



TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY (PPOSS)

ASSESSMENT REPORT

MARCH 2023

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Maintenance Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
TDC	Tendring District Council
TCBGC	Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
SLT	Schools Learning Trust
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORTS FACILITIES & PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was jointly commissioned by Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council (The Councils) to undertake an assessment of all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across each individual authority area to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment Report for Tendring. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports in accordance with Sport England's PPOSS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS (2013) and Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014) (ANOG) used for non-pitch sports. Both guidance documents detail a stepped approach that, for pitch sports, is separated into five distinct stages, with similar stages set out in ANOG:

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
 - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed.
 - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements.
 - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
 - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches.
 - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand.
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
 - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used.
 - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision.
 - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing.
- ◀ Stage D: Framework
 - ◀ Step 9: Develop conclusions & recommendations.
 - ◀ Step 10: Develop an action & implementation plan.
- ◀ Stage E: Implementation
 - ◀ Step 11: Apply and deliver the Framework.
 - ◀ Step 12: Keep the Framework robust and up to date.
 - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS.

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the subsequent Framework document. This Assessment and subsequent Framework will run to 2033, in line with the emerging Local Plan subject to annual monitoring and review taking place. If no review has taken place in three years from the date of the baseline data being collated, then the PPOSS will no longer be considered up to date or robust.

1.2 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

The primary purpose of the PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities meets the local and community needs of both existing and future residents across Tendring. The Strategy has been produced in accordance with national planning guidance and will provide a robust and objective justification for future sporting provision.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 98 discusses the importance of access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

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Why the PPOSS is being developed

Local context

The Councils are joint sponsors of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) development of between 7,000 and 9,000 homes. The community will need to include all the services and facilities required for a development of this size, such as employment spaces, education provision, health and community facilities, and sports, leisure and open space facilities. The Councils therefore require an up-to-date Sport, Recreation and Open Space evidence base, not only for the new community proposed at the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community but for the whole spatial areas of the individual authorities as well. This evidence is to inform the strategic spatial planning and the approach to the provision of sport, recreation and open space facilities in the authority areas, and the Garden Community in particular.

The Councils' studies are intended to be used as supporting documents for the two authorities Local Plan evidence base and to inform planning policy, particularly for the emerging Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community and subsequent planning applications.

Each PPOSS will cover the period up to 2033, in line with the emerging Local Plan periods. In relation to the needs of the Garden Community, some consideration of the phasing of the scheme to 2051 will also be considered.

The main objectives of the strategies (inclusive of the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Study) are to:

- ◀ Identify current supply and demand issues for sport, recreation and open space facilities in the Councils' areas as a whole, based on an audit and assessment of current facilities' quality, quantity and accessibility.
- ◀ Identify the particular requirements for sport, recreation and open space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility generated by the proposed Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community.
- ◀ Enable the Councils to plan appropriately for the protection and/or enhancement of existing sport, recreation and open space facilities and to identify any sites that may provide surplus provision, could support new provision or facilities that could merit refurbishment within future Local Plan priorities.
- ◀ Enable the Councils to make strategic proposals for local authority-controlled facilities, such as investment in new and enhanced leisure centres or open spaces or rationalisation, including cross-boundary co-ordination of local authority provision, if appropriate.
- ◀ To identify the potential for a strategic approach to the role of the University of Essex in meeting community needs, primarily those of the proposed TCBGC, in addition to recommendations for the University and the Garden Community individually.
- ◀ To identify the potential for a strategic approach to the role of schools/colleges in meeting community needs with a joint authority approach (notably but not exclusively within the TCBGC area) in addition to recommendations for individual sites.
- ◀ To identify whether existing infrastructure (built facilities, playing pitches and open spaces) is fit for purpose to deliver local priorities, corporate priorities and wider health and wellbeing outcomes in an efficient way, now and in the future over the lifetime of the emerging Local Plans.
- ◀ Help direct expenditure of any future Section 106 monies or other planning contributions (including CIL should this become relevant) and effective for sport, leisure and open space facilities within each local authority area and have regard to each authority's respective Infrastructure Delivery Plans and the ECC Developers Guide to Contributions 2019.

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- ◀ As an output, provide a robust, transparent, and effective means of justifying requirements so that they can be successfully defended for the proposed TGBGC Masterplan DPD or at future reviews of the emerging Local Plans. And to make strategic decisions on investment, ensuring that any planning gain monies are focused on the relevant local authority areas in which they are collected.
- ◀ Identify how sport, physical activity, and recreation, including within open space, can contribute to each of the Council's corporate agendas, including the responsibility for public health, to deliver healthier lifestyles and achieve positive health outcomes.
- ◀ Identify possible external capital or revenue funding opportunities for sport, physical activity, and recreation facilities, including open space provision.
- ◀ Identify opportunities for efficiency savings at Council-owned facilities and options for alternative governance via charities, trusts, or community-run organisations, where appropriate.
- ◀ Identify a mechanism for appropriate monitoring and review to insure an up to date and robust framework.

National context

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The Councils PPOSSs will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It will also determine priority improvements to existing sites in the Borough.

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 101,102 and 103 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields. As these designations operate in a similar way to Green Belt designations, caution needs to be applied to ensure there are unintended consequences that prevent development of ancillary facilities on playing fields.

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Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and will continue to be responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking, and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Tendring District Council (TDC), Colchester Borough Council (CBC), Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Active Essex and the University of Essex.

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

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPOSS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPOSS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Scope

The PPOSS encompasses all relevant facilities regardless of ownership and management. The following are included within the scope:

- ◀ Grass pitches for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league, American football.
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches for football, rugby union, American football and hockey.
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens.
- ◀ Golf courses.
- ◀ Athletics including formal running clubs and events.
- ◀ Outdoor tennis, netball and basketball courts plus floodlit multi use games areas (MUGAs).
- ◀ Cycle track facilities (such as BMX tracks, pump tracks, and closed-circuit tracks).

For the non-pitch sports, (i.e., tennis, bowls, and netball) included within the scope of this study, the supply and demand principles of Sport England Guidance: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF. Please note that although this is less prescriptive than the PPS Guidance, the same approach is applied to provide a full supply and demand assessment for each sport.

The Study area

The Tendring study area comprises of the whole of the Tendring District Council administrative area. It extends from the River Stour in the north, to the coast and the River Colne in the south, with the coast to the East and the town of Colchester to the west.

Five analysis areas have been incorporated into this report which have been established by understanding general patterns of access to sport provision by clubs and community users from rural areas through to urban centres.

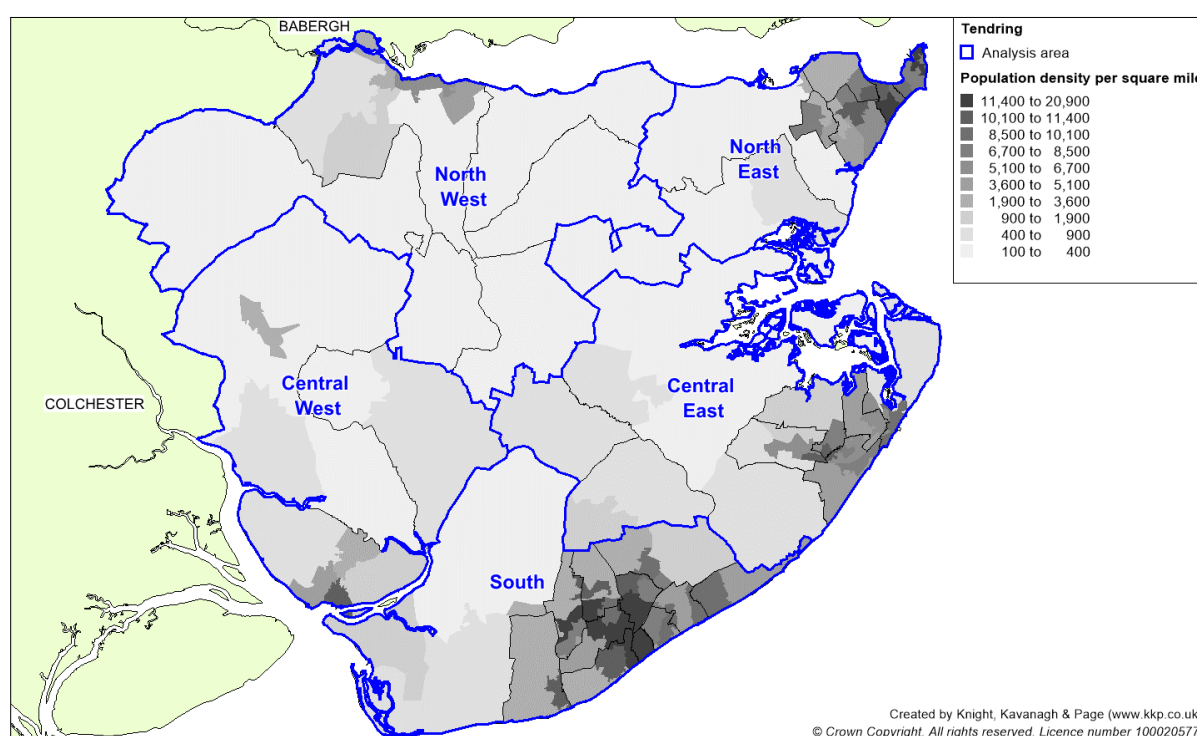
Areas are defined by parish boundaries and a breakdown of this can be found in the table on the next page.

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Table 1.1: Analysis areas parish wards

Analysis area	Parish ward
North West	Manningtree, Mistley, Little Bentley, Tendring, Lawford, Ardleigh, Little Bromley, Bradfield, Wrabness and Wix.
North East	Harwich, Dovercourt, Ramsey & Parkeston, Great Oakley and Little Oakley.
Central West	Walton, Frinton, Great Holland, Kirby, Beaumont, Thorpe, Little Clacton and Weeley.
Central East	Brightlingsea, Alresford, Great Bentley, Thorington, Frating, Elmstead and Great Bromley.
South	Clacton-on-Sea and St Osyth.

Figure 1.2: Tendring study area



Cross boundary issues have also been explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand, recognising, for example, that people travel to and make use of strategic facilities irrespective of administrative boundaries.

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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Tendring needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent framework. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

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Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

Sport England's PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area which together with any run off area, is of 0.2ha or more, and is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ ***Playing field*** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a pitch is one that meets a minimum size of 0.2ha, this PPOSS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch. This PPOSS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Tendring; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites or private sites where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report, including those which are disused or lapsed, they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of outdoor sports facilities

Accessibility

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

- ◀ ***Community use*** - facilities in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ ***Available but unused*** - facilities that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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- ◀ **No community use** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either.

Quality

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

It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

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

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Tendring tends to fall within the following categories:

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

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet demand is known to currently exist but is unable to access sports facilities; latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better quality provision. Exported and imported demand refers to those sports users who are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information.

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Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

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

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools.

Future demand/population growth

The current resident population in Tendring is 147,353 (2020 MYE). By 2033 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan) Tendring's population is projected to increase to 164,866² representing an increase of 17,513 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 11.8% according to ONS data).

The PPOSS Framework & Action Plan (Stage D) will also contain several housing growth scenarios to test what additional demand will be generated throughout the Local Plan period and in particular the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for the PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:

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

² [Source: ONS 2018-based projections 2018-2043.](#)

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

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Tendring. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

As a guide, the FA, RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey AGPs	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass).

For all remaining non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, netball, golf etc) there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained as a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Tendring. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Framework and Action Plan for Tendring.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, latent, exported and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. The scenario testing generally occurs in the Framework that follows on from this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

PART 2: FOOTBALL PITCHES

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Tendring is Essex FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

Each LFFP builds upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). LFFP's also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that an LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

The Tendring LFFP³ was completed in 2018 and identifies 22 potential projects for investment which are outlined in this section and the 3G section of the report. The subsequent Framework will go on to recommend any changes/update to these project lists.

³<https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/tendring/tendring-executive-summary/>

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Essex FA aims and objectives

In conjunction with the LFFP, Essex FA has outlined released a 'Moving Forward 2024' strategy looking to united grassroots environment which delivers football opportunity for all. The local context section on page four of the report provides a detailed outline of the Moving Forward 2024 strategy.

Consultation

There is a total of 54 clubs identified as playing in Tendring. The larger clubs in the District were offered an opportunity to engage in face-to-face consultations to allow them to provide feedback in greater detail on issues relating to supply and demand. The remaining clubs were issued an online survey which was distributed by KKP and Essex County FA. The following clubs were consulted with face to face or via virtual meetings:

- ◀ FC Clacton
- ◀ Frinton and Walton FC
- ◀ Great Bentley YFC
- ◀ Harwich and Parkson FC
- ◀ Holland FC
- ◀ Lawford FC
- ◀ Little Oakley FC
- ◀ Oyster FC

Through both face-to-face consultation, survey responses and phone calls, a 78% team response rate has been achieved having spoken to 54% of clubs.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 121 grass football pitches in Tendring across 52 sites. Of the pitches, 101 are available, at some level, for community use across 33 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

As presented in the table below, the South Analysis Area contains the most football pitches in Tendring with 42 identified (equating to 35% of overall provision). In contrast, the North West Analysis Area contains the least provision with 11 pitches identified (9% of overall provision).

Table 2.1: Summary of all grass football pitches

Analysis area	Number of pitches					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central East	5	4	2	6	6	23
Central West	8	0	4	3	5	20
North East	9	2	4	3	7	25
North West	5	0	1	3	2	11
South	16	2	7	8	9	42
Total	43	8	18	23	29	121

Of available pitches, 43 (36% of all available provision) are adult size which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

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Table 2.2: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Number of pitches					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central East	5	4	2	5	5	21
Central West	8	0	3	3	2	16
North East	9	2	3	2	5	21
North West	4	0	1	1	1	7
South	15	2	7	5	7	36
Total	41	8	16	16	20	101

Of available pitches, eight are of a youth 11v11 size representing 7% of the available supply, which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (39 teams – 18% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this size pitch. This issue often results in teams fast tracking youth sides to play on adult pitches given the relatively recent introduction of youth 11v11 pitches within football in the UK.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table below for more detail.

Table 2.3: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Disused provision

Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as disused. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either.

In the case of Tendring, Wix Playing Field resembles the only example of disused provision with one disused adult pitch on the site.

Weeley Playing Field formerly provided four 5v5 pitches that lie on the boundary between Weeley Playing Field and Weeley Park. These pitches are no longer marked; however, the land remains in a usable state for sporting provision.

Future provision

Great Bentley FC raised the desire to have additional football pitches on its site at Great Bentley Village Green, however, it states that Great Bentley Parish Council do not support the club's ambitions as it does not want to lose the entirety of its village green to marked football pitches.

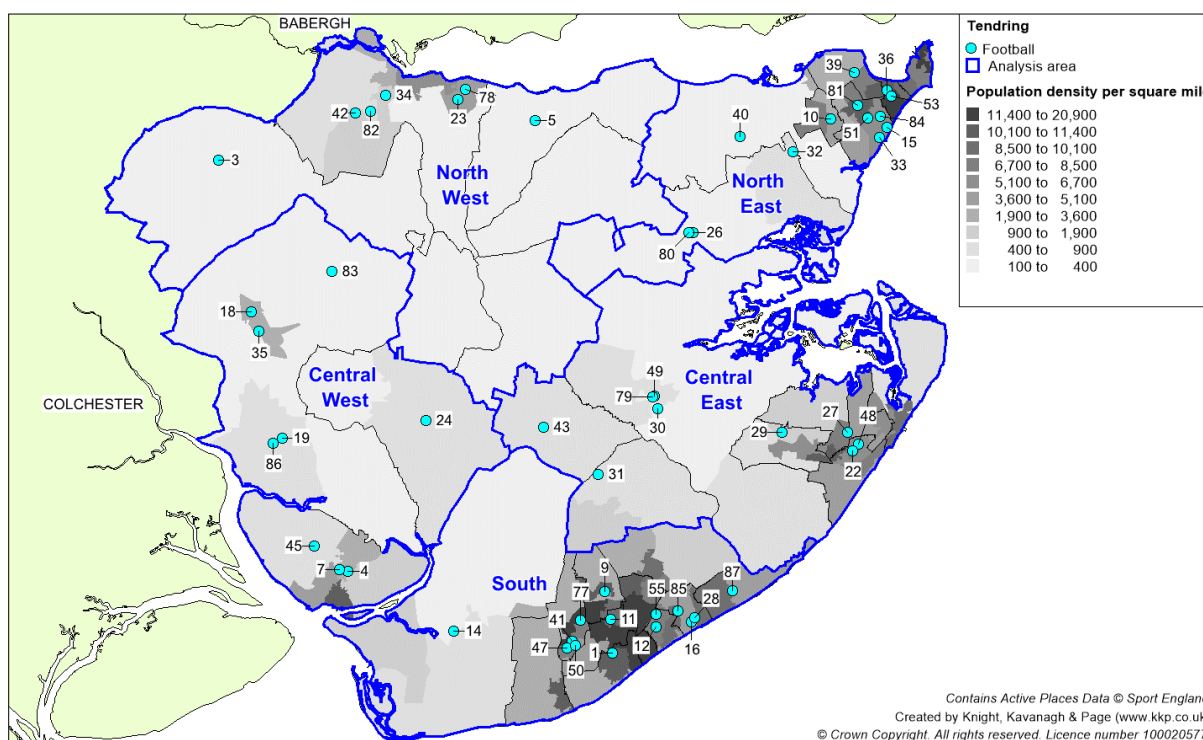
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Lawford FC is exploring the installation of a 3G pitch at its home site which if followed through would see a re-design of the current layout at its site which currently has five pitches of varying scales.

Finally, Brightlingsea Regent FC stress the need for access to a greater number of pitches given the 12 teams currently operating within its remit.

Figure 2.1 and Figure 2.2 overleaf identifies all football pitches servicing Tendring. For a key to the map, see Table 2.15.

Figure 2.1: Football pitch locations



Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across Tendring have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

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

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

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 50 as standard and 42 as poor. The nine good quality pitches are located across four sites, those being The Austin Arena, Brightlingsea Regent Football Club, Holland FC and Little Oakley Memorial.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Central East	1	3	2	0	4	2	0	6	4
Central West	0	7	0	0	3	0	0	5	0
North East	1	2	6	2	1	2	1	2	4
North West	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	0
South	3	6	6	0	2	7	1	4	7
Total	5	20	16	2	11	11	2	19	15

Poor quality non-technical audit scores are a result of issues relating to natural drainage problems, and basic maintenance regimes.

Of the 30 pitches located at unavailable education sites, 60% (18 pitches) are deemed to be poor quality. This is due to these sites providing basic maintenance regimes (aligned to limited budgets) which broadly consist of general grass cutting and line marking as appropriate throughout the curricular year. When accounting for curricular use, extracurricular use and community demand, obvious signs of wear and tear become apparent.

Poor quality pitches available to the community are located at sites listed below. Some of these sites (identified in Table 2.14) also contain pitches which are standard quality.

- ◀ Bradfield Playing Field
- ◀ Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)
- ◀ Cowley Park
- ◀ Frinton Park Playing Field
- ◀ Furze Hill Recreation Ground
- ◀ Great Oakley Playing Field
- ◀ Hamford Primary Academy
- ◀ Lady Nelson Playing Field
- ◀ Low Road Playing Fields
- ◀ Parkeston Welfare Park
- ◀ Rush Green Recreation Ground
- ◀ School Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ The Harwich and Dovercourt High School
- ◀ Wix Playing Field

Consultation with Frinton and Walton FC highlights the quality of playing provision at Frinton Park Playing Field as poor. The site is maintained by Tendring District Council which the Club state cut and line the provision every two weeks and aerate once a year. Sunken residential drains are reportedly causing the pitch to undulate and flood over winter.

The Club state playing pitches and changing facilities are the biggest issue it faces. It reports the need for a regular maintenance programme such as weekly cuts over summer months as to promote deeper root growth.

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Lawford FC has five pitches of varying scales at its home site school lane playing fields. The standard quality pitches received a grant from Essex FA for maintenance improvements. The Club state it now seeds and aerates its pitches through a third party contractor once a year. The site features two disused tennis courts that were formerly the focus for developing a small sided 3G, however Essex FA confirm this location is no longer the priority for the site.

Holland FC state the good quality pitches at its home site achieved this quality largely due to investment from the Football Foundation in 2021 which saw the Club receive £4,000 towards improving the maintenance. The site is now seeded, aerated and verti-drained which the Club claim has enhanced the playing provision.

Little Oakley FC has the maintenance responsibility of its home site Little Oakley Memorial Ground. The Club seed and aerate its pitches on a yearly basis and verti-drain the site twice a year.

FC Clacton has a good quality pitch at its home site Austin Arena maintained by itself whilst the accompanying Rush Green Recreation Ground has poor quality pitches which are maintained by the Council.

Bayard Recreation Ground has standard quality pitches accessed frequently by Brightlingsea Regent FC and which Brightlingsea Town Council state it aerates, sand dresses and fertilises.

Finally, Tendring Borough YFC state the pitches it accesses at Vista Road Recreation Ground are poorly maintained due to being cut fortnightly by Tendring District Council. The Club state it is not uncommon for the site to have untouched clumps of grass up to six inches high.

The FA's Pitch Improvement Strategy

The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.

Further to the above, the Football Foundation and the FA has recently developed a new grass pitch maintenance fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

Grass Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

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

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PitchPower Assessment Tool

The Football Foundation funding partners (Premier League, The FA, Sport England, and Department for Culture, Media and Sport) are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 alongside the Football Foundation Pitch Preparation Fund,

The app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

The tool across mobile app and desktop is open to access by all providers, for example clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower Assessment Report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches.

The PitchPower assessments use the new five step Performance Quality Standard rating system developed by the Grounds Management Association (GMA), with the Football Foundation and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. Alignment was agreed as follows:

Table 2.5: Equivalent PPS quality rating for pitch Performance Quality Standard ratings.

PQS Rating	PPS Quality Rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	
High	

The following sites have received an existing PitchPower report, the equivalent PPOSS Quality Ratings for which have been accepted and applied within the PPOSS audit and analysis.

- ◀ Cowley Park
- ◀ Frinton Park Playing Field
- ◀ Holland FC
- ◀ Vista Road Recreation Ground

Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund⁴

Following a Grass Pitch Assessment Report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Clubs can also utilise the report as an evidence base to acquire potential funding streams to obtain the relevant maintenance equipment.

Once a Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, clubs are then eligible to apply for funding through the Football Foundation through the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF), a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help clubs enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good or standard quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

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

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All applicants must have the required security of tenure and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs, leagues, and charities (with an annual turnover of under £500,000). Clubs currently playing in the National League System (NLS) are not eligible for such funding. Local authorities are also not currently eligible applicants, however clubs, leagues and charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure.

Although local authorities are not presently eligible for the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, The FA is currently undertaking some pilot work with a group of Local Authorities across the country to explore different means of working together to improve grass pitch quality on Council owned/operated sites.

In the case of Tendring, four sites have recently received Pitch Power assessments, those being the four sites identified earlier.

The LFFP for Tendring identifies six sites for targeted pitch improvements. Prioritisation of these sites was based on a rationale of selecting sites with large numbers of pitches which are in poor condition; thus optimising impact on capacity. The six selected sites are:

- ◀ Bayard Recreation Ground
- ◀ Frinton Park Playing Fields
- ◀ Great Bentley Village Green
- ◀ Little Clacton Parish Fields
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)
- ◀ Vista Road Recreation Ground

Bayard Recreation Ground features two adult, two 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, all of which, are of a standard quality and accessed by Brightlingsea Regent FC. The site is maintained by Brightlingsea Town Council and the rationale for undertaking pitch improvements are to enhance the playing provision and capacity opportunities as to better support junior, girls', and women demand.

Great Bentley Village Green has an adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch with a 5v5 overmarked inside. All pitches are of a standard quality with a 3rd party contractor cutting and lining the site. Despite having demand for additional pitches to be marked out, Great Bentley Parish Council want to maintain the overall feel of a village green and maintaining some public greenspace without pitches.

Little Clacton Parish Fields features two adult, a youth 9v9 and a mini 7v7 pitch, all of which, are of a standard quality. The site is accessed by 13 teams from eight clubs giving it an importance presence across the District.

Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus) accommodates one youth 11v11 and two 5v5 pitches all of a standard quality. The rationale is to improve the natural grass pitches on site as to better service curricular and community demand. Frinton and Walton FC confirms that the Club only access the site when utilising the sports hall rather than the grass pitches.

Frinton Park Playing Field hosts one of each pitch scale all of which is of a poor quality. The site is heavily accessed by Frinton and Walton FC and resembles the most overplayed site in the District at 5.5 MES, meaning pitch improvements should be prioritised at the site.

Finally, Clacton Leisure Centre shall be having a full size 3G pitch which is adjacent to Vistas Road Recreation Ground, a site currently accessed by 16 teams. Essex FA confirm it is not currently exploring an additional 3G at Vista Road Recreation Ground.

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The forthcoming PPOSS Framework & Action Plan will determine if the list of priority sites in the LFFP requires amendment and whether there is a case to include new sites or remove sites based on assessed demand.

Ancillary facilities

Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities in Tendring has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation.

The ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

Table 2.6 presents a quality summary of provision at sites which provide dedicated changing rooms and pavilions. Education sites are not included in the list as none are considered to provide dedicated changing facilities for the benefit of community football.

Table 2.6: Summary of ancillary facility quality

Site ID	Site name	Management	Ancillary facility quality
5	Bradfield Playing Field	Parish Council	Standard
7	Brightlingsea Regent Football Club	Sports Club	Standard
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	School	Standard
13	Clacton Leisure Centre	Commercial	Good
14	Cowley Park	Council	Standard
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Council	Poor
16	Eastcliffe Recreation Ground	Sports Club	Poor
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	Council	Good
22	Frinton Park Playing Field	Council	Poor
23	Furze Hill Playing Field	Council	Good
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Council	Standard
27	Hamford Primary Academy	School	Standard
28	Holland FC	Sports Club	Good
29	Kirby Playing Field	Council	Standard
30	Lady Nelson Playing Field	Council	Good
31	Little Clackton Parish Fields	Council	Standard
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	Parish Council	Good
33	Low Road Playing Fields	Council	Poor
36	Mayflower School	School	Standard
40	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Field	Council	Poor
41	Rush Green Recreation Ground	Council	Poor
42	School Lane Playing Fields	Sports Club	Good
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	School	Standard
47	Tendring Education Centre	School	Good
48	Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)	School	Poor
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	School	Poor
50	The Austin Arena	Sports Club	Good
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	School	Standard
53	The Royal Oak Ground	Sports Club	Standard
57	Wix Playing Field	Council	Standard

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Sites which are listed as having poor quality ancillary facilities are all dated and have clear evidence of wear and tear throughout. Each requires modernisation to ensure it remains fit for usage in the future.

