

A Playing Pitch Strategy for Waltham Forest

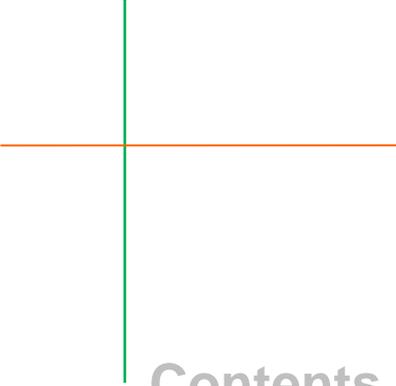
Strategy Document

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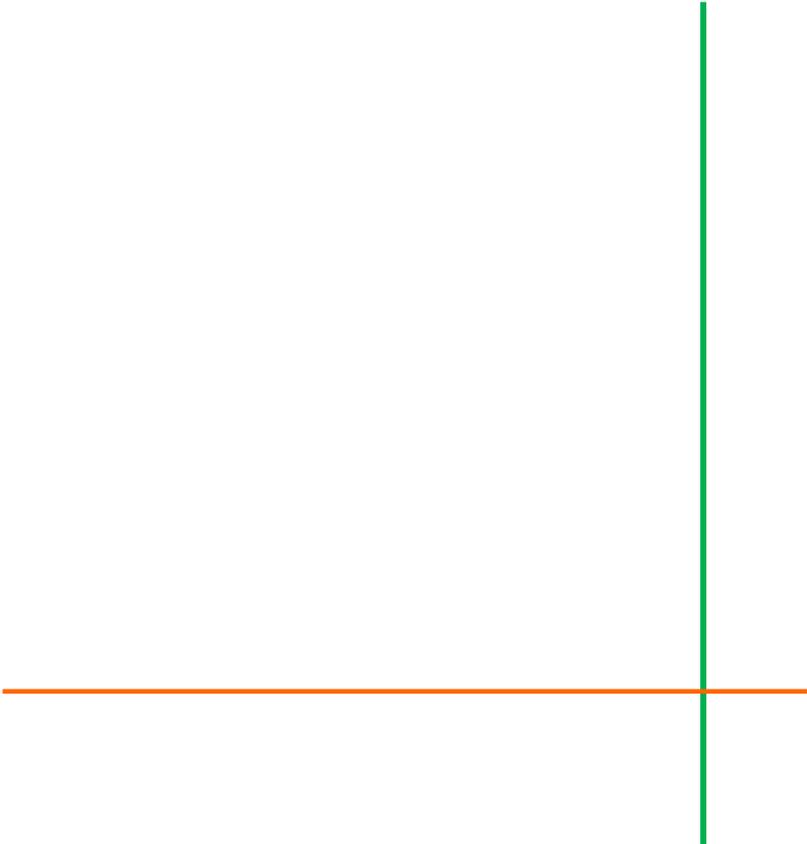
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Playing Pitch Strategy

Introduction

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- 1.1 Neil Allen Associates was commissioned in December 2010 to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy for Waltham Forest Council. The study updates an existing strategy, produced in 2004, which identified a mixture of poor quality pitches and some key areas of unmet demand.
- 1.2 The strategy considers the adequacy of provision for key pitch sports in Waltham Forest, specifically:
 - Football, including Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
 - Cricket
 - Rugby Union
 - Hockey, including Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- 1.3 Playing pitch strategies are specifically designed to just cover these sports and not the range of sporting activity undertaken across an area. The strategy focuses on these sports but also analyses needs on a sub-area basis – north, central and south.
- 1.4 The strategy has been developed based on the methodology outlined by Sport England in *'Towards a Level Playing Field – A Manual for the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies'* (TaLPPF) and should be read alongside the detailed evidence base.
- 1.5 As set out above the assessment is restricted to those sports covered by the Sport England methodology and as a result does not cover all sports across the borough. This work should not therefore be viewed as the policy recommendations for all sports across the borough, other sports and activities are covered in other relevant strategies, including the Five Olympic Boroughs Sports Development Frameworks, Open Spaces Strategy and the Culture Strategy.
- 1.6 The Strategy Vision is to develop:

“A 10 year Playing Pitch Strategy that is fit for purpose throughout the periods of sub regional developments and transformation phases of the Olympic Park and the Lower Lee Valley and the challenges these bring for social inclusion, healthier lifestyles and the changing needs of the community.”
- 1.7 The development of a strategy for the future delivery of playing pitches across Waltham Forest is particularly important in light of the following:

- the profile of the Waltham Forest resident population shows a concentration in the adult age groups of 20-34 years of age which are also the adult age groups for the playing of pitch sports;
- the opportunities that could arise as a result of the growth in participation, particularly with regard to the collection of funds through developer contributions and tariffs;
- the aspirations to increase participation and levels of physical activity and the links of this objective to the wider priorities of the council and its partners;
- the evolving new technologies and ways of thinking that change the way sport is played and delivered at a local level.

Therefore, it seeks, in conjunction with the local needs assessment, to:

- provide a robust and up to date picture of supply and demand, taking into account the changes that have taken place in the borough, particularly with regards to developments for the Olympics;
- inform decision making on the need for new and enhanced pitch provision both now and as the population increases and the profile of the population changes;
- support the creation of appropriate policies within the Local development Framework and facilitate decisions on the protection and disposal of playing pitches; and
- guide a strategic and innovative approach to the delivery of playing pitches in the borough up to 2020, linking with National Governing Body, regional and local priorities and in the context of the challenging financial environment.

1.8 Playing pitches are a vital resource for sport. The availability, accessibility and quality of facilities influence whether people take part, which sports they enjoy, how often they participate and how well they perform. If we are to encourage participation in sport and raise standards of play, playing field facilities need to be accessible and affordable, of high quality and well maintained and appropriate to the level of play taking place.

Demand Analysis

1.9 Between 2010 and 2015, the Waltham Forest population is projected to increase by 1.9% (based on ONS sub national population projections for this period). Whereas the London wide population is projected to increase by 4.3% and the England wide projected increase in population is 3.6%. This level of increase in the Waltham Forest population is not going to be a big driver for increases in sports participation created by population change/growth. There could still be an increase in sports participation from this population growth; however, the big driver is most likely to be from increases in the current rate of sports participation by the existing core resident population.

