hertford and Bishop's Stortford hockey clubs have increased in the previous three years.
- ◀ STP provision is concentrated in the Hertford-Ware Area and M11 Stort analysis areas.
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club reports latent demand for one STP (i.e. two senior teams).
- ◀ Towards a Level Playing Field suggests that an STP should not accommodate more than four matches per week. Using this guidance, Hockerill Anglo-European College STP is overplayed by one competitive match on a Peak Day (usually Saturday).
- ◀ It is not thought that current or future demand for hockey will attribute to the need for more STP provision in East Herts. Accessibility and management issues at existing sites is more of a priority to tackle.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 11: BOWLS

11.1: Introduction

Bowls England is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green lawn bowls. Locally, it is administered by the Hertfordshire Bowls Association (HBA) which is split into four areas and is managed by an area committee. East Herts is managed by the East Area committee.

The bowling season runs from May to September. East Herts Bowling League is the main league servicing the area. HBA also offers competitions however, other leagues servicing the area include:

- ◀ Essex and Herts Senior League.
- ◀ Welwyn and Hatfield District League.
- ◀ Stevenage Mixed League.

There are also a number of clubs in the District fielding ladies teams. The Hertfordshire County Bowling Association and East Hertfordshire Ladies Bowling Association both offer competition for ladies.

East Herts Bowling League (EHBL)

In total, there are 18 clubs competing in the EHBL, of which, 15 are from East Herts. The majority of these are private clubs and enter more than one team. The League reports over the previous three years there has been a general reduction in the number of clubs competing. It believes that within the next five years a number of clubs will disband in the County, as a result of reduced demand.

11.2: Current provision

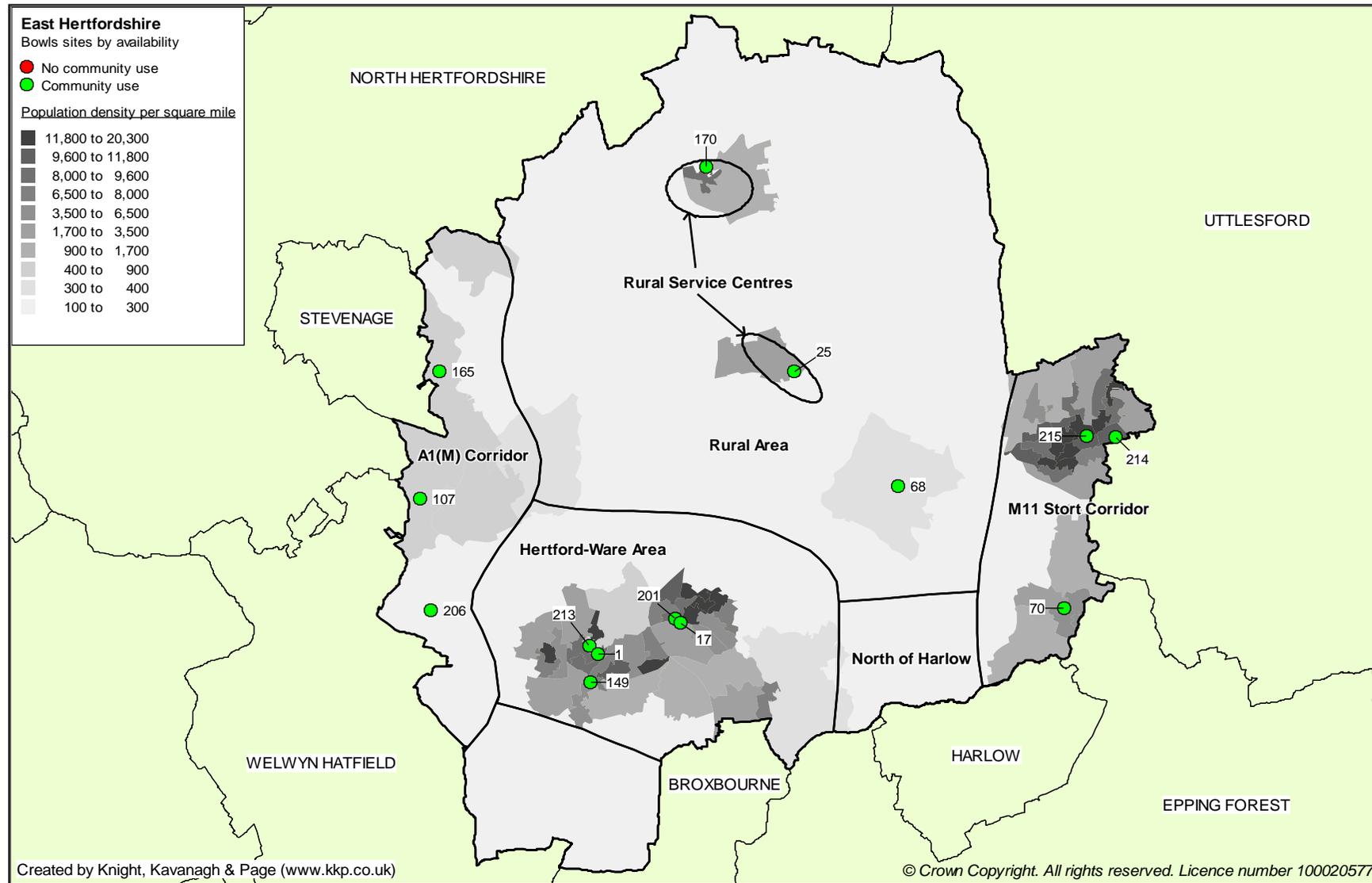
There are 14 bowling facilities, providing 15 flat greens. The map below shows that the distribution of provision is relatively well spread throughout the District.

Table 11.1: Summary of bowling greens available for community use

Analysis area	No. of lawn bowling greens
A1(M) Corridor	3
North of Harlow	-
Hertford-Ware Area	5
M11 Stort Corridor	4
Rural Area	1
Rural Service Centres	2
EAST HERTS	15

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 11.1: Location of bowling greens in East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 11.2: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Flat green bowls
Aston Bowling Green	165	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Shire Park Bowling Club	206	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Turkey Farm Playing Fields	107	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Allenburys Sports & Social Club	201	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Bengeo Bowling Club	213	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Hartham Common	1	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Wallfields Bowling Green	149	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Ware Bowls Club	17	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club	214	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	2
Havers Park Bowling Club	215	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Sayesbury Road Bowling Green	70	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	68	Rural Area	Yes	1
Standon and Puckeridge Bowling Club	25	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1
Wyddial Road Bowling Green	170	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1

11.3: Development

The information below summarises information gathered from postal questionnaires sent to bowls clubs playing in East Herts. In total, these were sent to 15 clubs, of which 12 responded, equating to a high response rate of over three quarters (80%).

- ◀ The average playing membership per club is 53.
- ◀ The levels of membership vary from 30 up to 122 members.
- ◀ The majority of players travel between two to five miles to play at their home ground.
- ◀ Three quarters of clubs (75%) comment that average levels of senior membership have generally remained static over the previous three years. Two clubs; Bengeo and Standon and Puckeridge, report a decrease in its membership. Sawbridgeworth is the only club to report an increase in membership levels.
- ◀ Half of clubs report that the quality of their designated green has improved since last season. Reasons cited for this include, specialist maintenance of greens and the work of club volunteers. Six clubs report there has been no change in the green quality over the previous three years.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ Six clubs report facility/development plans. Proposals include drainage works, improvements to clubhouses and the provision of changing facilities.
- ◀ Clubs generally do not believe that increasing the quantity of bowling greens in the area would increase club membership. One club; Bengo BC suggests it would have an additional ladies members if there were separate ladies changing rooms available at its home ground team (Bengo Bowling Club KKP Ref 213).

Juniors

Provision is made for junior members at four clubs in the District. There are four clubs providing a small number of junior members. There is no competitive local league within the District. However, junior members can enter a junior competition organised by the HBA.

Junior members of clubs in East Herts are invited to participate in County and Regional events as part of the English Bowls Youth Development Scheme. The scheme is a partnership initiative to develop bowls for young people supported by a number of organisations including Bowls England, English Indoor Bowling Association Limited, English Bowls Umpires Association, English Bowls Coaching Scheme and the English Women's Umpires Association. However, as junior participation is low it appears there are no clubs participating in the events.

11.4: Key issues for bowls

EHDC owns three bowling greens; Ware (KKP Ref 17), Wallfields (KKP Ref 149) and Hartham Common (KKP Ref 1). Ware and Wallfields greens are leased to respective bowling clubs until 2016. The Hartham Common bowling green is managed by SLM as part of the leisure contract. Standon and Puckeridge Bowling Club holds a 99 year lease on its home green. The remaining greens in the District have a mix of ownership and are either held in trust or privately owned.

Demand

Analysis of club membership shows that two thirds of clubs report senior membership levels have remained static over the last three years. However, only five clubs report that they are actively recruiting new members. Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford bowling clubs organise open days to promote the sport within the local community and encourage new members. It appears there are a significant number of clubs that do not have plans to increase its membership levels. Hertford Bowling Club reports high levels of demand on its home ground at Wallfields Bowling Green (KKP ref 149) which, as a result, restricts the level of pay and play it can offer.

Future demand is not anticipated to result in the need for new greens. However, Bengo Bowling Club comments that its membership levels, in particular ladies, would increase if better ancillary facilities were available. It currently has no female members. Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club reports that, as of next season, it plans to introduce two additional teams which will compete in the East Herts League and be accommodated at the existing facilities.

Two clubs; Hertford and Hertford Castle, report junior membership has remained static over the previous three years. Consultation suggests that bowls is perceived as an 'old

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

persons' game and tends to appeal to older members of the community. Datchworth Bowling Club has recently introduced carpet bowls into local primary schools, Scouts and Girl Guide groups in an attempt to raise the profile of bowls and increase junior participation.

A common issue raised by clubs across the District is the number of matches cancelled last season as a result of not being able to raise enough players to form a team. In total, eight matches (two clubs) were cancelled due to a lack of members.

Quality

Site assessments rated all bowling greens in East Herts as either good or excellent. Eight sites score as excellent quality including Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club (KKP Ref 214) and Havers Park Bowling Club (KKP Ref 215). No greens received a poor rating. Half of clubs comment that the quality of their designated green has improved since last season.

Five clubs report issues with unofficial use/vandalism for example at Buntingford Bowling Club's home ground Wyddial Road (KKP Ref 170). The green is located on the perimeter of a housing estate and often attracts young people congregating at the site. It has plans to install an intruder lighting system and 'dummy' CCTV cameras to prevent unofficial use. Similar problems with unofficial use of the green is reported by Sele Farm Bowling Club at its home ground Hartham Common (KKP Ref 1). The clubhouse regularly suffers from vandalism and the green was used as a playing surface by young people. However, fencing work (funded by EHC and the Joint Action Group) was completed prior to the bowls season and the green is now secured.

Greens Maintenance Advisory Service

Bowls England has introduced a Greens Maintenance Advisory Service which offers practical assistance to clubs whose greens need attention. Clubs can seek advice from regional co-ordinators and County representatives. In addition, HBA operates a Green Keepers Forum, which meets through the winter months and provides knowledge on early season preparation, work machinery and irrigation.

Accessibility

The ownership and accessibility of bowling greens can influence their availability to the local community for community use. Consultation identifies that the majority of players travel two to five miles to play. This suggests that there is enough provision within the District which is accessible to bowlers.

Pay and play usage of bowling greens is important as it can help to raise the profile of the game, increase membership levels and revenue of sites. There are four greens available for pay and play in East Herts; Hartham Common bowling green is available to the public by paying a small fee at Hartham Leisure Centre. The cost of pay and play is considered by users as reasonable.

Hertford Bowling Club reports high levels of demand on its home ground at Wallfields Bowling Green (KKP ref 149) which, as a result, restricts the level of pay and play it can offer. The green is also the home ground of Castle Bowls Club. However, it does allow one rink for community use.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Ancillary facilities

It is usual for bowling clubs to have access to associated ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms and social areas. The majority of sites offer ancillary facilities. Clubs rate the quality of their ancillary facilities as good.

Over the recent years, clubs have accessed funding to upgrade greens and clubhouse facilities. For example, Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club accessed funding from Stansted Airport Community Trust to install a kitchen facility. In addition, it also secured funding from EHC for the provision of benches.

The following table summarises the key site specific issues raised by clubs during consultation:

Table 11.3: Summary of site specific issues

Site name	KKP reference	Comments
Standon and Puckeridge Bowling Club	25	The Club rates the quality of the green as good. However, the green is not free from leaves/litter and fouling.
Wallfield Bowling Green	149	There are plans to improve the drainage in a corner of the green.
Bengeo Bowling Club	213	The Club reports it is only open to persons over 18 due to licensing laws and, as a result, do not have junior members. Its clubhouse facility includes an official's room, toilets, kitchen and changing rooms. It rates its ancillary facilities as good.
Turkey Farm Recreation Ground	107	The site is owned by Datchworth Parish Council. Consultation reports there are informal plans to extend the clubhouse facility to create additional seating areas for after match events. There is demand to upgrade the changing facilities. Funding from EHC attributed to improvements to disabled access at the site. Datchworth Parish Council has recently approved the car parking to be extended.
Wyddial Road Bowling Green	170	The quality of the green has slightly improved since last season due to increased maintenance regimes. Car parking is available on Wyddial Road but is limited when hosting large District and County matches. Moss is an issue on the green. The green is the home ground of Buntingford Bowls Club. The Club is considering accessing funding to raise the edges of the green and replace the boiler in the clubhouse.
Havers Park Bowling Club	215	Access to the site has been improved over the last five years through the installation of access paths and new ditches (part funded by East Herts Council). The site is fenced and the clubhouse facility has access to toilets, kitchen and an equipment store. The Club rates the green and clubhouse facility as good.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	KKP reference	Comments
Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club	214	The Club is regarded as one of the oldest in the County. It sold its previous green for housing in Bishop's Stortford and relocated to its new home ground located off Bowling Lane, Bishop's Stortford.