In the case of Bayard Recreation Ground, Great Oakley Playing Field and Parkeston Welfare Park, each site has been excluded from Table 2.6 as they do not have any form of ancillary provision.

The LFFP for Tendring identifies four sites which require refurbishment or replacement to suitably accommodate high levels of affiliated football demand, these being The Harwich and Dovercourt High School, Frinton Park Playing Field, Great Bentley Village Green and Bayard Recreation Ground.

The Harwich and Dovercourt High School is in need of a new changing pavilion to support the potential installation of a new 3G pitch. This investment will not only improve the overall offering at the site, but will also support curricular and community use. Essex FA confirm it has not held any discussions with Harwich and Dovercourt High School regarding its changing rooms, however it is expected that the responsibility of offering suitable ancillary provision falls to the school and not through funding provided by the FA.

Frinton Park Playing Field currently has a poor-quality brick building owned by Tendring District Council which Frinton and Walton is looking to gain a lease to enable enhancements to take place. The brick building has toilets which the Club state are unused due to quality, whilst the adjacent blue building has two poor quality changing rooms with showers that require the referee to enter through the home team changing room to access their own space.

The third building at Frinton Park is on a lease to Frinton and Walton FC with 17 years remaining, which provides toilets, a kitchen and storage for the Club. The Club has planning permission to install bi fold doors to the wall facing the pitch, as well as re-designing the entire interior layout of the building as to increase the number of toilets from two to eight along with an additional disabled toilet. The Club state it received planning permission for this in 2021 and is now seeking Football Foundation funding to allow the development to take place.

Great Bentley Village Green is accessed by Great Bentley FC which pay a peppercorn rent to Great Bentley Parish Council and in return is responsible for maintaining the building. The 1960s building has two standard quality changing rooms and a social space use for functions. The Club received £600 of Football Foundation funding for a marquee to be used as changing rooms over covid which has since become a social space for members.

The building has a large unused loft which the Club would like to convert into an additional two changing rooms as the limited number of changing spaces is one of the biggest frustrations to members. The building has an external hatch in place but would need a spiral staircase installing to enable access.

Finally, Bayard Recreation Ground is accessed by Brightlingsea Regent FC and Colne Athletic FC's reserves team. The site is owned by Brightlingsea Regent Town Council and services both football and cricket. The ancillary provision is in the form of Brightlingsea Cricket Club's single story metal container clubhouse, something that both the football club and Town Council confirm is not accessed for football purposes. Therefore, the site has no servicing ancillary provision for football use, forcing members to access the home ground of Brightlingsea Regent Football Club given its proximity to Bayard Recreation Ground.

In addition to the four sites covered within the LFFP, consultations with clubs across the District highlights the following points regarding ancillary provision.

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Holland FC has a 25 year lease signed with Tendring District Council for its home site as well as access to the playing provision at Eastcliffe Recreation Ground. The clubhouse at Holland FC was built in 2018 by Scott Properties through a S106 agreement and now provides two good quality changing rooms, a referee space, a bar and small social space and a new boiler. The Club state it has received planning permission to begin work adding an extension to the existing ancillary provision as of May 2022. This shall double the size of the function room by utilising the concrete space in between the clubhouse and adult pitch.

Lawford FC has two good quality changing rooms with a bar and social space. Following investment from the Football Foundation in 2012 the Club was able to enhance the ancillary provision offering as well as tarmacking the car park.

Little Oakley FC has two good quality changing rooms and a social space at Little Oakley Memorial Ground that were built brand new in 2010 after receiving investment from the Football Foundation.

Finally, FC Clacton has two standard quality changing rooms as well as referee changing with a working boiler. The site also provides an additional six poor quality changing rooms with no showers that are accessed less frequently by the Club. It states there is the need to replace its floodlights to LED which it hopes can be achieved through gaining Football Foundation funding.

Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the ownership, lease or rental arrangements of sites which clubs use. Sites which are owned or under a long term lease from parish/town councils or TDC are considered to provide secure tenure as access to pitches is expected to be granted over the lifespan of the PPOSS. Clubs which access sites on a less than five year arrangement are considered to have unsecure tenure (unless provided by town/parish councils or TDC), this includes where clubs access education establishments where agreements can change at the discretion of management (unless a formal community use arrangement is established).

As an example, Mayflower School is a site which is used for affiliated football but as there is no long-term agreement in place with the site user Harwich and Parkeston FC, it could in theory, be asked to vacate the site at short notice.

Of education sites, three are used for competitive football, with a further four being open to community use but are un-used. In total, affiliated football use at education sites equates to seven teams, meaning provision at education sites does not hold much of an importance for accommodating demand across Tendring. In addition to this, many schools do not allow community access to their respective pitches at all, these are listed below.

- ◀ Alton Park Junior School
- ◀ St Clare's Primary School
- ◀ Ardleigh St Mary's Primary School
- ◀ Mistley Norman C of E Primary School
- ◀ Cann Hall Primary School
- ◀ Rolph Church of England Primary School
- ◀ Chase Lane Primary School
- ◀ All Saints C of E Primary School
- ◀ Clacton County High School
- ◀ Lawford C of E Primary School
- ◀ Elmstead Primary School
- ◀ Manningtree High School
- ◀ Market Field School
- ◀ St Andrew's C of E Primary School

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- ◀ St George's C of E School
- ◀ St Joseph's Catholic School
- ◀ Holland Park Primary School
- ◀ Arlesford Primary School
- ◀ Holland Haven Primary School

In Tendring, Frinton and Walton FC access Frinton Park Playing Field for most of its home fixtures, which is accompanied by the clubhouse for which it has 17 years remaining on its lease. Despite this, the Club access the playing provision with no security of tenure and instead rent from Tendring District Council on a weekly basis. This is something that the Club and the Council are now looking to put in place and will look to include the Club taking on maintenance responsibility of the site.

Lawford FC state it is in the process of being granted a 100-year lease from Lawford Parish Council for the ancillary and playing provision at School Lane Playing Fields. The site has five pitches of varying scales as well as good quality ancillary provision. Comparatively, Great Bentley FC state it pays a peppercorn rent for the playing provision and ancillary provision at Bentley Green, the latter of which was built originally during the 1960s.

Holland FC had a 25-year lease signed with Tendring District Council in 2018 for both its home site and the playing provision at East Cliffe Recreation Ground. Following the signing of this lease the Club has been able to undertake pitch and ancillary provision improvements at its home site, both of which are now of a good quality.

Harwich and Parkeston FC has a freehold ownership of its home site The Royal Oak Ground, whilst the access to education sites for its six teams takes place through rolling 12-month agreements at The Harwich and Dovercourt High School, and Mayflower School. In contrast, Little Oakley FC has freehold ownership of its home site featuring several grass pitches, a small sided 3G pitch and ancillary provision.

As of 2022, the lease from Tendring District Council to FC Clacton for its stadia adult pitch has expired, resulting in the Club being in the process of negotiating a new 25 year lease. The remaining playing provision accessed by the Club at Rush Green Recreation Ground, next to the club's site, and Vista Road Recreation Ground are both accessed without any security of tenure. The Club state it has a planning permission request ready to submit in order to lease some of Rush Green Recreation Ground for the installation of a small sided (65m x 45m) 3G pitch.

Clacton Knights Walking Football Club describe a lack of pitch availability being its biggest issue and state it would very much like to join an existing local club and share clubhouse facilities.

Consultation with Frinton and Walton FC highlights the quality of playing provision at Frinton Park Playing Field being of a poor quality. The Club would like to gain a lease for the playing provision and state it would take on maintenance responsibility of the site if a deal were to be agreed as to enhance its quality.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (the National League) and comprises of six steps and a regional feeder league, there are with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The step system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

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Clubs playing within the National League System (NLS) must adhere to ground grading requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 6 clubs. Please refer to the FA website⁵ for the full specifications for each.

In Tendring, there are five clubs which compete in the NLS, those being Brightlingsea Regent FC (Step 3), FC Clacton (Step 5), Harwich and Parkeston FC (Step 6), Holland FC (Step 6), Little Oakley FC (Step 6).

In addition to this Arlesford Colne FC, Colne Athletic FC, Great Bentley FC, Lawford Lads FC and Little Oakley FC Reserves all compete within the regional feeder league.

Table 2.7: Non-league football teams in Tendring:

Team	League	Level
Brightlingsea Regent FC	Isthmian League <i>Premier Division</i>	Step 3
FC Clacton	Essex Senior Football League <i>Premier Division</i>	Step 5
Harwich and Parkeston FC	Thurlow Nunn League <i>First Division North</i>	Step 6
Holland FC	Thurlow Nunn League <i>First Division North</i>	Step 6
Little Oakley FC	Essex Senior Football League <i>Premier Division</i>	Step 6
Arlesford Colne FC	Essex Senior Football League <i>Premier Division</i>	Regional Feeder League
Great Bentley FC	Essex Senior Football League <i>Premier Division</i>	Regional Feeder League
Lawford Lads FC	Essex Senior Football League <i>Premier Division</i>	Regional Feeder League

The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they must achieve the appropriate ground grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.

It is important to note that from a ground grading perspective, the jump from a regional feeder league to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a floodlit pitch with hardstanding areas for fans, turnstiles for fan entry and therefore all the clubs currently at this level in Tendring would require a serious overhaul of their existing sites to meet the relevant criteria.

In the case of FC Clacton, the Club state it would need to replace its existing halogen floodlights, as well as improving the perimeter fence, and widening the perimeter walkway by one metre. Holland FC would need to add an extra seated stand and turnstiles if promoted.

Little Oakley FC has recently invested in a new PA system and installing a new stand at its ground in order to reach current ground grading requirements. If promoted, necessary work to fully enclose the ground and adding a turnstile would also be required.

Brightlingsea Regent FC made no reference to having to make any changes to its site in relation to achieving ground grading requirements. The Club's home site provides an enclosed perimeter fenced adult pitch with a standing and seated stand. Finally, Harwich and Parkeston FC confirm that no work is required to for ground grading if promoted, as it has previously played at Step 4.

⁵ <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>

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Finally, Great Bentley FC access Great Bentley Village Green for all home fixtures. The site features three pitches of various formats including an adult pitch which the Club sets up a rope perimeter on match day. The Regional Feeder League Club play at a site that shall not be compliant with ground grading if promoted to Step 6, with its perimeter fence currently being reached as a removable rope rather than a permanent fixed metal structure. The Club confirm during consultation it shall not be able to reach ground grading if promoted and also do not desire to relocate.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's system which provides structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 7 with each tier requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Table 2.8: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Tier 1	FA Women's Super League	Step S1
Tier 2	FA Women's Championship	Step S2
Tier 3	FA Women's National League Premier Division (Northern and Southern)	Step W1
Tier 4	FA Women's National League Division 1 North / Midlands / South East / South West	Step W2
Tier 5	Regional Premier Division	Step W3
Tier 6	Regional Division One	-
Tier 7	County Leagues	-

Although women's clubs within the WNLS still require ground grading requirements set out by the FA, these differ from the men's NLS. Ratings range from Step S1 to W3 each with differing minimum requirements. Step S1 and S2 in the WNLS is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men's NLS, however, not identical. The system is also a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes were implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and saw the top league, FA Women's Super League Tier 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at Tier 2 for a maximum of 12 teams. In the case of Tendring, FC Clacton Ladies resemble the only club within the women's national league structure and currently compete in Tier 7 of the women's county leagues.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 214 teams from 53 clubs are identified as playing in Tendring. This consists of 75 adult men's, seven adult women's, 72 youth boys', nine youth girls' and 51 mini mixed teams.

The South Analysis Area provides for the highest number of teams, with 74. The Analysis Area with the fewest number of teams is North West, with 23 teams identified as operating within this area of Tendring.

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Table 2.9: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Tendring

Analysis area	Number of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central East	13	8	10	2	8	41
Central West	16	6	4	2	4	32
North East	18	10	6	4	6	44
North West	13	4	3	1	2	23
South	22	11	19	12	10	74
Total	82	39	42	21	30	214

Adult football is the most prominent format of play, whilst mini 7v7 is the least common.

There are also three adult teams across one club exporting demand outside of the District that have been discounted from Table 2.8. This is First City Wanderers Veterans FC which has three adult men's teams that access Leisure World Tiptree in Colchester.

Women's and girls' demand

There are 18 dedicated women/girls' teams across eight clubs playing in Tendring, representing just 8% of the total number of teams. These are provided at the following clubs:

- ◀ Arlesford Colne Rangers FC
- ◀ Brightlingsea Regent FC
- ◀ FC Clacton
- ◀ Frinton and Walton FC
- ◀ Holland FC
- ◀ Lawford FC
- ◀ Little Oakley FC
- ◀ Tendring District

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation by 50%. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

Following the success of the England Lionesses at Euro 2022, the legacy plan of the event is set to be significant for women's and girls' football across the country. Essex County FA will be working to use this event as a catalyst for an increase in localised participation in Colchester.

Exported demand/imported

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

In total, there is one club and three teams accessing provision outside of Tendring for matchday purposes, that being First City Wanderers Veterans which access Leisure World Tiptree for its fixtures. Regarding imported demand, Foxash Social Club, Vista Road Recreation Ground and Elmstead Primary School all support imported demand from Foxash Walking FC, Healthy4Life (Colchester) and Wivenhoe United FC all of which are Colchester based clubs. None of the clubs importing demand into Tendring raised any frustrations in doing so, with both Foxash Walking FC and Healthy4Life delivering specialised football sessions.

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Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; clubs that would like to field more teams but currently do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack of pitches, appropriate facilities, and qualified coaches. Clubs that report latent demand relating to facilities and the reasons provided for this latent demand can be seen below.

Table 2.10: Latent demand summary

Club	Need for more match pitches	Need for more/better training facilities	Need for better/more appropriate changing provision
Alresford Colne Rangers FC	X		
Bradfield Rovers FC			X
Brightlingsea Regent FC	X	X	X
Clacton Knights Walking FC	X	X	
Clacton Rhinos Walking FC		X	
FC Clacton		X	
Frinton and Walton FC	X	X	X
Great Bentley FC	X	X	X
Harwich and Parekson FC		X	
Holland FC		X	
Kirby Athletic YFC	X	X	
Lawford FC	X	X	
Little Oakley FC		X	
Parkeston Welfare Park YFC		X	X
Pathfields FC		X	
Sokratez FC	X	X	
Tendring Borough YFC		X	
Thorpe Athletic FC		X	X

As can be seen by Table 2.10, the greatest issue identified is the lack of training facilities located within Tendring, with 16 clubs stressing this as a major problem. Several clubs also made reference to the lack of pitches and poor ancillary provision impacting upon the possibility of expanding.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. No unmet demand was expressed by responsive clubs.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

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Participation increases

There are 11 clubs which report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. In total, these potential demand increases would lead to the creation of 38 teams (if aspirations are realised).

Table 2.11: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis Area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁶
Arlesford Colne Rangers FC	Central West	1 x U11	Youth 9v9	0.5
		1 x U8	Mini 7v7	0.5
Brightlingsea Regent YFC	Central West	1 x U14 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Clacton Knights Walking Football Club	South	1 x Adult mens 1 x Adult women's	Mini 5v5	1
Clacton Rhinos Walking Football Club	South	1 x Adult women's	Mini 5v5	0.5
FC Clacton	South	3 x U7 mixed	Mini 5v5	1.5
		1 x U10 girls	Mini 7v7	0.5
Frinton and Walton YFC	Central East	1 x Adult women's	Adult	0.5
		1 x U11 boys 1 x U12 boys	Youth 9v9	1
		1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1 x U7 mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
Kirby Athletic YFC	Central East	1 x Adult mens	Adult	0.5
		1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1 x U7 mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
Lawford FC	North West	1 x U7 girls 1 x U7 mixed 2 x U6 mixed	Mini 5v5	2
Little Oakley FC	North East	1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1 x U7 mixed	Mini 5v5	0.5
Parkeston Welfare YFC	North East	1 x U13 boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
		1 x U11 boys 1 x U11 girls	Youth 9v9	1
		1 x U9 mixed	Mini 7v7	0.5
Tendring Borough YFC	South	1 x U13 boys 1 x U14 boys	Youth 11v11	1
		1 x U11 boys 1 x U12 boys	Youth 9v9	1
		2 x U9 mixed 1 x U10 mixed	Mini 7v7	1.5
		2 x U7 mixed 1 x U8 mixed	Mini 5v5	1.5

Future demand aspirations have been aggregated by analysis area and pitch format and are detailed in the table below.

⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Table 2.12: Potential increases by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Central East	1	-	1	1	1	4
Central West	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.5
North East	-	0.5	1	1	0.5	3
North West	-	-	-	-	2	2
South	-	1	1	2	4.5	8.5
Total	1	2	3.5	4.5	8	19

Population increases

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area. ONS population growth is applied to the TGRs to identify a predicted number of teams that will be generated. As such, TGRs are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2033 (in line with Tendring Local Plan timeline). It however shall not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the borough proposed in the Local Plan, such as the Garden Community development, and that this shall be subject to scenarios in the in the strategy report.

Table 2.13: Team generation rates (2033)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ⁷	Team Generation Rate (TGR)	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams (2033)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Adult Mens (18-45)	18,665	78	1:239	21,135	88.3	10
Adult Womens (18-45)	19,228	7	1:2747	21,012	7.6	0
Youth Boys (12-17)	4,612	45	1:102	5,157	50.3	5
Youth Girls (12-17)	4,456	7	1:637	5,123	8.0	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,586	27	1:59	1,609	27.4	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,566	2	1:783	1,586	2.0	0
Mini Mixed (8-9)	3,293	35	1:94	3,147	33.4	0
Mini Mixed (6-7)	3,184	16	1:199	3,090	15.5	0

As seen above, based on ONS projections, it is forecasted that there will be an increase in football demand equivalent to 10 adult men's teams, five youth boys' teams and one youth girls' teams.

When broken down by analysis area (to produce a more localised view on where growth will be established) this growth specifically equates to seven adult men's teams and two youth boys' teams. This growth is largely anticipated to be in all of the five analysis areas, with Central East, Central West and North West each seeing growth of one adult men's, North East showing growth of two adult men's and one youth boys and the South analysis area demonstrating growth of two adult men's and one youth boys.

⁷ Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.7 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group

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Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that this predicted level of growth is exclusively based on future population forecasts and does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport.

Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focus towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Tendring and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.

Outside of women's and girls' increases, given the large amounts of future demand identified through population forecasts, it is considered unlikely that aspirations from clubs will happen exclusively of population growth. Instead, it is thought that the ambitions will be absorbed within the increases.

FA Wildcats centres

FA Wildcats centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment.

In Tendring, Wildcat centres are run by FC Clacton, Kirby Athletic FC, Lawford FC, Ramsey and Mistley FC and Frinton and Walton FC.

In light of The FA's aspirations to increase female participation in football by 50% (Game Changer Strategy) and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through population growth. With the summer of 2022 seeing both growth in the Wildcats programme and the success of the Women's 2022 Euro's, it can be anticipated that growth of two youth girls teams can be included within the expected future demand. This has been broken down by one team accessing a youth 11v11 pitch and one a youth 9v9 pitch. It shall also be aggregated to the South Analysis Area as it provides the largest number of teams.

Future demand summary

On the balance that population forecasts anticipate the creation of seven adult mens teams two junior boys' teams as well as two youth girls teams outlined through organic growth following the Women's 2022 Euro's. The supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report shall only include future demand identified through population increases.

The growth in teams outlined through club aspirations will be applied through scenario testing within the forthcoming Framework & Action Plan. This shall equate to 38 additional teams through the ambitions of 11 clubs.

The Framework & Action Plan will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality.

The following ratings were used in Tendring:

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

Table 2.14 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

In Tendring, one match equivalent session of demand has been attributed to each pitch based at school sites to account for curricular demand. This is based on consultation and the expectation that all pitches are in use, as well as experience of how school sites use pitches from other strategies both locally and nationally. In instances where a school site is already overplayed or the inclusion of one match equivalent session from curricular demand would create overplay it has been discounted.

Informal use

Most football pitches in the area are located within open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. Informal use is not accounted for in the capacity analysis on the basis that it cannot be quantified on a site by site basis. However, it can be expected at popular sites such as Vista Road Recreation Ground, that there will be a higher level of demand on each pitch (from informal use) over and above that identified.

Peak time

It is important to understand what the peak time for football pitch access is, to accurately understand the supply and demand balance for football pitches. Peak time access translates to when the high demand is for pitch access during a week. In Tendring, the peak time for adult football is Saturday afternoon and for all other formats of football it is Sunday mornings.

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Table 2.14: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site	Clubs accessing site	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ⁸	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁹ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	-Brightlingsea Regent FC -Colne Athletic FC	Central West	Yes	Town Council	Secure	Adult	2	Standard	3	4	1	0	Site is showing 1 MES of actual spare capacity on one of the mini 7v7 pitches.
							Mini 7v7	2		1	8	7	1	
							Mini 5v5	1		1	4	3	0	
5	Bradfield Playing Field	-Bradfield Rovers FC	North West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	0	One poor quality adult pitch that is used to capacity.
7	Brightlingsea Regent Football Club	-Brightlingsea Regent FC	Central West	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	Site is accessed solely by Brightlingsea Regent FC and is showing no actual spare capacity.
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	-	South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	0	Site is open to community use but is un-used. Demand is attributed to curricular use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.
							Youth 11v11	2		1	2	1	0	
12	Clacton County High School	FC Clacton	South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	0	No actual spare capacity. Identified demand on non-community use pitch is through curricular use.
				No			1	1		1	-	0		
14	Cowley Park	-Elmden Rovers FC -St Osyth FC	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.
							Youth 9v9	1		1	1	-	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 5v5	1		1	2	1	0	
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	-Little Oakley FC	North East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	2	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	0	No actual spare capacity.
16	Eastcliffe Recreation Ground	-Holland FC -Queens Arms FC -Sokratez (S) FC -Tavern FC	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Site is accessed heavily by Holland FC as well as three other clubs. Mini 5v5 pitches are showing actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES.
							Youth 9v9	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		1.5	4	2.5	0	
							Mini 5v5	2		0.5	8	7.5	1.5	
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	-Arlesford Colne FC	Central West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity on youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.
							Youth 9v9	1		0	2	2	1	
							Mini 5v5	1		0	4	4	1	
22	Frinton Park Playing Field	-Frinton and Walton FC	Central East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	3	1	2	0	Site is overplayed by a combined 5.5 MES.
							Youth 11v11	1		4	1	3	0	
							Youth 9v9	1		1.5	1	0.5	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 5v5	1		1.5	2	0.5	0	
23	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	-Ramsey and Mistley FC	North West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	3	1	2	0	Site is overplayed by 2 MES.
24	Great Bentley Village Green	-Great Bentley FC	Central West	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES, Demand for mini 7v7 is from U8 teams playing on an overmarked pitch inside of the 7v7 pitch.
							Youth 9v9	1		1	2	1	0	
							Min 7v7	1		1	4	3	0	
26	Great Oakley Playing Field	-Great Oakley FC	North East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.

⁸ Pitch sizes in brackets denotes overmarked pitches

⁹ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site	Clubs accessing site	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ⁸	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁹ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
27	Hamford Primary Academy	-	Central East	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	No actual spare capacity.
							Mini 5v5	1		1	2	1	0	
28	Holland FC	-Holland FC	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	2	Good	3	6	3	0	No actual spare capacity.
							Mini 5v5	1		1	6	5	0	
29	Kirby Playing Field	-Kirby Athletic FC -Thorpe Athletic FC	Central East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Spare capacity of 1 MES is present on mini 7v7 provision.
							Mini 7v7	1		0	4	4	1	
							Mini 5v5	1		1	4	3	0	
30	Lady Nelson Playing Field	-	Central East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	0	1	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.
31	Little Clacton Parish Fields	-Clacton Cobras FC -Flag FC -Kings Park FC -Sporting Rebels FC -Tendring Athletic FC -Tendring District FC -Tendring Rovers FC	Central East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	2	Standard	4	4	-	0	No actual spare capacity. Demand for mini 7v7 is from U7 and U8 teams playing on an overmarked pitch inside of the 7v7 pitch.
							Youth 9v9	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		1.5	4	2.5	0	
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	-Harwich Walking Football -Little Oakley FC	North East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	No actual spare capacity. Site also features a small sided 3G pitch which supports 3 MES of demand from U7, U8 and walking football teams.
							Youth 11v11	1		4	4	-	0	
							Youth 9v9	1		1.5	4	2.5	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		1	6	5	0	
33	Low Road Playing Fields	-Dovercourt Rovers FC	North East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	2	1.5	0	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.
36	Mayflower School	-Harwich and Parkeston FC	North East	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES is present on youth 9v9 pitch.
							Mini 7v7	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 5v5	1		1	4	3	0	
39	Parkeston Welfare Park	-Parkeston Welfare Park FC	North East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	0	Pitch played to capacity.
40	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Field	-Ramsey and Mistley FC	North East	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	0	No actual spare capacity.
41	Rush Green Recreation Ground	-FC Clacton	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	2	Poor	6	2	4	0	Overplay of a combined 4 MES is present across adult and youth 9v9 pitches. Actual spare capacity on mini 5v5 pitch is discounted due to poor pitch quality.
							Youth 9v9	4		4	4	-	0	
							Mini 7v7	2		2.5	4	1.5	0	
							Mini 5v5	2		0.5	4	3.5	0	
42	School Lane Playing Fields	-Lawford FC	North West	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	2	Standard	5	4	1	0	Adult pitches are overplayed by 2 MES. Mini 7v7 pitch is showing actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES.
							Youth 9v9	1		1	2	1	0	
							Mini 7v7	1		0.5	4	3.5	0.5	
							Mini 5v5	1		1	4	3	0	

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Site ID	Site	Clubs accessing site	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ⁸	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁹ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments				
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	-Brightlingsea Athletic FC Brightlingsea Town FC Colne Athletic FC -Pathfields FC	Central West	Yes	School	Secure	Adult	3	Standard	2.5	6	3.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES is identified across adult and youth 9v9 pitches.				
							Youth 9v9	1		0	2	2	1					
47	Tendring Education Centre	-Clacton Knights FC	South	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	0	Demand is caused by curricular use and Clacton Knights FC. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
48	Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)	-	Central East	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
							Mini 5v5	2		1	8	7	0					
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	-	Central East	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	1	4	3	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
							Mini 7v7	1		1	4	3	0					
50	The Austin Arena	-FC Clacton	South	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	0	No actual spare capacity.				
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	-Harwich and Parkeston FC	North East	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	1	1	-	0	Spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.				
							Youth 9v9	1		1	1	-	0					
							Mini 5v5	4		1	8	7	0					
53	The Royal Oak Ground	-Harwich and Parkeston FC	North East	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplay of 0.5 MES is identified.				
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	-Clacton Ballers 43 FC -Clacton Rhinos Walking Football FC -Clacton Villa FC -FC Clacton -Tendring Borough FC	South	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	1	Standard	3	3	-	0	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES is present on Mini 7v7 pitch. Mini 5v5 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES.				
								1	Poor									
							Youth 9v9	1	Standard						1	2	1	0
							Mini 7v7	1	Standard						0.5	4	3.5	0.5
							Mini 5v5	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	0					
No community use																		
1	Alton Park Junior School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
3	Ardleigh St Marys Primary School	-	North West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Standard	1	4	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
9	Cann Hall Primary School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
10	Chase Lane Primary School	-	North	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
12	Clacton County High School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
18	Elmstead Primary School	-	Central West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
34	Manningtree High School	-	North West	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
35	Market Field School	-	Central West	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	1	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				
43	St Andrew's C of E Primary School	-	Central East	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.				