- 1.10 Waltham Forest has one third of its total population in the age bands which play pitch sports. This should create demand for playing pitches over a demand for other sports facilities, meaning the authority should seek to prioritise this facility type.
- 1.11 Increasing the rate of adult sports participation in the borough can be driven by pitch sports – the profile of the age groups of the adult population is a *pitch sports market*.
- 1.12 The junior age bands for the playing of pitch sports are not the highest groups in the Waltham Forest population and can be described as *middle ranking* in terms of the 19 five-year age bands of the total Waltham Forest population. However, projections show by 2015 two of these age bands have increased in size and the 5 – 9 age group has a 17.9% increase. There could therefore be an increased demand for pitches resulting from the growth in the population in the junior age bands which play pitch sports.
- 1.13 Sport England's Market Segmentation provides an overview of an area's population and it's propensity to participate in different types of sports. It should be noted that the analysis is not a reflection of how the Council views residents. Looking at the Sport England defined market segments for residents across Waltham Forest (the type of activities people participate in) there are some key findings for pitch sports participation. These are:
- out of the top six market segments with the highest population in Waltham Forest the top two – Kev and Jamie are market segments which participate in pitch sports – which is effectively football. These two market segments make up 19% of the total Waltham Forest population in 2011;
 - the top market segments are very consistent with the population profile for Waltham Forest. The 2 five-year age bands between 25 - 34 have the 1st, and 2nd highest numbers of people in Waltham Forest, out of the 19 five-year age bands. Whilst the 35 – 39 age band is the 4th largest age group in Waltham Forest. These age groups are represented by Jamie and Kev;
 - out of the top six market segments in population terms in Waltham Forest, the four remaining do not play pitch sports, excepting a very small interest in football by the Leanne market segment. These remaining four top market segments make up 22.6% of the total Waltham Forest population in 2011; and
 - the top four market segments for playing of pitch sports are Ben, Jamie, Kev and Tim. In 2011 these four market segments make up a very high 25% of the total Waltham Forest population. Furthermore these market segments with the exception of Kev have higher than the national average rates of sports participation for the sports they play. Some 28% of Jamie and 33% of Ben play football, compared with 4% of adults nationally;

- so there is very high football participation level by young adult males. The two market segments of Ben and Jamie play football in organised leagues and their interest in sports participation is for competition and achievement – not fun, recreational activity. Sport is an important part of their life, as it is for Tim, another of the pitch sports market segments but football is not a high choice of activity for this segment;
- in referring to pitch sports it is virtually exclusively football and this is the sport where the participation level is projected. The only other pitch sport mentioned is cricket and this is listed as another sport in which the market segments participate. There is a very big geographical concentration of Kev across Waltham Forest. Right across the whole southern half of the borough is effectively the area for Kev, with the exception of two areas to the East and centre of the southern half of the borough where Jamie is the dominant market segment; and
- so based on matching where football participants live, with pitch sites for football, it is the southern half of the borough which brings this together.

1.14 The table below summarises the community teams participating in each sport within the borough.

Community Teams in Waltham Forest

Sport	Number of Teams
Adult Football	114
Junior Football	72
Mini Football	24
Total Football	210 (67% of all teams)
Adult Cricket	53
Junior Cricket	14
Total Cricket	67 (21% of all teams)
Adult rugby	7
Junior rugby	13
Total Rugby	20 (6% of all teams)
Adult Hockey	13
Junior Hockey	5
Total Hockey	18 (6% of all teams)
TOTAL	315

- 1.15 The predominance of football in the borough is evident from the table above. There are evidently high levels of demand from younger players, with 41% of the total teams in the borough made up of residents playing youth or mini sport.
- 1.16 Analysis through Sport England’s playing pitch methodology relies heavily on the concept of ‘team generation rates’ (TGRs) – the number of people within each pitch playing age range required to generate one team. The principal figures for Waltham Forest are detailed in the table below:

Team Generation Rates for the Pitch Sports in Waltham Forest

Age group	TGR
Senior male football	449
Junior male football	132
Mini-soccer	537
Junior male cricket	703
Senior male cricket	1,146
Senior male rugby	2,379
Senior male hockey	7,186
Senior female hockey	8,840

- 1.17 Future demand for pitch sports facilities (and sports facilities in general) is comprised of several causal factors, the interaction of which will have a considerable effect on the demand for outdoor sports opportunities within Waltham Forest over the coming years.

Supply Analysis

- 1.18 105 grass playing pitches in total were recorded in Waltham Forest: 51 adult football, 16 junior football, 12 mini soccer pitches, 18 cricket and 8 rugby pitches. Thus, 75% of all pitches are in use for football, 17% are cricket pitches and 8% are rugby pitches.
- 1.19 The total area of land marked out as grass pitches in Waltham Forest has been calculated at 94.7 hectares: 27 hectares as cricket pitches, almost 10 hectares as rugby pitches and the remainder – some 63 hectares – in use as football pitches (this includes a small element of double counting as there are shared grounds where football pitches are on the cricket outfield.). Hockey is now almost exclusively played on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitches) and is therefore not included in this analysis.
- 1.20 There are currently six full size AGPs in Waltham Forest. Two are on school sites: Walthamstow Academy (full community use) and Highams Park School (no community use); two are owned by the London Playing Fields Foundation, one is run by a charity – SCORE and one is owned by the local authority, at Drapers Field. There is a slightly below full size AGP at Low Hall. The study also

records at least 22 variously sized and surfaced multi use games areas (MUGAs) across the borough, on public, commercial and school sites. .

- 1.21 For all types of pitch (and for changing facilities), quality has been measured through site assessments carried out in line with the assessment matrix provided in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. These assessments are non technical assessments designed to provide an overview of pitch quality and the degree to which facilities are fit for purpose and take into account such characteristics as pitch slope, evenness and grass cover. They do not include many of the criteria that are apparent to pitch users i.e. pitch drainage, bounce of ball, 'play' of a wicket.
- 1.22 Out of the 49 football, cricket and rugby pitch sites visited, 57% (28) were assessed as very good; 24% (12) as good and 18% (9) as satisfactory. No pitches were assessed to be in the poor, very poor or unsatisfactory categories.
- 1.23 The overall quality of changing accommodation at council run pitch sites in Waltham Forest is considered somewhere between fair and good. Changing rooms are generally tidy and adequate, but not often too appealing or inspiring.
- 1.24 Key issues in terms of the supply of pitches across Waltham Forest include:
 - a variety of grounds and providers, with the majority of sites owned by the local authority (56%), but with the London Playing Fields Foundation making a significant contribution to overall stock (over 25%);
 - 90% of grass pitches have secured community use; and there is a high proportion of shared sites (out of 27 sites, 10 are shared between football and cricket to the extent that the sports cannot take place concurrently; football matches at the start and end of the season have to be rescheduled and there is insufficient time for reinstatement between the winter and summer sports);
 - the dominance of football as both a land use and team generator is highlighted - 75% of all pitches are for football and over two thirds of teams play football;
 - increasing commercial presence in the provision of facilities, particularly artificial surfaces for small sided soccer i.e. Goals! and Wadham Lodge;
 - there are a number of local authority sites with low numbers of pitches: Low Hall is the notable exception, with 14 football and 3 cricket pitches;
 - the juxtaposition of grass and artificial surfaces on the same site is becoming more prevalent (e.g. Wadham Lodge) and will be feature of provision in the future;
 - there are very few grass pitches on school sites (whether in secured or unsecured use); consequently schools make heavy use of off-site playing pitch facilities. Schools make a greater contribution to artificial surface provision;