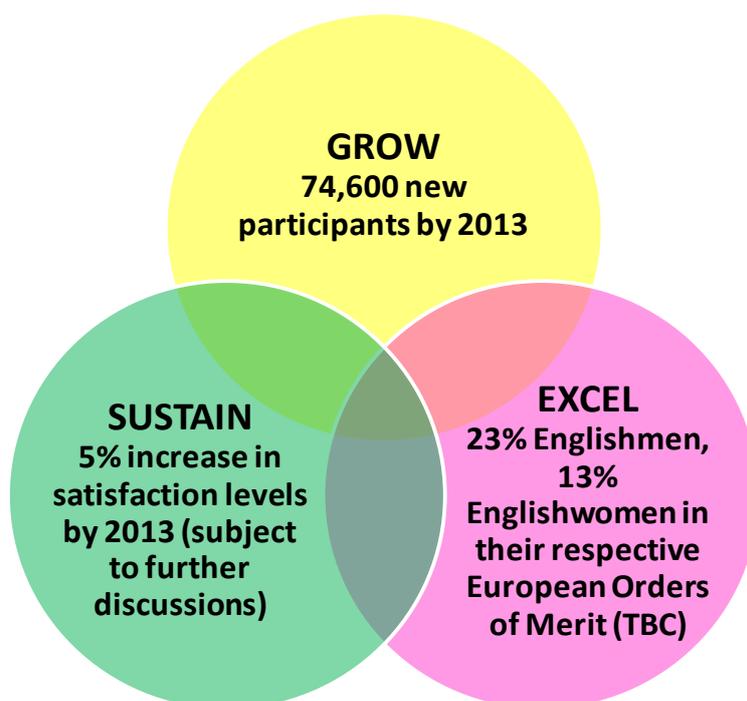
Bowls summary

- ▶ Three quarters of clubs report senior membership levels have remained the same over the previous three years. Sawbridgeworth is the only club to report an increase in senior membership.
- ▶ Clubs envisage that any increase in membership will be accommodated at existing facilities.
- ▶ Clubs generally do not believe that increasing the quantity of bowling greens in the area would increase club membership. One club; Bengo suggests it would have an additional ladies members if there were separate ladies changing rooms available at its home ground team (Bengo Bowling Club 213).
- ▶ It is important to support the retention of existing provision in the District to support the development of bowls. Life expectancy in East Hertfordshire is 79.6 for males and 82.7 for females. It is highly likely that residents in the District will live longer in the years ahead. In addition, ONS population projects also identify that the number of residents aged 50 plus will also increase by 2011. For example, the population at present (using ONS) reports that 46% of the population is aged 50 plus. By 2021, this is likely to increase by 60.9%.
- ▶ Site assessments rated all bowling greens in East Herts as either good or excellent. No greens received a poor rating.
- ▶ There are four greens available for pay and play in the District. Pay and play is important as it can help to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and revenue of sites.
- ▶ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

PART 12: GOLF

12.1: Introduction

The England Golf Partnership (EGP) comprises the English Golf Union, English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) and the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England. Its aim, through the implementation of its Whole Sport Plan (2009 – 2013), is to increase and widen participation levels in golf and achieve a vision of being 'The Leading Golf Nation in the World by 2020' from grass roots right through to elite level⁹, as follows:



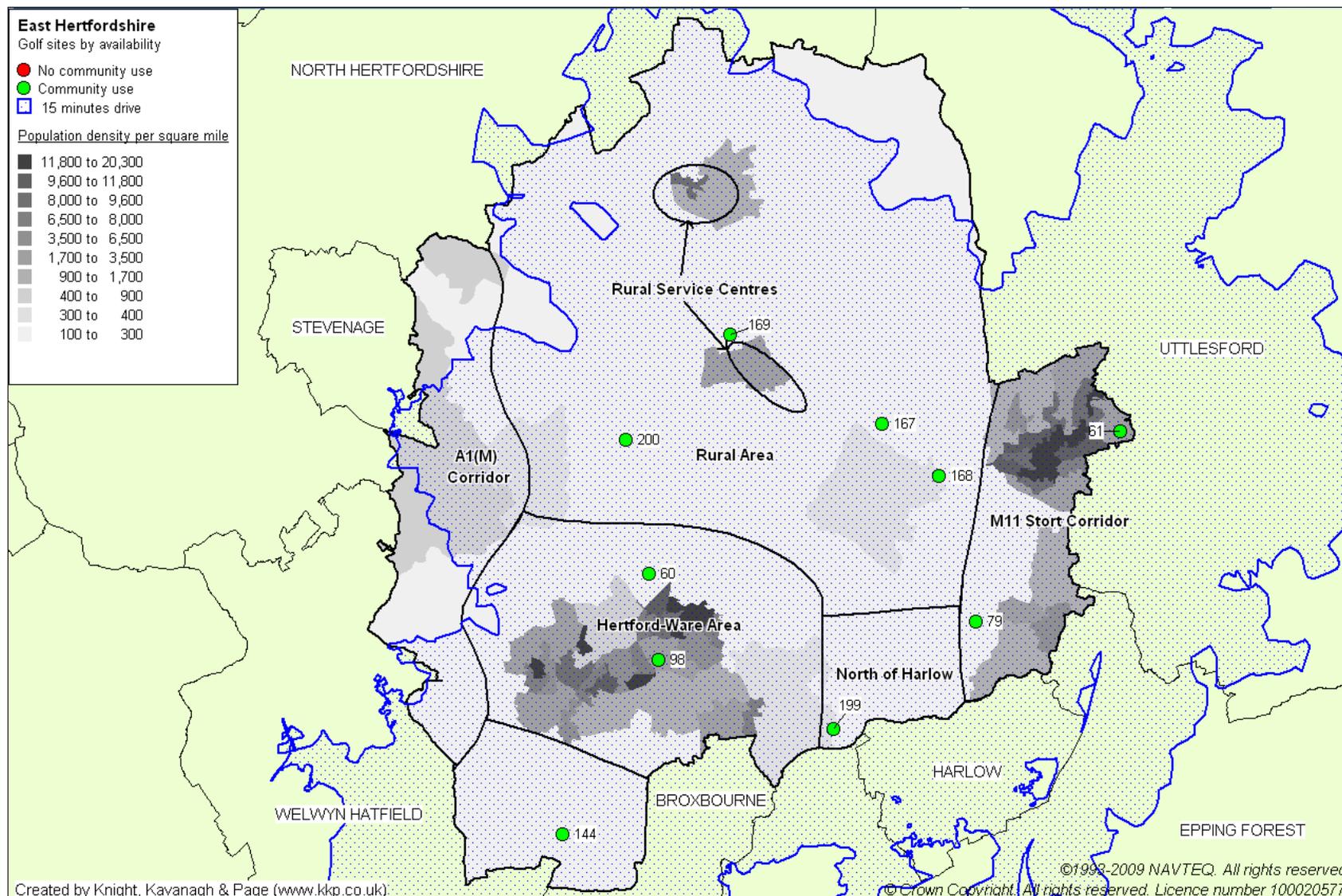
⁹ <http://www.englishgolfunion.org/showpage.asp?code=000100020006>

12.2: Current provision

There are ten golf clubs in East Herts. None of the clubs are owned or managed by EHC. A summary of their provision is detailed overleaf. Two courses (Briggens House and Hanbury Manor Golf Course) are located within the grounds of hotels. Both courses are available for guests staying at the hotels. Hartham Common, Hertford also accommodates a pitch and putt course.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 12.1: Location of golf courses in East Herts with a 20 minute drive time



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no significant gaps in the provision of golf courses in East Herts. Minor gaps are identified close to the Stevenage boundary; however, it is assumed that Stevenage Golf Centre (which provides an 18 hole course) would serve residents to the east of the District. In addition, there are gaps in golf course provision (in terms of population density) in the North West areas of the District. However, these areas may be served by golf courses in neighbouring authorities.

Table 12.2: Key to golf course map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Holes	Community use
Briggens Park Golf Course	199	North of Harlow	18	Yes
Chadwell Springs Golf Course	60	Hertford-Ware Area	18	Yes
Hanbury Manor Golf Course	98	Hertford-Ware Area	18	Yes
Bishop's Stortford Golf Course	61	M11 Stort Corridor	9	Yes
The Manor of Groves Golf Club	79	M11 Stort Corridor	9	Yes
Ash Valley Golf Club	167	Rural Area	18	Yes
Brickendon Golf Club	144	Rural Area	18	Yes
Great Hadham Golf Course	168	Rural Area	18	Yes
Hamels Park Golf Course (also known as East Herts Golf Course)	169	Rural Area	18	Yes
Whitehill Golf Course	200	Rural Area	18	Yes

In addition to its 18-hole course, Ash Valley and Whitehill golf courses also include 9 hole putting greens. Hartham Common also provides a pitch and putt.

A privately owned 18 hole golf course is in the process of being developed at Jenningsbury Farm, Hertford Heath. Planning permission was granted approximately 20 years ago and has since been renewed several times. Reserved matters permission was granted in 2005 with two outstanding conditions (relating to windows/doors and sample of brickwork) but building work has now started. The development of this course does not appear to fill an accessibility gap as there are already two courses; Chadwell Springs and Hanbury Manor located in the Hertford-Ware analysis area.

12.3: Accessibility

Sport England recommends that an accessibility standard for golf courses be set at 20 minutes drive time. This is considered by clubs to be an appropriate distance to travel to access a golf course in East Herts. Two clubs (Briggens Park and Chadwell Springs) report the majority of its members travel two to five miles. Furthermore, Whitehill and Ash Valley golf clubs suggest that members travel more than five miles and Brickendon Grange Golf Club state members travel 20 minutes drive to play at the course.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Clubs in the area tend to offer 'pay and play' options, although there are some restrictions and conditions: such as dress code and member accompaniment. This helps to make golf more accessible to a wider spectrum of the population. In addition, clubs offer coaching opportunities for non-members and more comprehensive membership in order to attract additional members.

12.4: Development

In order to increase junior participation in golf, the Golf Foundation has created a junior development programme; Community Links. It has a number of aims including:

- ◀ Increase the number of young people playing the sport.
- ◀ Enable more young people to try the game in their school or community.
- ◀ Enable young people to try the game in a welcoming club or facility environment at little or no cost.
- ◀ Make the young person's introduction to golf a fun and safe experience.
- ◀ Ensure that beginners receive expert tuition on the basic skills and swing technique delivered through an emphasis on learning through games and activities.
- ◀ Teach beginners the principal rules and etiquette of the game.
- ◀ Provide young players with the opportunity to progress through the Junior Golf Passport to a level where they can play 18 holes in 110 shots or better.
- ◀ Strengthen the links between clubs, schools and the wider community.

In return for their involvement, clubs delivering the programme receive a number of benefits including registration as a Junior Golf Passport user which includes listing on the Golf Foundation website, support pack including promotion letters and posters to use in schools, sessions plans, support from England Golf Partnership Development Officers and access to levels of discretionary grants ranging from £200 to £1,000. Bishop's Stortford Golf Club, in conjunction with Birchwood Schools Sports Partnership, is delivering the Community Links programme, focusing on girls participation. In addition, East Herts Golf Club plans to deliver the programme in the future.

Hertfordshire Golf County Partnership

The England Golf Partnership has awarded the Hertfordshire Golf Partnership £118k for the period April 2009 to March 2013. The funding will contribute towards the implementation of the partnership's development plan and the activity undertaken will ultimately contribute to the specific outcomes identified within the EGP Whole Sport Plan. The main aims of the partnership is to promote the game of golf, introduce the sport to more people and encourage regular participation in competitive golf and improve the standard of play at all levels. A detailed action plan will guide the Partnership over the next three years. The development plan details a number of key outcomes, some of which include:

- ◀ ***Increase*** - Aim to increase the number of people (16 plus) regularly (12 times a year or more) participating in golf by 2,194 by 31st March 2013. by promoting and running taster sessions and activity days for adults and juniors, targeting School Club Link projects, improving links with non-affiliated facilities, County Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ **Retention** (Sustain) - In line with the EGP Whole Sport Plan, the HGP aims to increase the amount of affiliated clubs in Hertfordshire with GolfMark accreditation to 30 by 31st March 2013.
- ◀ **Facilities** - The HGP aims to produce a directory of non-affiliated facilities and retain a database of affiliated clubs, supported by the EGU/EWGA biennial golf club membership questionnaire and local requests for information. The Partnership will promote cooperation between clubs and other sporting facilities to provide enhanced value for members (including Academy players) seeking to improve their experience of the game and opportunities for participation.

12.5: Summary of club consultation for golf

Club key issues

Three golf clubs did not respond to consultation: Bishop's Stortford, The Manor of Groves and Hanbury Manor.

Brickendon Grange Golf Club

Brickendon Grange Golf Club offers an 18-hole course set in 160 acres of countryside. In addition, there is also a driving range on site. It is a traditional private members club and current membership is approximately 571 members. This includes 427 male, 109 female and 35 junior members. Consultation identifies membership levels have increased within the previous three years but only by nine members. There are plans to increase membership levels by 70 junior members by working with the EGU County Development Officer and linking in with local schools.

The Club has facility plans to provide additional practice facilities and add a 9-hole short course. It is also partway into a three year drainage program. However, this does not appear to have impacted on course quality, which is regarded as excellent. It is keen to increase golf participation and is currently working with the Golf Foundation to make golf accessible to all.

Whitehill Golf Course

The Course is located in Ware and provides 18 holes. The Club's social membership has increased in the previous three years. However, the number of playing members has remained static. The site includes an 18-hole course with a 21 bay floodlit driving range, bunkers and a 9-hole putting green. The course quality has improved since last season due to increased maintenance regimes. Vandalism is not a reported issue.

A comprehensive membership scheme includes offering seven and five day memberships, corporate, cadet and junior membership. The course owners have capped its full membership to a maximum of 450 full members to avoid crowding on the course.

Ash Valley Golf Course

This is the only public course in East Herts (as well as a private members club). As an incentive it offers senior citizens and junior members a player discount card offering a full round of 18 holes during the week for £8.50. During the peak summer season the course can attract between 500 – 1,000 golfers per week. There are plans to upgrade the

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

clubhouse and course in order to attract new members. This is at planning stage and works will commence in 2010.

It is not regarded as a traditional course, golfers have to play 18 holes as oppose to two loops of nine. There have been improvements to the course over the previous year including work to the bunkers.

Briggens House Hotel & Golf Club

This 9-hole course is located in the grounds of the Briggens House Hotel. Membership levels have increased within the previous three years to 150 playing members (including five junior members). In April 2006, the club disbanded when the course was sold. The site has since re-opened (in October 2006) and the club report membership levels are steadily growing. It aims to increase its membership to 300 playing members, as this was the original club membership prior to the closure of the course. The hotel remains closed at the site.

There is demand for signage and evenness of two tees on the course. During the closure there was no maintenance to the course. This has impacted on the quality and as such is rated as adequate. Members have access to a small hut to make refreshments. The site also houses three tennis courts. However, the courts have remained closed since the closure of the hotel (courts were available for hotel guests only).