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Site ID	Site	Clubs accessing site	Analysis area	Community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch size ⁸	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Pitch capacity ⁹ (match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or spare capacity	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
77	St Clare's Primary School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Standard	1	4	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
78	Mistley Norman Church of England Primary School	-	North West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
79	Rolph Church of England Primary School	-	Central East	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
80	All Saints C of E Primary School	-	North East	No	School	Unsecure	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1	1	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
81	All Saints CE (VA) Primary School	-	North East	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
82	Lawford CofE Primary School	-	North West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
83	St Georges C of E School	-	Central West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
84	St Joseph's Catholic School	-	North East	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
85	Holland Park Primary School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
86	Alresford Primary School	-	Central West	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
87	Holland Haven Primary School	-	South	No	School	Unsecure	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	1	2	-	-	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity identified in Table 2.14 has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to their already low carrying capacity. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn, can aid the improvement of pitch quality.

Unless tenure is considered secure through the operator, school sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full availability of these pitches cannot be relied upon in the long term.

The table below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across Tendring. It totals 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 14 pitches at ten sites. This represents comparatively minimal levels.

Table 2.15: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	Mini 7v7	2	1
16	Eastcliffe Recreation Ground	South	Mini 5v5	2	1.5
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	Central West	Youth 9v9	1	1
			Mini 5v5	1	1
29	Kirby Playing Field	Central East	Mini 7v7	1	1
36	Mayflower School	North East	Youth 9v9	1	0.5
42	School Lane Playing Fields	North West	Mini 7v7	1	0.5
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	Central West	Adult	3	0.5
			Youth 9v9	1	1
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	Mini 7v7	1	0.5

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated by area and by pitch type below.

Table 2.16: Summary of actual spare capacity

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central East	-	-	-	1	-
Central West	0.5	-	2	-	1
North East	-	-	0.5	1	-
North West	-	-	-	0.5	-
South	-	-	-	0.5	1.5
Total	0.5	-	2.5	3	2.5

In addition to the above, it is worthy of note that eight match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity at community use sites has been discounted due to either sites having unsecure tenure or poor pitch quality.

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Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to reduced quality). Once pitches become overplayed, their ability to accommodate match fixtures deteriorates due to issues relating to wear and tear and a difficulty in recovering after match play.

In total, 13 pitches across seven sites are identified as being overplayed. Total overplay equates to 17 match equivalent sessions per week. There is no overplay identified on mini 7v7 pitches.

The identified overplay is caused by sites such as Frinton Park Playing Fields and Rush Green Recreation Ground providing poor quality provision whilst accommodating for lots of demand from Frinton and Walton FC for the former and FC Clacton in the latter. In the case of Frinton Park Playing Fields, the site is identified in the LFFP for targeted pitch improvements, whilst FC Clacton has a planning permission to submit to Tendring District Council for the potential development of a small sided 3G pitch Rush Green Recreation Ground. Detail regarding how the delivery of both projects would impact overplay shall be provided in the forthcoming framework report.

Table 2.17: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (sessions)
22	Frinton Park Playing Field	Central East	Adult	1	2
			Youth 11v11	1	3
			Youth 9v9	1	0.5
23	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	North West	Adult	1	2
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Central West	Adult	1	1.5
41	Rush Green Recreation Ground	South	Adult	2	4
42	School Lane Playing Fields	North West	Adult	2	1
53	The Royal Oak Ground	North East	Adult	1	0.5
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	Mini 5v5	1	0.5

Table 2.18: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
Central East	2	3	0.5	-	-
Central West	1.5	-	-	-	-
North East	0.5	-	-	-	-
North West	3	-	-	-	-
South	4	-	-	-	0.5
Total	11	3	0.5	-	0.5

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

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Total future demand in Tendring accounts for population increases. As a reminder, this equates to seven adult, two youth boys' teams and two youth girls' teams. This has been calculated by a combination of population forecasts and organic growth following the Women's 2022 Euro's. As a breakdown, the seven adult and two youth boys' teams are generated through population forecasts, whilst one youth 11v11 girls' team and one youth 9v9 girls' team has been accounted for to reflect anticipated growth following the Women's 2022 Euro's. Both girls' teams have been attributed to the South Analysis Area as it provides the largest number of teams.

The table overleaf highlights the position of adult pitch provision in Tendring.

Adult pitch analysis

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁰	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	2	2	0.5	2.5
Central West	0.5	1.5	1	0.5	1.5
North East	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
North West	-	3	3	0.5	3.5
South	-	4	4	1	5
Total	0.5	11	10.5	3.5	14

On a district wide basis, there is currently an insufficient capacity of adult provision to accommodate for both existing and future demand. Furthermore, all five analysis areas are showing current overplay, with the North West Analysis Area being the most overplayed. Future demand worsens this shortfall to show overplay of 14 match equivalent sessions per week.

Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	3	3	-	3
Central West	-	-	-	-	-
North East	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
North West	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	3	3	1.5	4.5

The current picture is that there is an insufficient supply of provision of youth 11v11 pitches in Tendring to accommodate existing demand caused by Frinton Park Playing Field in the Central East Analysis Areas showing overplay of three match equivalent sessions per week. The remaining four analysis areas are current being played at capacity. This shortfall is exacerbated to 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week once future demand from population growth and organic growth of one youth girls' team in the South Analysis Area is considered.

¹⁰ In match equivalent sessions

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

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Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Central West	2	-	2	-	2
North East	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
North West	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Total	2.5	0.5	2	0.5	1.5

Overall, there is sufficient supply of youth 9v9 pitches in Tendring to accommodate current demand with 2 match equivalent sessions per week of actual spare capacity being present. When considering future demand from one youth girls' team through organic growth, actual spare capacity is reduced to 1.5 MES.

Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	1	-	1	-	1
Central West	-	-	-	-	-
North East	1	-	1	-	1
North West	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
South	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Total	3	-	3	-	3

The table above shows that there is a sufficient supply on mini 7v7 pitches in Tendring to accommodate current and future levels of demand. There is actual spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions per week for both current and future demand.

Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.23: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	-	-	-	-
Central West	1	-	1	-	1
North East	-	-	-	-	-
North West	-	-	-	-	-
South	1.5	0.5	1	-	1
Total	2.5	0.5	2	-	2

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁴ In match equivalent sessions

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The table above shows that there is sufficient supply on mini 5v5 pitches in Tendring to accommodate current levels of demand. With no future demand from population growth being present there is no change to this picture moving forwards.

2.6: Conclusion

Having considered supply and demand position of each format of football pitch it is evident that the overall position is insufficient supply of provision in the District. This is evidenced by the overall shortfall of provision for both current and future demand, as well as the 16 clubs identifying latent demand.

Currently, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and 5v5 formats of play can be accommodated, when looking at provision from a district wide basis. Comparatively, adult and youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by a total of 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week, meaning there is a shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions per week. When accounting for future demand through organic growth in girls demand, existing overplay on adult and youth 11v11 pitches are exacerbated. Actual spare capacity on, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches remain.

Table 2.24: Summary of supply and demand in Tendring

Pitch format	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	0.5	11	10.5	3.5	14
Youth 11v11	-	3	3	1.5	4.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	0.5	2	0.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	-	3	-	3
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5	2	-	2
Total	8.5	15	7.5	5.5	13

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ The current supply of football provision is broadly sufficient in accommodating football demand on mini and youth 9v9 pitches. Comparatively, adult and youth 11v11 pitches are showing a combined overplay of 13.5 MES.
- ◀ Future demand through team generation rates and organic growth in girls demand creates a shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Grass football pitch supply:

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 121 grass football pitches across 52 sites. Of these, 101 are available, at some level, for community use across 33 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

Grass football pitch quality:

- ◀ Of the 101 pitches which offer community use, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 50 as standard quality and 42 as poor quality. The identified good quality pitches are located at four sites, those being The Austin Arena, Brightlingsea Regent Football Club, Holland FC and Little Oakley Memorial.

Affiliated football demand:

- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 214 teams from 53 clubs are identified as playing in Tendring. This consists of 75 adult men's, seven adult women's, 72 youth boys', nine youth girls' and 51 mini mixed teams.
- ◀ Future demand equates to the growth of seven adult and two youth boys' teams based on team generation rates, as well as two youth girls teams in the South Analysis Area through organic growth following the success of the Women's 2022 Euro's. Club growth ambitions of 38 teams have been discounted.
- ◀ The PPOSS Framework & Action Plan will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for football arising from housing development.

Supply vs demand analysis conclusions:

- ◀ There is broadly a sufficient supply of provision in Tendring to accommodate demand on youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch types.
- ◀ There are existing shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ Future demand exacerbates shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches to give an overall picture of 13 MES of overplay for the district.
- ◀ There is spare capacity for youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches both now and in the future.

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PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) PITCHES

3.1: Introduction

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

Competitive football can take place on 3G artificial grass pitches that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA Pitch Register¹⁶. As such, a growing number of 3G artificial grass pitches are now used for competitive match play, provided that the performance standard meets FIFA Quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. Football training does, however, take place on hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (please refer to Part 6: Artificial grass pitches for greater explanation on pitch specifications) but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby'¹⁷, more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place.

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

England Hockey's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (updated June 2018)¹⁸ advises that third generation artificial grass pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based artificial grass pitches are available.

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football, able to be used for low level curricular hockey.

It should be noted that the FA generally refers to 3G pitches as 3G football turf pitches, though this term is not adopted in this PPOSS as 3G pitches can be and are used for other sports including rugby union, rugby league, lacrosse and American football, amongst others.

¹⁶ [Football Foundation | 3G Pitch Register](#)

¹⁷ <https://www.world.rugby/handbook/regulations/reg-22/>

¹⁸ [Deliver - Developing Your Project | England Hockey](#)

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3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 70 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate.

On the above basis, there are two full size 3G pitch provided in Tendring, as well as one small sided 3G pitch split across three sites. Whilst strictly being two metres smaller than the FA full sized measurement, the 3G pitch at Tendring Education Centre shall be referred to as a full-sized pitch throughout the report given the minor difference.

Table 3.2: 3G pitch supply summary:

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch size	Surface type	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	FA/ FIFA registered?
Full size								
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Central West	Yes	105m x 67m	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	1	Yes	No
47	Tendring Education Centre	South	Yes	98m x 60m	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	1	Yes	No
Small sided								
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	North East	Yes	43m x 60m	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	1	Yes	No

All 3G pitches across Tendring are available for community use and are accompanied by floodlights. In the case of Tendring Education Centre, the provision is community accessible following a PFI contract that was agreed as part of its 2019 surface replacement. This however should not be deemed as secure long term as the PFI operator could remove the community use access at the site.

Management

The management and availability of sites is summarised in the table below.

Table 3.3: 3G pitch operator and opening times breakdown:

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch size	Operator	Opening times
Full size						
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Central West	Yes	Full size	Sigma Trust	17:30-21:30 midweek 09:00-16:30 Saturdays 09:30-13:00 Sundays
47	Tendring Education Centre	South	Yes	Full size	School	16:30 - 22:00 midweek 09:00 - 22:00 on weekends

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Small sided						
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	North East	Yes	43m x 60m	Sports Club	16:00-22:00 Midweek 09:00-17:00 weekends

Future provision

The Tendring LFFP identifies four potential investment projects for the District with a variety of pitch formats outlined. The plan identifies two full size 3G pitches, one small sided 3G pitch as well as two additional 3G pitch projects that both have not had their sizes determined.

The report identifies Clacton Leisure Centre, Brightlingsea Sports Centre, Tendring Technology College and The Harwich and Dovercourt High School as the four sites outlined for the installation of new 3G provision.

Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it may need to be re-assessed following the findings and recommendations of this study.

The validity of these projects will be assessed in the PPOSS Framework & Action Plan with recommendations around portfolio inclusions or expulsions.

Clacton Leisure Centre (South Analysis Area)

Clacton Leisure Centre features a sand dressed AGP that last had its surface replaced in 2005, resulting in the provision being condemned for hockey use. Alongside the site sits Vista Road Recreation Ground, a heavily accessed football and cricket site as well as Clacton RUFC, home to one of four rugby clubs within Tendring. The proposal is for the development of a full size 3G pitch on the existing AGP with an accompanying small sided 5v5 3G pitch.

Consultation with Essex FA, England Hockey and the site operators confirms the pitch is in the process of being developed into a 3G pitch replacement having secured Football Foundation funding.

Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Central West Analysis Area)

Brightlingsea Sports Centre currently has a sand filled AGP that was first installed in 2002 resulting in the provision being condemned for hockey use. In December 2021, Tendring District Council's ruling cabinet decreed it shall no longer fund the sports facility, having invested in the refurbishment of Clacton Leisure Centre.

Consultation with Essex FA, England Hockey and the site operators confirms the pitch has been resurfaced and is now open to community use.

Tendring Technology College (South Analysis Area)

Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus) features a youth 11v11 and two 5v5 pitches. The accompanying sports hall is accessed by Frinton and Walton FC for training purposes, whilst its grass pitches are un-used and service curricular demand only.

The proposal for the site is for a new 3G pitch, with its scale currently undetermined. Investment into the site would support junior, senior, informal, recreational and curricular demand. Consultation with Essex FA states the site is in the early stages of discussions.

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The Harwich and Dovercourt High School (North East Analysis Area)

The Harwich and Dovercourt High School provides six grass football pitches that are minimally accessed by Harwich and Parkston FC, meaning most of the demand is from curricular use only. The proposal is for a brand new 3G pitch with its scale to be determined dependant upon current and future supply and demand.

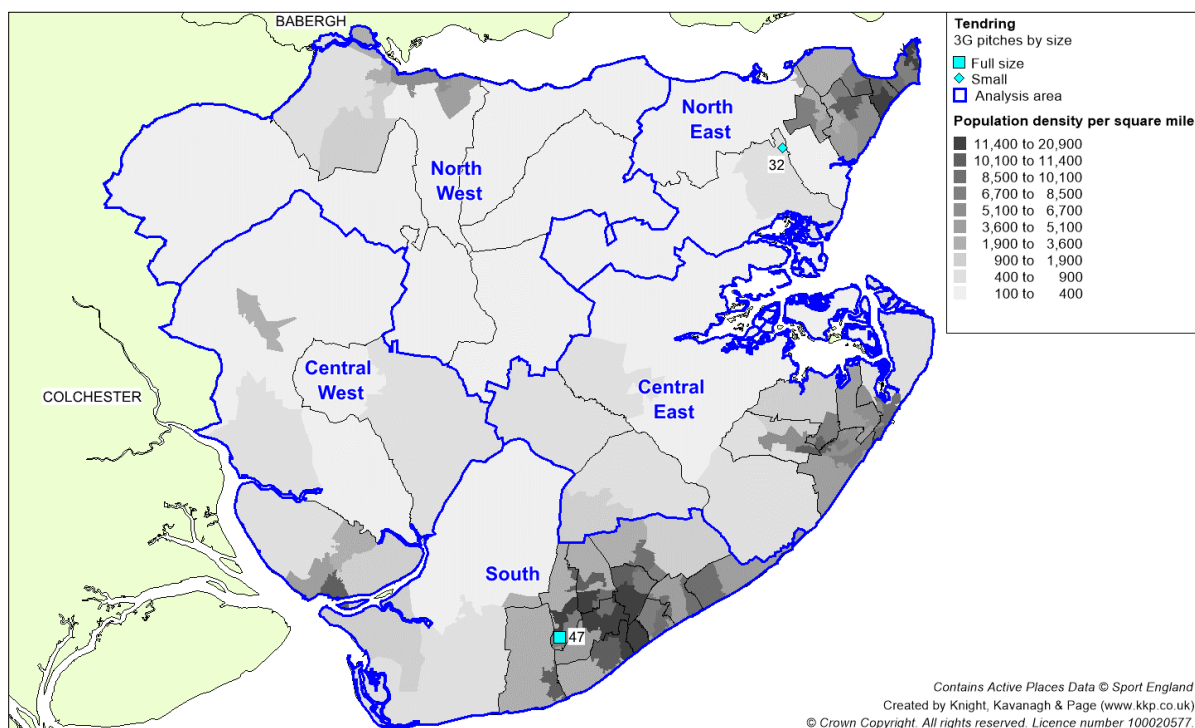
Essex FA confirms it is actively engaging with the school for the installation of a 3G pitch, as its far Easterly location within the North East Analysis Area of Tendring can service a large population catchment area that currently does not have access to such provision. Essex FA confirm the Football Foundation is looking to make a submission in the first half of 2023 for development a 3G pitch.

Given that the LFFP is a live document informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it may need to be re-assessed following the findings and recommendations of this study.

In addition to the LFFP, consultation with FC Clacton confirm the Club has a planning permission request ready to submit in order to lease some of Rush Green Recreation Ground for the installation of a small sided (65m x 45m) 3G pitch. The site currently features ten pitches of varying scales and is accessed frequently by the Club who single headedly cause 13 MES of demand at the site, making it the most overplayed site within the District. The Club hope to install its provision directly to the East of the North half of its stadia pitch.

Figure 3.1 identifies all 3G pitches servicing Tendring. For a key to the map, see Table 3.2.

Figure 3.1: 3G pitches servicing Tendring



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FA Pitch Register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA Pitch Register, which can be found at:

In the case of Tendring, none of the existing stock of pitches are either FA or FIFA registered. With Tendring Education Centre resembling the only full sized 3G within the district, its exclusion from the list results in Tendring having no FA or FIFA registered provision. The nearest FIFA registered pitch to Tendring residents is situated at Philip Morant School in its neighbouring borough Colchester.

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, WR has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification.

This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

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

In the case of Tendring, there are no WR compliant 3G pitches within the District. The nearest example of this provision is situated at Northern Gateway Sports Park in Colchester and is predominantly utilised by Colchester Rugby Club, however, it does also service football training demand.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of a 3G usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

Taking the above into account, the quality of third generation artificial grass pitches across Tendring have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The 3G pitch provided at Tendring Education Centre is of a good quality having first been installed in 2004, before a replacement surface was provided in 2019. Brightlingsea Sports Centre has a good quality pitch that was first installed in 2023. In the case of Little Oakley Memorial Club, its 3G pitch is of a standard quality with the pitch being installed in 2015.

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Table 3.4: Age and quality of 3G pitches in Tendring

Site ID	Site	Pitch type	Year installed or resurfaced	Quality
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Full size	2023	Good
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	43m x 33m	2015	Standard
47	Tendring Education Centre	Full size	2004 / 2019	Good

Ancillary facilities

The ancillary facilities provided at Little Oakley Memorial Club are of a good quality having been built in 2010 following investment from the Football Foundation. The building provides two changing rooms, two officials changing spaces and a disabled toilet. All ancillary provision is open to users of the 3G pitch, however, the Club state in most cases users only access the pitch and not the changing rooms. Comparatively, Tendring Education Centre features good quality changing rooms that the school state are accessible to users of the 3G pitch.

3.3: Demand

The following table summarises the availability of all 3G pitches in Tendring which are available for community use. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). This equates to a peak time midweek available usage of 18 hours and a peak time weekend usage of 16 hours.

Table 3.5: Availability and capacity of provision summary

Site ID	Site	Management	Total hours available during peak period	Comments
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Sigma Trust	Site has only recently opened and is in the process of filling its slots	Facility is open from 17:30-21:30 midweek, 09:00-16:30 on Saturdays and 09:30-13:00 on Sundays.
32	Little Oakley Memorial Club	Sports Club	Zero hours of availability Site is operating at capacity	Facility opens to the general public from 17:00- 22:00 from Monday to Thursday and 17:00-21:00 Fridays. On weekends it is open from 09:00- 17:00
47	Tendring Education Centre	School	Site is at 75% capacity. Nine hours of availability is found across Friday and Saturday evenings and Monday from 16:30-18:00	Facility opens to the general public from 16:30 to 22:00 midweek and 09:00 to 22:00 on weekends.

Provision located at Tendring Education Centre opens to the general public from 16:30 to 22:00 midweek and 09:00 to 22:00 on weekends. The site is accessed by FC Clacton which is situated geographically very close to the site, as well as Brightlingsea Regent FC and Essex Professionals FC. In the case of Brightlingsea Sports Centre the site has only recently opened and is in the process of filling its availability.

Comparatively, the small sided provision at Little Oakley Memorial Club is heavily accessed by Little Oakley FC, but does also accommodate for demand from other football clubs, walking football groups and a Netball group that access the site on Mondays and Thursdays.

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Clacton Rhinos Walking Football Club access Clacton Leisure Centre and state it hopes the Club will grow following the 3G pitch installation and hopes to accommodate league fixtures moving forwards.

As can be seen in Table 3.5 there is a total of nine hours of availability at Tendring Education Centre spread across Friday and Saturday evenings as well as when the site opens to general public use on Mondays. With regard to Little Oakley Memorial Club, the Club confirm the site is operating at capacity. Finally, as Brightlingsea Sports Centre has only recently opened an accurate representation cannot be given but it is anticipated the pitch will operate near capacity.

Football

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development.

The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition, which The FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

Of the 29 responsive football clubs, 15 report that they require additional training facilities and specifically mention demand for 3G pitches, which equates to 167 teams combined. Some teams currently access indoor sports halls, whilst others use the 3G pitch provided at Tendring Education Centre. In some instances, clubs are forced to cancel training sessions purely due to the lack of facilities available within the area. Clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches are listed in the table below.

Table 3.6: Latent demand for 3G pitches

Club	Number of teams	Analysis area	Need for more/better training facilities
Frinton and Walton FC	22	Central East	✓
Kirby Athletic YFC	5	Central East	✓
Thorpe Athletic FC	1	Central East	✓
Brightlingsea Regent YFC	12	Central West	✓
Great Bentley FC	11	Central West	✓
Pathfields FC	2	Central West	✓
Central West Total	53 teams	-	-
Harwich and Parekson FC	10	North East	✓
Little Oakley FC	24	North East	✓
Parkeston Welfare Park YFC	2	North East	✓
Lawford FC	15	North West	✓
North West	51 teams		
Clacton Knights Walking FC	1	South	
Clacton Rhinos Walking FC	1	South	✓
FC Clacton	41	South	✓

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Club	Number of teams	Analysis area	Need for more/better training facilities
Holland FC	17	South	✓
Sokratez FC	2	South	✓
Tendring Borough YFC	1	South	✓
South	63 teams	-	-
Total number of teams	167 teams	-	-

3.4: Football supply and demand analysis

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every England football accreditation club through a partnership agreement.

In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match (although these times slots are often popular as a recreational offer).

To ensure the current supply and any future supply is of a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

Given the above, with 214 teams currently affiliating to Tendring, there is a theoretical need for 5.75 full size 3G pitch equivalents (rounded up from 5.6) to accommodate all affiliated training demand.

As there are currently two full sized pitches open to community use across the District, there is a theoretical need for an additional 3.75 full size pitches to accommodate football training demand. This total does not include the small sized provision located at Little Oakley Memorial Club, nor does it include the full size pitch at Clacton Leisure Centre that is outlined to be developed. Once Clacton Leisure Centre is provided and made available, the shortfall will be reduced to 2.75 full size pitches.

The table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. As can be seen, there are existing shortfalls of provision in all five analysis areas, with no examples of an analysis area either successfully accommodating or oversupplying demand.

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Table 3.7: Current demand for 3G pitches in Tendring (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Full size 3G requirement ¹⁹	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Central East	41	1	0	1
Central West	32	1	1	-
North East	44	1.25	0	1.25
North West	23	0.5	0	0.5
South	74	2	1	1
Total	214	5.75	2	3.75

It is also worth noting that despite the South Analysis Area showing a theoretical shortfall of one pitch, the full size 3G pitch scheduled at Clacton Leisure Centre would resolve this identified shortfall. Furthermore, only the North East Analysis Area is showing a shortfall larger than one full size 3G pitch, meaning the successful delivery of one project per analysis area featuring a full size pitch would address all shortfalls in the remaining analysis areas.

In addition to the 214 teams, there are a further three teams affiliated to Tendring that access provision outside of the District. Including these teams does not exacerbate the shortfall shown.

The table overleaf examines what the need for 3G pitches is based on future demand identified in the football section of this report (Part 2: Football Pitches). Future demand is based ONS projections which equates to the growth of a further nine teams, plus an additional growth of two girls' teams established through the Euro 2022 legacy.

Table 3.8: Future demand for 3G pitches in Tendring (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Future number of teams ²⁰	Full size 3G requirement ²¹	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Central East	42	1	0	1
Central West	33	1	1	-
North East	47	1.25	0	1.25
North West	24	0.5	0	0.5
South	79	2	1	1
Total	223	6	2	4

Based on the above, the overall shortfall increases to six full size, floodlit 3G pitches (rounded up from 5.86). This is based on future demand through ONS projections. Increases of facility need do not stem from one analysis area but are instead distributed across all five.

The number of additional teams identified through club ambitions is 38 teams. Combining both ONS projections and club ambitions gives a total potential future demand of 47 additional teams. The Framework & Action Plan will explore how this level of future demand also impacts the need for 3G provision.

Football match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football.

¹⁹ Figure rounded up to the nearest 0.25.

²⁰ Future demand based on participation increases and TGRs as per the football section of the report.

²¹ Figure rounded up to the nearest whole number for total.

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The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period, and the location does not have an impact on other pitch sports.

The forthcoming Strategy & Action Plan will explore scenarios for the 3G pitch requirement for competitive match play. This will include a focus on accommodating both mini and youth football.