- low levels of supply of land in playing pitch use in the South Sub Area of the borough; only 4.8 hectares in total, equivalent to 0.06 hectares per thousand population. The Central Sub Area has 0.61 hectares per thousand population and the North Sub Area has 0.48 hectares per thousand;
- out of the 49 football, cricket and rugby pitch sites afforded a visual site inspection, 57% (28) were assessed as very good; 24% (12) as good and 18% (9) were satisfactory. However, consultation with clubs, local leagues and development officers highlighted widespread concerns about the quality of playing pitches, particularly those in local authority ownership in the north and centre of the borough;
- almost all changing facilities were assessed as being good or very good through the visual site inspection; however the majority of local authority changing facilities, although adequate, are generally uninspiring and require basic updating and freshening up;
- in particular, there is an under provision of appropriate, separate changing facilities for junior players and for women and girls (both players and officials);
- team generation rates (the number of people in a given age range required to generate a team) for football, cricket, rugby and hockey are all higher than average(nationwide); this suggests some elements of latent demand;
- the prominence of football is also reflected in the proportion of pitch sport teams – two thirds of which are in football;
- there is some movement of clubs out of the borough, notably for junior teams who play in central venue leagues based at Wanstead Flats, Redbridge and a small number of Sunday morning teams playing at Hackney Marshes. It is difficult to quantify how much of the movement out of the borough is due to shortage of pitches; it has not emerged as a major issue, other than for higher league clubs who cannot meet ground requirements from their leagues within Waltham Forest. There are a small number of teams which originate outside the borough but play within it (mainly to fulfill league catchment criteria). This level of transfer of teams is to be expected, given the borough's location within north east London; and
- there are currently six full size AGPs in the borough (and on just under-sized), one pitch will also soon be out of use; surface types are being changed and a challenge is to meet shortfalls in demand for AGPs whilst accommodating all sports' needs.

Analysis of Supply and Demand

- 1.25 As set out in the supply analysis above football is the predominate pitch type across the borough the supply and demand analysis set out below therefore highlights the key supply and demand issues for football across the borough on a sub-area basis, as set out in the map below.



Sub Area Summary

North Sub Area:

- Current Situation: There is a small deficit of junior pitches but no opportunity for remarking of adult pitches. The current situation shows 1.5 surplus adult pitches at peak time, but with a stock of 9 adult pitches, at least two of which are of poorer quality, this is insufficient to allow for rest and recovery.
- Future Situation: In 2020, with no increase in participation rates, the area will be in an absolute shortfall situation, with a shortfall of over one junior pitch

and nominally one adult pitch spare at peak time. Any increases in participation will not have enough pitches to accommodate them. There appear to be sufficient mini pitches but participation increases are calculated from a low base; more pitches would increase opportunities for younger children starting football.

Recommendations for North Sub Area:

- To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock):
 - 6 pitches: 2 adult, 4 junior and 2 mini pitches

Central Sub Area:

- Current Situation: There is no shortfall overall on Sunday mornings because the peak day for juniors is not competing with the peak day for adults (despite the heavy use of Low Hall, only 23% of play takes place on Sunday mornings). However, despite the large number of pitches (34 adult and 5 junior) there is an absolute shortfall in the Central sub area because the peak day shortfall of junior pitches (14.9) cannot be met by the peak day surplus of adult pitches (12.1). In addition, several adult pitches are not sustaining 2 games a week on a regular basis.
- Some of the adult pitches – possibly 6 or so – could be re-marked as junior pitches, but there still needs to be enough spare adult pitches for rest and recovery and to allow for increases in population.
- Future Situation: the shortfalls will intensify as by 2020, without any increases in participation, the shortfall of junior pitches at peak time will have risen to 17 and the surplus of adult pitches at peak time reduced to 9.5.

Recommendations for Central Sub Area:

- To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock):
 - 12-14 pitches: 2 adult, 6-8 junior pitches range of varying sizes(if some of these are met by remarking of adult pitches, adequacy of adult pitch stock to be reappraised); 4 mini pitches

South Sub Area:

- Current Situation: There are so few pitches here and teams playing that any detailed analysis is not meaningful, as research indicates that there is suppressed and latent demand here. The sub area is already in a shortfall situation: the level of provision is considerably below that in other parts of the borough (if TGRs are applied); for the population size, the level of provision is insufficient; local teams are playing elsewhere in the borough and there is a

waiting list for the existing community pitches. Nominally there is a shortage of one junior pitch and just half an adult pitch spare at peak time. If the borough-wide TGRs were applied to the population in the south sub area, this would indicate around 28 junior teams and over 50 senior teams; depending on the pattern of play this would require at least 7-8 junior pitches and 12 adult pitches, when there are just 2 junior and 3 adult recorded. Any net loss of grass pitch provision in the south area should therefore be resisted.