Chadwell Springs Golf Club

The 9-hole course is situated between Ware and Hertford. The number of playing members at the club has decreased in the previous three years. It believes this is due to the large number of courses in Hertfordshire offering pay and play facilities. The course is privately owned by the Macmillan Brewery and offers 9 holes and a putting green. The course is of excellent quality and is maintained by the club. There are active school/club links with Richard Hale School; pupils from the school attend the course for lessons mentored by a school teacher.

East Herts Golf Club

The club is run by a board of directors and is a private members club. It has a large membership of approximately 640 members including 60 juniors. It's playing membership has remained static over the previous three years, standing at 635 members.

The site is privately owned by McMullen & Sons Ltd and is leased to the club until 2070. The course provides practice facilities including bunkers, putting green and nets. The club rates the quality of the green as excellent. Vandalism has been an issue over the previous year including drunken residents wandering onto the course.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Great Hadham and Golf Country Club

The course was founded in 1993 and set on 240 acres farmland. It provides 18 holes and a 15-bay driving range. The course is known as one of the longest courses in the District.

The club has a facility development plan which includes an additional 9-hole par three course which will act as an academy course. During the construction of the 9-hole course only 9 bays are available. The driving range is open to the general public and club members. It operates a strict dress policy for males, ladies and juniors.

Demand

The Active People Survey shows that golf participation in East Herts has increased slightly from 5.73% in 2005/06 to 6.28% in 2007/08. However, clubs KKP consulted with identify senior participation levels at four clubs (Whitehill, Ash Valley, Brickendon Grange and East Herts) have remained static. Chadwell Springs and Hanbury Manor golf clubs report a decrease in membership and only one club; Briggens Park reports an increase in membership levels.

In general, the clubs in East Herts have capacity to increase membership, particularly with regards to junior players. A combination of factors including the current economic climate and the high numbers of clubs in the area creates significant competition and has (potentially) resulted in a general decline in the levels of membership.

Areas of the District are adequately served by golf facilities in neighboring authorities for example; Panshanger and Mill Green golf courses (located in North East of the District) in Welwyn Garden City. Elsenham Golf course (in the North West of the District) is located in the Uttlesford District Council area. It is highly likely that residents living in the North East and North West areas of the District may travel outside of the District to access golf course provision.

Quality

The quality of golf courses in East Herts is judged, by the respective clubs to be either good or excellent. This is mainly due to the fact that clubs employ designated green keepers to maintain and improve course quality. Clubs report course quality has slightly improved since last season thought to be due to better maintenance. Clubs report vandalism is not an issue.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Golf summary

- ◀ There are ten golf clubs in East Herts and three driving ranges. Ash Valley Golf Course is the only public course in the area.
- ◀ Clubs generally regard the quality of their courses as good or excellent.
- ◀ Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no significant gaps in the provision of golf courses in East Herts. Minor gaps are identified close to the Stevenage boundary, however, it is assumed that provision in Stevenage will contribute to meet this shortfall.
- ◀ Demand for provision appears to have remained static over the past year. In general, the clubs in East Herts have capacity to increase their membership, particularly with regards to junior players.
- ◀ The Active People Survey shows that golf participation in East Herts has increased slightly from 5.73% in 2005/06 to 6.28% in 2007/08. However, clubs KKP consulted with identify senior participation levels have either remained static or decreased over the last three years.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 13: TENNIS

13.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is nationally administered by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association administers, and is responsible for, the development of tennis across the Region, employing a county tennis development manager, which operates across Hertfordshire.

East Herts provides strong community club structures for tennis. There are ten affiliated and three unaffiliated clubs in the District. The unaffiliated clubs are located in the smaller settlements across the District with a mixture of those operating on a social basis only, for example, Hunsdon and Barley tennis clubs and those playing competitively, for example, Buntingford Tennis Club. These rural clubs contribute to overall participation in tennis even though they are not affiliated/recognised by the LTA.

There is a strong senior league presence in the East Herts area for both men's and ladies tennis to sustain activity. There are also a number of junior leagues offering junior competitive matches such as the Herts Junior Summer, Mini Tennis Winter and the national AGON Junior Tennis leagues.

13.2: Current provision

There are 117 tennis courts, including 52 courts which are located at school sites. In total 32 courts at school sites are available for community use. Consultation suggests there is a good level of provision and availability in East Herts. The quantity and quality of courts varies between each club and site. For example, Legends Tennis UK provides four acrylic courts which are maintained to a high standard and in contrast, one court at Norfolk Road, Buntingford (KKP ref 92) and Priority Tennis (KKP ref 24) provides three courts and were rated as below average following site visits.

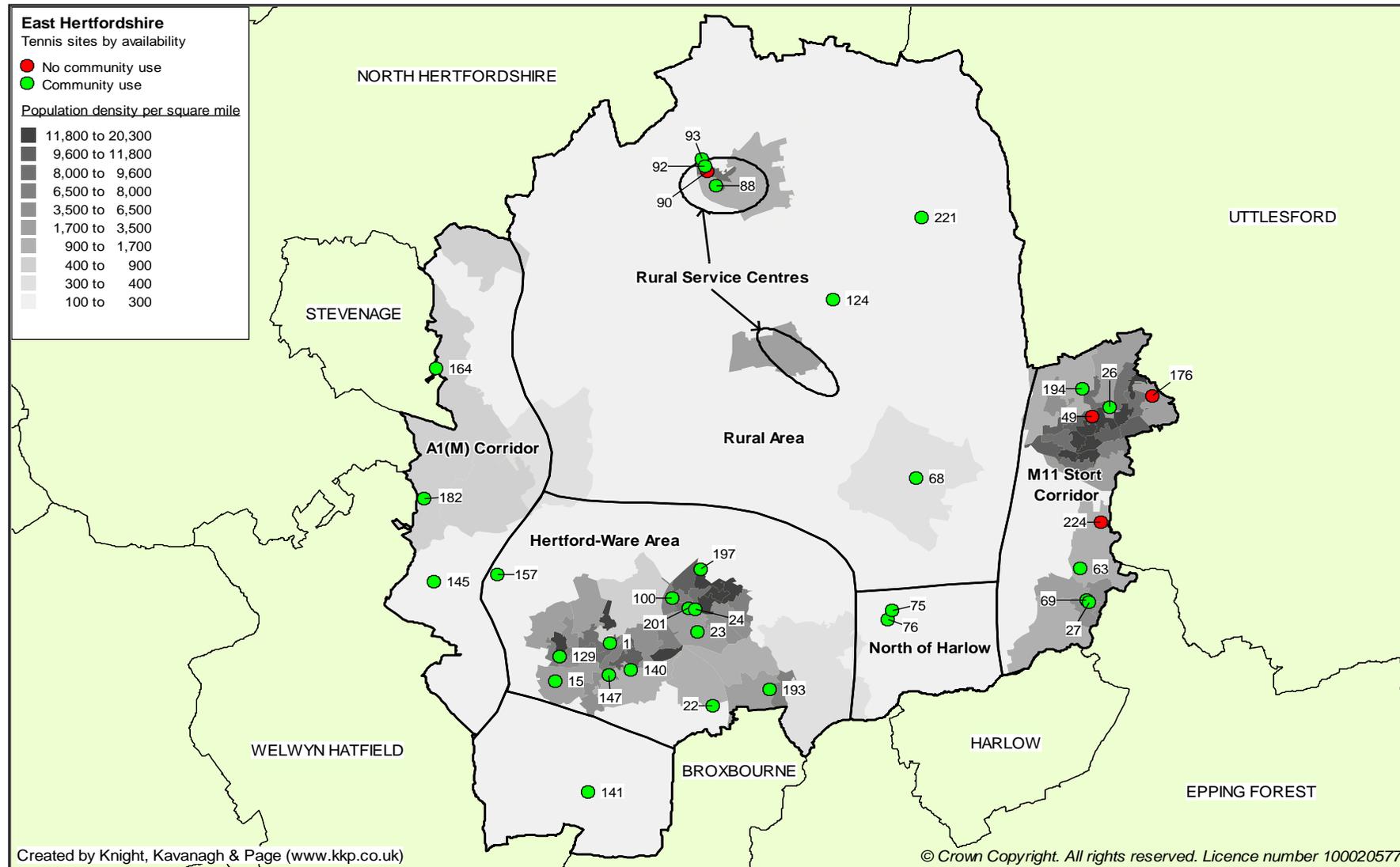
Table 13.1: Summary of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Tennis courts
A1(M) Corridor	4
North of Harlow	3
Hertford-Ware Area	61
M11 Stort Corridor	31
Rural Area	11
Rural Service Centres	7
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE	117

St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford (KKP Ref 49) has obtained planning permission to provide an additional two tennis courts (highlighted also in Section 15 of the report). It currently has six tennis courts (overmarked with six netball courts). The courts are available for community use but the school receive very few enquiries, suggesting that demand for community use is low.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 13.1: Location of tennis courts in East Herts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 13.2: Key to map of tennis courts in East Herts

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Number of courts
Aston Tennis Courts	164	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2
Upper Green	145	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2
Datchworth Sports Club	182	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	2
Hunsdon Playing Fields	76	North of Harlow	Yes	2
Hunsdon School	75	North of Harlow	Yes	1
Allenburys Sports & Social Club	201	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	4
Beech Mews Tennis	23	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
Bury Lane	157	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	8
Hartham Common	1	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	10
Hertingfordbury Cricket Ground	15	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Priory Tennis	24	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
Richard Hale School	147	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	7
Sele School	129	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
Simon Balle School	140	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	193	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
The Chauncy School	100	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
Wodson Park Sports Centre	197	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
Birchwood High School	176	M11 Stort Corridor	No	4
Castle Tennis Courts	26	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	3
Spellbrook Primary School	224	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
Springhall Road Cricket Ground	69	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	3
St Mary's Catholic School	49	M11 Stort Corridor	No	12

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Number of courts
The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	194	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	10
The Leventhorpe School	63	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	4
Vantorts Close Tennis	27	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	2
Braughing Playing Fields	124	Rural Area	Yes	2
Brickendon Tennis Courts	141	Rural Area	Yes	2
Freman College	93	Rural Area	Yes	3
Furneux Pelham Hall	221	Rural Area	Yes	1
Much Hadham Recreation Ground	68	Rural Area	Yes	3
Edwinstree Middle School	90	Rural Service Centres	No	3
Millfield Junior School	88	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1
Norfolk Road, Buntingford	92	Rural Service Centres	Yes	3

13.3: Key issues

Development

The LTA has recently launched its Places to Play Strategy¹⁰. Its overall aims are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of people participating.
- ◀ Increase the number of juniors competing.
- ◀ Increase the number of people accessing coaches.

To achieve this, delivery of the Strategy will prioritise funding available for building low cost, quality indoor structures, floodlighting outdoor courts and renovating park courts. The LTA's regional target by 2010 is to provide an additional 50,000 playing hours across the eight counties in the region.

There is likely to be demand for additional courts in the future to accommodate population and participation increases.

High Performance Centres/Satellite clubs

In total, there are 19 High Performance Centres (HPC's) throughout England. These centres are designed to meet the needs of performance juniors providing high level coaching and fitness programmes and access to top facilities. The County has two HPC's located at Gosling Tennis Centre (GTC), Welwyn Garden City and Batchwood Tennis

¹⁰ <http://www.lta.org.uk/Articles/Clubs1/Places-to-Play-Strategy/What-is-the-Places-to-Play-Strategy/>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Centre, St Albans, both are located outside East Herts. Consultation reports a group of players from Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club attend GTC on a weekly basis.

As part of the high performance network there are two 'feeder' satellite clubs in East Herts; Sawbridgeworth and Legends tennis clubs (also known as Legends Tennis UK). The role of a satellite club is to provide quality coaching and competitive opportunities for performance players, focusing on the development of players aged 12 and under. Both sites were rated as good quality.

Quality

Site assessments score over half of sites (57%) as good quality. Over one in ten (13%) courts were assessed as poor quality. Norfolk Road (KKP Ref 29) and Turkey Farm Recreation Ground (KKP Ref 107) were assessed as below quality. Sites assessments noted the courts had loose gravel, holes in the surface and evidence of glass/stones and litter. In comparison, seven sites received an excellent rating score including Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (KKP Ref 194) and Wodson Park Sports Centre (KKP Ref 197).

The quality of education courts are generally a lower standard than club courts. Club owned sites tend to provide better quality courts as they often invest in specialist maintenance and have a dedicated person responsible for maintenance. Education courts located at Birchwood High School (KKP Ref 176) and Sele School (KKP Ref 129) were assessed as poor quality. Over two thirds of school courts (67%) were assessed as good quality including St Mary's Catholic School (KKP Ref 49) and Haileybury College (KKP Ref 22).

Site assessments identify two sites (providing a total of six courts) in Ware; Priory Tennis (KKP Ref 24) and Beech Mews Tennis (KKP Ref 23) to be derelict. Priory Tennis is owned by Ware Town Council. With investment these courts could be restored if demand was identified.

Table 13.3: Summary of quality rating given following KKP site assessments:

KKP Ref	Site	No. of courts	Quality
92	Norfolk Road (Macadam)	1	Below average
92	Norfolk Road (Artificial Turf)	2	Average
93	Freman College	3	Good
124	Braughing Playing Fields	2	Good
164	Aston Tennis Courts	2	Good
182	Datchworth Sports Club	2	Good
197	Wodson Park Sports Centre	2	Excellent
76	Hunsdon Playing Fields	2	Good
68	Much Hadham Recreation Ground	3	Good
69	Springhall Road Cricket Ground	3	Good
27	Vantorts Close Tennis	2	Average
194	The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (Clay)	3	Good

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP Ref	Site	No. of courts	Quality
194	The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (Macadam)	2	Excellent
194	The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (Artificial turf)	5	Good
1	Hertford Tennis Club	4	Good
1	Hertford Tennis Club	6	Good
15	Hertingfordbury Cricket Ground	1	Good
157	Bury Lane	1	Excellent
145	Upper Green	2	Excellent
103	Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	2	Average
90	Edwinstree Middle School	3	Good
22	Haileybury College	8	Good
140	Simon Balle School	3	Good
201	Allenburys Sports & Social Club	1	Good
201	Allenburys Sports & Social Club	3	Excellent
141	Brickendon Tennis Courts	2	Good
193	St Margaretsbury Sports And Social Club	3	Excellent
26	Castle Tennis Courts	3	Average
49	St Mary's Catholic School	6	Good
49	St Mary's Catholic School	6	Good
176	Birchwood High School	4	Below average
129	Sele School	3	Average
221	Furneux Pelham Hall	1	Average
23	Beech Mews Tennis	3	Poor
100	The Chauncy School	3	Good

Demand

Three quarters of clubs (75%) report an increase in membership levels over the previous three years. Junior participation continues to increase across the County, as well as in East Herts. In 2008 alone, junior participation levels in the County increased by 70%. There are over 1,200 registered competing juniors in the County (a junior player must compete in at least six competitive matches per year). The aim is to further increase this by 50% to 1,800 by 2010.