3.5: Conclusion

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand based on the FA training model, in Tendring. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with the most explicit need identified in the South Analysis Area.

As the work developing Clacton Leisure Centre into a 3G pitch is taking place at the time of writing the report, the future theoretical shortfall of four full sized pitches shall reduce to three pitches at the time of its completion. The development shall also remove the shortfall identified in the South Analysis Area.

3G summary

Supply:

- There are two full sized 3G pitches within Tendring, located at Tendring Education Centre and Brightlingsea Sports Centre. In addition to this there is one small sided 3G pitch, located at Little Oakley Memorial Club. All three sites are serviced by floodlights and open to community use.
- Neither of the three pitches within the District are on the FA or FIFA register meaning no 3G pitches can be used to accommodate competitive matches within the District.
- There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Tendring. The nearest of such provision is located at the Northern Gateway Sports Park within Colchester.

Quality:

- The pitch located at both Tendring Education Centre and Brightlingsea Sports Centre are of a good quality, with the former having received a surface replacement in 2019 and the latter being installed in 2023. Comparatively, the small sized provision at Little Oakley Memorial Club is of a standard quality having initially been installed in 2015.
- The ancillary provision provided at Tendring Education Centre is all of a good quality and accessible to members of the public accessing outdoor provision. Comparatively, Little Oakley Memorial Club also provides good quality ancillary provision following a grant from the Football Foundation in 2010.

Supply vs demand analysis:

- With 214 football teams currently affiliated to Tendring, there is a need for 5.75 full size pitch equivalents to service current levels of demand. Future demand from ONS projections and organic growth following the Women's 2022 Euro's increases this requirement to six pitches.
- With two full sized pitches within Tendring, there is the need for a further 3.75 pitches equivalents to be built. The scheduled 3G pitch replacement of the currently condemned AGP at Clacton Leisure Centre shall reduce this shortfall to 2.75 full size pitches.
- When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in four of the five PPOSS analysis areas, with the South and Central East analysis areas all having shortfalls of one full size pitch. Comparatively, the North West analysis area shows a shortfall of 0.5 full size pitches, whilst the North East Analysis Area has a shortfall of 1.25 full sized pitches. The Central West Analysis Area is currently adequately catering for current and future demand. The development at Clacton Leisure Centre shall address existing and future shortfalls within the South Analysis Area.
- Sites outlined in the LFFP for the installation of new full-size provision would successfully resolve the existing shortfalls in the Central West Analysis Area, reduce shortfalls in the North East Analysis Area to 0.25 pitches and create an oversupply in the South Analysis Area.

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PART 4: RUGBY UNION PITCHES

4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, of which Tendring falls into the South East region.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May, with senior men's fixtures being held on Saturday afternoons whilst ladies, juniors and mini fixtures are held on Sundays.

Consultation

There are four rugby union clubs based in Tendring. All four clubs were responsive to consultation attempts and was undertaken via both face to face and online surveys.

Table 4.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Brightlingsea RFC	Yes
Clacton RFC	Yes
Harwich and Dovercourt RFC	Yes
Mistley RFC	Yes

4.2: Supply

There is a total of 15 rugby union pitches identified within Tendring across 9 sites. Of these pitches, nine are available for community use across four sites. This figure consists of eight senior and one junior pitch. The unavailable pitches are all located at education sites.

Table 4.2: Supply of rugby union pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of pitches	% of provision
Central East	1	7%
Central West	3	20%
North East	3	20%
North West	3	20%
South	5	33%
Total	15	100%

Most provision is situated within the South Analysis Area, where a total of five pitches are identified (this includes pitches which are unavailable for community use). Comparatively, the Central East Analysis Area features only one rugby pitch located at Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus) which is not community accessible.

A site-by-site breakdown of identified provision can be found in the table overleaf.

Table 4.3: Supply of rugby union pitches

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community accessible?	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	South	No	-	1	-
12	Clacton County High School	South	No	1	1	-
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	North East	Yes	2	-	-
23	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	North West	Yes	2	-	-
34	Manningtree High School	North West	No	-	1	-
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	Central West	Yes	2	1	-
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	Central East	No	1	-	-
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	North East	No	1	-	-
88	Clacton RUFC	South	Yes	2	-	-

Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is something that takes place for junior teams across Tendring as junior teams from Mistley RFC and Harwich and Dovercourt RFC access senior pitches for competitive matches. In the case of Clacton RUFC, the Club has a mini pitch overmarked on its floodlit training space. The RFU stresses that junior and mini teams accessing senior provision should be avoided, if possible, to minimise overplay and enable a truer pitch demand capacity to be drawn.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table overleaf.

Table 4.4: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²²
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ²³

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

²³ 94 x 68m are the minimum dimensions defined for an international pitch.

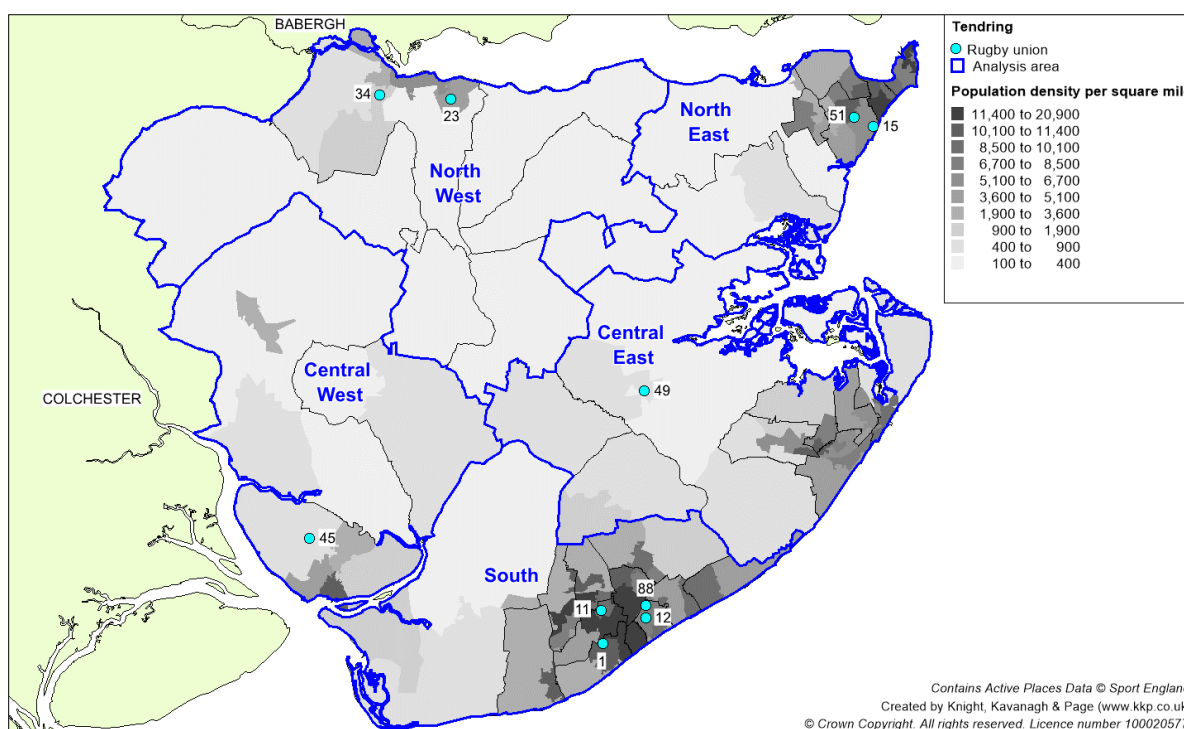
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Changes to supply

Furze Hill Recreation Ground, home of Mistley RFC is gaining a third senior pitch as of 2022 to be located behind its existing clubhouse on land owned by Mistley Parish Council. This is a result of S106 funds being allocated to the Club from a local housing development on former NHS land.

At the time of consultation, the Club is in the final stages of being granted a lease from the Parish Council for the additional grass space. Once the lease is finalised, the Club will install a third senior pitch with accompanying floodlights, as well as improving its accessibility by creating additional parking and a picnic area.

Figure 4.1: Rugby union pitches (community use only)



Security of tenure

Security of tenure refers to the rights of occupation on playing field and infrastructure. Clubs and stakeholders generally fall into the bracket of owner-occupier, tenant or licensee.

The table below identifies the current tenure position of each rugby union club based on information collated during the consultation. The broad position is that all clubs have secure tenure positions (with the exception of Brightlingsea RFC), and this will remain the case over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

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Table 4.5: Rugby union clubs security of tenure

Site	Club	Tenure arrangement	Secure?
Strangers Corner Sports Complex	Brightlingsea RFC	Club has a rolling rental agreement with Colne Community School and College and the Sigma trust over its site. The Club is charged £300 a year to rent its site.	No
Clacton RUFC	Clacton RUFC	Club has a 25-year lease agreement with Tendring District Council for the clubhouse, its two senior pitches and the clubs floodlit training area. The agreement is scheduled to expire in 2037.	Yes
Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Harwich and Dovercourt RFC	Site is owned by Tendring District Council and the Club has signed a 20-year heads and terms agreement for its clubhouse as of 2022. Its playing provision is not included in the agreement and instead is rented on a weekly basis.	Yes
Furze Hill Recreation Ground	Mistley RFC	Club has a 99-year lease for its site from Mistley Parish Council signed in 2021. This covers the clubhouse and rugby playing provision on site. An agreement for the additional land behind the clubhouse is in its final stages.	Yes

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by RFU) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements: the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 4.6: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

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Table 4.7: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 4.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Based on the above criteria, there are two standard and 13 poor quality pitches. When broken down by provision open to community use, there are eight senior pitches, two of which, are of a standard quality and six being poor; as well as one poor quality junior pitch.

The remaining six sites are all poor-quality pitches at non-community accessible sites, those being located at Tendring Technology College, Alton Park Junior School, Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus), Clacton County High School, Manningtree High School and The Harwich and Dovercourt High School.

From a community club perspective, Harwich and Dovercourt RFC (Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles) is serviced by poor quality pitch provision. Its two senior pitches are maintained by Tendring District Council which cut and line the site. The Club has additionally invested into fertilising and overseeding the pitch, but as a result of the general infrequency of this, its quality failed to improve. Furthermore, one of the pitches has a large collapsed storm drain located beneath the surface which significantly worsens the quality of the pitch.

Comparatively, Mistley RFC (Furze Hill Recreation Ground) has standard quality pitches at its home site which the Club is responsible for the maintenance of. The pitches have been aerated in recent years which improved its quality, however, the Club state it needs a new lawnmower and additional storage if it hopes to further improve the playing quality. Frustrations with the quantity of dog walkers accessing the site was also raised as an issue during consultation.

Clacton RUFC describe the quality of the pitches it provides as poor with maintenance, undertaken by the Council. The Club state its pitches are not aerated, seeded or chain harrowed.

Finally, Brightlingsea RFC (Strangers Corner Sports Complex) state it has no input into the maintenance of the pitches at Strangers Corner Sports Complex with all responsibility for the site falling to Colne Community School and College.

Please refer to Table 4.9 overleaf for a breakdown of pitch quality.

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Table 4.9: Site quality ratings at rugby union sites

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Number of grass pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Harwich and Dovercourt RUFC	North East	2	No	2 Senior	M1/D0	Poor
23	Furze Hill recreation Ground	Mistley RUFC	North West	2	Yes 2 Senior	2 Senior	M1/D1	Standard
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	Brightlingsea RUFC	Central West	3	No	2 Senior 1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor
88	Clacton RUFC	Clacton RUFC	South	2	No	2 Senior	M0/D1	Poor
No community use								
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	-	South	1	No	1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor
12	Clacton County High School	-	South	2	No	1 Senior 1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor
34	Manningtree High School	-	North West	1	No	1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	-	Central West	1	No	1 Senior	M1/D0	Poor
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	-	North East	1	No	1 Senior	M1/D0	Poor

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Ancillary facilities

The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructure at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited to) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, car parking and toilet facilities.

The table below summarises the position of each rugby club and highlights current issues and long-term requirements.

Table 4.10: Ancillary provision feedback

Club	Ancillary position
Harwich and Dovercourt RUFC	Harwich and Dovercourt RFC has four good quality changing rooms and a bar and function space within its two-storey brick building clubhouse originally in 1990. The clubhouse is also accessed by Tendring HC, as well as hosting functions for the general public. As of 2022 the Club has agreed a 20-year heads and terms agreement for its clubhouse with Tendring District Council. Following this, a loan will go towards re-tiling the roof of the building, enhancing its spiral staircase that currently operates as a fire escape, extending the existing patio that was first installed over covid and extending the existing balcony.
Mistley RUFC	Having been located at its home site since 1985, Mistley RUFC has built a brand-new clubhouse as of 2019. The Club has four changing rooms, two of which, are brand new and of an RFU spec, with the remaining two being of a poor quality located in a wooden shed, which represents the old ancillary provision offering. At the time of consultation in April 2022, a water valve issue was causing only four of the nine showers to be functional. Moving forwards the clubhouse has a three-phase development plan, the first of which is to double the size of the current function room and install a second bar, something it hopes it shall complete by 2025. Following this, the two old changing rooms shall be replaced by extending the building as to provide two good quality changing rooms over the same footprint. Finally, the installation of a cellar with storage is the last goal of the Club's ancillary provision offer.
Clacton RUFC	Clacton RFC has four good quality changing rooms with communal showers and toilets as to service all teams. An additional referee changing room is provided as well as on site parking and a kitchen space. Consultation with the RFU outlines the clubs off field priority is to refurbish the social spaces of its clubhouse. The Club report an incident of a vehicle driving into one of its floodlights as well as graffiti being sprayed onto its clubhouse in the past.
Brightlingsea RUFC	Brightlingsea RFC access Strangers Corner Sports Complex for its ancillary provision offer. The site features five good quality en-suite changing rooms with an additional referee space being provided within the school.

4.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

There are four rugby union clubs in Tendring which in total generate demand equating to 32 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of seven senior men's, 13 junior boys and 12 mini teams.

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There is no identified women's or girls' teams in Tendring. Clacton RUFC state it hopes to form a girls' team by merging with Ipswich RFC. However, consultation with Clacton RFC has confirmed this is not yet put in place meaning no teams have been created and it is merely an ambition.

Harwich and Dovercourt RFC confirm it formerly had a senior women's team, however, it folded over covid. The Club has now re-developed its senior women's section to now have 12 members and hopes are to have some friendly fixtures take place during the 2022/23 season. It also confirms having junior girls' members playing mini rugby however once members reach the U13's level it suggests its members relocate to Ipswich RFC which already has a more developed junior girls' system in place.

Three of the four clubs contribute towards the identified junior demand, with Brightlingsea RFC being the exception as a one senior men's team club.

Table 4.11: Demand summary

Club	Senior men's	Senior women's	Colt boys (U17/U18)	Colt girls (U17/U18)	Junior boys (U16-U13)	Junior girls (U16-U13)	Mixed age grade (U7-U12)
Brightlingsea RFC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clacton RUFC	2	0	0	0	3	0	0
Harwich and Dovercourt RFC	2	0	0	0	5	0	6
Mistley RFC	2	0	0	0	5	0	6
Total	7	0	0	0	13	0	12

Training demand

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

Full details of each of the clubs training schedules are detailed in the table below. The match equivalent sessions for training relates to the demand which takes place on grass pitches only, unless otherwise stated. Where clubs are known to train on floodlit training areas (which are separate to formal pitches) no match equivalent sessions of demand have been attributed to match pitches. Of the four clubs, three predominately use a dedicated floodlit training area, these are; Harwich and Dovercourt RFC, Clacton RFC and Mistley RFC.

Mistley RFC also occasionally access the indoor show jumping arena at the Bromley Equestrians Centre, as well as the sand filled AGP pitch at the Royal Hospital School in Ipswich. The Club access the equestrian centre when weather conditions force it to access external provision as to preserve the pitch quality at Furze Hill Recreation Ground. Comparatively, the Royal Hospital School is accessed less frequently, however, the Club is hoping to get a rolling annual block booking at the site for training sessions.

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Table 4.12: Training demand summary

Club	Midweek training requirements	Match equivalent sessions (MES)
Brightlingsea RFC	Club training for the one team is held at Bayard Recreation Ground. Play takes place on one of the adult football pitches every Tuesday from 19:00 – 20:30 with the Club bringing its own portable floodlights.	1 MES Total <i>1 MES discounted due to accessing an external site</i>
Clacton RUFC	Club training for Clacton RFC takes place on its additional floodlit training area on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for senior teams, whilst junior training sessions run every Wednesday in the same place.	4.5 MES Total <i>2 MES from senior demand and 2.5 MES from junior boys demand discounted due to accessing additional floodlit training space</i>
Harwich and Dovercourt RFC	Senior mens training is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 19:00-20:30 on an additional grass space in between a senior pitch and the on-site AGP, utilising the clubhouse floodlights as well as portable floodlights. Women's training session is on Wednesdays from 19:00-20:30. Finally, junior teams on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the same time as the adults as well as on Sundays from 10:00-12:00.	4.5 MES total <i>3 MES from senior demand discounted due to accessing additional floodlit training space</i> <i>1.5 MES from junior demand discounted due to accessing additional floodlit training space</i>
Mistley RFC	The Club train Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 18:45 to 20:00 on a separate grass space near the clubhouse utilising the clubhouse floodlights as well as portable floodlights. U16 training is held on Wednesdays in the same place also from 18:45 to 20:00.	3 MES total <i>3 MES per week from senior, U16 discounted due to accessing an additional floodlit training space</i>

World Rugby (WR) compliant pitches

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

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby and contact training must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance. The compliancy standard is known as to as WR Regulation 22 (WR).

There are no WR compliant pitches located within Tendring, however, Colchester Rugby Club use such provision at the Northern Gateway Sports Park within Colchester. The pitch is under the ownership and management of Colchester Borough Council and is open to community use from 09:00 to 22:00 every day of the week. That being said, its peak time house are broadly maximised with existing rugby union demand.

Use of artificial pitches

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high-quality surface for full contact practice.

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Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, however, the use of 3Gs for the fulfilment of competition fixtures does take place regularly in some areas if suitable provision is available, particularly on sites where Rugby 365 pitches have been provided. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In the case of Tendring none of the four clubs made any reference to accessing WR compliant pitches for training or match play purposes. However, consultation with Mistley RUFC state the Club accesses the sand filled AGP pitch at the Royal Hospital School in the Bayham District of Ipswich on an ad hoc basis. The Club does not have a block booking to access the site but state it is looking to form an agreement for regular allocation at the site.

Touch rugby²⁴

To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own Touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of Touch rugby sessions.

Touch rugby is 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. Within Tendring, Touch rugby sessions are delivered at Brightlingsea RFC over the summer during pre-season.

Walking rugby

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below.

Sessions for over 55s are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. In Tendring, none of the four clubs offer walking rugby sessions.

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities in Tendring due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

In Tendring, only Mistley RFC exports demand when it occasionally accesses the sand filled AGP pitch at the Royal Hospital School located in Ipswich. The site is 7.8 miles from the Club's home ground, making it an 18 minute drive for members (if traveling from the clubhouse of the site).

²⁴ <https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/ways-to-play/the-touch-union>

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Unmet/latent demand

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

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no evidence to suggest that there is any latent demand for rugby union in Tendring.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

Participation increases

The four clubs were asked if they aspire to increase the current number of teams they provide. Mistley RFC would like to gain an U12 girls' team, as well as a Vets team and a third men's team once it has access to its third pitch (highlighted previously in the report). Comparatively, Harwich and Dovercourt RFC is looking to gain an additional women's team as well as regaining its men's third team.

In the case of Clacton RUFC, the Club has ambitions to gain a third senior men's team which would access provision at its self-titled home site. The Club also state it has successfully started a veteran team which it hopes will continue to operate moving forwards. Comparatively, Brightlingsea RUFC state it has no ambitions to further increase in number of teams.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2033).

Table 4.13: Team generation rates (2033)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	17,961	7	1:2566	20,207	7	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	18,604	0	1:0	20,182	0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	4,547	13	1:350	5,250	15	2
Junior Girls (13-18)	4,267	2	1:2134	5,140	2	0
Mini Mixed (7-12)	9,591	12	1:799	9,564	12	0

Based on future projections, there is forecasted growth of two junior boys' teams. However, when broken down by analysis area, there is not enough growth recognised in any of the five analysis areas.

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It is important to note that population growth is exclusively applied to current team numbers and does not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or specific RFU targets.

The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with touch rugby and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the pressures on participation in the traditional forms of the game at this time and by offering alternative match times and formats then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

Future demand summary

Future demand will be based on club aspirations only which equates to three senior men's, one senior women's, one veteran's teams and an U12 girls team. This is because of no future growth being present when using ONS projections broken down by analysis areas.

The Framework & Action Plan Report will contain a housing growth scenario that will estimate the additional demand for rugby union arising from housing development.

4.6: Capacity analysis

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

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where age grade specific pitches are provided).
- ◀ U13 teams generally play on a 90 x 60m pitch and play 13 vs 13.
- ◀ From U14 upwards, teams generally play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch. See RFU Age Grade Rugby Guidance for more details.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ◀ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

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

Table 4.14: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is Saturday PM, as all senior men's teams play at this time, with senior women's teams playing on Sunday afternoons. Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

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Table 4.15: Capacity table for rugby union pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Training equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	North East	Yes	Unsecure	2	1 x Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	2.5	-	1.5	1	The two senior pitches are accessed by 13 teams at Harwich and Dovercourt RFC. Training demand not on match pitches. Overplay of 2 MES is identified across both pitches.
						1 x Senior				2.5	-	1.5	1	
23	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	North West	Yes	Secure	2	2 x Senior	M1/D1	Standard	Yes 2 Senior	5	-	4	1	The two senior pitches are accessed by 13 teams at Mistley RFC. No training demand on grass pitches. Site is overplayed by 1 MES.
45	Strangers Corner Sports Complex	Central West	Yes	Unsecure	3	1x Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	0.5	1	1.5	-	Demand from one team at Brightlingsea RFC equates to 0.5 MES. Training demand of 1 MES per pitch is accounted for through curricular demand by the school.
						1x Senior				-	1	1.5	0.5	
						1x Junior				-	1	1.5	0.5	
88	Clacton RUFC	South	Yes	Secure	2	1x Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1.5	-	1.5	-	The site is accessed by seven teams within Clacton RUFC. Training demand not on match pitches. Site is showing overplay of 0.5 MES on one of its pitches.
						1x Senior				2	-	1.5	0.5	
No community use														
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	South	No	Unsecure	1	1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor	No	-	1	1.5	-	The school has one junior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
12	Clacton County High School	South	No	Unsecure	2	1 x Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	-	1	1.5	-	The school has one senior and one junior pitch that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
						1 x Junior				-	1	1.5		
34	Manningtree High School	North West	No	Unsecure	1	1 Junior	M1/D0	Poor	No	-	1	1.5	-	The school has one junior pitch that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	Central West	No	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	-	1	1.5	-	The school has one senior pitch that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	North East	No	Unsecure	1	1 Senior	M1/D0	Poor	No	-	1	1.5	-	The school has one senior pitch that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions therefore account for school use only. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

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Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified ‘potential capacity’ can be deemed ‘actual capacity’. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Generally, pitches located at education and/or unsecure sites which are available for community use but are currently unused, are not considered to have actual spare capacity as security of use cannot be formally evidenced as guaranteed.

In the case of Tendring there are no sites showing actual spare capacity on senior or junior playing provision. This is due to the lack of standard or good quality pitches, with only four of the nine community accessible pitches being of a standard quality and the remaining all being poor quality pitches.

Overplay

Three sites and five pitches in the District are identified as being overplayed as seen below.

Table 4.16: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	User	No of senior pitches	Overplay (MES)
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	North East	Harwich and Dovercourt RFC	2	2
23	Furze Hill recreation Ground	North West	Mistley RFC	2	1
88	Clacton RUFC	South	Clacton RFC	1	0.5
-	-	-	Total	5	3.5

In the case of Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles RFC, the identified overplay is caused by the poor quality playing provision, meaning even minimal play will result in the site being overplay. In the case of Furze Hill Recreation Ground, overplay is a result of demand from match play by competitive teams. Finally, Clacton RUFC is overplayed by 6 match equivalent sessions per week on its floodlit senior pitch due to it being accessed for training demand.

The Framework & Action Plan will explore the impact of continuing pitch improvements and the benefit of providing additional floodlighting provision for clubs with identified need.

4.4: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Future demand based on club aspirations only equates three senior men’s, one senior women’s, one veteran teams and an U12 girls’ team. No future growth being present when using population projections broken down by analysis areas.

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Table 4:17: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches (senior rugby)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Central East	-	-	-	-	-
Central West	-	-	-	-	-
North East	-	2	2	1	3
North West	-	1	1	1.5	2.5
South	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Total	-	3.5	3.5	3	6.5

The table above shows that there is an insufficient supply of provision to accommodate existing demand. With future demand of 3 match equivalent sessions per week taken into consideration, the shortfall is further exacerbated to 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is through club ambitions of one senior mens team from Mistley RFC, Harwich & Dovercourt RFC and Clacton RFC, one veteran men's team from Mistley RFC and one senior women's team from Harwich and Dovercourt RFC. Finally, future demand of one U12 girls' team in the North West Analysis Area has also been included through club ambitions from Mistley RFC. This has been attributed to senior rugby pitches as the Club does not have any junior provision at Furze Hill Recreation Ground.

4.5: Conclusion

Based on the supply and demand analysis, it is evident that there is insufficient supply of senior pitches in Tendring to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand. The main issues are centred around pressures on midweek training opportunities as well as concentrated match play on poor quality pitches.

With three of the four clubs within Tendring expressing future demand of at least one additional senior men's team each, the need to address current overplay is very important as the District shall potentially see noticeable increases in demand over the lifespan of the PPOSS, if club ambitions are realised.

²⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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Rugby union summary

- ◀ There is currently insufficient level of senior rugby union provision in Tendring to accommodate current and future demand.
- ◀ Junior provision is being played at capacity with no identified overplay, actual spare capacity or future demand.

Pitch supply:

- ◀ There is a total of 15 rugby union pitches across nine sites identified in Tendring. Of these, nine are available for community use across four sites.
- ◀ There are no WR compliant 3G pitches located within Tendring, with the Northern Gateway Sports Centre within Colchester being the nearest example of such provision to the District. None of the four clubs made reference to accessing such provision.
- ◀ Of the four clubs within Tendring, three have access to additional floodlit training areas at its home site, those being Clacton RFC, Harwich and Dovercourt RFC and Mistley RFC. In the case of Brightlingsea RFC the Club uses portable floodlights and accesses Bayard Recreation Ground as a secondary site for its Club training.