- Future Situation: The situation will be exacerbated, with no spare capacity at all at peak times for adult football and a growing shortage for junior and mini soccer. In addition, the growth in population through the North Olympic Fringe and the Olympic Park will increase pressure on pitch resources; it is possible some of these could be met through playing at Hackney Marshes, but there are plans to increase junior development here and it is not evident that pitches will have spare capacity in the future.
- To meet current and predicted shortfalls and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock):
 - 4 adult, 6 - 8 junior pitches, 4 mini pitches

1.26 Total Pitch requirements: 8 adult; 20 junior and 10 mini pitches.

Recommendations and Action Plan

Football Recommendations

1.26 The analysis for football shows the following:

- At peak time for junior football (Sunday mornings), and assuming that junior teams play on appropriately sized pitches, a further 16.4 junior pitches are required borough wide (in practice junior teams play on adult pitches). This cannot be fully met by (reassigning) the 14.1 adult pitches which are not being used at peak time for adult play (Saturday afternoons); there is therefore an overall shortfall within the borough of 2.3 pitches. The shortfall in junior pitches is particularly acute in the central sub area. The north sub area can meet current demand if all pitches are playable but only with one pitch spare at peak times, which is not sufficient for rest and recovery (10%).
- The south sub area has an overall shortfall situation; moreover it is considered that demand here is suppressed because of the lack of pitches and that more pitches are required to release latent demand. Even accepting that players from the south of the borough will join teams which play in the central and north sub areas, the number of teams playing in the south is very low. If the borough wide team generation rates are applied to the population in the south sub area, this indicates around 28 junior teams and over 50 senior teams; depending on the pattern of play this would require at least 7-8 junior pitches and 12 adult pitches (currently 2 junior and 3 adult recorded). In addition, residents from the proposed growth areas will increase pressure on pitch resources.

- The shortfall in pitches is exacerbated by the poor drainage of several local authority grounds in the centre of the borough. There is a need to improve the quality and therefore carrying capacity of these local authority pitches, to overcome the problem of waterlogging which results in cancellations to pitches on sites in the north and centre of the borough and consequent rescheduling of matches to local authority sites in the centre/south (Low Hall). In the longer term the aim should be to enable all pitches to sustain greater levels of play and to allow spare capacity of around 10% for rest and recovery.
- There is scope to redesignate some adult pitches as junior pitches – to create a range of sizes for progression in junior teams – (for example, with an overall surplus of 14.1 adult pitches at peak time, up to 6 could be redesignated as junior). However, this strategy is dependent upon the remaining pitches being of sufficient quality to sustain at least two matches a week.
- The priority to meet existing deficiencies is to address the shortfall in junior pitches which is inhibiting junior development, particularly in the central sub area; this will also ease the pressure on adult pitches.

1.27 While it is important to ensure that deficiencies are met for each sport and each pitch type, some degree of spare capacity is an integral part of playing pitch provision for the following reasons:

- to accommodate latent and future demand for existing pitch sport teams;
- to enable the transfer of participants from casual and informal use to established teams;
- to enable the development of new clubs and teams;
- to cater for the development / expansion of new pitch sports (such as mini-soccer and ‘tag’ rugby, new forms of hockey and junior cricket); and
- to accommodate backlogs and for rest and recovery periods.

1.28 This is normally addressed through the inclusion of an additional 10% pitch supply to allow for ‘rest and recovery’ of pitches and this figure has been taken into account in developing the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.24.

Football – Other Recommendations

1.29 For football, pitch quality remains a key issue; comments from clubs focus on the (perceived) lack of a maintenance regime. All parties recognise the problems caused by the clay soils and poor drainage in the north and centre of the borough, but the cancellations which ensue place great pressure on pitches further south, particularly at Low Hall. However, clubs feel that there is still a considerable amount which can be done to improve the maintenance regime and general upkeep of the pitches.

- 1.30 Consultation highlights that price is increasingly a key issue at local authority and other sites and that this, as much as sports development initiatives, will have an impact on future levels of provision. More and more clubs are struggling to find money from subscriptions to meet not only the cost of pitch hire, but also kit costs, refs fees and FA fines.
- 1.31 Changing facilities do not appear to be a huge issue for clubs (if the pitches are considered satisfactory, teams are generally happy with changing facilities). However, there were many comments about the fact that the Low Hall changing rooms (which were originally built for schools) are very small for senior sides and that changing facilities at other council owned sites could be smartened up and upgraded, probably for minimal cost. In addition, the requirements for accommodating juniors alongside adults and for catering for women and girls – both as players and officials – are increasingly important to meet basic standards of appropriateness, safety and security and necessary to attract and retain players of all ages and from all sectors of the community.
- 1.32 For junior clubs, the lack of pitches is a key concern. There is no room for expansion in the number of teams and club development, or space to address the lack of playing opportunities for U17s and U18s. Furthermore, the way in which football is played is changing; the introduction of 9v9 soccer (mandatory by 2012) will alter the demand for junior pitches, as 9v9 teams will require the provision of a different sized pitch: 80 yds x 90 yds for U11s and U12s and 90 yds x 50 yds for U13s and U14s. In order to deliver this and to introduce range of grass pitch sizes particularly for mini (7v7), 9v9, and junior (11v11) pitches, with appropriate sized goals at certain locations; consideration to be given to the following:
- new site in south of the borough;
 - Low Hall (providing capacity of adult pitches elsewhere in the borough are improved);
 - Parmiters and Cavendish Sports Ground; and
 - Blades and Salisbury Hall Playing Fields
- 1.33 In order to develop progression through the sport, hierarchies of provision to ensure that the full range of facilities are accessible and available within the borough should be developed, this should include action to:
- seek to secure Leyton Stadium for the borough;
 - liaise with London Playing Fields Foundation and Matchplay (Wadham Lodge) to improve opportunities for progression;
 - consider alterations/improvements at Salisbury Hall Playing Fields to enable a higher league-compliant/stadium pitch at this site; and
 - bring Ive Farm back into use as a higher grade ground.

- 1.34 The development of club bases is also important for many clubs across the borough and this should feature as part of the authority's Asset Transfer policy. There are a number of clubs that have expressed a desire to have greater control over their pitches and/or a ground where they can consolidate their teams and create a formal club base. These aspirations may not always be realistic but should be considered as part of the legitimate demand for pitches in the borough. Priorities include:
- the desire for the only Community Charter Standard Club north of the river in London (LOASS based at Low Hall) to avail itself of a venue with several pitches to develop the standard of play of its senior sides and progress its junior teams;
 - the desire of Castle FC, currently playing at Score AGP, to have its own ground to develop a range of youth sides;
 - the desire of more senior clubs (such as Hale End Athletic, Mauritious Sports Assn) to have their own grounds;
 - identifying a central venue site within the borough particularly for after school fixtures;
 - provision of site as central venue/hub site for school use (junior pitches; AGP; classroom facility; safe, secure site; floodlit) potentially Drapers Field or Marsh Lane; and
 - provision of site with floodlit 3g AGP (in association with school); range of junior and senior pitches (Drapers Field or Marsh Lane).
- 1.35 The FA are also keen to support the use of 3g pitches to accommodate match play. It seems indisputable that the use of artificial turf surfaces for mini, junior and senior matches will increase in the future; although at present the extent and rate of this are still unknown quantities. This has been taken into account for recommendations for future provision, along with the need for an improved range of 3g surfaces for training either at existing or on new sites. However, the affordability of these facilities will be a key factor in ensuring sustainable levels of use.
- 1.36 Key issues for the authority to address for football, within the context of the population increases and targeted participation increases, therefore include:
- the current shortfalls in provision for junior football, across all three sub areas;
 - the current shortfalls in provision for mini football, particularly in the central and south sub areas;
 - the need for sufficient adult pitches to enable rest and recovery, particularly in the north and south of the borough and to meet suppressed demand in the south of the borough;

- the quality and capacity of local authority pitches, notably in the centre and north of the borough;
- the quality and suitability of changing facilities for the current market; particularly ensuring appropriate male/female split in changing rooms and for growing activity in matchplay and refereeing from women and girls;
- the cost of maintaining sites in the context of the challenging economic environment; and
- the implications of changing demands in participation with the introduction of 9v9 pitches and the desire of the governing bodies to increase use of 3g pitches for match play.