All clubs in East Herts have junior members. Legends Tennis UK is considered to have a large number of junior members, standing at 83 and delivers a strong mini tennis programme. The majority also deliver the LTA's mini tennis programme.

Mini tennis Red (aimed at Under 8 years old) has to be played using indoor courts (due to the age of the player and nature of the game). However, Legends Tennis UK is the only indoor tennis facility located in East Herts. Leisure provider David Lloyd is in discussions with East Herts Council to develop a tennis facility. The LTA believes this may help to

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

absorb junior demand for indoor tennis. Legends Tennis UK is the only permanent bubble structure in East Herts.

The LTA identifies that provision of a good club structure, supported by access to good quality courts at Buntingford is a priority project. There is already an unaffiliated club 'Buntingford Tennis Club' which has approximately 20 members and fields a men's tennis team. The LTA is keen for the club to affiliate in order to support its growth and meet demand expressed in the area. The club currently uses courts at Norfolk Road, Buntingford which provides three tennis courts. Consultation suggests the courts are heavily used by football clubs for training and access can be an issue. Any club growth would result in the need for access to additional court time.

Benington Parish Council rates the quality of its sports provision as poor. Its Parish Plan identifies demand for courts and activities for 11–15 year olds. In particular, young people report they would like a BMX skatepark, five-a-side football and tennis courts.

Latent demand

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club suggests if it had access to more courts, it would have additional members. Membership levels are increasing on a yearly basis and currently stand at 160 playing members. Its home ground provides three artificial tennis courts (two are floodlit).

Accessibility

Tennis coaching in the District is strong. 'Tactics Tennis' provides coaching in East Hertfordshire at a number of clubs including Much Hadham, Standon & Puckeridge, Buntingford and Barley. It also provides coaching activity using public courts at Norfolk Road Playing Fields, Buntingford (KKP Ref 92). Consultation identifies coaching in the Buntingford area is restricted by a lack of available access during peak time. The site is the only floodlit area available for community use in Buntingford and is heavily used by local football teams for training. Consequently, there is limited access to the site.

The majority of schools across the District provide tennis courts (often over marked with netball courts). It appears there is limited community use of education courts reportedly due to a lack of demand for such provision. Two secondary schools; Hockerill Anglo-European College (KKP Ref 90) and Freman College (93) have community use of its courts. The College courts are used by Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club to deliver its mini tennis coaching programme. Buntingford Tennis Club accesses courts at Freman College during the summer.

Floodlit courts

An audit undertaken by the LTA (approximately three years ago) reports out of 346 courts in the County 183 are floodlit, with 26 of these (14%) located in East Herts. East Herts is one of the least developed areas in the County in terms of floodlit courts. Floodlighting is estimated to increase the capacity of courts by 35% between November and April. For instance, provision of floodlighting often allows clubs to provide structured coaching sessions for members during the evenings.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Demand for floodlighting has been identified at the following sites in East Herts:

- ◀ Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club (KKP Ref 69).
- ◀ Hertford Tennis Club (KKP Ref 1).
- ◀ Bishop's Stortford (KKP Ref 194).
- ◀ Watton-at-Stone ((KKP ref 103).

School courts/tennis

Tennis activity in the District is strong with a number of schools competing in the East Herts Schools Association. North East Schools Sports Partnership employs two tennis coaches to deliver tennis activity at primary ages Year 3 and Year 4 in all primary schools. This has been well received by local schools and has provided teachers the basic understanding and skills to continue to teach tennis.

Club key issues

Legends Tennis Club

The club relocated from Hertford Golf & Country Club (HGCC) to Haileybury School, Hertford Heath approximately two years ago. It is the main tennis provider in East Herts. It has eight courts (four indoor and four outdoor courts). Membership levels have increased over the previous three years, junior levels stand at approximately 83 playing members. The club suggests there is likely to be demand for additional courts in the future and is in discussions with a private leisure tennis facility management to commercially manage the site.

Site specific issues

Much Hadham Tennis Club (KKP Ref 68)

The site previously housed a wooden a hut which was well used by tennis members. However, due to increased levels of vandalism this was removed. The club reports there is now demand for changing provision which, in return, may help to increase its membership levels.

Upper Green, Tewin (KKP Ref 145)

The site is the home ground of Tewin Tennis Club and comprises of two tennis courts, senior football, senior cricket pitch and a pavilion. The site is owned by Tewin Parish Council and is rented to respective clubs. It has plans to refurbish the pavilion and changing facilities which are considered to be poor quality. Funding has been secured for this development.

Norfolk Road, Buntingford (KKP Ref 92)

The site is owned and maintained by Bishop's Stortford Town Council (BTC) and is managed by a private association. The courts are available for community use through a booking system. The courts are used by Freman College, which is situated adjacent to the site, during the day for curricular activity.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

The changing provision is considered by users to be old and in need of refurbishment. The roof is asbestos and is due to be removed in summer 2010. The courts were re-surfaced approximately three years ago. Consultation identifies the nets are in need of replacing. There are concerns that heavy usage by football teams will deteriorate the playing surface for tennis.

Tennis summary

- ◀ East Herts provides 117 tennis courts. In total, there are ten affiliated LTA tennis clubs and three unaffiliated clubs in the District.
- ◀ Consultation reports membership levels, in particular juniors have increased in the previous three years and is likely to further increase. However, it appears current levels of demand can be met at present.
- ◀ Demand for floodlighting has been identified at four sites in the District; Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club (KKP Ref 69), Hertford Tennis Club (KKP Ref 1), Bishop's Stortford (KKP Ref 194), Watton-at-Stone ((KKP ref 103).
- ◀ Latent demand for additional courts has been expressed by St Margaretsbury Tennis Club. It believes if it had access to more courts it would have more members.
- ◀ Any growth in Buntingford, would result in the need for access to additional court time.
- ◀ There is limited community use of tennis courts at education sites, primarily due to be a lack of demand for such provision. Clubs in the District already have established home grounds and therefore demand for accessing off-site courts is low.
- ◀ Site assessments score the majority of sites (57%) as good quality. Over one in ten (13%) courts was assessed as poor or below average quality. Two sites (providing a total of six courts) were identified through site assessments as derelict. These courts could potentially be restored, if demand was identified.

PART 14: ATHLETICS

14.1: Introduction

The sport is governed by England Athletics (EA) which also works at a regional and local level via regional and county associations. Much of the development work is delivered by the local Club and Coach Support Officer. England Athletics and UK Athletics are encouraging the development of club networks.

The Hertfordshire Amateur Athletics Association is responsible for organising a number of athletic fixtures including track and field, cross country, race walking and inter county matches. It is in the process of developing its second year athletics development plan for the County. However, consultation reports the main themes around the development plan will include support school/club links, developing coaching and developing a strong club structure.

14.2: Development

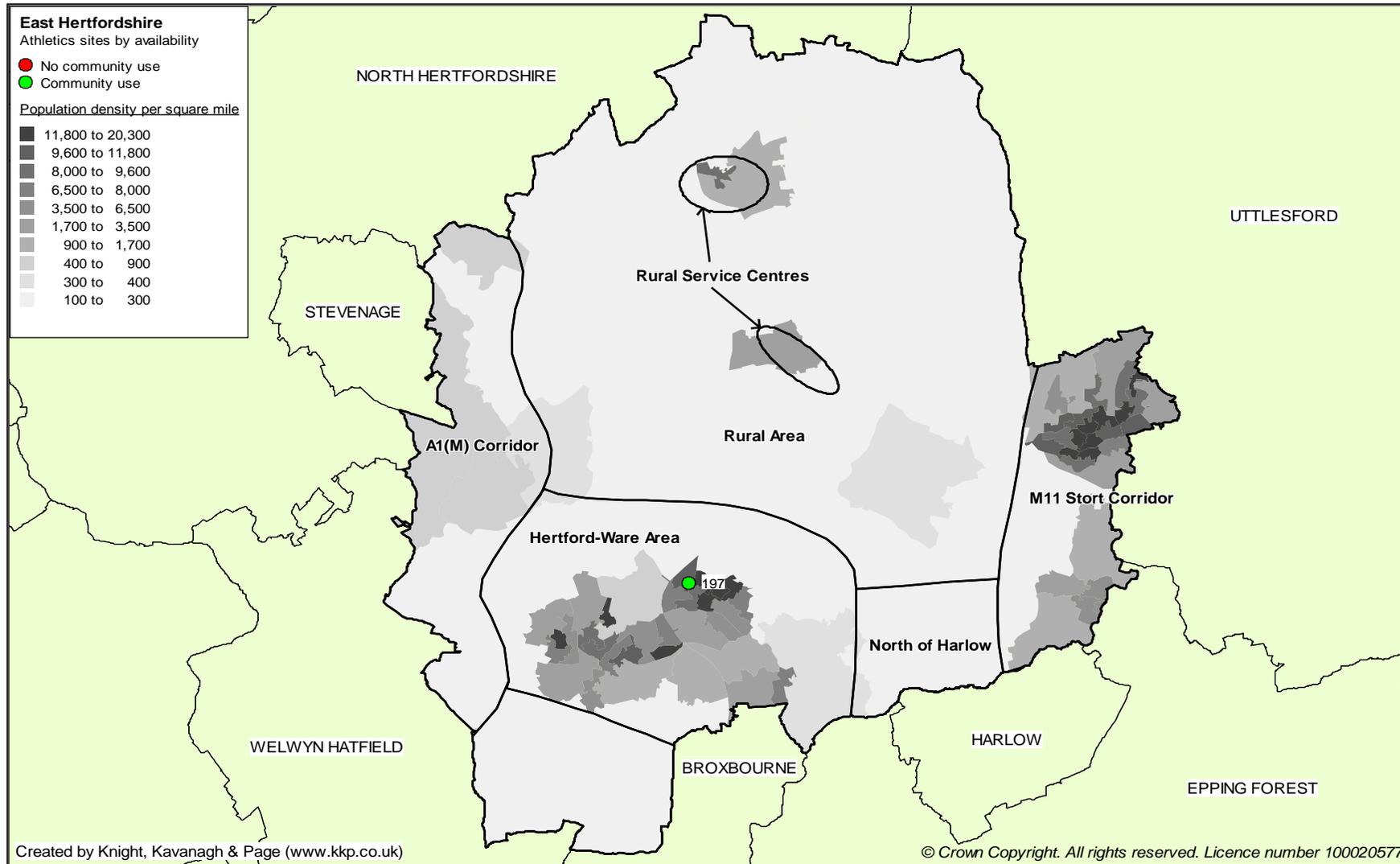
England Athletics has a National Planning & Delivery Strategy in place (2007 – 2012). This highlights priorities across the country for large scale developments, upgrades and also highlights how small scale indoor and outdoor facilities are a priority. Priorities for the East Region include the provision of an indoor athletics centre. Clubs in the District access indoor provision at Lea Valley Athletics Centre, Enfield (located 16 miles, 30 minute drive) miles from Wodson Park Sports Centre. Lea Valley Athletics Centre is the largest indoor and outdoor athletics centre serving London and the South of England and is home to three of the four British track and field medallists at the Beijing Olympics.

14.3: Current provision

Herts Phoenix Athletics Club is the main athletics club in East Herts. In addition, there are two road running clubs; Ware Joggers and Bishop's Stortford. A satellite club is located at Birchwood High School which delivers sports hall athletics delivered in primary schools.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 14.1: Wodson Park location map



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 14.2 Key to map of athletics tracks

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use
Wodson Park Sports Centre	197	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes

14.4: Key issues for athletics

Club summary

Herts Phoenix Athletics Club

The club formed in 2002 after amalgamating with Bierlea Athletic Club. Club membership starts from age nine to veterans. The club was the first in the County to achieve the Clubmark accreditation. It participates in track and field, cross country and road running events. Athletes can compete in a number of athletic leagues including Metropolitan, National Junior, UK Womens, UK young Athletes and the BAH leagues. The club has produced junior athletes of an international standard.

It has two training bases at Wodson Park Sports Centre, Ware (KKP Ref 197) and at Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City (located outside of the assessment area). Both sites have full athletic facilities for track, field and Sportshall athletics. The club has exclusive access of Wodson Park Sports Centre athletic track on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Ware Joggers

Ware Joggers is primarily a road running and cross country club. It's membership is in excess of 250 running members. The club trains using Wodson Park Sports Centre on a Tuesday, and Thursday. As part of its agreement to use Wodson Park all Ware Joggers also join the Wodson Park Sports Centre. The club organise a 10 week course aimed at beginners using Wodson Park.

Bishop's Stortford Running Club

The club is a road running club and primarily uses routes ranging from 3 to 10 mile circumference of Bishop's Stortford town. It meets on Wednesdays and Sundays and occasionally uses Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club for interval training sessions. It uses Hockerill Sports and Social Club for its social base and changing facilities. During the summer months it uses routes in the Hertfordshire Countryside and Hatfield Forest.

Facilities

Wodson Park Sports Centre

Wodson Park Sports Centre is an eight lane floodlit designated athletic track. The track is available for community use and is the home ground of Herts Phoenix Athletics Club. It also accommodates a sports hall, STP, netball and grass playing fields. A private trust is responsible for the management of the site. Consultation reports the track is of excellent quality. Site assessments also noted the track to be of excellent quality scoring 95%.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

School/club links

England Athletics has invested £35k into a school/club links programme in the County. Each club can access £750 per school link to develop athletics. Although there is a small club presence in the District athletics is one of the key sports delivered during the summer at schools. SSP's in the District often access Wodson Park Sports Centre for athletic activities. Each year, North East Herts SSP organises an Olympic style event using Wodson Park Sports Centre. In 2009, over 200 primary school pupils (years four and five) participated in the event. Pupils were coached in one of eight sports; athletics, basketball, boccia, dance, gymnastics, hockey, table tennis and tennis.

The majority of secondary schools convert their playing fields to accommodate a grass athletic track during the summer term. For example, Freman College converts its grass hockey pitches into an eight lane athletic track during the summer. The College also provides a long jump pit.

Accessibility

Consultation suggests that it is likely there may be members of athletic clubs in neighbouring authorities i.e. Stevenage and North Herts AC and Harlow AC travelling from East Herts to access provision. This is due to the clubs being more accessible than Herts Phoenix Athletic Club.