Pitch quality:

- ◀ In terms of quality, there are zero good quality, two standard quality and 13 poor quality pitches.
- ◀ Provision found at Furze Hill Recreation Ground (Mistley RUFC) resembles the only standard quality playing pitches within Tendring.

Ancillary provision quality:

- ◀ Of the four clubs located within Tendring, Harwich and Dovercourt RFC, Clacton RFC and Mistley RFC express intentions to develop the existing ancillary provision.
- ◀ Harwich and Dovercourt RFC has a desire to re-tiling the roof of its clubhouse, enhancing its external spiral staircase and extending both its patio and balcony. This has all been enabled following the clubs 20-year heads and terms agreement with Tendring District Council being agreed as of 2022.
- ◀ Comparatively, Mistley RFC has developed a brand new clubhouse as of 2019 which is now operational and provides two good quality changing rooms and two poor quality from the original building. The Club has ambitions to double the scale of its existing function room, install two brand new changing rooms as well as adding a cellar and storage to the building.
- ◀ Finally, Clacton RFC is looking to refurbish the social spaces of its clubhouse.

Demand:

- ◀ There are four rugby union clubs in Tendring which in total generate demand equating to 32 teams.
- ◀ The breakdown of the number of teams see's the area host seven senior men's teams, no senior women's or colts' teams, 13 junior boys' teams and 12 mixed age grade teams.
- ◀ Future demand based through Club ambitions equates to three senior mens teams, one senior women's teams, one veteran team and an U12 girls' team, totalling three match equivalent sessions per week of additional demand.
- ◀ Brightlingsea RFC resemble the only club not to state it hopes to gain an additional senior mens team.

Supply and demand analysis:

- ◀ There is an overall insufficient supply of provision to cater for both current and future demand. This is the case, despite all four clubs not accessing its senior match pitches for training purposes, with three clubs utilising additional floodlit training areas, and Brightlingsea RFC accessing a secondary site for Club training.

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PART 5: ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (HOCKEY)

5.1: Introduction

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen below.

Table 5.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

In addition to the above pitch types, EH reports that it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand on a pitch that is also suitable for other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2²⁶, is a versatile surface that will ensure that the sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience; it will be a sand dressed synthetic turf with a compatible shock pad. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and enables the provision to be utilised to its full potential.

For senior teams, a full-size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run-off areas, which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends.

²⁶ [Deliver - Developing Your Project | England Hockey](#)

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EH's preference is for four-metre side and five-metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres, though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with floodlights.

Club consultation

Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC are the two hockey clubs based within the District. Members from both clubs were consulted with through telephone interviews to inform this report. Harwich and Dovercourt HC confirm the two clubs will merge as of the 2023/24 season.

Tendring HC confirm it has rebranded from its former name of Clacton HC following the loss of the AGP provided at Clacton Leisure Centre. Both clubs now share its pitch access to Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles but have remained as two separate clubs.

Table 5.2: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Harwich and Dovercourt Hockey Club	Yes
Tendring Hockey Club	Yes

5.2: Supply

There are two full size hockey suitable artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Tendring located across as many sites. Of these, only one of the AGPs (Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles) is both floodlit and open to community use, with Brightlingsea Sports Centre no longer being accessible for hockey purposes. There is also the AGP found at Clacton Leisure Centre that is in the process of being converted to a 3G pitch. Therefore, it shall not be referred to as a hockey suitable facility.

Table 5.3: Summary of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Quantity of provision	Size (metres)	Floodlit?
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Central West	No	One pitch	105m x 67m	Yes
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	North East	Yes	One pitch	102m x 63m	Yes

There are also an additional three small-sided AGPs provided across as many sites within Tendring, none of which provide floodlights or are accessible for community use. Due to their limited significance to servicing hockey across Tendring the provision is no longer referenced throughout the report.

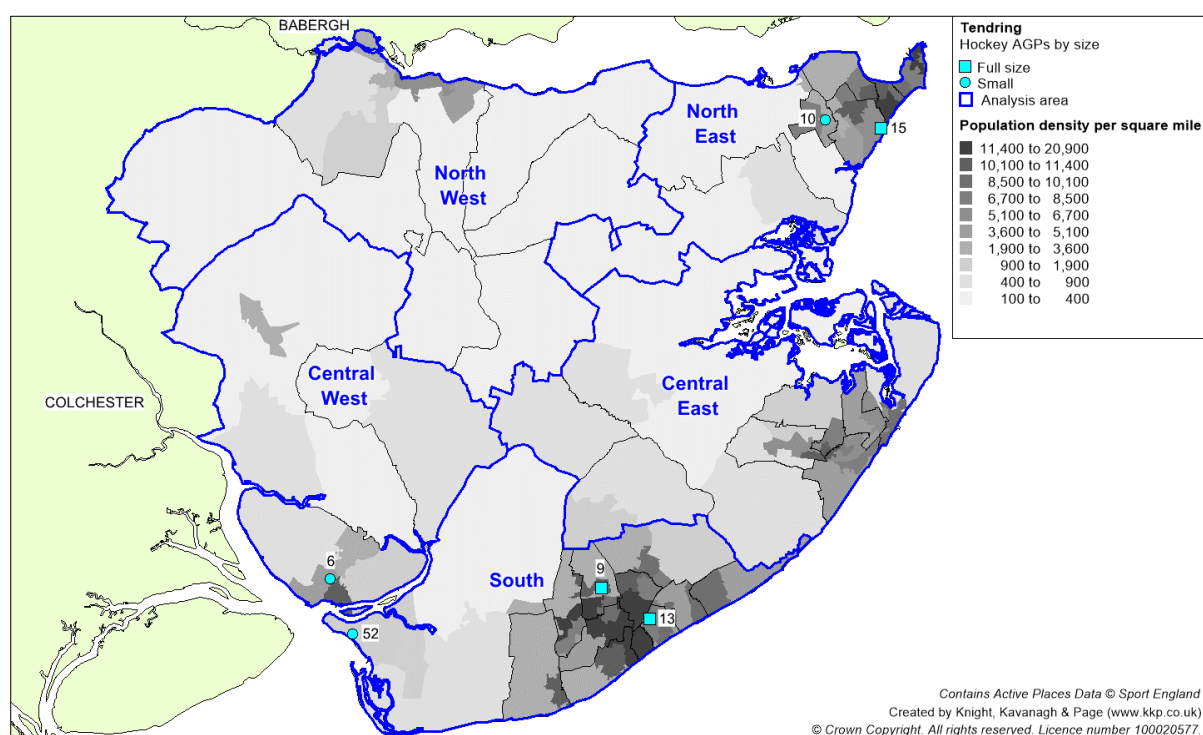
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Table 5.4: Summary of small-sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Quantity of provision	Size (metres)	Floodlit?
6	Brightlingsea Primary School and Nursery	Central West	No	One pitch	35m x 30m	No
10	Chase Lane Primary School	North East	No	One pitch	45m x 35m	No
52	The Orchard Holiday Park	South	No	One pitch	30m x 15m	No

A map of hockey provision is provided in Figure 5.1

Figure 5.1: Location of full size AGPs



Management and availability

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

The table overleaf identifies the full availability of AGP provision which is available for community use.

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Table 5.5: Management and availability

Site ID	Site name	Management	Availability	Total hours available in peak period
9	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Sigma Trust	N/A	0
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Council	07:00-21:00 Monday to Tuesday 07:00-20:30 Wednesday to Friday 08:00-17:00 on weekends	34

Security of tenure

Both Harwich and Dovercourt HC and Tendring HC access Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles without any security of tenure and hire the pitch on a yearly license agreement with Tendring District Council.

Quality

Taking the above into account, the quality of hockey suitable artificial grass pitches have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by EH) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (60-79%), Poor (<60%). The quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

In addition, depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an artificial grass pitch usually lasts for approximately ten years', and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. The table below summarises the quality of artificial grass pitches in Tendring.

Table 5.6: Summary of quality

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	User	Quality rating	Built/resurfaced
9	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Sand filled	-	Poor (condemned)	2002
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Sand dressed	Tendring HC	Poor	1990 / 2014

Provision provided at both Brightlingsea Sports Centre is poor quality with the site having been condemned due to poor quality since the previous Playing Pitch Strategy. In the case of Brightlingsea Sports Centre the surface was initially installed in 2002 and has not been replaced.

The former AGP at Clacton Leisure Centre was initially installed in 1988 and replaced in 2005, meaning the surface is now 17 years old and long past its usable lifespan. This has resulted in the site being developed into a 3G pitch replacement following secured investment from the Football Foundation.

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The future of the pitch at Brightlingsea Sports Centre is uncertain, however, consultation with the site raised no reference to either a sinking fund being in place or any plans to look to install a replacement hockey suitable surface. England Hockey state that Tendring HC was formerly offered access to the AGP at Brightlingsea Sports Centre, however, the Club refused as it prefers to use Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles due to both the location and better-quality surface. Similarly, Colne HC (Colchester), had previously been outlined for accessing this site however it is now playing at the newly re-surfaced University of Essex Sports Centre, meaning it has little importance for hockey in the region.

In the case of Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, the AGP was initially installed in 1990 and underwent a surface replacement as of 2014, making the existing surface eight years old. In some instances, pitches of this age, dependent upon maintenance and usage, can still be of a good or standard quality. However, in this instance the AGP at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles is assessed as poor quality with members of Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC stressing issues related to the playing surface.

In September 2019, a pitch inspection from 'Surface Performance Ltd' deemed the site unfit for play and required improvements to the playing surface to make it accessible. Following this some investment from Tendring District Council was put forward to the site enabling minor improvements such as re-marking the lines and re-sanding the pitch.

Members from both Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC report issues such as the new replacement lines rising, water not draining properly and the grip underfoot being minimal. Tendring HC suggest that following the investments in 2019, as of 2022, the pitch has one year remaining before it shall require a full surface replacement.

Ancillary facilities

The term ancillary facility relates to built facility infrastructures at sites. Typically, this includes (but is not limited too) clubhouses, changing rooms, showers, car parking and toilet facilities.

Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles provides poor quality external changing rooms that lie between the leisure centre and AGP. Consultation with Tendring HC state the provision is of a poor quality with the toilets only being accessible by entering a separate block within the leisure centre which is intended for users of the swimming pool.

Harwich and Dovercourt HC can access the changing rooms for its 11:00am push back, however, the provision is frequently also accessed by Little Oakley FC, resulting in the Club being forced to access Harwich and Dovercourt RFC's changing rooms which also share the site. Post-match meals are also catered for at the clubhouse of Harwich and Dovercourt RFC. Tendring HC also shares both the Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles provides poor quality external changing rooms, and Harwich and Dovercourt RFC's clubhouse.

5.3: Demand

Competitive play

As a breakdown of demand, Tendring Hockey Club provides one senior men's team and no junior members within its remit. Comparatively, Harwich and Dovercourt HC has one women's team with 22 members which it hopes shall grow to offer a second senior team during the 2022/23 season. The two clubs merge on Sundays to form a mixed team from 13:30-15:00.

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Prior to the pitch at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles being deemed unfit for play in 2019, Harwich and Dovercourt HC provided two senior men's and two senior women's teams as well as 50 junior members that attended weekly training sessions. Therefore, whilst the Club has managed to survive the complications related to pitch access, this has come at the loss of three teams and its juniors.

With regard to Back to Hockey and walking hockey sessions, neither Club currently offers such programs to its members, however, consultation states Harwich and Dovercourt HC hopes to be able to offer walking hockey during the 2022/23 season.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to teams which originate outside of Tendring, accessing facilities within the area for their home fixtures and/or training needs, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

In the case of Tendring there is no identified imported hockey demand from neighbouring authorities.

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams which originate within Tendring, accessing facilities outside the area for their home fixtures and/or training needs, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities.

In the case of Tendring there is no identified exported demand, with both clubs accessing provision within the District for match play and training purposes. However, prior to the merge with Tendring HC, Harwich and Dovercourt HC was offered access to Gainsborough Sports Hub in Ipswich but refused the offer due to the 25.4-mile one way journey from its current site.

Training demand

Access to artificial grass pitches for midweek training is important to sustain and grow all formats of hockey.

Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC deliver a joint training session every Tuesday from 20:00-21:00 for both clubs. Harwich and Dovercourt HC state moving forwards it would like to be able to train from 19:00-21:00 as to allow for an hour session for junior training to take place before the senior session is delivered.

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 a side game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small-sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

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There remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league-based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small-sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available artificial grass pitches at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on artificial grass pitches across the area.

This should be considered when assessing demand for artificial grass pitches in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

Unlike other pitch sports, EH do not use team generation rates to determine future demand and instead likes to understand growth by participation, rather than dedicated teams. As such, team generation rates have not been used to calculate future growth for hockey in Tendring. However, the forthcoming Framework & Action Plan will include the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator which will forecast additional demand for hockey arising from new housing developments.

From a club perspective (the traditional 11 a side game), Harwich and Dovercourt HC states a future demand aspiration of gaining another senior women's team during the 2022/23 season is its goal, with a long term ambition of growing its junior section if greater pitch allocation can be secured. Tendring HC confirms it is hoping to gain a second senior mens team in the 2022/23 season. Therefore, a combined future demand for Tendring is the growth of one senior mens team and one senior women's team.

EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or international player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

To enter an Academy Centre (AC) players must be nominated by their DC coaches, school or must display a consistent high performance at club level. This is a PP into higher performance hockey.

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers.

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There are no England Hockey DC or AC sites located within Tendring with the two centres for Essex being located in Chelmsford and Redbridge.

Peak time demand

Most men's and women's hockey teams currently play matches on a Saturday which is therefore the peak time for use of artificial grass pitches for competitive play.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

The PPS Guidance suggests that a floodlit pitch is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one artificial grass pitch being able to cater for eight "home" teams. Teams play matches on home v away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its "home" artificial grass pitch. On this basis, a pitch can cater for eight teams from a home club (with four playing away on the home vs away rotation) with each pitch considered to have a total capacity equating to four MES in the peak period.

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Table 5.7: Supply analysis of peak time (Saturday) pitch access

Site ID	Site name	Number of pitches	Site user	Current use in peak period (MES)	Spare capacity?	Comments
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	1	-	0 MES	No	Pitch is condemned and is therefore not accessed for either hockey or football demand.
15	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	1	Tendring HC Harwich and Dovercourt HC	2 MES	Yes	Pitch is used for one fixture by Harwich and Dovercourt HC from 12:00-13:30. It is then accessed by Tendring HC for a 14:00- 15:30 push back. The site therefore has capacity for two additional fixtures running from 10:00-11:30 and 16:00-17:30.

Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC have one senior team each, both of which access provision at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles on Saturdays. This means that as a maximum the site accommodates two fixtures each Saturday (based on teams playing on a home and away allocation). Based on this, there is spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions at peak time on site. Furthermore, with future demand of two additional senior teams, the site can accommodate future demand ambitions from a programming perspective. However, given the condition of the pitch, there need for quality issues to be resolved in the next 12 months before increasing demand can take place.

With regard to both Brightlingsea Sports Centre and Clacton Leisure Centre, both sites have been deemed unfit for hockey play, meaning no spare capacity exists across either pitch.

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5.5: Conclusion

With one full size AGP available for competitive hockey in the District, there is currently a sufficient supply of provision to accommodate existing and any levels of future demand aligned to Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC.

The accessible pitch at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles is of a poor quality, with a technical pitch inspection in 2022 confirming the site has just one year left before being deemed unfit for purpose. On this basis, whilst current provision is servicing hockey, over the lifespan of the PPOSS, there will be no fit for purpose hockey facility in the District.

As such, Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles is now in a position where a replacement surface must be provided to guarantee the long-term survival of hockey in Tendring. The remaining two condemned AGPs do not currently play a role in servicing hockey and there is little evidence to suggest they will do in the future if improved (relative to improvements being made at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles).

Hockey summary

- ◀ **There is sufficient supply of hockey suitable pitches in Tendring from a programming perspective to accommodate current levels of peak time demand.**
- ◀ **Future demand of two senior teams can be accommodated with current provision from a programming perspective.**
- ◀ **With one year remaining on the lifespan at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles AGP, there is a need to protect all hockey suitable provision until improvements are secured.**

Pitch supply:

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Tendring located across as many sites. One of the two pitches are not open to community use with Brightlingsea Sports Centre being condemned. In the case of Clacton Leisure Centre, the site formerly hosted an AGP but has since began work for the site to be replaced to a 3G pitch as of 2022, whilst the future of the AGP at Brightlingsea Sports Centre is unknown.
- ◀ The remaining pitch at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles is open to community use and accessed by both Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC.

Pitch quality:

- ◀ Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles AGP was deemed unfit for play in 2019 and received some investment from Tendring District Council into re-laying the lines and re-sanding the surface to enable access again.
- ◀ Following an inspection of the pitch in 2022, it was granted one year before being deemed unfit for play.

Affiliated demand:

- ◀ Tendring HC and Harwich and Dovercourt HC resemble the two clubs within the District, with the former providing one senior mens team and the latter one senior women's team. The two clubs merge on Sundays to form one mixed team from 13:30-15:30.
- ◀ The two clubs are scheduled to merge into one Club under the name of Tendring HC for the 2023/24 season.
- ◀ Having formerly accessed Clacton Leisure Centre which has been condemned, Tendring HC now uses Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles AGP.
- ◀ Neither club currently offers any junior teams, with Harwich and Dovercourt HC stating if granted an additional hour of pitch allocation on Tuesdays from 19:00-20:00 it would allow for a junior training session.
- ◀ Tendring HC state it hopes for a second senior mens team during the 2022/23 season, whilst Harwich and Dovercourt HC is also hopeful it shall have a second senior women's team during the season.

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PART 6: CRICKET PITCHES

6.1: Introduction

Essex Cricket Board is the main governing and representative body for Cricket within Tendring. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children.

For adult cricket in Tendring there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are played mid-week, although some matches are also played on Sundays.

County Facilities Strategy (CFS)

In 2022, to build upon the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, the ECB has started the process of producing County Facilities Strategies (CFS). A CFS will be produced by each individual county cricket board and will be unique to its geographical area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The CFS will be a 'long-term' plan with county boards ensuring the Framework provides a ten-year view of facility needs. Like a PPS, the county cricket boards will establish key stakeholders (clubs, leagues, county sports partnerships, county pitch advisors & Sport England etc) within its locality to consult during the development of the Strategy.

Each county cricket board will utilise up to date PPS within its locality to support the development of the CFS, utilising the PPS findings as a 'high-quality' evidence base. The CFS will look at a range of facilities which support cricket across its region, with the ECB setting out guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered throughout the development of the CFS:

Types of facility

- ◀ "Traditional" outdoor facilities
 - ◀ Pitches and Outfields
 - ◀ Pavilions
 - ◀ Practice

- ◀ "Non-traditional" facilities
 - ◀ Multi Use Games Areas
 - ◀ Tapeball/softball spaces
 - ◀ Courts or cages

- ◀ Indoor facilities
 - ◀ Practice (multi use halls)
 - ◀ Performance (cricket specific)
 - ◀ Matchplay (6 or 8 a side)

Each CFS will be used to shape investment decisions and priorities, particularly how each county cricket board will use the devolved budget within the County Grants Fund and prioritise larger scale strategic projects.

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Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the CFS is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

Consultation

In total, ten cricket clubs are identified as playing within Tendring, all of which, have responded to consultation requests, equating to an 100% response rate as seen below.

Table 6.1: Cricket club response rate

Club name	Club response?
Ardleigh CC	Yes
Brightlingsea CC	Yes
Clacton CC	Yes
Elmstead CC	Yes
Frinton CC	Yes
Great Bentley CC	Yes
Great Bromley CC	Yes
Harwich and Dovercourt CC	Yes
Mistley CC	Yes
Tendring CC	Yes

6.2: Supply

In total, there are 11 natural turf cricket squares (across ten sites) and ten standalone non-turf pitches (across seven sites) in Tendring.

Grass pitches (natural turf cricket squares)

There are ten sites which in total provide 11 natural turf cricket squares. Mistley CC is the only site within Tendring that provides two squares. All grass wicket squares across the District are available for community use.

Table 6.2: Summary of grass wicket squares (all sites)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of squares	Community available?
2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	North West	1	Yes
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	1	Yes
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	1	Yes
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Central East	1	Yes
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Central West	1	Yes
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	1	Yes
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	2	Yes
46	Tendring Cricket Club	North West	1	Yes
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	1	Yes
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	1	Yes

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The table below outlines the total number of natural turf squares, broken down by analysis area, and is inclusive of all active sites including ones which are unavailable for community use. It does not include provision which is disused. In total, there are ten squares across nine sites, with the Central West Analysis Area providing the most sites, whilst the Central East and North East analysis areas both have one square from one site.

Table 6.3: Analysis area breakdown of sites (natural turf squares)

Analysis area	Number of cricket sites	Number of squares
Central East	1	1
Central West	4	4
North East	1	1
North West	3	4
South	1	1
Tendring	10	11

Non-turf pitches

There are ten standalone non-turf pitches across seven sites in Tendring. Clacton County High School, Low Road Playing Fields, and The Harwich and Dovercourt High School provide two standalone NTP's each. The remaining sites provide only one. Low Road Playing Fields has three NTP's at its site, however one is accompanying the grass wicket square, meaning the remaining two are standalones.

- ◀ Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)
- ◀ Clacton County High School
- ◀ Ford Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Low Road Playing Fields
- ◀ The Harwich and Dovercourt High School
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)
- ◀ Vista Road Recreation Ground

There are also non-turf wickets accompanying natural turf cricket squares at four sites. All of these are available for community use, in line with the position of the natural turf squares. These are located at Bayard Recreation Ground, Low Road Playing Fields, Mistley CC and Great Bromley CC.

NTPs, particularly when located at club sites, can also aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs are frequently used for junior matches across the Country, which is the case in Tendring in some instances where junior fixtures take place on NTP pitches.

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

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Disused provision

There are three disused squares within Tendring, located at Kirby Playing Field, Cowley Park and Vista Road Recreation Ground. All disused provision is located on playing field sites which continue to provide for other sports and remain active.

Kirby Playing Field also has football pitches, meaning the overall site is not disused, but cricket provision is no longer prepared for use. The square fell out of use during covid and remains in a playable condition, meaning it could be brought back into use. Similarly, the square at Cowley Park reportedly came out of use as of 2021, and now provides only football pitches.

Vista Road Recreation Ground formerly provided a second square that was decommissioned in the last five years. A fence has since been erected where the square was located meaning it can no longer be brought back into use.

Finally, there is a disused NTP provided at Ford Lane Playing Field. The site continues to be accessed for football.

Future provision

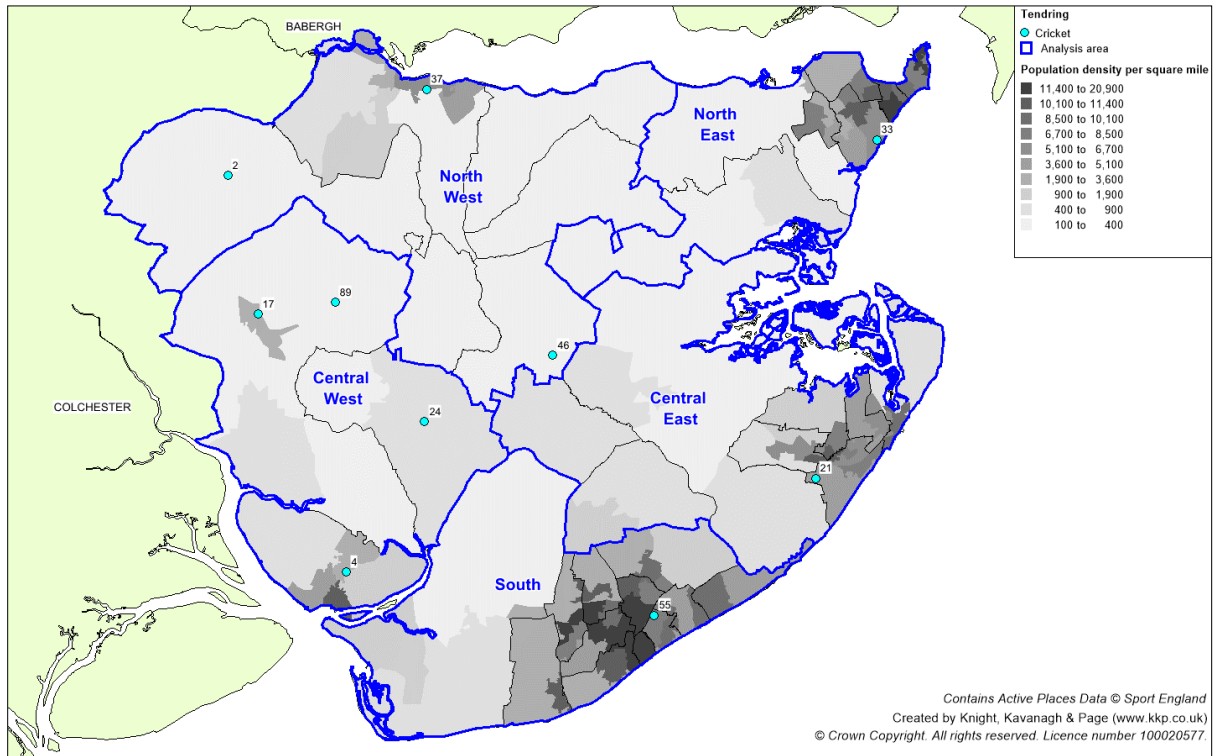
Regarding future provision, the garden community centre development shall result in a sizeable increase in demand for cricket, meaning there could be the potential need for additional provision to be provided. Frinton CC is also known to have ambitions of installing a second square behind its clubhouse. The Club is currently negotiating with the land owner for this development. The Club also has a planning application in place to develop an indoor nets training facility at its site with it reporting having demand for its own training facility.

Finally, a mitigation proposal is in place to provide an NTP or new fine turf square at Vista Road Recreation Ground to account for the loss of the second square, with the site having an outstanding planning condition requiring this.

The map below shows the location of all cricket squares currently servicing Tendring. For a key to the map, see Table 6.4.

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Figure 6.4: Location of grass cricket squares within Tendring



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Table 6.4: Key to map of grass cricket squares (community accessible)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of squares	Number of wickets	NTP
2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	North West	Yes	1	7	-
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	Yes	1	9	1
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	Yes	1	15	-
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Central East	Yes	1	12	-
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Central West	Yes	1	7	-
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	Yes	1	11	3
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	Yes	2	10	1
					4	-
46	Tendring Cricket Club	North West	Yes	1	8	-
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	Yes	1	15	-
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	Yes	1	12	1

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Security of tenure

The broad position is that most clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future (and as a minimum over the lifespan of the PPOSS). This is detailed club-by-club in the following table.