Cricket Recommendations

1.37 The playing pitch methodology reveals the following:

Shortfalls and surpluses in cricket pitch provision: Current Situation and 2020

Shortfalls / surpluses of pitches					
Sub Area	Current Numbers of pitches	Current Situation (2010/2011)	Projected 2020 No increase in participation	Projected 2020 2% increase in participation	Projected 2020 5% increase in participation
North	5	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5
Central	10	0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8
South	1	-0.8	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1
Total	16	-0.1	-1.5	-2.4	-2.4

1.38 With 18 pitches across the borough, there is a surplus equivalent to two cricket pitches at peak time (Sundays), although a shortfall within the south sub area. If only 16 of these pitches are marked out, as is understood this season, then there is a slight borough wide shortfall at peak time (0.1 of a pitch), with a shortfall in the south and less than one pitch spare in both the north and central sub areas. This is the scenario which is shown in the above table.

1.39 At some grounds, there are difficulties in incorporating junior matches; in practice the clubs concerned play fixtures regularly at additional grounds (Chingford CC; Walthamstow CC), or reschedule extra matches to alternative sites (Leyton

County CC to Low Hall), or use more than one pitch on the same site (West Essex CC at Rolls).

- 1.40 Moreover with adult play spread evenly across the weekend, there is little capacity for matches to be rescheduled to cope with the Sunday peak time shortfall.

Recommendations for New Pitch Provision

- 1.41 In order to sustain existing levels of play and avoid a shortfall situation with no capacity for growth, to reinstate the third pitch at Low Hall and the pitch at Salisbury Hall (whilst improving quality), to provide 18 pitches in total.
- 1.42 In order to meet growth in demand to 2020, it is recommended that an additional 2 pitches be provided, one to serve the south/central south part of the borough; the other to serve the north/central north, There is an existing shortfall in the south of the borough and addressing this is regarded as a priority, perhaps through the provision of an artificial wicket on a new site.

Cricket – Other Recommendations

- 1.43 Quality of the cricket pitches emerged as an issue, with many clubs using local authority grounds very dissatisfied with the wickets, in some cases perceived to be too dangerous to allow youth play.
- 1.44 A priority should be to improve the quality of the existing pitches at council grounds, particularly Britannia, Low Hall, Parmiters and Cavendish and Rolls to maintain the existing level of provision and amount of play and ensure that the pitches do not deteriorate further.
- 1.45 Analysis of cricket participation indicates that there are some very active clubs within Waltham Forest and a solid basis of cricketing activity, but that junior development depends heavily on the involvement and time from voluntary clubs
- 1.46 There is only one cricket pitch in the south of the borough, which is very well used and an historic ground, but has to share its ground with other uses, and has fairly frequently to reschedule matches to other sites,.
- 1.47 Waltham Forest Council has received requests from cricket clubs which it cannot accommodate. The principal site for cricket in the borough – at Peter May – even with 4 pitches – is at capacity busy, although two of these pitches do accommodate clubs and teams from out of the borough, acting as an overflow facility.
- 1.48 Key issues for the authority to address for cricket, within the context of the population increases and targeted participation increases, therefore include:
- a shortfall in provision, given population increases and targeted participation increases;

- the poor (perceived) quality of some local authority pitches which may be suppressing demand;
- the level of use that some pitches receive currently, and the subsequent impact on the quality of provision;
- the provision of (improved) cricket net facilities at key sites within the borough particularly hub sites;
- future maintenance of cricket wickets in the context of the challenging economic environment; and
- the role of public sites in providing for cricket in the longer term and the contribution of local authority sites to the hierarchy of provision for cricket.

Rugby Recommendations

Shortfalls and surpluses in rugby pitch provision: Current Situation and 2020

Shortfalls / surpluses of pitches					
Sub Area	Current Numbers of pitches	Current Situation (2010/2011)	Projected 2020 No increase in participation	Projected 2020 2% increase in participation	Projected 2020 5% increase in participation
Total	6	-0.5	-1.1	-1.2	-1.4

- 1.49 The Playing Pitch Methodology indicates a small shortfall in rugby provision (of 0.5 pitch) within the borough, currently addressed by Woodford RFC hiring two pitches within Redbridge. The lack of accessible, high quality pitches is suppressing demand and ideally the club would require additional pitches, with clubhouse facilities nearer to its home ground (adjacent to Woodford High School).
- 1.50 Additional demand for pitches, unrelated to club sites, has not emerged as an issue, although new development in the centre and south of the borough may result in the generation of new teams and the borough should aspire to increasing rugby pitch provision should opportunities arise.

Recommendations for New Pitch Provision

- 1.51 To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock):
- Between 2 – 4 additional rugby pitches;

Suitable sites for development should be sought close to existing club sites, particularly Woodford RFC.

Rugby – Other Recommendations

- 1.52 The drainage of Woodford RFC's second pitch (leased from the council) is inhibiting capacity to accommodate matches at the main club base.
- 1.53 The other issues for rugby relate to making the existing club bases sustainable, and attractive to both junior and senior players. In Chingford RFC's case this means improved changing and social facilities at Lee Valley playing fields, particularly to cater for youth sides; whilst for Woodford RFC, issues concern the lack of basic changing facilities at the second ground and the fact that so many teams have to be regularly accommodated away from the main site. Potential exists to work with Woodford to look at extending the lease and secure investment to improve pitch and ancillary accommodation; potentially transferring the assets to the club to enable investment and long term sustainability.