Athletics summary

- ◀ Herts Phoenix Athletics Club is the main athletics club in East Herts. In addition, there are two road running clubs; Ware Joggers and Bishop's Stortford.
- ◀ There is an eight lane, floodlit, synthetic athletic track located at Wodson Park, located in the Hertford-Ware analysis area.
- ◀ Consultation and site assessments score the athletic track as excellent quality.
- ◀ Current provision for athletics in East Herts is meeting demand and is also likely to accommodate any future increases in population and participation.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 15: NETBALL

15.1: Introduction

All England Netball Association (AENA) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. League netball in the County is played using indoor and outdoor courts.

East Region Netball Association

'Netball East' is one of AENA's nine regions. The membership of Netball East comprises seven netballing counties; Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, East Essex, Essex Thurrock, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. As the Regional Association, Netball East is responsible for the management and development of the sport in the Region. Its core functions are to:

'Identify and meet the needs of Netball players, coaches, umpires, and administrators and in doing so, enhance participation experiences and encourage more people to take up the sport'.

15.2: Development

The Hertfordshire Netball Associations Whole Sport Plan (WSP) and is based on local authority districts and School Sport Partnerships. The vision is to provide each of the ten local authorities in Hertfordshire (including East Herts) with a minimum of one open age group league, one junior/youth league and one High 5 league.

High 5 netball

High 5¹¹ netball is the recognised format for netball for players at primary schools. It is a version of netball with up to nine players (boys and girls) in each team with five on court at any one time in rotation. Those 'standing off' encompass the techniques of umpiring, scoring and coaching. North East SSP reports the delivery of High 5 netball has been limited. However, it employs a multi coach who delivers a number of sporting activities including netball.

Birchwood Schools Sports Partnership (BSSP) has part funded a netball coach to deliver coaching sessions aimed at secondary schools to encourage participation. In addition, BSSP also established a netball club called 'All Stars' for primary school pupils. It plays indoors at St Mary's Catholic High School indoors during the winter. The North East Schools Sports Partnership employs a multi coach who delivers a number of sporting activities including netball.

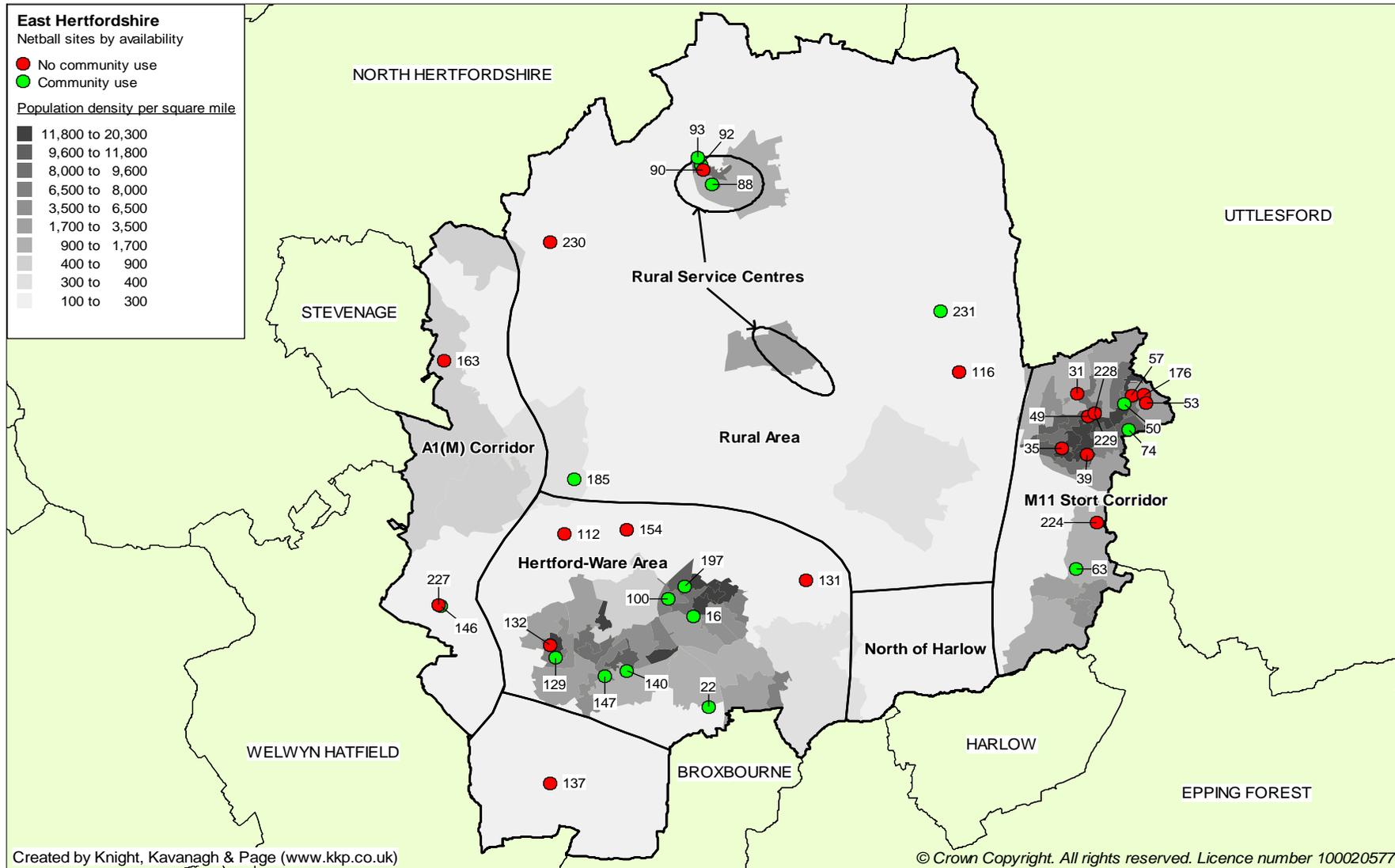
¹¹ <http://counties.englishnetball.co.uk/hertfordshire/dyncat.cfm?catid=14938>

15.3: Current provision

In total, KKP has identified 48 netball courts across 18 sites in East Herts. However, there may be additional courts located at primary schools which did not respond to the school consultation.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 15.1: Current provision of netball courts



EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 14.2 Key to map of netball courts

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Courts
Aston St Mary's Primary School	163	A1(M) Corridor	No	1
Cowper C of E School	146	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Tewin Cowper C of E Primary School	227	A1(M) Corridor	No	1
Haileybury College	22	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	7
Richard Hale School	147	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
Sacred Heart School	16	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Sele School	129	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	3
Simon Balle School	140	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
St Andrews Primary School	132	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1
St Mary's Primary School (Tonwell)	154	Hertford-Ware Area	No	2
Stapleford Primary School	112	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1
The Chaucy School	100	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	2
Wareside Primary School	131	Hertford-Ware Area	No	2
Wodson Park Sports Centre	197	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	4
All Saints C of E	57	M11 Stort Corridor	No	2
Birchwood High School	176	M11 Stort Corridor	No	4
Hockerill Anglo-European College	50	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Manor Fields Primary	35	M11 Stort Corridor	No	2
Northgate Primary School	31	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
Puller Memorial C of E Primary School	229	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
Richard Whittington Primary	39	M11 Stort Corridor	No	2
Spellbrook Primary School	224	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
St Mary's Catholic School	49	M11 Stort Corridor	No	12
St Michaels Church of England Primary School	228	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
Summerville School	53	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1
The Leventhorpe School	63	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	3
Thorn Grove	74	M11 Stort Corridor	Yes	1
Albury C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School	231	Rural Area	Yes	1
Ardeley St Lawrence C of E Primary School	230	Rural Area	No	1
Bayford Primary School	137	Rural Area	No	1
Freman College	93	Rural Area	Yes	3
Heath Mount School	185	Rural Area	Yes	2
Little Hadham Primary School	116	Rural Area	No	1
Edwinstree Middle School	90	Rural Service Centres	No	3
Millfield Junior School	88	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis Area	Comm Use	Courts
Norfolk Road, Buntingford	92	Rural Service Centres	Yes	1

There are three clubs in East Herts (Hertford Hornets, Cross Keys and Issi Herts) competing in eleven netball leagues. The majority of leagues operate throughout the year (with the exception of the East Region and Harlow Senior leagues).

Nine out of eleven leagues operate at central venue sites. Bishop's Stortford Senior League is the only league using outdoor netball courts in East Herts and is located at Birchwood High School, Bishop's Stortford (KKP Ref 176).

Table 15.1: Netball leagues operating in the East Herts

Netball league	Indoor/outdoor	Central venue	Site
Turnford Mercury Senior League	Outdoor	Yes	Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne (outside the assessment area)
Herts County Senior League	Outdoor	Yes	Stanborough School, Welwyn Garden City
Bishop's Stortford Senior League	Outdoor	Yes	Birchwood High School, East Herts
East Region Senior League	Indoor	No	-
Broxbourne Junior League	Outdoor	Yes	Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne
Welwyn & Hatfield Senior Netball League	Outdoor	Yes	Stanborough School, Welwyn Garden City
Chelmsford Junior League	Outdoor	Yes	Mark Hall Sports College, Harlow
Harlow Senior League	Indoor	No	-
Stevenage Senior Netball League	Indoor	Yes	Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre, Stevenage
Turnford Summer Open League	Outdoor	Yes	Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne
St Albans Senior League	Outdoor	Yes	Verulamium Park, St Albans

The East Region netball league is played on a home and away basis using outdoor netball courts. In the main, clubs are travelling out of the District to access central venue sites located at various locations around Hertfordshire (as detailed).

There is a current need for facilities which is likely to be exacerbated by future population and participation increases.

15.4: Key issues for netball

Demand

Consultation indicates that participation levels in East Herts have increased over the previous three years, at both senior and junior level. The majority of clubs field a minimum of seven teams. This is further supported by Sport England's Active People Survey which illustrates that netball participation in East Herts has increased from 0.76% in 2005/06 to 1.29% in 2007/08. The levels of participation in 2007/08 is greater compared to its neighbouring authorities such as South Oxfordshire (0.34%), West Berkshire (1.09%) and Vale of White Horse (0.29%).

Specifically, Issi Herts Netball Club reports an increase by two teams as a result of merging with another club. Furthermore, Hertford Hornets Netball Club fields 18 junior teams and has also increased its junior members. Welwyn & Hatfield Netball league reports an increase by three teams in the previous year.

A number of leagues sites operate waiting lists including the Turnford Summer Open, Broxbourne Junior and Herts County Senior. Waiting lists include teams from across the County, including East Herts teams. Turnford Open Senior League fields five divisions (12 teams in each division) and reports membership levels have increased on an annual basis. It has 12 teams on its waiting list. It is a central venue league and accesses seven courts at Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne (located outside of the District). The League reports the number of courts available dictates the leagues membership. However, it reports demand for additional courts is not in East Herts but at its existing central venue site.

England Netball's 'Back 2 Netball' initiative provides an introduction for female players over the age of sixteen. It has contributed to the increase in senior participation levels in the County, which is being rolled out in local authority areas, including East Herts. Each session results in the creation of a netball team. However, due to high waiting lists, teams are not able to play competitive netball.

Hertfordshire Netball Association believes there is demand for an additional central venue league in East Herts. To accommodate this, a site requires ancillary facilities, a minimum of six to eight courts and a volunteer structure to support its development. The Association reports this may relieve demand (i.e. waiting lists) from other leagues in the County. HNA reports the formation of a new central venue league would also help to support the demand from the 'Back 2 Netball programme'.

During the winter, Bishop's Stortford Netball League accesses outdoor courts at Birchwood High School. The School provides four netball courts (over marked with four tennis courts). During the summer, the courts accommodate permanent tennis nets. Consultation reports the School is reluctant to remove the nets to allow netball activity during the netball season. As a result, the League accesses outdoor courts in Harlow (outside the assessment area). Clubs comment they would prefer to play at the School all year round as opposed to travelling to Harlow. This further supports the need for another central venue site in East Herts.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Training

There are few outdoor, floodlit netball courts available for training in the District. Clubs also report a lack of access to indoor courts impacts on participation. As a result, clubs are forced to travel into neighbouring authorities such as Harlow to access indoor provision. For example Cross Keys Netball Club uses indoor courts at Mark Hall Specialist Sports College, Harlow. Hertford Hornets Netball Club believes it is restricted from fielding additional teams due to a lack of courts available for training. It also reports it operates a waiting list.

Quality

A large number of netball courts are located at education sites. There is a perception that the quality of education courts are of poorer quality compared to privately managed sites such as Wodson Park Sports Centre. However, site assessments rated two thirds (66%) of courts as good quality. Sele School (KKP Ref 129) reports its outdoor courts are deemed as dangerous due to loose gravel and tree roots. Site assessments rate the courts as average. Wodson Park Sports Centre (KKP Ref 197) provides four designated floodlit netball courts and two indoor courts. The outdoor courts have recently been resurfaced and are regarded as excellent quality.

In total, Birchwood High School provides four outdoor netball courts. Consultation reports drainage on three of the courts is poor. Site assessments rate three of the courts as below average (scoring 53%). In comparison, the fourth netball court, which is fenced, was assessed as excellent quality.

Accessibility

Hertfordshire Netball Association believes there is a restricted schools letting policy on some courts in East Herts. However, the majority of schools report a lack of demand from local clubs. Clubs report accessing the indoor courts can be difficult due to high demand from other users (i.e. football). The cost of hiring indoor courts is considered as expensive.

Netball summary

- ◀ There are 48 netball courts across 18 sites in East Herts. The majority are located at education sites.
- ◀ Club membership levels have increased in the previous three years at both senior and junior level. This is also supported by The Active People Survey which shows that netball participation in East Herts has increased from 0.76% in 2005/06 to 1.29% in 2007/08.
- ◀ Over a third of netball courts were assessed as good quality (66%). Wodson Park Sports Centre courts and Birchwood High School (one court) are rated as excellent quality.
- ◀ There are a large number of netball leagues playing at central venue sites of which the majority are located outside of East Herts. Bishop's Stortford Netball League is the only central venue league using outdoor courts at Birchwood High School. During the summer, the courts accommodate permanent tennis nets. Consultation reports the School is reluctant to remove the nets to allow netball activity during the netball season.
- ◀ There is demand for a central venue league and site in East Herts. However, a facility with a minimum of six – eight courts, ancillary facilities and volunteer support would be needed. This would help alleviate demand at other central venue leagues across the County.
- ◀ There is a lack of floodlit netball courts for training. In addition, clubs also report a lack of indoor provision. As a result, clubs are forced to travel into neighbouring authorities to access provision.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

PART 16: MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

16.1: Current provision

Figure 16.1 indicates that MUGA provision is predominately located in the south of the District, particularly in the Hertford-Ware Area analysis area. There are areas of high density with no MUGA provision i.e. M11 Stort Corridor analysis area, Rural Service Centres, Rural Area and the A1(W) Corridor.