In the case of the Elmstead CC, it has one year remaining on its existing lease with the Diocese of Chelmsford and Jesus College meaning it is in need of renewing its current agreement.

Table 6.5: Summary of security of tenure for clubs

Club	Primary site	Agreement
Ardleigh CC	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	Freehold ownership.
Brightlingsea CC	Bayard Recreation Ground	The Club has a 25 year lease with Brightlingsea Town Council.
Clacton CC	Vista Road Recreation Ground	The Club has a 25 year lease with Tendring District Council.
Elmstead CC	Elmstead Cricket Club	The Club has a six year lease from the Diocese of Chelmsford and Jesus College. Current lease is scheduled to expire in 2023
Frinton CC	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Freehold ownership.
Great Bentley CC	Great Bentley CC	Freehold ownership.
Great Bromley CC	Great Bromley CC	The Club has a rental agreement with Ardleigh Parish Council.
Harwich and Dovercourt CC	Low Road Playing Fields	The Club has a lease agreement in place with Tendring District Council, that it states it is currently negotiating an extension.
Mistley CC	Mistley Cricket Club	Freehold ownership.
Tendring CC	Tendring Cricket Club	The Club has a lease agreement with a private landowner. It is currently negotiating an extension which it suspects shall have a length of ten-years.

Pitch quality

The quality of cricket pitches has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-79%), Poor (<49%).

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

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The quality of a cricket square is assessed by considering factors such as evidence of the wicket being rolled, the wicket being correctly cut, evidence of cover usage, evidence of maintenance and the presence of line markings. Comparatively, an outfield is assessed on the provisions grass length, quantity of weeds, evenness of the surface, level of undulations, damage to the surface and evidence of dog fouling.

The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares in Tendring found seven to be assessed as good quality, four to be standard quality and none as poor quality. The site-by-site breakdown of this is shown in the following table. With regard to the outfield, six sites provide good quality outfields, three are standard and one is assessed as poor.

Table 6.6: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site-by-site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Square quality	Outfield quality
2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	North West	Standard	Poor
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	Standard	Standard
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	Good	Good
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Central East	Good	Good
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Central West	Good	Good
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	Standard	Standard
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	Good	Good
			Good	Good
46	Tendring Cricket Club	North West	Good	Good
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	Standard	Standard
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	Good	Standard

The broad position at most clubs is that provision is of good quality, with four squares and four outfields being of a standard quality. The outfield of Vista Road Recreation Ground is the only poor quality provision within the District.

Harwich and Dovercourt CC (Low Road Playing Fields) state the quality of its square is poor quality as a consequence of a new volunteer groundsman taking over the maintenance of provision. Despite this, the non-technical site assessment assessed the square as being of a standard quality. The Club also states its outfield is oversized despite the Club playing senior men's cricket. The site has reportedly seen people drive bikes over the outfield and general littering as it is an open public space.

The non-technical site assessment at Clacton CC (Vista Road Recreation Ground) assessed the site as a standard quality. However, the Club state that both its square and outfield are poor due to the public accessibility of the provision resulting in people frequently walk on the square and outfield.

Elmstead CC has a good quality square and outfield, with it stating the quality of its provision shall improve following increased maintenance beginning from October 2022. Comparatively, Great Bromley CC has a good quality square, with a standard outfield. The Club confirm dog fouling being a frustration at its site but state its square has become much better following it recruiting a new groundsman with professional experience.

Brightlingsea CC (Bayard Recreation Ground) has a standard quality square and outfield, something that has been outlined in the site assessments and echoed by the Club during consultations. It also report frustrations with dog fouling and litter on its provision.

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Ardleigh Recreation Ground (Ardleigh CC) has an uneven outfield with acceptable levels of grass coverage and length of grass, as well as reported damage to the surface identified.

The remaining squares are all good quality, with both clubs and site assessments returning that the provision is generally in a well-maintained state. Essex Cricket Board confirms that Mistley CC re-laid the outfield of its first team square in the winter of 2022, meaning it is now in a very good condition.

Of the NTPs in Tendring, all provision at club sites is considered to be in an adequate and useable condition, other than the NTP provided at Bayard Recreation Ground which Brightlingsea CC state has deteriorated in quality significantly over the last two years and shall need replacing by 2024.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary provision refers to the accompanying building to a site that is accessed as changing facilities and a social space if applicable. All sites were assessed for its ancillary provision quality during non-technical site assessments and further evidenced by consultation responses. Quality ratings were determined by assessing matters such as the condition of the building, the quantity and quality of changing rooms and the social space offering.

Table 6.7: Quality ratings for community available ancillary provisions (site-by-site)

Site ID	Site	Club	Analysis area	Ancillary provision quality
2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	Ardleigh CC	North West	Standard
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Brightlingsea CC	Central West	Poor
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Elmstead CC	Central West	Good
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Frinton CC	Central East	Good
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Great Bentley CC	Central West	Standard
33	Low Road Playing Fields	Harwich and Dovercourt CC	North East	Standard
37	Mistley Cricket Club	Mistley CC	North West	Good
46	Tendring Cricket Club	Tendring CC	North West	Standard
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	Clacton CC	South	Good
89	Great Bromley CC	Great Bromley CC	Central West	Good

Most clubs in Tendring have access to ancillary provision, of which, there is a varying level of quality. All provision is either good or standard quality; other than Bayard Recreation Ground as detailed below.

Brightlingsea CC (Bayard Recreation Ground) highlight the small 50-year-old wooden building provides a bar, small kitchen and changing rooms. The Club state that following storm Eunice in 2022 it has been told the building will not last any longer than five years as its roof and walls are rotting. It also states it is working alongside football clubs and users of the site to build a new clubhouse that can offer community use, but it confirms that funding such a project is difficult.

Ardleigh Recreation Ground provides a standard-quality building as its village hall accompanying the site. The building, toilet and changing facilities are in a standard condition, but the site does not offer any umpires provision.

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Low Road Playing Fields (Harwich and Dovercourt CC) has a standard quality clubhouse, with the condition of its building considered good but the Club state its toilets and changing rooms are of a poor quality, with one communal shower space servicing both teams and no officials changing provided.

Tendring CC state its clubhouse, changing rooms and toilets are of a standard quality with Essex Cricket Board confirming the Club is looking to enhance its ancillary provision.

Clacton CC (Vista Road Recreation Ground) has a good quality ancillary provision, with a building in a good condition. Clacton CC state its toilets and changing rooms are reportedly a standard quality, however, it does provide each team with its own shower space.

Great Bentley Village Green (Great Bentley CC) has a standard quality clubhouse with a medium size brick building with a prefabricated front and outdoor seating area. The Club confirm its pavilion, toilets, changing rooms and social space are all of a standard quality, with separate shower facilities provided for both teams.

Frinton on Sea Cricket Club has a good quality clubhouse with a building in a good condition, good toilet facilities and standard changing rooms. The site allows for separate shower facilities for both teams, as well as an official's changing space.

Elmstead CC has a good quality clubhouse with it stating the condition of its building, toilet facilities, changing rooms and social space are all of a good quality.

Finally, Mistley CC has a good quality clubhouse with it confirming the condition of the building, toilet, changing facilities and social space are all of a good quality, as well as having an official's changing space.

Four clubs report experiences of vandalism at sites of varying levels of damage caused. Harwich and Dovercourt CC state the lights servicing its building have been smashed by vandals, as well as littering at the site. In 2022, the storage shed at Tendring CC was broken into and its garden tools were stolen. Elmstead CC report one of its windows being broken early in 2021. Finally, Clacton CC had incidents where people threw stones at its window and kicked footballs at its pavilion.

Ball Striking Issues

Essex Cricket Board confirm that Mistley CC formerly had ball striking issues at its site on the border with Mistley and Manningtree BC that have since been addressed. Finally, Elmstead CC requires a ball striking net installing at its site following a housing development neighbouring its boundary.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Tendring Great Bentley Village Green and Vista Road Recreation Ground both do not provide any usable fixed practice nets for Great Bentley CC and Clacton CC to use. In the case of Vista Road Recreation Ground, the existing fixed practice nets are in an unusable overgrown state and Clacton CC is wanting to replace the existing surface and nets provided. Comparatively, Great Bentley Village Green provides no fixed lane practice facility or accompanying NTP.

Four clubs consulted with state having the demand for additional training facilities, those being Harwich and Dovercourt CC, Great Bromley CC, Clacton CC and Mistley CC.

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Harwich and Dovercourt CC (Low Road Playing Fields) state it is wanting fixed lane practice nets installing or another NTP with a portable net. Clacton CC is looking to replace its fixed practice nets that are in an overgrown state.

Great Bromley CC describe having demand for an additional portable net. The Club currently has two portable nets but state if a third were to be provided it could help support additional outdoor training. Finally, Mistley CC state it has the demand for a portable net.

Following a land transfer in 2020 between Vista Road Recreation Ground and Clacton County High School, Essex Cricket Board confirm that Clacton CC should be in receipt of £45,000 to go towards a two lane fixed practice net and add an NTP to the site. Active Essex state that the provision which was on Vista Road has remained open to community access, meaning despite its ownership arrangements changing, it continues to be community accessible.

Indoor facilities

In total, five of the seven responsive clubs report accessing indoor provision for winter net pre-season training sessions, with sites such as Colne Community School, Northern Gateway Sports Park, Manningtree Sports Centre, Clacton Leisure Centre, Holmwood House and Ipswich School being accessed.

Brightlingsea CC states it has demand for a greater amount of indoor training facility access. The Club currently accesses Colne Community School, and Northern Gateway Sports Park and state that the availability to the former has diminished significantly following a change in management at the site where it now closes over school holidays.

Mistley CC state that Manningtree Sports Centre has poor quality lighting, playing surface and nets, whilst Brightlingsea CC raise the same frustrations at Colne Community School. Comparatively, Harwich and Dovercourt CC state that Northern Gateway Sports Park is of a good quality, as do Clacton CC when discussing Clacton Leisure Centre.

Frinton-on-Sea CC currently has a planning application in place to develop an indoor nets training facility at its site where the current outdoor nets are located with it reporting having demand for its own training facility.

No other clubs highlight issues or a need for new or additional training facilities.

6.3: Demand

There are ten clubs in Tendring, which consist of 26 senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and 31 junior boy's teams. The clubs with the most demand in the District are Mistley CC who host 13 teams and Frinton CC with ten teams.

Table 6.8: Summary of teams by club

Club	Analysis area	Number of teams			
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys' teams	Junior girls' teams
Ardleigh CC	North West	2	-	-	-
Brightlingsea CC	Central West	3	-	2	-
Clacton CC	South	2	-	-	-
Elmstead CC	Central West	3	-	3	-
Frinton CC	Central East	4	1	5	-
Great Bentley CC	Central West	1	-	8	-

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Club	Analysis area	Number of teams			
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior boys' teams	Junior girls' teams
Great Bromley CC	Central West	2	-	3	-
Harwich and Dovercourt CC	North East	3	-	-	-
Mistley CC	North West	4	2	7	-
Tendring CC	North West	2	-	3	-
Total		26	3	31	-

As seen in the table below, most teams are based in the Central West Analysis Area (20 teams), whilst the South Analysis Area provides only two senior men's teams both of which are affiliated to Clacton CC.

Table 6.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Central East	4	1	5	-
Central West	9	-	16	-
North East	3	-	10	-
North West	8	2	-	-
South	2	-	-	-
Tendring	26	3	31	-

Participation trends

Seven clubs report that demand has increased in some form over the previous three years. In the case of Brightlingsea CC, Great Bentley CC, Elmstead CC and Frinton CC all four clubs report growth in the number of senior men's teams. Regarding junior demand, Tendring CC, Great Bentley CC, Great Bromley CC and Mistley CC all report growth in junior boys' teams. None of the responsive clubs report any decline in number of teams provided.

In the case of Tendring CC, Clacton CC, Ardleigh CC, Great Bromley CC, Elmstead CC, Brightlingsea CC and Great Bentley CC all six clubs report ambitions to run more teams in the future, details of which are provided in table 4.13.

Imported/exported demand

The only instances of exported demand are from clubs accessing indoor provision located outside of the District, with none of the seven responsive clubs accessing any outdoor provision outside of Tendring.

Harwich and Dovercourt CC, Clacton CC and Brightlingsea CC confirm accessing Northern Gateway Sports Park (Colchester), whilst Great Bentley CC accesses Holmwood House (Colchester). Finally, Mistley CC accesses Ipswich School (Suffolk) for winter nets.

For Tendring, Elmstead CC state it hosts two Essex County Veterans teams at its site each year, whilst Great Bromley CC confirm it has hosted East Bergholt CC (Colchester) vs Halstead CC (Essex) during the 2022 season.

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Additional activity

The ECB is currently running several initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable during these periods.

All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, cricket clubs can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for 5-8 year olds in the school and club environment.
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition.
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle.
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment.
- ◀ Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game.

Dynamo's cricket

A key development area for the ECB in delivering on the outcomes of 'Inspiring Generations' will be the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds, which originally aimed to launch in 2020. It plans on building on the significant growth of the All Stars and will develop the pathway to retain juniors who progress.

Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamo's seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket.

Table 6.10 details the participation figures identified.

Table 6.10: Summary of All Stars and Dynamos participation

Club	All Stars participation figures (2022)	Dynamos participation figures (2022)
Elmstead CC	<i>Did not quantify</i>	-
Mistley CC	24 participants	12 participants
Tendring CC	15 participants	20 participants

There are three clubs currently delivering the All Stars program and Dynamos sessions. The highest level of All Stars participation is seen at Mistley CC with a total of 24 participants, whilst Dynamos sessions are most frequently accessed at Tendring CC with 20 participants. Elmstead CC state its hosts All Stars sessions but failed to quantify how many people attend.

Softball Cricket

Softball Cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase female participation in cricket as a sport.

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The aim of softball cricket sections is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

In Tendring, three clubs run women's softball sessions, those being, details of which can be found in Table 6.11.

Table 6.11: Summary of Women's and Girls Softball participation

Club	Women's and Girls Softball participation figures (2022)
Brightlingsea CC	15 participants
Great Bentley CC	10 participants
Mistley CC	12 participants

In the case of Brightlingsea CC, it describes having a girls' section that enjoys playing softball cricket, with the club's aim being to form a hard ball women's team within the next four years.

Chance to Shine

Chance to Shine is a national charity that aims to give all children the opportunity to play, learn and develop through cricket. It believes that cricket can help to develop the personal, social and physical skills of the 500,000 children that are worked with every year. It works in schools to provide children with their first experience of cricket, whilst it has also developed Chance to Shine Street. This is a format of the sport played with a tapeball, targeting children and young adults in inner-city areas and with matches lasting just 20-minutes.

Other usage

Brightlingsea CC confirm it is a disability champion Club with a dedicated disability section. Its participants enter festivals with the aim of providing more opportunity for competition within the next timescale of the plan.

The Club deliver outdoor sessions over the summer months and access Brightlingsea Sports Centre on Saturdays from 11:30 – 12:30 for people with a disability aged eight and above. Sessions are priced at £3 per week and are delivered by a level two qualified cricket coach.

In the case of Tendring, the last identified example of Essex County Cricket Club accessing provision within the District was in 1966 when Essex CC hosted Leicestershire CC at Vista Road Recreation Ground. None of the remaining clubs made any reference to accommodating additional demand.

Future demand

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

Population growth

For population projections, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

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For reference total current population in 2022 of 147,353 is projected to increase to 164,866 by 2033. The table below shows the number of new teams generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.12: Authority wide team generation rates (2033)

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Peak time for population	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ²⁷
Men (18-55yrs)	1:1072	2.57	3	Saturday	12	36
Women (18-55yrs)	1:9740	0.30	0	Sunday	12	0
Boys (7-18yrs)	1:314	3.08	3	Midweek	6	18
Girls (7-18yrs)	1:0	0.00	0	Midweek	6	0

The total amount of future growth is anticipated to equate to three senior men's and three junior boys' teams and will create a need to access 1.5 cricket square if played at peak time.

As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, as they are authority-wide, they will be added onto the overall supply and demand total for each pitch type.

Participation increases

Through consultation some clubs state that capacity is limited, such as Frinton CC which utilises both its home venue at Frinton on Sea Cricket Club and Great Bentley Village Green for its third senior men's team.

In total, seven clubs in Tendring have plans to increase the number of teams they currently provide. Details of this potential growth are listed in the table below. This amounts to a total predicted growth of seven senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and 13 junior boys' teams. Finally, Essex Cricket Board is anticipating an increase in women's and girls demand across the District, as well as a general increase in mens and boys demand following the rising South East Asian community within Tendring.

Table 6.13: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys	Junior girls
Ardleigh CC	North West	1	-	-	-
Brightlingsea CC	Central West	1	1	3	-
Clacton CC	South	-	-	3	-
Elmstead CC	Central West	-	1	1	-
Great Bentley CC	Central West	1	1	2	-
Great Bromley CC	Central West	3	-	4	-
Tendring CC	North West	1	-	-	-
Total		7	3	13	-

²⁷ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Future demand summary

In summary, future demand is taken forward to the supply and demand tables using ONS population forecasts. A scenario exploring how future demand through club ambitions shall impact the supply and demand analysis shall be included in the forthcoming Framework report.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in Tendring is Saturday, although a many number of teams are also fielded on a Sunday including senior women's teams. As such, both require consideration.

For junior cricket, peak time is midweek albeit some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

6.4: Capacity analysis

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

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

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

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, or where the level of play was not made clear, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition. The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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

Please note that NTPs have been discounted from the analysis by means of not distorting the findings. This is because no NTPs are currently being used more than their recommended capacity, which is 60 match equivalent sessions per season (0 match equivalent sessions when poor quality). With no NTPs being overused, this translates to overall actual spare capacity for junior play, However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior weekend cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

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With regard to midweek capacity, a maximum capacity rating of 36 match equivalent has been set for one square. This is calculated on the understanding that a square is to be rested at least two days during the week in order to enable necessary maintenance and reduce overplay. Therefore, on a home and away basis of three nights a week, a square has been set the capacity of six sessions per week for midweek play, multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). Any square showing potential spare capacity for midweek demand shall be allocated six match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, due to the fewer number of fixtures within a junior calendar.

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Table 6.14: Capacity analysis of community available grass cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club users	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
2	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	North West	Ardleigh CC	1	Standard	7	28	25	3	No	No	No
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	Brightlingsea CC	1	Standard	9	36	27	9	No	No	Yes
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	Elmstead CC	1	Good	15	75	30	45	No	Yes	Yes
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Central East	Frinton CC	1	Good	12	60	51	9	No	No	Yes
24	Great Bentley Village Green	Central West	Great Bentley CC	1	Good	7	35	32	3	No	No	No
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	Harwich and Dovercourt CC	1	Standard	11	44	27	17	No	Yes	Yes
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	Mistley CC	2	Good	10	50	38	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
					Good	4	20	20	-	No	No	No
46	Tendring Cricket Club	North West	Tendring CC	1	Good	8	40	36	4	No	No	No
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	Clacton CC	1	Standard	15	60	15	45	No	Yes	Yes
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	Great Bromley CC	1	Good	10	50	30	20	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Actual spare capacity

Although a large amount of spare capacity is identified, it is not as simple as to aggregate this into a general oversupply of cricket squares. Despite 10 squares displaying some form of spare capacity, only two are showing any availability for further senior cricket activity on a Saturday, whilst five are available for further Sunday play. The squares in question are outlined in Table 6.15.

Table 6.15: Site by site breakdown of spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Spare capacity	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Saturday	No. of teams that could be accommodated on Sunday
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	45	-	2
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	17	-	1
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	12	1	1
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	45	-	2
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	20	1	1
-	-	Totals	139	2 teams	7 teams

For both Saturday and Sunday demand, total spare capacity equates to 139 match equivalent sessions per season. When applying this to Saturday peak time cricket, 24 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity is present. This is largely caused by four sites narrowly not having enough actual spare capacity to accommodate 12 home fixtures a season.

The total of 24 match equivalent sessions is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Actual spare capacity is present across two analysis areas, with both the Central West and North West analysis areas accommodating a combined 24 match equivalent sessions.

Table 6.16: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (matches per season)
Central East	-
Central West	12
North East	-
North West	12
South	-
Tendring	24

All remaining squares are used to capacity on Saturdays, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created or exacerbated (at least 12 match equivalent sessions per season of spare capacity are required).

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For Sunday cricket, actual spare capacity is provided on five squares, as can be seen in Table 6.15. This totals 60 match equivalent sessions per season of actual spare capacity, with three analysis areas showing some form of actual spare capacity. Spare capacity is highest in the Central West and South analysis areas, with both totalling 24 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 6.17: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (matches per season)
Central East	-
Central West	24
North East	12
North West	-
South	24
Tendring	60

Sunday capacity provides capacity for additional senior men's demand to be accommodated outside of the peak period but still within a competitive format. Moreover, it provides peak time availability for senior women's cricket (both hardball and softball) and for some junior demand, particularly older age groups.

For junior midweek cricket, eight squares have actual spare capacity. Working on the basis that a square can accommodate six midweek teams, and where actual spare capacity is present 6 match equivalent sessions is accounted for, it can be calculated that 108 match equivalent sessions if actual spare capacity are present.

In some instances, sites such as Elmstead CC is showing a capacity rating of 45, however, as it already hosts several junior teams the site can only accommodate three additional midweek teams. Figures displayed in Table 6.18 illustrate the actual spare capacity at each site, meaning the number of additional teams are the maximum number that can be reached for each site from a programming perspective.

Table 6.18: Site by site breakdown of midweek actual spare capacity:

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	No. of teams that could be accommodated midweek
4	Bayard Recreation Ground	Central West	6	1
17	Elmstead Cricket Club	Central West	18	3
21	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Central East	6	1
33	Low Road Playing Fields	North East	12	2
37	Mistley Cricket Club	North West	12	2
55	Vista Road Recreation Ground	South	36	6
89	Great Bromley CC	Central West	18	3
-	-	Totals	108	18 teams

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Table 6.19: Actual spare capacity for junior cricket (midweek) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (matches per season)
Central East	6
Central West	42
North East	12
North West	12
South	36
Tendring	108

The reason for midweek capacity being higher than the capacity for weekend cricket is because fixtures can be split across numerous days. Actual spare capacity for midweek demand is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by juniors' teams (six) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per day for three days of play per square that is available).

The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time. It is therefore only clubs with a significant junior membership base that struggle for capacity, such as Frinton CC.

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain. While it is possible to sustain certain minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Across all sites within Tendring no overplay has been identified. In the case of Great Bentley CC, the site is not overplayed despite hosting Frinton CC's third team and having eight junior teams. This is because its two U8 and two U9's teams do not play any fixtures, meaning despite having eight junior teams of demand, usage is not as high as would initially be anticipated.

Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

6.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

As previously discussed, future demand is calculated using population forecasts and Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator. Using current and future population forecasts it has been predicted that Tendring will see the growth of three senior men's teams and three junior boys' teams by 2033. When applied by match equivalent sessions, this equates to 36 match equivalent sessions for Saturday demand and 18 match equivalent sessions for midweek demand. As the calculator cannot break down population growth by analysis areas, total future demand has been equated to the entirety of Tendring.

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Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

The table below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday). For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by senior teams (12) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 6.20: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	-	-	-	-
Central West	12	-	12	-	-
North East	-	-	-	-	-
North West	12	-	12	-	-
South	-	-	-	-	-
Tendring	24	-	24	36	12

As seen in Table 6.20, there is current actual spare capacity equating to 24 match equivalent sessions per season for senior cricket. When considering future demand of three additional senior teams by 2033, total actual spare capacity is removed and Tendring becomes overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per season for Saturday cricket.

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

Table 6.21 below looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

Table 6.21: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	-	-	-	-	-
Central West	24	-	24	-	24
North East	12	-	12	-	12
North West	-	-	-	-	-
South	24	-	24	-	24
Tendring	60	-	60	-	60

There is overall current spare capacity amounting to 60 match equivalent sessions per season, with none of the five analysis areas showing shortfalls. No future demand is identified through population growth, meaning no change takes place to the future capacity analysis.

Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams).

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This multiplied by six (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos cricket.

Table 6.22: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Central East	6	-	6	-	
Central West	42	-	42	-	
North East	12	-	12	-	
North West	12	-	12	-	-
South	36	-	36	-	-
Tendring	108	-	108	18	90

There is currently overall spare capacity for midweek cricket amounting to 108 match equivalent sessions per season, with most of the actual spare capacity being present in the Central West Analysis Area. When accommodating for future demand, the growth of three junior teams by 2033 reduces actual spare capacity to 90 match equivalent sessions per season.

Conclusion

In summary, the broad position in Tendring is there is sufficient capacity for current demand across Saturday, Sunday, and midweek cricket. Despite this it should be noted that sites such as Great Bentley CC, Mistley CC and Tendring CC are all near operating at capacity. Future demand increases these shortfalls and creates overplay of 12 match equivalent sessions per season for Saturday demand.

A scenario exploring how future demand through club aspirations of seven senior men's teams, three senior women's teams and 13 junior boys' teams shall affect the future capacity analysis will be included in the proceeding Framework & Action Plan. Strategies exploring how improving the quality of provision from standard to good, and ancillary provision improvements at sites such as Bayard Recreation Ground shall also be explored.

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Cricket – supply and demand summary

- ◀ The broad position in Tendring is actual spare capacity for peak time senior men's cricket, with all remaining formats also able to be accommodated.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity of 24 MES is present for Saturday demand, a figure that once future demand through Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator is considered, is removed and provision becomes accessed at capacity.
- ◀ Sunday and midweek demand continues to display actual spare capacity once future demand is accounted for.
- ◀ Not one site across Tendring is showing overplay, despite Great Bentley Village Green and Tendring Cricket Club being very near to capacity.

Cricket – supply summary

- ◀ In total, there are 16 active cricket sites in Tendring consisting of both grass squares and standalone NTPs.
- ◀ In total there are 11 grass wicket squares across 10 sites of which all are available for community use. All non-community accessible provision is located at education sites.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at four sites, as well as ten standalone NTPs identified across seven sites. Most provision is located at education sites and are not available for community use.
- ◀ Four clubs in Tendring have freehold ownership of its sites, five have lease agreements in place and one rents its sites.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found eight to be good quality, and three to be standard quality. None of the squares across Tendring are assessed as of a poor quality.
- ◀ Of all ancillary provision only Bayard Recreation Ground (Brightlingsea CC) provide a building that is of a poor quality.
- ◀ Brightlingsea CC confirm the site offers a 50 year old small wooden building that has been determined shall remain structurally sound for five years following damage caused by Storm Eunice.
- ◀ Tendring CC state its clubhouse is of a standard quality and have ambitions to enhance its quality. (phone Club and get more detail)
- ◀ Four clubs state the need for additional training facilities at their home sites.
- ◀ There are three disused squares (former grass pitch) within Tendring, those being Kirby Playing Field, Vista Road Recreation Ground and Cowley Park.