Hockey Recommendations

- 1.54 With proposed changes to the surface of artificial grass pitches within the borough coming to fruition, it is considered that there will be insufficient facilities to meet current usage levels and any growth (which may occur) in demand for hockey. The two remaining AGPs – at Walthamstow Academy and Peter May will not be sufficient to meet demand for hockey in the future; whilst new facilities are proposed at Eton Manor, post-Olympics, it is not clear to what extent these will be able to accommodate, or be suitable for, demand from the two existing clubs, although they do present an opportunity for hockey and discussions should be encouraged. Subject to further discussions it is recommended that at least one new hockey appropriate surfaced AGP is provided within the borough.
- 1.55 Other issues relate to the need for one of the two main hockey clubs in the borough to have a club base adjacent to an appropriate artificial grass pitch and for any new artificial grass pitches to have surfaces which can accommodate hockey at a recreational level.

Artificial Grass Pitches Recommendations

- 1.56 Overall, based on the detailed supply and demand assessment and to retain a higher level of Waltham Forest demand at pitches within the borough, the recommendation is for long term strategic planning to include a further two full size AGPs.
- 1.57 Depending on changing patterns of (especially) football play, the need to possibly create dedicated centres for particular sports at one site (e.g. for hockey) and provide for football development and coaching, the actual type of further AGP provision could vary. This could be: a combination of small sided games areas, dedication of any existing site for development of junior football e.g. in the south of the borough and provision of one full size new AGP for

hockey. In short, the projected demand for two full size AGPs in the future is based on supply and demand, but this has to be completely integrated with the development of both pitch sports and clubs and site management, as determined by the borough to decide on the best locations to meet this demand.

Recommendations for AGPs

1.58 To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 :

- Two new AGPs, one of which has a surface appropriate for competition level hockey

1.59 **AGPs:** Demand from hockey will just be met through AGP provision, the detailed summary of which is set out in the evidence base. The strategy does identify growth in demand from hockey and existing demand which will not be able to be met once the AGP at Douglas Eyre changes to a 3g surface. It is therefore recommended two additional pitches, one for hockey.

Action Plan

1.60 Generic recommendations are derived from the detailed programme of analysis and consultation, discussions with the Council as well as calculations and scenario testing using the methodology set out in Towards a Level Playing Field, a guide to the preparation of playing pitch strategies. All contribute to the achievement of the key objectives of the study and seek to address the issues identified. Together, these priorities and recommendations should guide decision making on the future delivery of playing pitches across the borough.

1.61 The key issues identified through the Strategy research and the recommendations to address these are set out below. Each recommendation will contribute to the achievement of the Strategy Vision, which is:

“A 10 year Playing Pitch Strategy that is fit for purpose throughout the periods of sub regional developments and transformation phases of the Olympic Park and the Lower Lee Valley and the challenges these bring for social inclusion, healthier lifestyles and the changing needs of the community.”

1.62 The Action Plan sets out the generic recommendations across the borough and has been developed around a series of key outcomes agreed with the authority. These will in turn be delivered through implementing a series of Action Plans. The outcomes reflect what is important to the authority and have been developed to reflect the Action Plan for the Open Space Strategy 2010-13. The lead officer, deadline and resource requirements are to be updated by the authority on an ongoing basis to ensure the strategy is deliverable in practicable terms. Sport specific recommendations are set out previously.