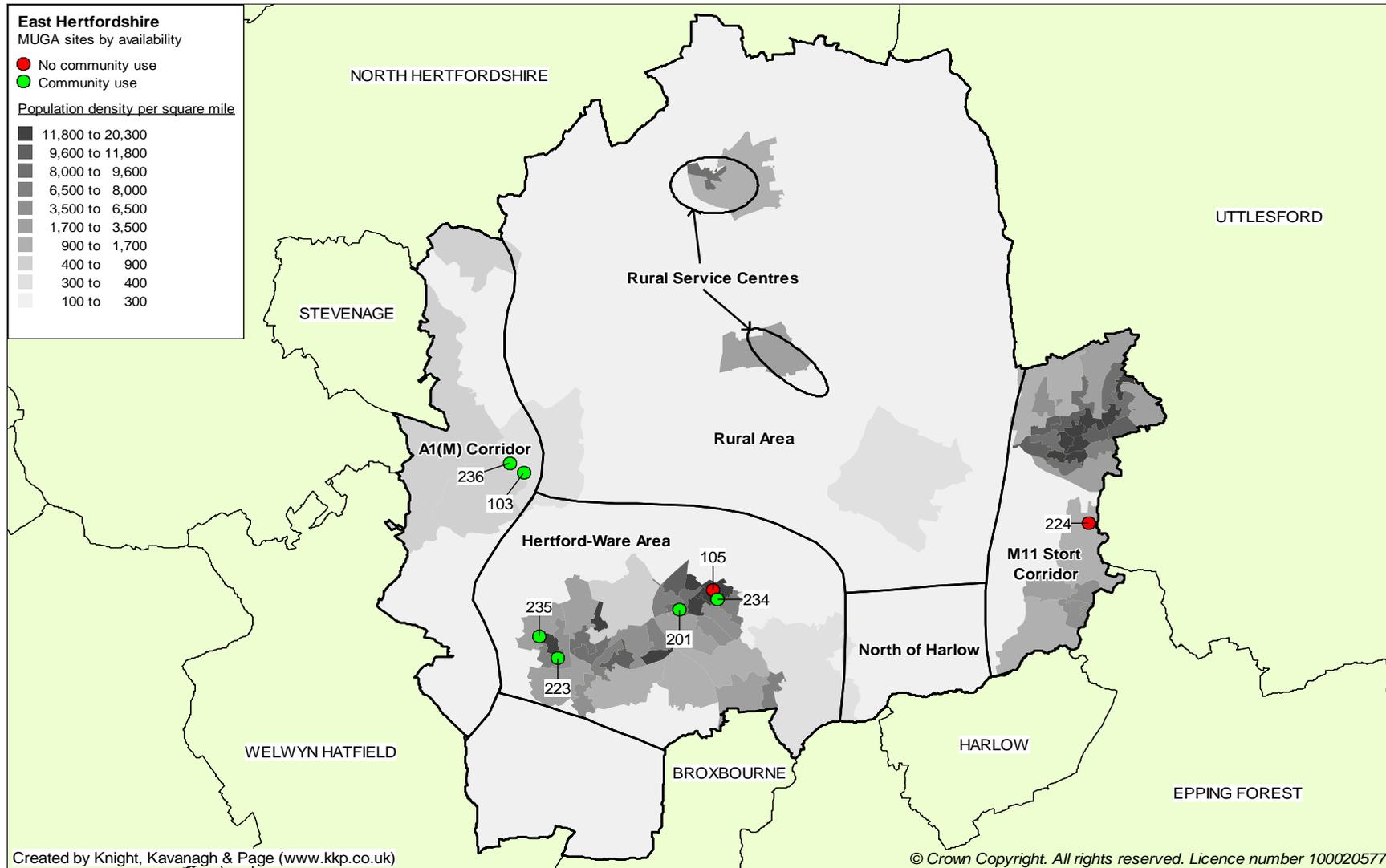
Table 16.1: Key to location of MUGAs

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis Area	Community Use	MAC A T
Great Innings	236	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Watton-at-Stone Playing Fields	103	A1(M) Corridor	Yes	1
Allenburys Sports & Social Club	201	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Hollybush Primary School	223	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
King George V	234	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
The Ridgeway	235	Hertford-Ware Area	Yes	1
Tower Primary School	105	Hertford-Ware Area	No	1
Spellbrook Primary School	224	M11 Stort Corridor	No	1

Facilities such as tarmac five-a-side courts (that may double up for tennis and/or netball) and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) have an important role in providing for the casual needs of various sports. For example, well-designed and located MUGAs provide not only for casual kickabout (to be encouraged in its own right) but can also reduce pressure on existing grass pitches from casual use and training.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Figure 16.1: MUGA location map



PART 17: LACROSSE

The Hertfordshire Lacrosse Association administers Lacrosse in the District. There are four county squads which play outside of the District. HLA organises a school lacrosse competition which is often played on a home and away basis.

Haileybury College compete in HLA schools tournament. During the winter months it overmarks its cricket outfield with lacrosse pitches.

PART 18: POLO

Hertfordshire Polo Club is the only club in the County. It is affiliated and is governed by its governing body; The Hurlingham Polo Association (The HPA). It is based in Letty Green, near Hertford.

The Club is open throughout the year and houses one of the county's all-weather polo arenas. In addition, there is also a floodlit indoor school and five full size grass polo pitches.

As of the next polo season (2010/2011) it will cease to operate as a members club. Invitation matches will continue to be played but these will not be open to the public.

PART 19: EDUCATION PROVISION

19.1: Introduction

The provision of pitches at schools and colleges can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector in the District.

The new Education and Inspection Act (2006) came into force in early 2009 and amends the existing legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, which was originally introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001 now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) for the sale or change of use of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No.3) 2004 order highlights some limited circumstances in which the requisite approval has been delegated to the relevant governing body (i.e. local authority), which can decide whether the disposal or change of use meets the circumstances and criteria set out in the Consent Order¹².

School sports partnerships (SSPs)

The SSP programme is part of the national Physical Education (PE) and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP); formerly known as the PESSCL strategy. This is led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to widen participation, raise standards and improve the quality of PE and school sport.

The objective of the Strategy is to ensure that by 2011 all children are offered at least five hours of sport every week, comprising:

- ◀ At least two hours high quality PE in the curriculum (5-16 year olds).
- ◀ The opportunity for at least a further three hours sport beyond the school day delivered by a range of school, community and club providers (5-19 yr olds).

SSPs have set a number of targets to reach by 2010, with individual key performance indicators (KPIs). These are:

- ◀ Increase in participation in high quality PE. The KPI is for 75% of the schools to deliver 90 minutes of high quality curriculum time.
- ◀ Increase in participation in high quality out of school hours learning (OSHL). All schools will offer at least two OSHL opportunities to Key Stage 1 pupils.
- ◀ Increase in participation in high quality informal physical activity. This will be achieved by making effective use of playground markings with all secondary schools to offer at least two informal activities.
- ◀ Increase participation in high quality competition and performance, to include the establishment of a calendar of sports events and competitions.

¹² Full and detailed guidance can be accessed at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11600>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

- ◀ Improvement in attitude, behaviour and attendance in PE and sport through the provision of structured activities during break and lunchtimes to discourage incidences of bullying and disruptive behaviour.
- ◀ Increase in attainment and achievement in and through PE, OSHL and sport. This will involve all secondary schools achieving accreditation for delivering the sports leadership level 1 course, and all schools to work towards gaining an accreditation of some sort.
- ◀ Increase in participation in community based sport. This will require the strengthening of school-club links.

There are three SSPs in East Herts including:

- ◀ North East Herts.
- ◀ Sele.
- ◀ Birchwood.

In 2008, North East Herts SSP was awarded the Sports Partnership Mark 2008 as 97% of pupils were involved in two or more hours of Physical Education a week. Consultation with clubs identifies there are strong school/club links within all three SSP's which has helped clubs to strengthen their junior membership and increase its profile within the local community. North East Herts SSP has 39% of its pupils attending a community club which it has links with, which is 8% higher than the national average (31%).

National Competition Framework

East Herts SSP's are also part of the National Competition Framework. The aim of the framework is to provide a competitive environment for all young people and to help sport through attracting, supporting, retaining and passing on talent. The vision is to establish a high quality competitive school sport structure by developing school based competition pathways.

There is a Competition Manager whose main role is to develop, manage and co-ordinate the planning and implementation of the National Schools Competition Framework through a programme of inter-school competition within the North East Herts and Birchwood SSPs.

19.2: Current provision

The following tables provide an outline of the outdoor recreation facilities available within the education section in East Herts. The table also outlines the proportion of these facilities that are currently available for use by the community.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 19.1: Summary of pitches at school sites and availability of community use in East Herts

Analysis area	Total no. of education pitches				No. of education pitches available for community use			
	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby
A1(M) Corridor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North of Harlow	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hertford-Ware Area	18	4	2	5	18	1	2	5
M11 Stort Corridor	8	7	9	11	6	-	2	1
Rural Area	2	-	-	8	1	-	-	2
Rural Service Centres	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
EAST HERTS	28	12	11	26	25	2	4	8

It is important to note that a significant proportion of the District's junior pitches are located at primary school sites which are generally not available for community use. The majority of secondary schools in East Herts operate a lettings policy on their sports facilities.

It is important to consider this within the context of the projected shortfall of junior pitches in the District and how this can be met by existing provision.

There is evidence of good examples of community use with secondary schools sharing their facilities with local clubs. For example, Freman College (KKP Ref 93) has an agreement with Reed Cricket Club to maintain the cricket square in return for free usage of its pitch. The pitch is used to accommodate two senior teams (3rd XI and 4th XI). Likewise, Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club has a service level agreement with The Leventhorpe School (KKP Ref 63) to use and maintain its cricket pitch.

Jobbers Wood Sports Complex (KKP Ref 44) is owned by Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys and is located off site from the main school site. The site opened in 2001 and was developed following a Section 106 agreement. Consultation reports the agreement prohibits community use of the site. The pitches are used by the School for competitive matches on a Saturday.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Table 19.2: Summary of non-pitch facilities at school sites and availability of community use in East Herts

Analysis area	Total no. of education non-pitches		No. of education pitches available for community use	
	Tennis	Netball	Tennis	Netball
A1(M) Corridor	-	2	-	1
North of Harlow	1	-	1	-
Hertford-Ware Area	24	23	24	17
M11 Stort Corridor	21	29	4	4
Rural Area	3	5	3	3
Rural Service Centres	3	3	-	-
EAST HERTS	52	62	32	25

Please note some non-pitch facilities may appear to have community use by virtue that the pitch facilities are available. It is evident; however, that community use of non-pitch facilities is very limited.

Primary Schools

62 primary schools in East Herts were consulted via an online questionnaire and 69% of questionnaires were returned. An analysis of the online questionnaire identifies the following quality information:

- ◀ The vast majority of schools (88%) consulted report there is 94% of grass coverage on its playing pitches. Grass length is also rated as good or excellent.
- ◀ Just over half of schools (56%) consider their pitches to be flat. A third of schools (33%) comment there is a slight slope and a one in ten (11%) report there is a gentle slope.
- ◀ Just over three quarters of primary schools (76%) state the evenness of their pitches is excellent or good.
- ◀ The majority of schools (81%) suggest the size of their pitch to be correct.
- ◀ Evidence of unofficial use does not appear to be an issue on school sites according to 84% of schools consulted.
- ◀ Three fifths of schools (61%) rate the quality of their goal posts quality as good and a quarter rate the goal post quality as excellent.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

19.3: Key issues

The following summary table highlights the key issues ascertained via consultation with secondary schools. It does not provide a précis of each school.

Table 19.3: Secondary school key issues

KKP ref	School	Issue
176	Birchwood High School	The STP was laid in 2007 and was part funded by the Football Foundation. Additional changing facilities to serve the pitch were also provided. It rates the quality of its pitches as adequate quality. There are plans to provide line markings (for tennis and netball) on a designated hard court area at site. It also provides four indoor cricket nets available for community use (located in the Sports Hall).
46	Bishop's Stortford College <i>(site is referred to Maze Green Heights in other sections throughout the report)</i>	The College is an independent boarding and day school for pupils aged 4 – 18. It provides an impressive portfolio of both outdoor and indoor sports provision and caters for five football, 10 rugby, three grass hockey and three cricket pitches. In addition, it also has two floodlit STPs. As highlighted in section eight, the STPs are used by Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club for training and matches.
93	Freman College	The College is the hub site for the North East Herts SSP. It provides two rugby, one football, two grass hockey pitches and three netball courts (over marked with three tennis courts). Site assessments rate the quality of the changing facilities as poor. There is no community use of the rugby pitches, which is thought to be due to a lack of demand from local clubs. The rugby pitches are poorly drained and in need of better infrastructure. Local football teams have an informal arrangement with the School to access the pitches on an ad hoc basis for training. The College's competitive hockey matches are played on the STP at Wodson Park (as highlighted in section eight). The College hires transport to access Wodson Park. Reed Cricket Club has an agreement with the College. It maintains the pitch in return for exclusive use of the pitch at weekends (also highlighted in Section Six of the report).
63	The Leventhorpe School	It has a service level agreement with Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club and as such the club is responsible for the maintenance of the cricket pitch. The school recently sold an area of land for housing development which funded a range of indoor and outdoor sports provision.
52	The Hertfordshire & Essex High School and Science College	The school has sports facilities both on and off site but consultation highlights it is of poor quality.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	School	Issue
40	Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys	<p>The school provides sports facilities both on and off site. It's off site facilities are known as Jobbers Wood Sports Complex (KKP Ref 44). The site opened in 2001 and provides extensive sports facilities including three cricket, one football and six rugby pitches. The site is located in a remote area and security is an issue with occasional break ins. The site was funded by a Section 106 Agreement. Consultation reports the agreement prohibits community use of the site. The pitches are used by the School for competitive matches on a Saturday. Jobbers Wood is regularly used by SSP's to host various sports festivals.</p> <p>Consultation reveals there are plans to relocate to Whittington Lane (opposite The Hertfordshire Essex High School and Science College). The School has plans to re-submit an application for outline planning permission to East Herts Council within the next few months for this development.</p>
50	Hockerill Anglo-European College	<p>The school allows community use of its sports facilities. Its tennis courts are used by Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club to deliver its mini tennis section. As highlighted in section eight, Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club holds a joint lease on the STP.</p>
49	St Mary's Catholic School	<p>The schools facilities are owned by The Diocese of Westminster and are maintained by East Herts Council. It has access to a variety of grass pitches on site which includes two football, three rugby, six tennis courts (over marked with six netball courts), grass hockey pitch and a multi use games area. Consultation reports the pitch quality is poor, particularly the length and evenness. Unofficial use is also a reported problem. The playing fields are occasionally available for community use for training by local clubs such as Bishop's Stortford Archery Club and Harlow Children's Cricket Club.</p> <p>There are plans to expand its sports provision to provide an additional two tennis courts (also highlighted in Section 11 of the report).</p>
148	Richard Hale School	<p>The school has extensive sports facilities which accommodate one mini, one junior and one senior football, one junior and two senior rugby, seven tennis courts (over marked with two netball courts), one grass and one artificial cricket wicket. In addition, it has playing fields located next to the site on Morgans Walk (located approx 0.5 miles from the main school site).</p>
129	The Sele School	<p>The changing facilities at the school are of poor quality. During the summer term, the school converts its three football pitches into an athletics track and a cricket pitch. In addition, it also provides one rugby and another football pitch. The basketball court at the school is enclosed and is of poor quality; it is used as a parking area.</p> <p>The school has sports college status and Sele SSP is based at the site. It believes its standard of sports facilities does not meet the typical standard of that of a Sports College.</p>