Cricket – demand summary

- ◀ There are ten clubs in Tendring which collectively provide 26 senior men's, three senior women's and 31 junior boys teams.
- ◀ Three clubs within Tendring currently offer the All Stars program, whilst two clubs deliver Dynamos sessions.
- ◀ Three clubs confirm delivering women's and girls' softball sessions which bring total participation figures of 37 participants.
- ◀ Through population growth, future demand equating to the growth of two senior men's teams and three junior boys' teams by 2033 is identified.
- ◀ Club aspirations equate to the potential growth of seven senior men's teams, three senior women's teams, and 13 junior boys' teams.

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PART 7: TENNIS COURTS

7.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and club-based tennis locally across Tendring. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites and removing key barriers to participation in park and club sites. In Tendring the LTA is working with the Council to improve access to provision in parks. More detailed discussion of the LTA's ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access are set out later in the report.

Consultation

In total, there are three tennis clubs in Tendring. All three responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as shown below.

Table 7.1: Consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Club response?
Frinton TC	Central East	Yes
Kirby TC	Central East	Yes
Little Clacton TC	Central East	Yes

7.2: Supply

There are 85 tennis courts identified in Tendring across 16 sites. Of the courts, 60 are categorised as being available for community use at ten sites compared to 27 that are unavailable at six sites. Courts on sites that are available to the community include club, park and some school courts.

Please note that courts classified as being available for community use are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a combination of both). All remaining courts identified as being unavailable are located at school sites.

The Central East Analysis Area contains the highest number of available courts (35), whereas North West Analysis Area provides the fewest with three courts.

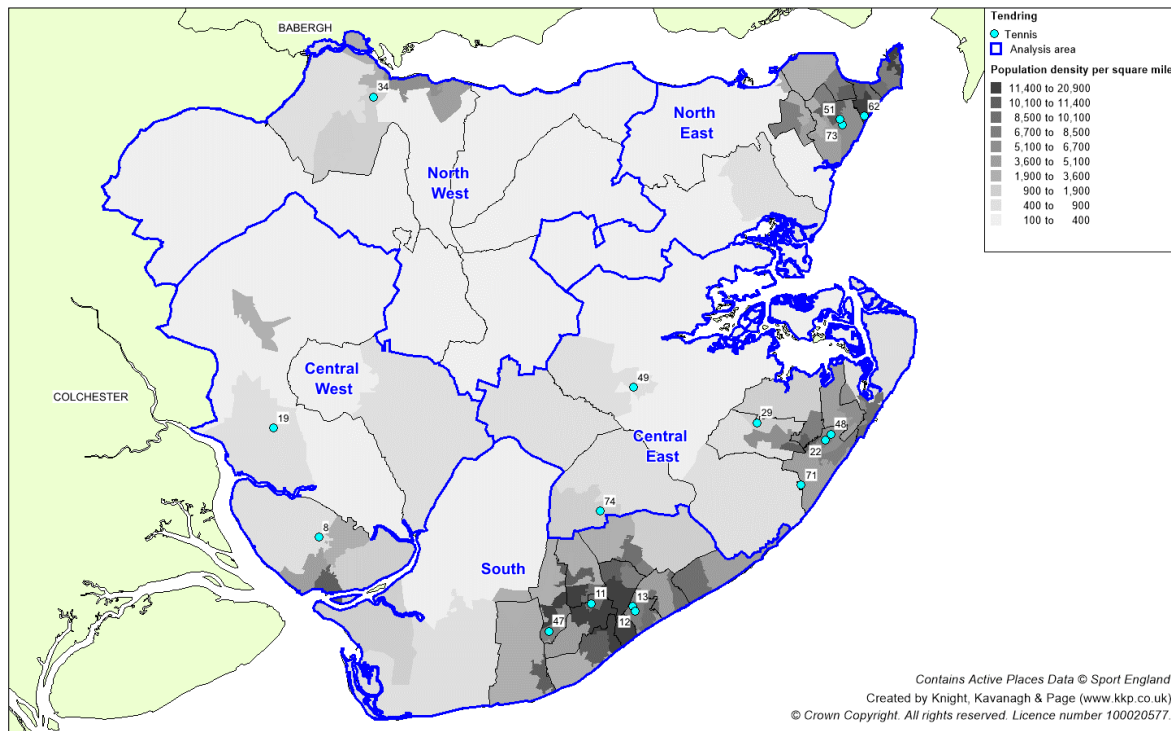
Table 7.2: Summary of the number of courts by Analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use
Central East	35	13
Central West	8	0
North East	10	2
North West	3	0
South	4	10
Tendring	60	25

Figure 7.1 below shows the location of the courts servicing Tendring, regardless of community use. For a key to the map, see Table 7.3.

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Figure 7.1: Overview of tennis court locations



Disused provision

Three sites have tennis courts which have fallen out of use and are classified as being disused. Happy Valley Recreation Ground formerly provided four grass courts which are now an overgrown grass space. Clacton Leisure Centre formerly had eight courts, however the four located North of the AGP have been deemed disused, with the site confirming it only provides four tennis courts. Finally, Fronks Avenue formerly provided six courts, however, two of its courts are now used as a car park for 'The Waterfront Harwich' restaurant.

Future provision

All three tennis clubs confirm having enough courts to meet the needs of its club, with no demand for additional provision being installed.

Clacton Leisure Centre state it is considering the development of a skate park at its site which it is still deciding where to locate at its site, however there is the possibility that it shall come at the loss of some of the tennis provision provided.

Consultations with schools across the District did not raise aspirations to provide new provision.

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Table 7.3: Tennis courts in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Central West	School	Yes	6	No	Concrete	Poor
13	Clacton Leisure Centre	South	Council	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Poor
					1	Yes	Macadam	Standard
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	Central West	Council	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Poor
22	Frinton Park Playing Field	Central East	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Standard
29	Kirby Playing Field	Central East	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
					2	No	Grass	Good
34	Manningtree High School	North West	School	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
71	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central East	Club	Yes	16	No	Grass	Good
					8	Yes	Macadam	Good
73	Harwich Sports Centre	North East	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
					2	No	Concrete	Poor
74	Little Clacton Tennis Club	Central East	Club	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
106	Fronks Avenue	North East	Council	Yes	4	No	Concrete	Poor
No community use								
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	South	School	No	4	Yes	Concrete	Poor
12	Clacton County High School	South	School	No	3	No	Concrete	Poor
47	Tendring Education Centre	South	School	No	3	Yes	Concrete	Standard
48	Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)	Central East	School	No	6	No	Concrete	Poor
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	Central East	School	No	7	No	Concrete	Poor
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	North East	School	No	2	No	Concrete	Poor

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Management and security of tenure

The table below highlights the management of tennis courts within Tendring. Most community use courts are operated by education sites, with 34 courts, nine of which are community accessible located within Schools. Sports Clubs are the next most common operator of courts, with Tendring District Council or parish/town councils, managing the least amount of courts.

Table 7.4: Tennis courts by management type (all courts)

Availability for community use	Number of courts			
	Sports club	Councils (TDC/Town/Parish)	Education	Other
Available	28	23	9	-
Unavailable	-	-	25	-
Total	28	23	34	-

A total of 28 courts are managed by sports clubs which are all available for community use. This is marginally more than the 23 courts managed by TDC and town and parish councils. Finally, there are also several courts (34) at education sites, although only nine are community accessible, located at Brightlingsea Sports Centre and Manningtree High School.

Table 7.5 outlines the current tenure position for the three clubs in Tendring. This helps understand the long-term security of clubs and informs its ability to access various grants. Two of the three clubs have freehold ownership; whilst, Kirby TC has a 25 lease agreement with Tendring District Council.

Table 7.5: Club management/ownership breakdown

Site ID	Site name	Club	Management	Ownership
29	Kirby Playing Field	Kirby TC	Council	Club has 20 years remaining on a 25 year lease for it site. The Club had a £3,000 per year to Tendring District Council which has since increased to £3,500 a year
71	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Club	Freehold ownership to the Club
74	Little Clacton Tennis Club	Little Clacton TC	Club	Freehold ownership to the Club

Court type

The most common outdoor tennis court surface is concrete, with 37 courts identified across nine sites. Of the remaining 48 courts, a macadam surface is the most prominent with 30 courts identified across eight sites, followed by 18 grass courts across two sites. There are no clay, or artificial turf courts within Tendring.

Grass courts, whilst much sought after by players, are becoming increasingly rare across the Country, in part due to them requiring higher levels of maintenance and being able to accommodate less usage. They are generally reserved for summer use, with the weather at other times of the year making them unusable. In the case of Tendring, there are grass tennis courts identified at Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and Kirby Playing Field (Kirby TC).

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Frinton-on-Sea TC confirms it installed two bubble tennis courts in 2001 and has replaced the plastic sheeting several times since installation.

Sports lighting

Courts with sports lighting enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being a key priority for growing participation nationally. The LTA reports that sports lighting allows for a 35% increase in available court time on an annual basis.

In Tendring, 36 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing 42% of the total provision. The courts with sports lighting are located at:

- ◀ Clacton Leisure Centre (four courts)
- ◀ Ford Lane Playing Field (two courts)
- ◀ Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club (eight courts)
- ◀ Harwich Sports Centre (four courts)
- ◀ Kirby Playing Field (four court)
- ◀ Little Clacton Tennis Club (four court)
- ◀ Manningtree High School (three courts)

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for more usage of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. All three clubs within Tendring confirm having access to floodlit courts at its home sites.

As all three clubs have access to floodlit courts, no clubs raise any interest in increasing the number of sports lit courts provided. However, Kirby TC did state its site needs replacement sports lights with its existing lighting not being to a good enough standard.

Overmarking

Tennis courts, particularly within schools, are often over marked by netball, basketball and/or football markings. Courts which are over marked tend to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as creating capacity issues if there is community demand from more than one sport.

Overmarking of tennis courts is identified at nine sites, as seen below. When broken down there are four community accessible sites and five education sites showing overmarking, with netball being the most common overmarked provision.

- ◀ Brightlingsea Sports Centre
- ◀ Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)
- ◀ Clacton County High School
- ◀ Clacton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Ford Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Harwich Sports Centre
- ◀ Tendring Education Centre
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)

Quality

The quality of tennis courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering).

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The table below outlines the quality of courts which are both available for community use and unavailable for community use. In total, there are 37 good quality courts (43%), nine standard quality courts (11%) and 39 poor quality courts (46%).

Table 7.6: Quality of tennis courts

Availability for community use	Number of courts		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	37	6	17
Unavailable	0	3	22
Total	37	9	39

Quality is presented site-by-site in the table below.

Table 7.7: Summary of quality by site (community use sites only)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of courts	Court type	Court quality
8	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Central West	6	Concrete	Poor
13	Clacton Leisure Centre	South	3	Macadam	Poor
			1		Standard
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	Central West	2	Macadam	Poor
22	Frinton Park Playing Field	Central East	1	Macadam	Standard
29	Kirby Playing Field	Central East	4	Macadam	Good
			2	Grass	
34	Manningtree High School	North West	3	Macadam	Good
71	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central East	16	Grass	Good
			8	Macadam	
73	Harwich Sports Centre	North East	4	Macadam	Standard
			2	Concrete	Poor
74	Little Clacton Tennis Club	Central East	4	Macadam	Good
106	Fronks Avenue	North East	4	Concrete	Poor

The community available courts assessed as poor quality are located at the following park sites:

- ◀ Brightlingsea Sports Centre
- ◀ Clacton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Ford Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Fronks Avenue
- ◀ Harwich Sports Centre

Issues recorded during site assessments include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel, with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the sites. This leads to further deterioration in quality.

Kirby TC confirms it has resurfaced one of its four courts since the 2021 season, meaning its provision has improved in recent years. Both Frinton TC and Little Clacton TC report no change in the quality of playing provision provided.

Four of the five sites containing poor quality courts are operated by town or parish councils. Improving such courts is current a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so.

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This is especially the case if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by changing facilities and sports lighting, whereby a sustainable tennis programme could be supported.

Improving the quality, offer and experience of tennis in parks is a strategic priority for the LTA to open up tennis. It reports that the biggest barriers to participate in tennis are:

- ◀ Not knowing where the closest courts are.
- ◀ Not knowing how to book or play on the courts.
- ◀ Poor quality playing surfaces.

Park tennis courts can be opened up in a variety of ways to ensure greater use by local residents. This can range from booking courts to offering coaching programmes. The LTA has three products for local authorities to use to remove the barriers and open tennis up to all of the residents in their area; ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access (further explained in the demand section).

Renovation fund²⁸

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

The LTA's ambition is to drive participation across park tennis sites, as well as ensuring the future sustainability of these facilities. As well as paying for the refurbishment of public park courts, the new investment will also pay for the implementation of sustainable operating models for the facilities, with specialist programmes and support to ensure courts are both affordable and utilised.

Ancillary provision

All clubs have provided feedback on the quality of the ancillary provision which service their respective sites. A breakdown of club feedback is detailed in the table overleaf.

Table 7.8: Ancillary quality breakdown

Club	Analysis area	Facility as a whole	Changing facilities	Car parking
Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Central East	Good	Good	Good
Kirby Playing Field	Central East	Adequate	Poor	Adequate
Little Clacton Tennis Club	Central East	Good	Good	Good

Both Frinton TC and Little Clacton TC confirm its sites are serviced by good quality ancillary provision with no frustrations raised regarding the clubhouse, parking or changing rooms.

Frinton TC provides a good quality large thatched roofed building, with an accompanying outdoor swimming pool, seated stands overlooking its courts and a gym for members to access. The Club confirm it is looking to re-thatch its clubhouse roof in the future and is fundraising through donations and events to finance this development.

Little Clacton TC state it has received funding following the sale of some land at its site.

²⁸<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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The Club formerly had two extra courts to the North of its existing provision which has since been sold and developed into seven houses. The Club has also received a small grant from the LTA and has used the funds raised to resurface its four courts and build a new clubhouse. The Club is now looking to build a practice wall at its site in addition to its four courts.

In the case of Kirby TC, the Club states it if it had better sports lighting and clubhouse facilities it would be able to attract more members. It also states that the quality of the clubhouse has improved recently following investment into the infrastructure of its site.

For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most of the other sites do provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for tennis and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Often, the facilities predominately service football/cricket pitch users and therefore are not readily available or suited to tennis court users. In some instances, quality is also poor.

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and cafes encourage players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. Therefore, a potential way to increase usage of such provision would be to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

7.3: Demand

It is reported that demand for tennis provision during the Covid-19 pandemic has increased substantially compared to prior levels when court restrictions have not been in place (potentially linked to tennis being one of the first sports to be allowed to resume). This should therefore be monitored moving forward to ensure that any growth can be accommodated if the increases are sustained.

Competitive tennis

There are three tennis clubs in Tendring. Total known membership equates to 1,114 members, consisting of 926 senior and 118 junior members.

In terms of size, Frinton TC is the largest club, with 879 members, whilst Kirby TC has the smallest known membership figures with 115 members. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 7.9: Summary of tennis club demand

Club	Analysis area	Number of members	
		Senior	Junior
Frinton TC	Central East	746	133
Kirby TC	Central East	100	15
Little Clacton TC	Central East	80	40
-	Totals	926	188

In the case of Little Clacton TC, it confirms membership figures have increased from 25 seniors and zero juniors in 2015 to its levels currently identified due to the developments resurfacing its courts and enhancing its clubhouse. Kirby TC states its membership figures have increased by 10% in recent years, whilst Frinton TC confirm that developing a gym and opening the swimming pool to adult without a life guard has increased membership figures.

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Latent/unmet demand

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low-quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity in Tendring for the Council and other providers to understand if such barriers exist locally and if so, address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool²⁹ enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,531 people or 1.71% of people within Tendring. The highest latent demand from one demographic is 'settling down males' who resemble 275 people wanting to play tennis that currently are not. As a comparison, the national average reaches 1.76% making it slightly below the average.

Future demand

All three clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 361 potential additional members (270 senior and 91 junior). All clubs hoping to increase in membership outlined future growth figures as seen below.

Table 7.10: Summary of future tennis club demand

Club	Analysis area	Number of members	
		Senior	Junior
Frinton TC	Central East	100	21
Kirby TC	Central East	20	20
Little Clacton TC	Central East	150	50
-	Totals	270	91

Informal tennis

It is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Tendring have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites. Most of the current use is assumed to take place throughout the summer months although it is also accepted that many courts are accessed unofficially for activities unrelated to tennis.

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three initiatives are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, which are further detailed below. In Tendring, Frinton LTC confirm offering ClubSpark at its site, and state it formerly tried delivering Rally, however, there was little demand for this.

In relation to education providers, none report any regular demand from the community for tennis. It is believed by many that a lack of demand is a direct result of quality issues and/or a lack of sports lighting, as well as other courts being available for free. This results in the community being less likely to pay a hire charge for its provision.

²⁹<https://segments.sportengland.org/results.aspx?query=Sports#output=table&map=polygon&polygonType=OA&catchmentType=focus&querySource=Sports&queryType=CharPop&sportBox=1&sport=84&sportPlay=want-to&focusType=LA&focusName=47>

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In addition to the three tennis clubs within Tendring, the LTA confirm that pay and play joint use agreements are in place at Brightlingsea Sports Centre, Clacton Leisure Centre, Harwich Sports Centre and Manningtree High School. This allows for less organised informal demand within Tendring to be offered.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. ClubSpark is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s), including:

- ◀ Managed website - create and manage a mobile friendly website tailored to LA/club requirements to promote events and activities.
- ◀ Managed coaching – set up coaching lessons and courses online.
- ◀ Membership management - improve membership engagement by making it easier for the venue and for members to pay, renew and keep in touch (includes online payments, direct debits and the monitoring of revenue streams; membership modules can also be used to take season ticket payments for venues operating a non-traditional annual facility fee).
- ◀ Organise payments - set the way payments are taken, whether it's immediate pay and play, or bookable as part of a membership package.
- ◀ Court bookings – reduced administration for managing bookings; give staff, coaches, members and the general public access to book and pay for courts, classes or other resources online.
- ◀ Scheduling - set unique booking and price rules to suit the venue and enable lights to switch on/off automatically when linked to the LTA Premium Gate Access system.
- ◀ Book and pay remotely - customers can make bookings and payments for a venue anytime, anywhere via the real-time booking app.
- ◀ Reporting - ClubSpark allows administrators to view reports highlighting income, court usage, revenue and number of members and season ticket holders; this allows for identification of trends and patterns and evidence to demonstrate participation levels and impact.

RALLY

Rally is an aggregator that collects all booking and coaching information via ClubSpark pages and displays it for participants in one easy to view page. It allows players to search for venues close to them and provides booking options, removing the barriers of not knowing where courts are or how to book.

Rally provides a helpful customer journey, with a personal profile to review and manage bookings, and helpful reminders. Courts can be set to book for free of charge or at a fee agreed by the provider.

Gate Access

The LTA has developed two gate access systems that work in association with ClubSpark to secure courts and to allow access to booked customers only. Members of the public can book a court online (making payment if required) and receive a four-digit access code via email to enter using a courtside keypad. The gate access system then allows entry for the time booked if a correct code is entered.

There are two gate options available: SmartAccess Premium and SmartAccess Lite. The demands and needs of users plus the setup of the venue determines the most appropriate system for each site.

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Nationally, the LTA report that in the last three years, sites with a gate access system installed have attracted 64,841 unique players, leading to 609,671 courts being booked. This has generated income of over £1 million.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

The LTA Big Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs and venues have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

The LTA hosts three dedicated weekends a year (in May, July and September) that are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow-on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event. There are no known LTA Big Tennis Weekend sessions within Tendring.

Mini tennis

Mini tennis provides children with the perfect opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. Designed for children aged between 4-10, mini tennis utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. The game is split out into three levels, with the LTA stating that each stage there are key aims and goals:

- ◀ Red (Stage 3): 4-8 year olds – serve, rally and score.
- ◀ Orange (Stage 2): 8-9 year olds – develop a rounded game.
- ◀ Green (Stage 1): 10 year olds – put skills to the test.

There are no known mini tennis courts within Tendring.

Padel tennis

Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them.

One of the fastest growing sports across continental Europe, it has gained increasing popularity over recent years. As of 2021, there are around 6,000 active paddle tennis players across Great Britain, with 107 courts provided at 52 clubs. This is predicted to grow substantially in future years.

There are currently no padel tennis courts in Tendring, with none of the three clubs identifying a desire to install such provision. Frinton TC confirms it is happy with its two domed courts and is not looking to install padel tennis at its site. It can be confirmed the (Leisure World) Colchester Tennis Centre is looking to install Padel provision at its site, meaning if the development takes place this will be the nearest of such provision for people living in Tendring.

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7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

The LTA suggests that a non-sports lit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Courts covered with an air dome can also accommodate 100 members.

In the case of grass courts, a capacity level of 20 members has been assigned to each court. This is due to the minimal amount of demand that a grass tennis court can accommodate due to the quick natured wearability of its surface. This means a grass tennis court cannot accommodate demand for a full season, with such courts across the UK commonly only in a usable condition for a matter of months. As such a capacity total of 20 members is assigned to one grass court as to not completely discount its ability to accommodate demand, but also reflect the minimal capacity it can support.

Using the above figures, the table overleaf analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet current and future demand. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

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Table 7.11: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
29	Kirby Playing Field	Kirby TC	115	40	6	4 Yes	320	205	165
71	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	879	121	8 (2 air domed)	8 Yes	880	1	120
					16 (grass)	No			
74	Little Clacton Tennis Club	Little Clacton TC	120	200	4	Yes	240	120	80

As identified in the table above, none of the three clubs have current theoretical capacity issues with current membership figures. In the case of Frinton TC, the Club is operating one member above capacity, given the large quantity of its provision being grass tennis courts and its high demand figures identified.

Future demand through club ambitions from Little Clacton TC to more than double its existing membership figures would result in a shortfall of provision if such growth were to take place. Frinton TC would be showing overplay 120 members if future demand ambitions are to be achieved. Finally, Kirby TC would be able to accommodate the identified future demand goals if club ambitions were to be achieved.

Non-club tennis

As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, priority should be placed on improving quality of non-club courts to an adequate standard for promoting and increasing informal play, particularly at publicly available sites accommodating multiple courts and adequate ancillary facilities. Linked to this, the utilisation of LTA schemes at suitable sites should also be considered, as should the establishment of the other various initiatives supported by the NGB.

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7.5: Conclusion

When pairing the findings from the supply and demand analysis for club courts with the large number of community available park courts, it can be deemed that Tendring is serviced by sufficient provision to accommodate both the current demand. Future demand through Club ambitions would result in shortfalls at both Frinton TC and Little Clacton TC if achieved.

Of the 85 courts across Tendring, 37 are assessed as good quality, nine as standard and 39 as poor quality. From a Club perspective the three clubs all have access good quality sports lit courts, with 42% of all courts having sports lighting, putting the District above the national average of 35%.

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- None of the three tennis clubs within Tendring are currently operating with potential capacity issues, however, Frinton TC is currently operating marginally above capacity.
- If future growth ambitions through club ambitions were to be fully achieved, Frinton TC and Little Clacton TC would be overplayed.
- When pairing the findings from the supply and demand analysis for club courts with the large number of community available park courts, it can be deemed that Tendring is serviced by sufficient provision to accommodate current demand. Additional provision should be considered at Frinton TC and Little Clacton TC if future Club ambitions are to be achieved.

Tennis – supply summary

- There are a total of 85 tennis courts identified in Tendring across 16 sites, with 60 courts categorised as being available for community use at ten sites.
- Most community accessible courts are operated by clubs, 100% of which are available for community use.
- Most courts have a concrete surface, with 37 being of this type compared to 30 having a macadam surface, with the remaining 18 courts being of grass surface. No artificial turf or clay courts were identified.
- In total, 36 of the 85 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing 42% of the provision.
- Of the community available courts, 37 are assessed as good quality, six as standard quality and 17 as poor quality.
- Tendring hosts two air domed courts both located at Frinton TC. The provision was installed in 2001 and has since been replaced several times, with no concerns raised regarding the provision by the Club.
- Two clubs within Tendring describe its ancillary provision as good quality, whilst Kirby TC state its clubhouse is adequate and if it were to be enhanced its membership figures would increase.
- Frinton TC is looking to re-thatch the roof to its clubhouse, whilst Little Clacton TC is hoping to install a practice wall.

Tennis – demand summary

- There are three tennis clubs in Tendring which collectively cater for 1,114 members.
- All three clubs report that participation has increased in recent years.
- All three clubs consulted with report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 361 potential additional members (270 senior and 91 junior).
- Away from clubs, it is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in Tendring have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not always recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.

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PART 8: NETBALL COURTS

8.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

Consultation

This section has been informed through consultation with the Colchester Netball League.

8.2: Supply

There are 45 outdoor netball courts identified in Tendring across 22 sites, of which, 12 courts are available for community use across four sites.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of courts available for community use	Number of courts unavailable for community use
North West	6	1
North East	-	5
Central West	2	3
Central East	-	12
South	4	12
Total	12	36

Most provision is located in the South Analysis Area with a total of 16 courts or 36% of provision, with the North East and Central West analysis areas both providing five courts which total 11%.