Action Plan 2011-2016: Playing Pitch Strategy

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
1. Protect and Enhance Existing Playing Pitch Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to protect all pitches currently in use and all playing field sites identified as potentially being able to meet deficiencies identified in this strategy. 	Development Mgmt Spatial Planning		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally adopt recommended standards of provision as a basis for protecting and improving playing field provision and providing the basis for developer contributions policies within the LDF (see Planning Policy Section). 	Spatial Planning		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review asset management arrangements and examine the longer term options for management of playing pitches by the voluntary sector (and/or schools in partnership) as part of an Asset Transfer policy to ensure long-term protection and sustainability of sites e.g. working with football clubs, Woodford RFC. 	Property		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a means of protecting and enhancing provision consider how to work effectively with other providers, particularly London Playing Fields Foundation and commercial operators – to improve the experience overall for pitch sport users, encourage family groups and provide complementary facilities and develop hierarchies of provision. 	Sport and Leisure		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put in place monitoring and review procedures to keep the strategy updated and refreshed as set out in paragraphs 1.75 to 1.80. 	Sport and Leisure Green Spaces Spatial Planning		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
<p>2. Seek to increase the number of Playing Pitches and Sites to meet identified deficiencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football Total: 8 adult; 20 junior and 10 mini pitches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations for North Sub Area: To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock): 6 pitches: 2 adult, 4 junior and 2 mini pitches - Recommendations for Central Sub Area: To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock): 12-14 pitches: 2 adult, 6-8 junior pitches (range of varying sizes- if some of these are met by remarking of adult pitches, adequacy of adult pitch stock to be reappraised); 4 mini pitches - Recommendations for South Sub Area: To meet current and predicted shortfalls and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock): 4 adult, 6-8 junior pitches, 4 mini pitches 	<p>Sport and Leisure Green Spaces Spatial Planning</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to sustain existing levels of play and avoid a shortfall situation with no capacity for growth, to reinstate the third pitch at Low Hall and the pitch at Salisbury Hall (whilst improving quality), to provide 18 pitches in total. 	<p>Green Spaces Spatial Planning</p>		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to meet growth in demand to 2020, it is recommended that an additional 2 cricket pitches be provided, one to serve the south/central south part of the borough; the other to serve the north/central north, There is an existing shortfall in the south of the borough and addressing this is regarded as a priority, perhaps through the provision of an artificial wicket on a new site. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 and allow for adequate rest and recovery (10% of pitch stock) between 2 – 4 additional rugby pitches will be required. - Suitable sites for development should be sought close to existing club sites, particularly Woodford RFC. 	Strategic Planning Sport and Leisure		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet current and predicted shortfalls to 2020 seek to deliver two new AGPs, one of which has a surface appropriate for competition level hockey. 	Strategic Planning Sport and Leisure Green Spaces		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to address deficiencies and enhancements through better use of existing resources and the planning system, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximising the use of existing playing field land (realignment/relocation of pitches etc); - redesignation of pitches from senior to junior 	Green Spaces Strategic Planning		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> where appropriate; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the capacity of existing playing field sites, through provision of changing facilities; and - bringing underused playing field areas into use through provision or remarking of pitches. • Site recommendations set out in Planning Policy section. 			
3. Improve the quality of existing Playing Pitch Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to improve existing maintenance regimes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seek to improve the quality of Council pitch sites by, in the first instance, investing in appropriate machinery to support the maintenance of the sites. Priority order to be assessed; in general cricket pitches in the first instance; and - address the perception of low programme of maintenance and reinstatement of pitches during the close season. 	Green Spaces		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the site assessment work as a starting point, develop a prioritisation matrix for site by site investment. Seek to commission further work by the STRI to support this work. Undertake assessments by the Sports Turf Research Institute of the quality of the following LBWF pitches, to appraise the potential for improvements to drainage and thus overall pitch quality and capacity. 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority focus for the work to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low Hall – reinstatement work - Blades Playing Fields - Britannia Playing Fields (2 no. pitches) - Broadfields Playing Fields (2 no. pitches) - Jubilee Sports Ground (2 no. pitches) - Rolls Sports Ground (2 no. pitches) - Salisbury Hall Playing Fields (4 no. pitches) Cricket <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Britannia Playing Fields (1 no. pitches) - Low Hall Sports Ground (2 no. pitches) - Rolls Sports Ground (2 no. pitches) - Salisbury Hall Playing Fields (1 no. pitches) Rugby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodford RFC leased pitch 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to develop and undertake a programme of investment in ancillary and changing facilities • Programme of investment should focus on addressing the following key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - simultaneous junior and senior play; - play by women and girls; - referee and officials changing (for both men and women); and - disability access. 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Development Mgmt		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim should be to undertake improvements to achieve a 'good' standard using Sport England accepted 'quality assessment techniques.' Developer tariffs from nearby growth areas might be justifiably invested in such improvements where it can be shown that there is convenient access and likelihood of use by new residents. • All LBWF sites require consideration however priorities should focus in the first instance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jubilee Sports Ground; - Parmiters and Cavendish Playing Fields; - The Rolls Sports Ground; - Britannia Playing Fields; - Low Hall (increase size of changing rooms); - Lee Valley Playing Fields (Chingford RFC); and - Broadfields Playing Fields. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work towards provision of high quality, secure, welcoming, integrated, intensive use facilities on playing field sites, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making sites more family friendly - co-location of floodlit artificial grass and natural grass pitches wherever possible; - appropriate quality changing; - good access; and - co-location/partnerships between public, voluntary and private providers in close proximity link to hub club development at 	Strategic Planning Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Development Mgmt		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	sites prioritised sites.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of investment on key MUGA sites around the borough. 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Development Mgmt		
4. Maximise Access and Usage of Playing Pitch Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop those sites which are sustainable and in close proximity to good changing facilities, MUGAs or artificial surfaces and/or schools. 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Spatial Planning		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on shared grounds and good access to artificial surfaces through the development of multi sport hub sites for matches and training For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury Hall Playing Fields (upgrade MUGA – enlarge to full size; cricket pitch (reinstate); provide cricket nets, existing 4 football pitches; proximity to Goals!; provide ‘stadium’ pitch for higher league club); Low Hall (upgrade MUGAs to 3g; enlarge changing; cricket and football pitches-improved maintenance regime, provision of cricket nets); Drapers Field and/or Marsh Lane (provide AGP/MUGAs; provide range junior and senior football pitches; good changing at Drapers Field, needs improving at Marsh Lane); and Jubilee (upgrade MUGA to 3g; improve cricket pitch; provision of cricket nets, improve drainage of football pitches). 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Spatial Planning		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider improvements and increasing access to existing school pitches (grass and artificial) where possible (for example by the provision of changing rooms at Mayville School to facilitate wider community use. 	Childrens Services Sport and Leisure		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that facilities on school sites are, from the outset, designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use. 	Childrens Services Property Major Projects		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the upgrading or renewal of existing facilities does not result in the loss of opportunities for any sport. 	Sport and Leisure Development Mgmt		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the most efficient use is made of available space within existing and new playing field sites. 	Development Mgmt Green Spaces Sport and Leisure		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and supporting floodlighting of all new outdoor artificial surfaces to an appropriate level and to revisit existing facilities for possible upgrading. 	Development Mgmt Spatial Planning Sport and Leisure		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve pitch booking arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establish a strategy for booking that, whilst promoting the development of club bases (i.e. all teams in a club playing at one site), ensures efficient use of all pitches; review pitch booking regulations to ensure that use of pitches is rotated, and set a minimum / maximum allowance (suggestion 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure Childrens Services		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<p>of two games per pitch) to promote consistent use of all pitches;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to consider the provision of a casual on-line booking system so that last minute bookings can be accommodated; - consider partnerships with other providers to provide a 'one stop' information centre in Waltham Forest on facilities, availability, hire costs etc; - more flexible, on-site booking procedures wherever possible, to encourage casual bookings and address problem of unauthorised use; and - consideration of joint management between schools and clubs etc. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure when improvements to sites are undertaken that enhanced physical access to all members of the community are addressed, particularly in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving car parking; - disability car parking spaces; - ensure all changing facilities are DDA compliant; - ensure all playing field sites on bus routes; - ensure all playing field sites linked by cycleways, with adequate, safe and secure bike storage options; and - all new playing field sites to meet minimum accessibility criteria as set out in Standards of Provision. 	Sport and Leisure Development Mgmt		

Outcome	Action Milestones	Lead Officer/Agency	Deadline for Completion	Additional Resources Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review pitch pricing policy to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consideration to be given to the introduction of concessionary rates for e.g. Charter Standard Clubs and disabled users; - review pricing issues for Saturday and Sunday football; and - to address the issue of pricing of schools' use, to see if any more concessionary rates can be applied. 	Green Spaces Sport and Leisure		

Standard and Design of Playing Pitches

1.63 To aid the development of strategic options and to provide an evidence base and focus for policies and priorities within the Waltham Forest Local Development Framework, set out in the Evidence Base, are detailed planning policy considerations, these flow from the Action Plan and seek to translate the actions into planning policy recommendations around 2 key planning policy themes:

- A Existing level of provision to be protected and enhanced.
- B Proposals for new provision.

1.64 Standards of Provision have also been developed as set out below.

Standards of Provision

Local Standards

1.65 Local standards should include:

- quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- a qualitative component (against which to measure the need for the enhancement of existing facilities); and
- formatting accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

1.66 Local standards will:

- underpin negotiations with developers over contributions and tariffs towards new and enhanced pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments;
- provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision;
- assist in protecting land in playing field use; and
- assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.

1.67 Such standards can be used to determine the requirements of new developments, as well as to evaluate improvements required to the existing facility stock. The growth that is forecast in Waltham Forest means that ensuring appropriate contributions from new developments will be essential if the facility stock is to meet the needs of the population.