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

KKP ref	School	Issue
100	The Chauncy School	<p>The school rates its outdoor grass pitches as good quality. However, there are issues with holes from rabbits on the pitches. During the school holidays it runs a summer school using the playing fields including a girls' football coaching programme. The school allows community use of its facilities which are used by Ware Cricket Club, Saracens Rugby and various local football teams.</p> <p>Ware Cricket Club is currently upgrading the quality of the cricket pitch (February 2010). This will enable the club to use it for competitive matches at weekends during the summer.</p>

Schools summary

- ◀ There are 77 playing pitches, 52 tennis courts and 62 netball courts at schools in East Herts.
 - ◀ Community use at primary school sites is minimal. A number of secondary schools allow community use of outdoor sports facilities, including, The Chauncy School, Fremans College and The Leventhorpe School.
 - ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
 - ◀ The quality and quantity of sports facilities (pitch and non pitch) at school sites varies across the District.
 - ◀ Changing provision at the large majority of secondary school sites is considered to be poor and undersized.

PART 20: SUMMARY

This assessment report considers the supply and demand issues for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in the District of East Herts. It identifies local need from consultation highlighting the predominant issues for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.

This will form the basis of discussions to inform the development of standards and strategies and actions to address key issues. Strategic recommendations and provision standards will follow on from this report and will be delivered via a separate strategy document.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

APPENDIX ONE: PPM CALCULATIONS

East Herts		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	128	85	25	
	Junior teams	152	48	25	
	Mini teams	93		30	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	64	59.5	12.5	
	Junior games	76	14.4	12.5	
	Mini games	46.5		15	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	15%	47%	100%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	2%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	79%	18%	0%
		Junior games	94%	40%	100%
		Mini games	98%		100%
	Midweek	Adult games	6%	35%	0%
		Junior games	6%	60%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	9.5	28	12.5
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	1		0
	Sunday	Adult games	50.5	10.5	0
		Junior games	71.5	5.7	12.5
		Mini games	45.5		15
	Midweek	Adult games	4	21	0
		Junior games	4.5	8.7	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	84	45	24	
	Junior pitches	15		3	
	Mini pitches	23		7	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	74.5	17.0	11.5
		Junior pitches	15.0		3.0
		Mini pitches	22.0		7.0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	33.5	28.8	24.0
		Junior pitches	-56.5		-9.5
		Mini pitches	-22.5		-8.0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	80.0	15.3	24.0
		Junior pitches	10.5		3.0
		Mini pitches	23.0		7.0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

A1(M) Corridor		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	10	11	5	
	Junior teams	7	15	5	
	Mini teams	0		6	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	5	7.7	2.5	
	Junior games	3.5	4.5	2.5	
	Mini games	0		3	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	10%	45%	100%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	70%	26%	0%
		Junior games	57%	40%	100%
		Mini games	0%		100%
	Midweek	Adult games	20%	29%	0%
		Junior games	43%	60%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	0.5	3.5	2.5
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Sunday	Adult games	3.5	2	0
		Junior games	2	1.8	2.5
		Mini games	0		3
	Midweek	Adult games	1	2.2	0
		Junior games	1.5	2.7	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	4	7	4	
	Junior pitches	1		0	
	Mini pitches	1		3	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	3.5	3.5	1.5
		Junior pitches	1.0		0
		Mini pitches	1.0		3.0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	0.5	3.2	4.0
		Junior pitches	-1.0		-2.5
		Mini pitches	1.0		0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	3.0	2.1	4.0
		Junior pitches	-0.5		0
		Mini pitches	1.0		3.0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

North of Harlow		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	0	0	0	
	Junior teams	0	0	0	
	Mini teams	0		0	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	0	0	0	
	Junior games	0	0	0	
	Mini games	0		0	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	0%	0%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	0%	0%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Midweek	Adult games	0%	0%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	0	0	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Sunday	Adult games	0	0	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Midweek	Adult games	0	0	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	0	0	0	
	Junior pitches	1		0	
	Mini pitches	0		0	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	0	0	0
		Junior pitches	1.0		0
		Mini pitches	0		0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	0	0	0
		Junior pitches	1.0		0
		Mini pitches	0		0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	0	0	0
		Junior pitches	1.0		0
		Mini pitches	0		0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Hertford-Ware Area		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	58	29	11	
	Junior teams	83	21	9	
	Mini teams	53		18	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	29	20.3	5.5	
	Junior games	41.5	6.3	4.5	
	Mini games	26.5		9	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	19%	52%	100%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	4%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	81%	10%	0%
		Junior games	99%	38%	100%
		Mini games	96%		100%
	Midweek	Adult games	0%	38%	0%
		Junior games	1%	62%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	5.5	10.5	5.5
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	1		0
	Sunday	Adult games	23.5	2	0
		Junior games	41	2.4	4.5
		Mini games	25.5		9
	Midweek	Adult games	0	7.8	0
		Junior games	0.5	3.9	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	40	18	10	
	Junior pitches	4		1	
	Mini pitches	9		4	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	34.5	7.5	4.5
		Junior pitches	4.0		1.0
		Mini pitches	8.0		4.0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	16.5	13.6	10.0
		Junior pitches	-37.0		-3.5
		Mini pitches	-16.5		-5.0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	40.0	6.3	10.0
		Junior pitches	3.5		1.0
		Mini pitches	9.0		4.0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

M11 Stort Corridor		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	34	18	9	
	Junior teams	42	8	11	
	Mini teams	26		6	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	17	12.6	4.5	
	Junior games	21	2.4	5.5	
	Mini games	13		3	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	21%	44%	100%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	71%	20%	0%
		Junior games	90%	38%	100%
		Mini games	100%		100%
	Midweek	Adult games	9%	37%	0%
		Junior games	10%	63%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	3.5	5.5	4.5
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Sunday	Adult games	12	2.5	0
		Junior games	19	0.9	5.5
		Mini games	13		3
	Midweek	Adult games	1.5	4.6	0
		Junior games	2	1.5	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	21	4	5	
	Junior pitches	4		2	
	Mini pitches	6		0	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	17.5	-1.5	0.5
		Junior pitches	4.0		2.0
		Mini pitches	6.0		0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	9.0	0.6	5.0
		Junior pitches	-15.0		-3.5
		Mini pitches	-7.0		-3.0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	19.5	-2.1	5.0
		Junior pitches	2.0		2.0
		Mini pitches	6.0		0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Rural Area		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	22	22	0	
	Junior teams	20	4	0	
	Mini teams	8		0	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	11	15.4	0	
	Junior games	10	1.2	0	
	Mini games	4		0	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	0%	45%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	86%	19%	0%
		Junior games	95%	50%	0%
		Mini games	100%		0%
	Midweek	Adult games	14%	35%	0%
		Junior games	5%	50%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	0	7	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Sunday	Adult games	9.5	3	0
		Junior games	9.5	0.6	0
		Mini games	4		0
	Midweek	Adult games	1.5	5.4	0
		Junior games	0.5	0.6	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	13	14	5	
	Junior pitches	2		0	
	Mini pitches	7		0	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	13.0	7.0	5.0
		Junior pitches	2.0		0
		Mini pitches	7.0		0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	3.5	10.4	5.0
		Junior pitches	-7.5		0
		Mini pitches	3.0		0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	11.5	8.0	5.0
		Junior pitches	1.5		0
		Mini pitches	7.0		0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Rural Service Centres		Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams	Adult teams	4	5	0	
	Junior teams	0	0	0	
	Mini teams	6		0	
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week	Adult games	0.5	0.7	0.5	
	Junior games	0.5	0.3	0.5	
	Mini games	0.5		0.5	
STAGE THREE (S1 x S2) Assessing home games per week	Adult games	2	3.5	0	
	Junior games	0	0	0	
	Mini games	3		0	
STAGE FOUR Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday	Adult games	0%	43%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
	Sunday	Adult games	100%	29%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	100%		0%
	Midweek	Adult games	0%	29%	0%
		Junior games	0%	0%	0%
		Mini games	0%		0%
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4) Defining pitches used for each day	Saturday	Adult games	0	1.5	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
	Sunday	Adult games	2	1	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	3		0
	Midweek	Adult games	0	1	0
		Junior games	0	0	0
		Mini games	0		0
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available (community use only)	Adult pitches	6	2	0	
	Junior pitches	3		0	
	Mini pitches	0		0	
STAGE SEVEN (S6 - S5) Identifying shortfall (-) and oversupply (+)	Saturday	Adult pitches	6.0	0.5	0
		Junior pitches	3.0		0
		Mini pitches	0		0
	Sunday	Adult pitches	4.0	1.0	0
		Junior pitches	3.0		0
		Mini pitches	-3.0		0
	Midweek	Adult pitches	6.0	1.0	0
		Junior pitches	3.0		0
		Mini pitches	0		0

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

APPENDIX TWO: CONSULTEE LIST

Name	Designation	Organisation
	Head of PE	Birchwood High School
	Head of PE	Bishop's Stortford College
	Head of PE	Freman College
	Head of PE	Haileybury and Imperial Service College
	Head of PE	Heath Mount School
	Head of PE	Hertford Regional College
	Head of PE	Hockerill Anglo-European College
	Head of PE	Richard Hale School
	Head of PE	Saint Mary's Catholic School
	Head of PE	Simon Balle School
	Head of PE	The Leventhorpe School
	Head of PE	The Sele School
	Headteacher	Albury Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
	Headteacher	All Saints Church of England Primary School and Nursery, Bishop's Stortford
	Headteacher	Bayford Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
	Headteacher	Bengeo Primary School
	Headteacher	Benington Church of England Primary School
	Headteacher	Christ Church CofE (VA) Primary School and Nursery, Ware
	Headteacher	Edwinstree Middle School
	Headteacher	Fawbert and Barnard Infants' School
	Headteacher	Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary School
	Headteacher	High Wych Church of England Primary School
	Headteacher	Hollybush Primary School
	Headteacher	Hormead Church of England (VA) Primary School
	Headteacher	Jenyns First School
	Headteacher	Kingshill Infant School

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
	Headteacher	Little Munden Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
	Headteacher	Mandeville Primary School
	Headteacher	Middleton School
	Headteacher	Millfield First and Nursery School
	Headteacher	Northgate Primary School
	Headteacher	Puller Memorial, Church of England, Voluntary Aided Primary School
	Headteacher	Ralph Sadleir Middle School
	Headteacher	Reedings Junior School
	Headteacher	Richard Hale School
	Headteacher	Roger de Clare School
	Headteacher	Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School
	Headteacher	Saint Mary's Catholic School
	Headteacher	Spellbrook Primary School
	Headteacher	St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School
	Headteacher	St Mary's Voluntary Controlled Church of England Junior School
	Headteacher	St Michael's Church of England Primary School
	Headteacher	Tower Primary School
	Headteacher	Walkern Primary School
	Headteacher	Wareside Church of England Primary School
	Headteacher	Widford School
	Headteacher	Windhill Primary School
Adrian Bennett	Club Secretary	Datchworth Cricket Club
Alan Gibbs	Club Secretary	Hertford Castle Bowls Club
Alan Green	Club Secretary	Oracle Components Football Club
Alan Hazell	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Community Football Club
Alan Wheatley	Club Secretary	Allenburys Cricket Club
Alex Francis	Club Secretary	Hockerill Cricket Club
Amanda Wintle	Principal Planning Officer	Epping Forest District Council

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Andrew Goulding	Heateacher	The Bishop's Stortford High School
Andrew Nightingale	Club Secretary	St Margaretsbury Tennis Club
Andrew Smith	Director	Whitehill Golf Club
Andrew Soskin	Membership Secretary	Hanbury Manor Golf Club
Andy Bates	Club Secretary	Northgate End Football Club – now The Wheatsheaf Football Club
Ann Lacey	Club Secretary	Havers Park Bowling Club (Ladies)
Annica Farley	Club Secretary	Wodson Park Seniors Football Club
Becky Scott (Senior) and Sam Turner (Junior)	Club Secretary	Issi Herts Netball Club
Carol Bulter	Club Secretary	Stevenage Borough Vixens Football Club
Carol Ecclestone	Club Secretary	Little Munden Football Club
Caroline Bishop	Club representative	Chadwell Springs Golf Club
Caroline Dundridge	Club Secretary	Ware Academy Football Club
Catherine Lymer	Development Officer	England Hockey
Cheryl Edwards	Club Secretary	Bengeo Tigers Football Club
Chris Manning	Club Secretary	White Lion Reserves
Chrissie Bloom	Club Secretary	Alderley Walkern (Juniors) Cricket Club
Christine Knight	Club Secretary	Royston Tennis Club
Colin Haslam	Club Secretary	London Manx Rugby Football Club
Colin Ince	Club Secretary	Hoddesdon Owls Ladies Football Club
Dave Winkworth	Club Secretary	Hormead Hares Football Club
David Devoil	Club Secretary	Hadham Villa Football Club
David Eyre	Club Secretary	Thundridge United Football Club
David Gray	Club Secretary	Cottered Football Club
David Kemp	Club Secretary	Stortford Cobras Football Club
David Reynolds	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Cricket Club
Dean Stanborough	Club Secretary	Broxbourne Saints (MW) Football Club
Debbie Evans	Partnership Development Manager	Sele School Sports Partnership
Diane Dangell	Club Secretary	Hunsdon Tennis Club
Diane Wyatt	Club Secretary	Datchworth Rugby Club