Quantity Standards

1.68 The playing pitch methodology outlines where current shortfalls and surpluses exist for each type of sport and suggests potential solutions to ensure that provision meets the needs of the community. It takes into account the additional pitches needed (or surplus pitches identified) to meet demand and calculates the

area of this required level of provision. Given that it is derived directly from a robust calculation of local need, it is compliant with the principles of PPG17.

1.69 The following table gives the existing hectareage per thousand population (A); the proposed standard for 2020, taking account of land required to provide recommended new pitches (B) plus an allowance for ancillary facilities (C). (It is estimated that around 0.04 ha/000 land is required to service the recommended playing pitch provision, including changing rooms/pavilions, car parking and access provision.), When totalled, B and C give the proposed standard of provision.

Proposed local standards for playing pitch provision for secured community use - expressed as hectares per 1,000 population

Sub Area	A Existing hectareage of land in playing pitch use with SCU	B Existing level of provision (Ha/000)	C Additional hectareage of land required	D Total hectareage of land required to 2020	E Pitch standard for 2020 (Ha/000)	F Plus land for ancillary services (Ha/000)	G Total Standard (Ha/000)
North	29.82	0.48	7.04	36.86	0.56	0.04	0.60
Central	50.10	0.60	11.38	61.48	0.67	0.04	0.71
South	4.8	0.06	10.78	15.58	0.17	0.04	0.21
Borough wide	86.04	0.37	29.2	113.92	0.46	0.04	0.50

Quality Standards

1.70 When determining the required quality of pitches, it is important to consider:

- the standard of play at the site and expectations of users(including league requirements);
- the demand on the site (the number of games played per week);
- the need to facilitate concurrent usage by young people, women and other target groups through appropriate ancillary facilities;
- facility specifications from National Governing Body (NGB) strategies;
- the safety and security of sites and aspirations of users, especially where youth activity is concerned. Ideally to look at all new provision to embrace: grass and artificial grass pitch provision to facilitate training; floodlighting; appropriate ancillary and changing facilities; safe, secure site; shelter and learning space; and
- the development of a hierarchy of provision, ensuring that there are higher grade grounds available to meet the requirements of higher leagues.

Design of sites

- 1.71 The provision of one sole pitch is not viable. The minimum size for new pitch provision - the most viable and efficient form, able to support the necessary ancillary facilities such as changing and parking - is a minimum of two pitches on a site of at least two hectares. Wherever possible new provision should be designed and laid out to provide the potential for shared use on a seasonal basis by both cricket and winter pitch sports. The minimum ideal provision is for 2 winter and 1 cricket pitch. Residue grass should be used for training and/or mini-soccer, together with floodlighting to enable midweek training during the winter. It will be up to the Borough Council to take into consideration the type of site and number of pitches in the preparation of Development Management Policies.
- 1.72 In addition, it is recommended, building on good practice from national guidance and other studies, that:
- new provision should be well related in geographical terms to the population it is intended to serve, particularly to public transport routes, footpaths and cycleways;
 - all new provision should be serviced with appropriate changing accommodation and parking spaces, designed in accordance with Sport England, NGB and NPFA guidance. For example:
 - changing block located close to both pitches for quick access at half-time;
 - a secure equipment /maintenance shed (for goals, flags, mower, etc);
 - orientation of pitches where possible in accordance with NPFA recommendations;
 - social facilities: such facilities make sites more attractive to players and spectators alike and can also be an important revenue generator for clubs; and
 - site suitability and security.
- 1.73 Further guidance on location, layout, design, safety is provided by Sport England, NGBs, NPFA and Football Foundation in their detailed specifications on request.

Accessibility Standard

- 1.74 Consultation undertaken as part of this strategy demonstrates that:
- accessibility standards for playing pitches vary, as the teams using them may come from varying distances, depending on the type of club, teams run, position in the league etc;

- it is desirable that playing pitches are provided relatively local to home. Although the general catchment area for clubs is fairly wide within the borough, 15 minute walk times have been highlighted by Sport England and others as appropriate in meeting demand, especially for junior football;
- accessibility to cricket and rugby pitches is primarily club based and players' expectations are that they will have to travel slightly further;
- usage of AGPs is primarily on 20 minute drivetime catchments but that 20 minute walktime is also appropriate for training and five a side activity (particularly as at least one fifth of visits to full size AGPs in the borough are on foot);
- for smaller MUGAs and tennis courts, which serve a more localised catchment, an accessibility standard of 10 minutes' walk time is recommended;
- maps of AGP provision in the full evidence base and the three sub area maps showing all principal facilities reflect these accessibility standards; and
- where the Borough Council seeks contributions for off-site provision in lieu of direct provision 'on-site' it will be important to demonstrate that facilities on which contributions are proposed to be spent are within convenient reach of residents occupying the developers' housing.

Monitoring and Review

- 1.75 Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the strategy is as important as the creation of the initial strategy and is essential if the strategy is to successfully deliver improved playing pitches over the longer term.
- 1.76 The authority should seek to undertake a five yearly updating of this playing pitch strategy, including, at appropriate times, the rerunning of the electronic playing pitch methodology and to incorporate any revisions to policy within LDF documents.
- 1.77 This would include regularly: (a) updating the supply of pitches (recording when new pitches are provided, pitches undergo a change of use, or a different configuration) and (b) updating the demand for pitches by checking number of teams (ideally in September), through new handbooks and club/league websites.
- 1.78 The Playing Pitch Strategy draws upon participation data collected at a point in time. While this provides a robust basis on which to evaluate current and future issues, it is essential to keep this under review and to monitor changes, and the implications of these changes. Priorities will change over time as new technologies are introduced and patterns of demand alter. Furthermore, it is essential to evaluate the implications of actions taken and the knock on effect on

the overall strategy and its associated priorities. While the strategy vision should therefore remain consistent over the defined period, the action plan should be dynamic and responsive to change.

Monitoring and Review Strategy

1.79 Monitoring and review of this strategy should therefore be undertaken as follows:

- Ongoing monitoring of changes to the pitch stock in the borough (both qualitative and quantitative, using the tools provided as part of this assessment.
- Annual review of participation, with support from National Governing bodies, to identify any key changes to participation trends in the borough, and the likely implications of these changes for the strategy.
- Creation of a steering group to review progress on the strategy delivery and to identify additional priorities, drawing on the data collated as part of the above two actions, to ensure the strategy remains relevant and current.

1.80 Periodical full refresh of the strategy (every five years).

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