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Dominic Marsh	Cricket Development Manager	England and Wales Cricket Board
Eileen Worby	Club Secretary	Hormead Hares Youth Football Club
Elaine Phillips	League Secretary	Royston Crow Youth Football League
Emma Ward (Senior) and Kathy Rex (Junior)	Club Secretary	Hertford Hornets Netball Club
Gareth Cowell	Club Secretary	Aston Cricket Club
Gaynor Bradley	Leisure & Community Development Manager	Uttlesford District Council
Geraldine Hill	Club Secretary	The Greyhound Football Club
Graham Martin	Club Secretary	Jolly Bargeman Football Club
Greame Nott	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Swifts Football Club
Gregg Pettit	Club Secretary	Robin Hood Rangers Football Club (Disbanded)
Harry Wright	Secretary	Hertfordshire Bowls Association (East Area)
Hazel Harlock	Secretary	Summercroft Primary School
Helen Turner	Children and Young Persons Development Manager	North Herts Council
Ian Bush	Club Secretary	Wodson Park Football Club
Ian Moody	Club Secretary	Codicote Football Club
Ian Vosper	Club Secretary	Watton-at-Stone Tennis Club
J.W. Simmons	Honorary Secretary	Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club
Jackie Brace	Club Secretary	Standon & Puckeridge Youth Football Club
Jacqueline Carter	Club Secretary	Bengeo Trinity Football Club
James Hetherington	General Manager	Brickendon Grange Golf Club
James Kember	Club Secretary	Ware Wolves Football Club
James Parker	Chief Executive	Bishops Stortford Town Council
James Warwick	Sports Development Manager	Epping Forest District Council
Jamie Johnson	Club Secretary	Royston Rugby Club
Janet Watson	Headteacher	Mill Mead Primary School
Janette Wood	Partnership Development Manager	North East Herts School Sports Partnership
Jennie McCollin	General Secretary	Mid Herts Rural Minors Football League
Jill Jones	Town Clerk	Buntingford Town Council
Jill Rowlinson	Town Clerk	Ware Town Council

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Jim Wilkie	Club Secretary	Jolly Bargemen Football Club
Jim Young	Club Secretary	Westmill Cricket Club
Jo Berry	Office Manager	Aston St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School
John Brace	Club Secretary	Standon and Puckeridge Football Club
John Davies	Club Secretary	Thorley Cricket Club
John Doherty	Club Secretary	The Association Football Club
John Fitzjohn	Club Secretary	Watton Ladies Football Club
John Haverty	Club Secretary	Bramfield Cricket Club
John Petit	Club Secretary	Ware Cricket Club
John Simmons	Secretary	East Herts Bowling Association
John Turner	Team Secretary	Bishops Stortford Football Club
Julia Syed	Club Secretary	Sawbridgeworth Cricket Club
June Westwood	Club Secretary	Hertford Bowls Club
Kevin Voight	Club Secretary	Hertford Town Youth Football Club
Laura Guy	Planning Officer	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Lee Cook	Club Secretary	Wodson Park Youth Football Club
Leo Tutt	Tennis Development Manager	Lawn Tennis Association
Les Aggio	Club Secretary	Millstream PV Football Club
Les Parsley	Former Club Secretary	Datchworth Mixed Bowls Club
Lesley Atkins	Club Secretary	Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club
Linda Law	Club Secretary	Hertfordshire Rangers Football Club
Liz Bannister	Secretary	Little Hadham Primary School
Liz Wade	Club Secretary	Buntingford Tennis Club
Louise Gallagher	Sports Development Officer	Stevenage Borough Council
Luigi Del Basso	Chairman	Bishops Stortford Football Club
Lynne Vinton	School Secretary	Anstey First School
Marissa Goodwin	Head of PE	The Chauncy School
Mark Armond	Club Secretary	Ardeley Walkern Cricket Club
Mark Kingsland	Leisure Services Manager	East Herts Council
Mark Liddiard	Funding and Facilities Manager	The Football Association
Mark Tarling	Club captain	Briggens Park Golf Club
Mark Vigus	Club Secretary	Dane End United Football Club
Matt Day	Club Secretary	Great Eastern Football Club

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Matthew Raynor	Youth and Sport Partnership Manager	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Matthew Seeley	Club Secretary	Bengeo Cricket Club
Michael Warkby	Club Secretary	White Horse Football Club
Michael White	Club Secretary	The Bridgehouse Football Club
Mike Bedford	Secretary	Hertfordshire County Netball Association
Miss Alex McDonald	Secretary/Manager	East Herts Golf Club
Mr Basil Black	Club Secretary	Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club
Mr Bob Brown	League Secretary	Hertfordshire Senior County Football League
Mr C Hamilton	Parish Clerk	Brent Pelham/Meesden Parish Council
Mr Charles Smith	League Secretary	Hertford and District Football League
Mr D Kemp	Club Secretary	Bengeo Bowling Club
Mr David Smith	Parish Clerk	Buckland and Chipping Parish Council
Mr F.W. Pavey	Club Secretary	Much Hadham Bowling Club
Mr G Irwin	Parish Clerk	Little Berkhamstead Parish Council
Mr Gale	Parish Clerk	Furneux Pelham Parish Council
Mr Graham Irwin	Parish Clerk	Hertingfordbury Parish Council
Mr J Ingham	Parish Clerk	Brickendon Liberty Parish Council
Mr J Ingham	Parish Clerk	Great Munden Parish Council
Mr J Ingham	Parish Clerk	Much Hadham Parish Council
Mr J Ingham	Parish Clerk	Standon Parish Council
Mr J Ingham	Parish Clerk	Thundridge Parish Council
Mr J Pegram	Club Secretary	Westmill Football Club
Mr J.R. Davies	Parish Clerk	Thorley Parish Council
Mr John F Hicks	Club Secretary	Buntingford Bowls Club
Mr Millington	Chairman	Hertford Bowls Club
Mr N Townsend	Parish Clerk	Stansted Abbots Parish Council
Mr P Jackson	Parish Clerk	Bramfield Parish Council
Mr Roy Falder	Parish Clerk	Aston Parish Council
Mr S Russell	Chairman	Sacombe Parish Meeting
Mr Wright	Headteacher	Tonwell St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Mrs A Court	Club Secretary	Pearce United Football Club

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
		(Disbanded)
Mrs B Bone	Club Secretary	Aston Bowls Club
Mrs B George	Parish Clerk	Bengeo Rural Parish Council
Mrs B Lacey	Parish Clerk	Stansted St Margarets Parish Council
Mrs B.A. Marshall	Parish Clerk	High Wych Parish Council
Mrs Bev Evans	Parish Clerk	Little Hadham Parish Council
Mrs Caroline McFarlane	Parish Clerk	Tewin Parish Council
Mrs Carolyn Morgan	Parish Clerk	Hertford Heath Parish Council
Mrs Collins	Headteacher	Stapleford Primary School
Mrs Dakin	School Secretary	Ardeley St Lawrence Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
Mrs E Taylor	Parish Clerk	Ardley Parish Council
Mrs H Broady	Parish Clerk	Walkern Parish Council
Mrs H Harding	Parish Clerk	Westmill Parish Council
Mrs J Ramsey	Club Secretary	Furneux Pelham Cricket Club
Mrs Joan Diales	Parish Clerk	Cottered Parish Council
Mrs Joy Robinette	Parish Clerk	Hunsdon Parish Council
Mrs June Westwood	Club Secretary	Hertford Bowls Club
Mrs Kate Heath	Parish Clerk	Wyddial Parish Council
Mrs M Broomer	Parish Clerk	Bayford Parish Council
Mrs M.B. Hollylee	Parish Clerk	Widford Parish Council
Mrs M.J. Allsop	Parish Clerk	Watton-At-Stone Parish Council
Mrs MacKenzie	Headteacher	Hillmead Primary School
Mrs Marty Kilby	Parish Clerk	Hormead Parish Council
Mrs P Close	Club Secretary	Sele Farm Bowls Club
Mrs P Longville	Club Secretary	Crosskeys Netball Club
Mrs Pam Harrison	Parish Clerk	Benington Parish Council
Mrs Pamela Blackaby	Parish Clerk	Anstey Parish Council
Mrs Price	Secretary	Tewin Cowper Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School
Mrs Robinson	Headteacher	St John The Baptist Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School
Mrs V Gardener	Parish Clerk	Albury Parish Council
Mrs W Prowle	Parish Clerk	Datchworth Parish Council
Ms Belinda Irons	Parish Clerk	Braughing Parish Council
Ms Irena Ryan	Parish Clerk	Wareside Parish Council

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Ms Margaret Mitchell	Parish Clerk	Little Munden Parish Council
Neil Deans	Regional Manager	England Athletics
Nicole Jones	Club Secretary	Legends Tennis UK
Norah Hickman	Club Secretary	Much Hadham Tennis Club
Paul Gooden	Club Secretary	Grange United and Reserves Football Club
Paul Greenham	Club Secretary	AC Hertford Football Club
Paul Jolley	Club Secretary	Albury Football Club
Paul Sharky	Club Secretary	White Lion Football Club
Paul Turner	Secretary	Hertfordshire Bowls Association (North Area)
Paula Colley	Finance Officer	Hunsdon Junior Mixed and Infant School
Perry Oliver	Chairman	Bishops Stortford Rugby Football Club
Peter McMeekin	Club Secretary	Reed Cricket Club
Peter Townsend	Club Secretary	Buntingford Cricket Club
Peter Turnbull	Club Secretary	Little Berkhamstead Sahibs Cricket Club
Phil Hayward	Club Secretary	St Margaretsbury Football Club
Phil Seale	Club Secretary	Cokenach Cricket Club
Phil Spears	Club Secretary	Bury Rangers Football Club
Rhys Loveday	Partnership Development Manager	East Herts Schools Sports Partnership
Richard Daly	Club Secretary	Buntingford Town Football Club
Richard Javes	Planning Policy Manager	Stevenage Borough Council
Rick Bruin	Funding and Facilities Manager	Rugby Football Union
Robert Boulton	Club Secretary	Christchurch Ware Football Club
Robert Djemal	Club Secretary	Saracens Football Club
Robert Oliver	Club representative	Much Hadham Golf Course
Rodney Northwood	League Secretary	Terry Reed North West Essex Sunday Football League
Ron Reed	Club Secretary	Havers Park Bowling Club
Rosie Shipman	Finance Officer	Richard Whittington Primary School
Ross Craddock	Club Secretary	Buntingford Wanderers Football Club
Ruth Thomas	Club Secretary	Tewin Tennis Club
Sarah Eppariello	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Swifts Youth Football Club

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Name	Designation	Organisation
Sarah Gray	Secretary	Layston Church of England First School
Sarah Nicholas	Senior Planning Officer	Uttlesford District Council
Sean Curran	Club Secretary	Buntingford Juniors Football Club
Sean Murphy	Chairman	Bishops Stortford Community Football Club
Sheila Houston	Club Secretary	Thorley St James Football Club
Simon Groom	Club Secretary	Aspenden Standon & Puckeridge Cricket Club
Stephen Bonner	Club Secretary	Spread Eagle Football Club
Stephen Stillwell	Club Secretary	Sawbridgeworth Crowns Football Club
Steve Bailes	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Hockey Club
Steve Bailes	Club Secretary	Hertford Hockey Club
Steve Green	Club Secretary	Bishops Stortford Cricket Club
Steve Rider	Club Secretary	Hertingfordbury Cricket Club
Steven Connors	Headteacher	Manor Fields Primary School
Steven Peet	Regional Development Officer	English Golf Union
Sue Game	School Secretary	All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Datchworth
Teresa Reynolds	Club Secretary	Watton Youth Football Club
Tim Cartwright	Club Secretary	Allenburys Sports Football Club
Tony Johnson	Chairman	Hertfordshire Saracens Cricket League
W.G. Head	Club Secretary	Allenburys Bowling Club
Wilf Emsley	Club Secretary	Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

APPENDIX THREE: SITE VISIT PROFORMAS

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Individual Pitch Assessment

KKP Site reference **Site Name**
Number of pitches **Pitch ID(s)** **Pitch Type**
Community Use?
Pitch Issues:

Background information: Number of games played on pitch each season
 Number of games cancelled due to unfitness of pitch (excluding frozen pitches)
 % of games cancelled per season

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments
About the winter pitch/cricket field								
Grass cover - entire pitch / cricket field	>94%	85-94%	70-84%	60-69%	<60%	Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 60% should be considered 'very poor'		
Length of grass	Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor		The ideal length of grass will vary between sports		
Size of pitch / cricket field	Yes - fully		No - but adequate	No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions		
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No - but adequate	No - not adequate		Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions		
Slope of pitch / cricket outfield (gradient and cross fall)	Flat	Slight	Gentle	Moderate	Severe	Cricket wickets should be flat.		
Evenness of pitch / cricket field	Excellent	Good	Poor	Very Poor		Where field is completely level = 'Excellent'		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots		eg informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface	None		Yes - some	Yes - lots		eg, golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey		
Training ; Estimated number of hours per week in season	0	1 to 2 hrs	2 to 4 hrs	4+		Training which takes place on the pitch area		
Changing Accomodation								
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No			Is the pitch served by changing facilities		
About the equipment/ wicket..								
Winter Sports Only- Goal Posts - quality	Excellent	Good	Poor			Upright, straight, painted, for football, goals are there safe net hooks at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, or are removable goals, assume Excellent.		
Cricket Only - Is the wicket protected when not used	Yes		No			Is the wicket protected when not in use - can be roped off or covered.		
Line markings - quality	Excellent	Good	Poor			e.g. Have they been painted recently; are lines straight and clear etc		
Training area	Yes		No			eg nets/ goals/ grids off main body of pitch		

EAST HERTS COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY AND OUTDOOR SPORTS AUDIT

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accomodation

KKP Site reference

Site Name:

Changing Accom
Name

Assessment undertaken by:

Date of Assessment:

Capacity of changing rooms;

(Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)

Changing Accomodation Issues:

Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

Element	Rating							Guidance notes	Comments	
About the Changing Accomodation										
Overall Quality	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No changing					Perceived quality of changing accommodationDoes it look well maintained, clean, safe etc
Evidence of vandalism	None	Yes - some			Yes - lots					Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc
Showers	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor		No					Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)
Toilets	Yes - Good	Yes - OK	Yes -poor		No					Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)
Parking	Good		OK		Poor					Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc
Links to public transort	Good		OK		Poor/non					Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.
Security	Good		OK		Poor					Does the accomodation look secure - secure doors/windows, evidence of breakins (may get info from User Surveys)
Segregated changing	Yes			No						accomodation be used by both male and female teams at same time