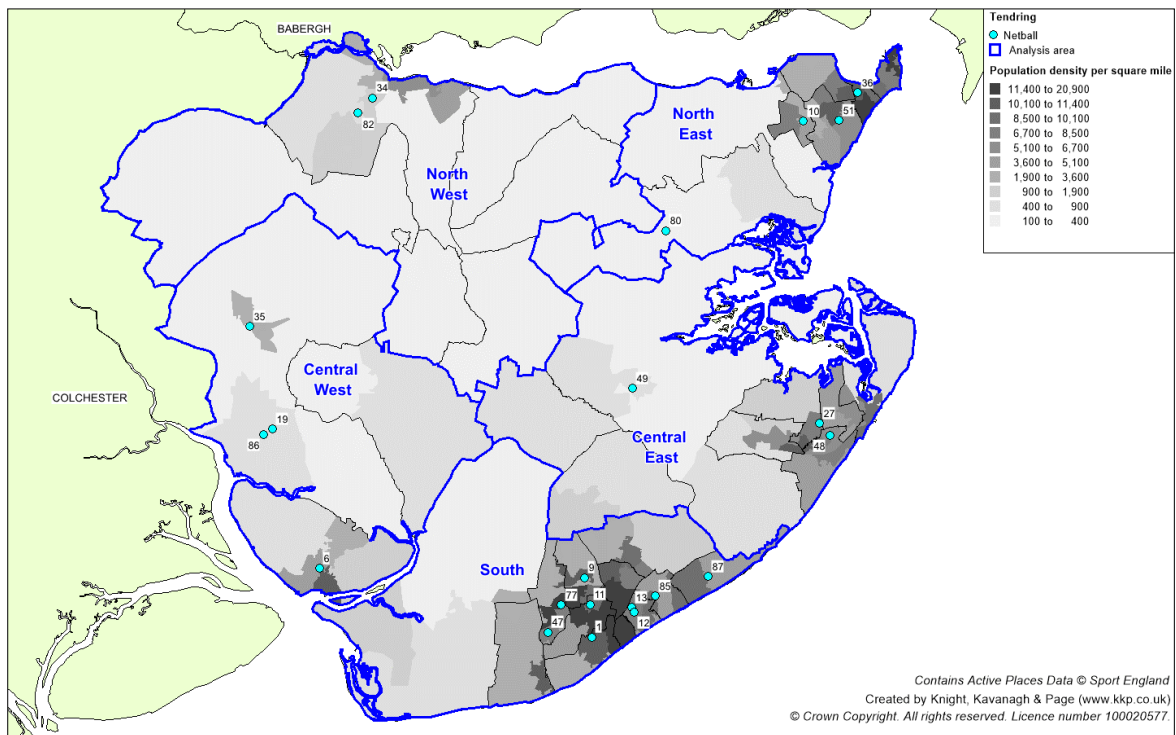
The Council has identified that the North East Analysis Area as requiring additional provision, with Harwich hosting lots of potential demand for the District but no accessible courts provided. It also feels that the total supply of 12 community accessible courts is something it should look to increase.

Both Clacton and Manningtree have also been identified as areas within Tendring that requires additional provision, with Clacton County High School formerly denied planning permission for installing floodlights to its courts.

For a site-by-site breakdown of the courts supplied across Tendring, please refer to Table 8.2 and Figure 8.1 overleaf.

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Figure 8.1: Location of netball courts in Tendring



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Table 8.2: Netball courts in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of courts	Surface type	Overmarked for tennis?	Sports lighting?	Quality
13	Clacton Leisure Centre	South	Yes	1	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Standard
19	Ford Lane Playing Field	Central West	Yes	2	Concrete	Yes	Yes	Poor
34	Manningtree High School	North West	Yes	3	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Good
				3	Concrete	Yes	No	Poor
47	Tendring Education Centre	South	Yes	3	Concrete	Yes	Yes	Standard
No community use								
1	Alton Park Junior School	South	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
6	Brightlingsea Primary School and Nursery	Central West	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
9	Cann Hall Primary School	South	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
10	Chase Lane Primary School	North East	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
11	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	South	No	3	Concrete	Yes	Yes	Poor
12	Clacton County High School	South	No	3	Concrete	Yes	No	Standard
27	Hamford Primary Academy	Central East	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
35	Market Field School	Central West	No	1	Macadam	No	No	Standard
36	Mayflower School	North East	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
48	Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)	Central East	No	6	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Poor
49	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	Central East	No	5	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Standard
51	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	North East	No	2	Macadam	Yes	Yes	Poor
77	St Clare's Primary School	South	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
80	All Saints C of E Primary School	North East	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
82	Lawford C of E Primary	North West	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Standard
85	Holland Park Primary School	South	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
86	Arlesford Primary School	Central West	No	1	Concrete	No	No	Poor
87	Holland Haven Primary School	South	No	2	Concrete	No	No	Standard

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Management and security of tenure

Three netball courts in Tendring are operated by the Council, with these being located at Ford Lane Playing Field and Clacton Leisure Centre. All remaining courts are at education sites.

Court type

Across Tendring the most common surface is concrete which equates to 27 courts, with the remaining 18 courts having a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam and artificial courts is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

Sports lighting

Despite 45 outdoor netball courts being provided in Tendring, 25 courts (55%) are serviced by sports lighting. These are provided at:

- ◀ Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)
- ◀ Clacton Leisure Centre
- ◀ Ford Lane Playing Field
- ◀ Manningtree High School
- ◀ Tendring Education Centre
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)
- ◀ Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)
- ◀ The Harwich and Dovercourt High School

This is a high total, however, only three sites listed above are available for community use, meaning Tendring is serviced by six floodlit community available netball courts.

A lack of sports lighting on netball courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in April 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are serviced by sports lighting throughout the Country (38%).

A lack of floodlighting presents a key reason as to why many courts are unavailable for community use. Many providers of non-floodlit courts state that making them available would not be financially viable as usage would be significantly limited.

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In Tendring, 31 netball courts are overmarked for tennis. This is common given that many courts are located at secondary schools where tennis markings are also often provided.

Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g. vandalism and/or littering).

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Of the courts in Tendring, three (7%) are rated as good quality, 16 are assessed as standard (35%) whilst the remaining 26 courts are deemed poor quality (58%) with issues such as loose gravel, feint court markings and evidence of moss and lichen.

Table 8.3: Quality of courts

Availability for community use	Number of courts		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	3	4	5
Unavailable	0	12	21
Total	3	16	26

The poor quality courts are located at Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus), Ford Lane Playing Field, Manningtree High School and The Harwich and Dovercourt High School. Issues surrounding these courts include poor grip underfoot, evidence of moss and worn line markings.

The good quality courts that are available for community use are provided at Manningtree High School.

The standard quality courts unavailable for community use are located at Clacton County High School, Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus) and Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus).

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally located within main school buildings or are provided to predominately service sports halls and/or grass pitches. As such, access can be limited even at sites that allow for community use.

8.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball comes in two forms; league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training, and the various netball-based initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.

The Colchester Netball League

The Colchester Netball League acts as the central venue for Netball in the area and accommodates demand from Tendring, with Tendring NC being the one club based within the District competing within the League. Fixtures for the league are held at the Gilbert School within Colchester.

The Club's membership for the 21/22 season was at 50 people, which increased from the 44 people from the 19/20 season. In addition, Colchester Netball League reports that there are 117 people living in Tendring participating in the League, with these additional players accessing other clubs outside of Tendring.

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Play Netball

Play Netball is a commercial organisation that runs various netball leagues across the Country that run all-year round (a new season begins as soon as the previous one ends). In addition to welcoming already established teams, it also encourages individual players to sign up, with it then placing each person within a team that suits their ability.

Play Netball sessions are delivered at Tendring Education Centre, with 109 people participating in the 2021/22 season. Play Netball also operates a league in Colchester, located at The Gilbert School. Matches are played every Tuesday evening, with three time slots (19:00, 19:40 and 20:20). The sessions are a commercially ran league with four divisions.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport. In Tendring, Back to Netball run sessions at Tendring Education Centre every Wednesday from 18:00.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a slower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

At present, there is one venue in Tendring delivering walking netball sessions located in the sports hall at Clacton Leisure Centre. England Netball feels that it has the potential demand to deliver walking netball sessions within Frinton, however the only accessible courts are located at school sites. With walking netball sessions predominantly held during mornings and early afternoons it feels if more provision were to be provided at council sites, it would be able to deliver more walking netball.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

In Tendring, Netball Now sessions run at Clacton Leisure Centre every Wednesday from 19:00.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork. Each session is managed by an England Netball accredited coach.

Tendring Netball Club has teamed up with England Netball to become one of their trailblazer Bee Netball Clubs. Bee Netball sessions run on Wednesdays from 17:00 – 18:00 at Tendring Education Centre.

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Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 378 people within Tendring which equates to 1.26% of people. Of these people, 20% are identified as female fitness class friends.

As a comparison, the national average identifies 1.29% of the population wanting to participate in Netball, putting Tendring slightly below the national average.

Future demand

England Netball hopes that there will be an increase in the number of initiatives held in Tendring and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers running and organising the sessions.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

With the Colchester Netball League acting as the central venue for the region, demand across the area is adequately catered for, albeit through accessing courts within Colchester.

8.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be argued that there is an insufficient supply of outdoor netball courts to service the District. This is due to a low supply of available community available courts and a mixed quality offer (particularly around provision with sports lighting).

Consequently, there are limited opportunities for competitive or recreational netball offers to be established (i.e. back to netball). This position is exacerbated when reviewing provision by ownership and management type where there is a reliance on the education sector to provide the better quality courts in the District which although are available for community use, are less well advertised and known to be accessible.

It is known that all competitive play occurs outside of the District on a central venue basis and as such from a competitive point of view there is a limited need for outdoor courts. However, from a recreational perspective, the supply is inadequate and is likely to be preventative for alternate opportunities to emerge and grow, such as Walking Netball or Netball Now.

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Netball – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Netball within Tendring is catered for by the one Club playing within the Colchester Netball League which acts as the central venue for the region.
- ◀ For netball demand away from the club and league environment, there is a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be ran from and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.

Netball – supply summary

- ◀ There are 45 outdoor netball courts identified in Tendring across 22 sites, of which, 12 courts are available for community use across four sites.
- ◀ Most provision is located in the South Analysis Area with a total of 16 courts which equates to 36% of provision, with the North East and Central West analysis areas both providing five courts or 11% each.
- ◀ Three netball courts in Tendring are operated by the Council, with these being located at Ford Lane Playing Field and Clacton Leisure Centre. All remaining courts are at education sites.
- ◀ Across Tendring the most common surface is concrete which equates to 27 courts, with the remaining 18 courts having a macadam surface.
- ◀ In Tendring 31 netball courts are overmarked for tennis.
- ◀ Despite 45 outdoor netball courts being provided in Tendring, 25 courts (55%) are serviced by sports lighting. This is a high total, however, only nine of these courts are community accessible.
- ◀ Of the courts in Tendring, three courts are rated as good quality (7%), 16 courts (35%) are considered as standard quality, with 26 courts (58%) assessed as poor.
- ◀ The good quality courts that are available for community use are provided at Manningtree High School.
- ◀ The standard quality floodlit courts unavailable for community use located at Clacton County High School and Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus) should be prioritised for opening to community use as to better support demand within Tendring.

Netball – demand summary

- ◀ Play Netball sessions are currently operating at Tendring Education Centre with 109 people participating in the 2021/22 season.
- ◀ In Tendring, Back to Netball sessions are delivered at Tendring Education Centre every Wednesday from 18:00.
- ◀ At present, there is one venue in Tendring which run Walking Netball, located indoors at Clacton Leisure Centre.
- ◀ In Tendring, Netball Now run sessions at Clacton Leisure Centre every Wednesday from 19:00.
- ◀ Tendring Netball Club have teamed up with England Netball to become one of their trailblazer Bee Netball Clubs. Bee Netball sessions run on Wednesday 17:00 – 18:00, at Tendring Education Centre.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 378 people within Tendring. Of these people, 20% are classified as being female fitness class friends.

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PART 9: BOWLING GREENS

9.1 Introduction

All bowling greens in Tendring are flat greens. Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of outdoor flat green bowls across the Country. More locally, the sport is run and administered by the Essex Bowls Association.

Consultation

There are 10 bowling clubs playing in Tendring. Through online survey and telephone consultation, a total club response rate of 80% (eight of 10 clubs) was achieved. A breakdown of responses can be seen below.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Analysis area	Response
Brightlingsea BC	Central West	Yes
Clacton-On-Sea BC	South	Yes
Dovercourt BC	North East	Yes
Frinton BC	Central East	Yes
Happy Valley BC	South	Yes
Holland-On-Sea BC	South	No
Kirby Le Soken BC	Central East	Yes
Mistley & Manningtree BC	North West	Yes
Thorpe-Le-Soken BC	Central East	No
Thorrington BC	Central West	Yes

9.2: Supply

There are 11 bowling greens in Tendring located across 10 sites. All greens are available for community use. Two greens are located at Clacton-On-Sea Bowls Club.

Table 9.2: Summary of community available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
North West	1
North East	1
Central West	2
Central East	3
South	4
Total	11

As seen in the table above most the available greens are located in the South Analysis Area, this is followed by the Central East Analysis Area with three greens.

Disused provision

One green is identified as being disused, located at Parkeston Railway Club (CO12 4PQ) following the non-technical site assessments.

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Ownership/management

As seen in the table below all 11 bowling greens are owned and managed by the respective sports club.

Table 9.3: Breakdown of bowling greens in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Number of greens	Management
58	Brightlingsea Bowls Club	CO7 0NW	Central West	1	Brightlingsea BC
59	Clacton-On-Sea Bowls Club	CO15 1UL	South	2	Clacton-On-Sea BC
61	Frinton Bowls Club	CO13 0AP	Central East	1	Frinton BC
62	Dovercourt Bowls Club	CO12 3RX	North East	1	Dovercourt BC
63	Happy Valley Bowls Club	CO15 6NX	South	1	Happy Valley BC
64	Holland-On-Sea (York Road) Bowls Club	CO15 5NF	South	1	Holland-On-Sea BC
65	Kirby-Le-Soken Bowls Club	CO13 0LS	Central East	1	Kirby-Le-Soken BC
66	Mistley & Manningtree Bowls Club	CO11 1ER	North West	1	Mistley & Manningtree BC
67	Thorpe-Le-Soken Bowls Club	CO16 0EA	Central East	1	Thorpe-Le-Soken BC
76	Thorrington Bowls Club	CO7 8HH	Central West	1	Thorrington BC

Details regarding the tenure positions of clubs can be found below. Information regarding the two unresponsive clubs is unknown.

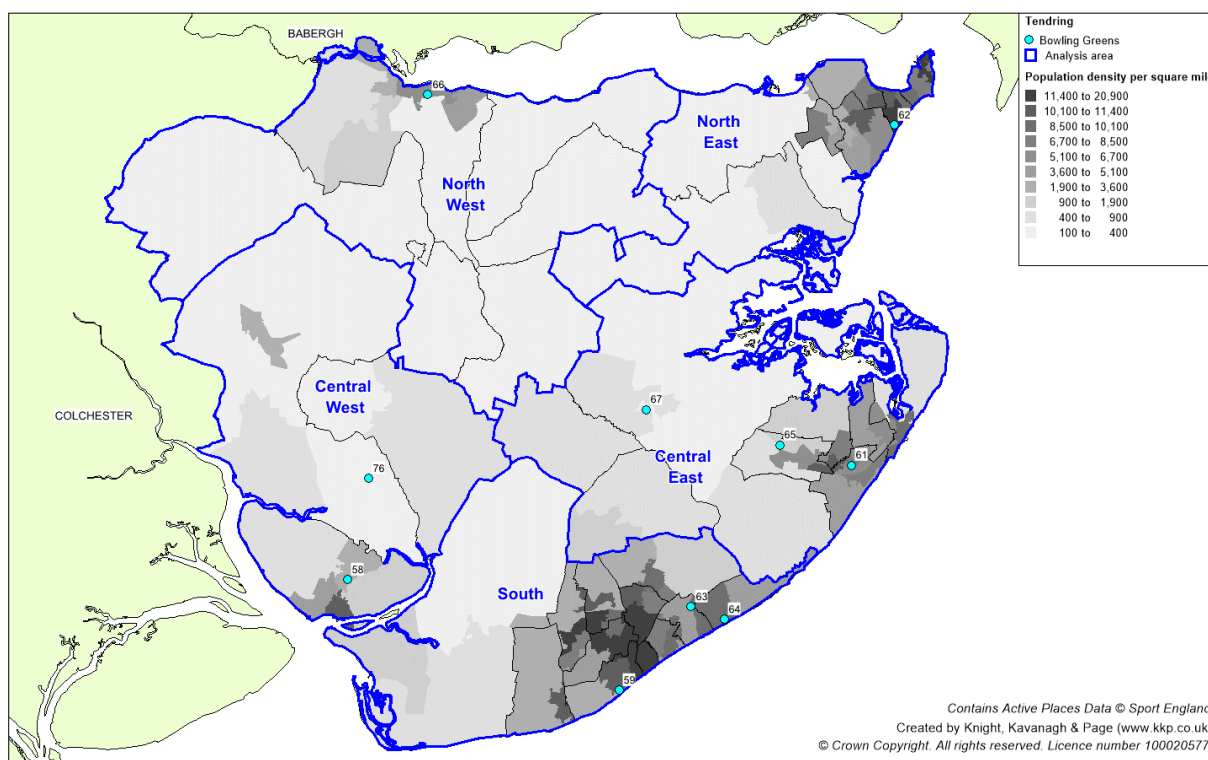
Table 9.4: Club tenure positions

Club	Ownership/management details
Brightlingsea BC	Club is negotiating a new 21 years lease with Brightlingsea Town Council.
Clacton-On-Sea BC	Club have a 25 year lease agreement for its site signed in 2021.
Dovercourt BC	Freehold ownership.
Frinton BC	Club pay a rental fee to Tendring District Council.
Happy Valley BC	Club have a five year lease with Tendring District Council which is scheduled to expire in 2025.
Kirby Le Soken BC	Club have a year lease with Tendring District Council which is scheduled to expire in 2027. An issue with its water bills and the energy rating on the clubhouse is a cause for concern.
Mistley & Manningtree BC	Club have a 25 year lease with Welcome Home Trust that is scheduled to expire in 2023.
Thorrington BC	Club have a rolling lease with the Chelmsford Diocese.

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Figure 9.1 below highlights the location of all outdoor bowling greens in Tendring. For a key to the map, see Table 9.3.

Figure 9.1: Location of bowling greens in Tendring



Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Tendring and cross referencing the findings against club consultation, most greens (eight or 73%) are rated as good quality, with two green (18%) rated as poor quality. One green (9%) is rated as standard quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-70%), Poor (<70%) and include, but are not limited to, the examination of; evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking / floodlights/fencing).

Table 9.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Post code	Number of greens	Quality of green
58	Brightlingsea Bowls Club	CO7 0NW	1	Good
59	Clacton-On-Sea Bowls Club	CO15 1UL	2	Good
61	Frinton Bowls Club	CO13 0AP	1	Good
62	Dovercourt Bowls Club	CO12 3RX	1	Good
63	Happy Valley Bowls Club	CO15 6NX	1	Good
64	Holland-On-Sea (York Road) Bowls Club	CO15 5NF	1	Good
65	Kirby-Le-Soken Bowls Club	CO13 0LS	1	Standard
66	Mistley & Manningtree Bowls Club	CO11 1ER	1	Poor
67	Thorpe-Le-Soken Bowls Club	CO16 0EA	1	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Post code	Number of greens	Quality of green
76	Thorrington Bowls Club	CO7 8HH	1	Poor

Even though most greens across the District are good quality, they still require substantial levels of dedicated maintenance to sustain this standard.

A green is considered good quality if it has a high percentage of grass coverage, an even playing surface and limited signs of wear and tear on surrounding ditches/boarding and hard standing areas. In addition, there must be little to no evidence of litter, dog fouling, leaves and inappropriate usage of the green.

Mistley & Manningtree BC indicate the quality of its green has got slightly poorer, the Club state this is largely to do with the lack of funding to be able to maintain the green to a good standard.

Thorrington BC confirm its three-rink bowling green is of a poor quality, with its maintenance being done by existing members.

Happy Valley BC has a good quality bowling green that is maintained by the Club. It confirms investing in the green being renovated each season which goes towards taking the top surface off and re-top dressing and seeding it to ensure its quality is sustained long term.

Non-technical site assessments and consultation with Clacton On Sea BC confirm its provision is of a good quality, with the Club having a full time groundsman and lots of investment goes towards its playing provision.

Brightlingsea BC, Dovercourt BC and Frinton BC all state that the quality of their greens hasn't improved or deteriorated. This suggests that levels of maintenance at each site have stayed the same to sustain the current standard.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs which responded to consultation have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house. The quality of these range from purpose built brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. Four sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, whereas three sites are accompanying a standard quality ancillary provision, and one poor quality ancillary provision.

Table 9.6: Summary of club ancillary provision comments from consultation

Site ID	Site name	Club	Analysis area	Quality
58	Brightlingsea Bowls Club	Brightlingsea BC	Central West	Good
59	Clacton-On-Sea Bowls Club	Clacton-On-Sea BC	South	Good
61	Frinton Bowls Club	Frinton BC	Central East	Good
62	Dovercourt Bowls Club	Dovercourt BC	North East	Good
63	Happy Valley Bowls Club	Happy Valley BC	South	Standard
65	Kirby-Le-Soken Bowls Club	Kirby-Le-Soken BC	Central East	Standard
66	Mistley & Manningtree Bowls Club	Mistley & Manningtree BC	North West	Standard
76	Thorrington Bowls Club	Thorrington BC	Central West	Poor

Happy Valley BC is in the process of renovating its kitchen which it hopes this be completed for the 2023 season.

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Kirby-Le-Soken BC has a standard quality clubhouse with a flat roof and prefabricated walls. The Club recently invested into installing CCTV following a break in attempt.

Mistley and Manningtree BC hopes to convert its clubhouse to enable disabled access, as well as repair the edges of its green, however, due to costs, these remain aspirations. The Club also states it has experienced vandalism at the site in the last 12 months.

Sports lighting

There are no greens serviced by sports lighting in Tendring. This can mean that opportunities for access for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is infrequent. This is common to norm for bowling greens across the country. However, in Tendring no clubs reference aspirations to gain access to sports lighting.

9.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 10 bowling clubs identified as playing in Tendring, although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date. Where known, membership of the responsive clubs' totals 496, broken down by club in the table below.

Table 9.7: Membership for bowls clubs across Tendring

Club name	Current membership numbers			
	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors (U18)	Total
Brightlingsea BC	57	26	2	85
Clacton-On-Sea BC	50	39	1	90
Dovercourt BC	33	26	1	60
Frinton BC	50	35	-	85
Happy Valley BC	60	20	-	80
Kirby-Le-Soken BC	30	10	-	40
Mistley & Manningtree BC	31	15	-	46
Thorrington BC	5	5	-	10
Total	316	176	4	496

The largest club according to known membership is currently Clacton-On-Sea BC, with 90 members, followed by Brightlingsea BC and Frinton BC which both have 85 members. The smallest club is Thorrington BC with only 10 members.

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at a County and National level to encourage younger players. This is of particular relevance for Tendring with only three clubs having a combined four junior members.

Of responding clubs, six clubs highlight plans to increase membership, this can be seen in the table below.

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Table 9.8: Future demand aspirations

Club name	Number of members		
	Senior	Junior (U18)	Total
Brightlingsea BC	10	2	12
Dovercourt BC	10	15	25
Frinton BC	15	-	15
Happy Valley BC	15	-	15
Kirby Le Soken BC	10	-	10
Mistley & Manningtree BC	10	6	16

Thorrington BC state aspiration to increase membership, however, does not quantify the amount. With ten existing members the Club is merely looking to continue existing and is hoping to gain members by delivering indoor carpet bowls sessions over the 2022 winter.

Latent demand

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁰ enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 374 people or 1.26% who would like to participate in the sport within Tendring. When compared to the national average of 1.16% of people wanting to participate in lawn bowls, Tendring sits above the identified levels.

Notwithstanding this, none of the bowling clubs in Tendring are reported as operating at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Tendring who would like to start participating, could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowls England has no specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Therefore, capacity ratings for bowling greens in Tendring are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, the table below highlights the level of usage each green in Tendring receives, where the information is known. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

³⁰ <https://segments.sportengland.org/>

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Table 9.9: Bowling green supply vs demand analysis

Site ID	Site name	Club name	No. of greens	Analysis area	Total membership	Current capacity	Future capacity
58	Brightlingsea Bowls Club	Brightlingsea BC	1	Central West	85	85	97
59	Clacton-On-Sea Bowls Club	Clacton-On-Sea BC	2	South	90	90	90
61	Frinton Bowls Club	Frinton BC	1	Central East	60	60	75
62	Dovercourt Bowls Club	Dovercourt BC	1	North East	85	85	110
63	Happy Valley Bowls Club	Happy Valley BC	1	South	80	80	95
65	Kirby-Le-Soken Bowls Club	Kirby-Le-Soken BC	1	Central East	40	40	50
66	Mistley & Manningtree Bowls Club	Mistley & Manningtree BC	1	North West	46	46	62
76	Thorrington Bowls Club	Thorrington BC	1	Central West	10	10	10

Overall, it can be seen that three clubs are operating over capacity, with both Brightlingsea BC and Dovercourt BC the two clubs most heavily accessed with both hosting 85 members. All three clubs access good quality greens meaning they can withstand operating marginally over capacity if quality is sustained.

However, the biggest concern is for Thorrington BC who have only ten members, meaning it is at danger of falling out of existence. The Club confirm it advertises with leaflets, hosts open days and does indoor carpet bowls over winter in hope of increasing members.

Future demand ambitions of six clubs would result in six sites to be operating outside of Bowls England recommended capacity guidelines if goals were to be achieved.

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9.5: Conclusion

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during the afternoons by club members which bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

Bowling clubs are generally considered viable if they have the appropriate level of membership to sustain their bowling green and accompanying ancillary facilities. Therefore, clubs that have lower levels of participation in comparison to the remaining clubs within Tendring may have issues maintaining their provision.

All clubs are willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within Tendring that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence. This means there is enough supply of greens within the Authority.

As there is no evidence to suggest a need for new bowling greens in Tendring, however, there is a need to improve the quality of greens which are identified as either poor or standard quality in order to sustain play.

Bowls summary

- ◀ **There is currently sufficient capacity for flat bowling greens to meet both current and future demand.**
- ◀ There are 11 bowling greens in Tendring located across 10 sites.
- ◀ All 11 bowling greens are owned and managed by the respective sports clubs.
- ◀ Most greens (eight or 73%) are rated as good quality, with two green (18%) rated as poor quality. One green (9%) is rated as standard quality.
- ◀ Brightlingsea BC, Dovercourt BC and Frinton BC all state that the quality of their green hasn't improved or deteriorated. This suggests that levels of maintenance at each site have stayed the same to sustain the current standard.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, four sites are accompanied by good quality facilities, whereas three sites are accompanying a standard quality ancillary provision, and one poor quality ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are 10 bowling clubs identified as playing in Tendring, although only eight have responded to consultation requests to date. Where known, membership of the responsive clubs totals 496.
- ◀ The largest club according to known membership is currently Clacton-On-Sea BC, with 90 members, followed by Brightlingsea BC and Frinton BC which both have 85 members. The smallest club is Thorrington BC with only 10 members.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, five clubs highlight plans to increase membership. In total, future demand aspirations total 68 members.

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PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

As a Governing Body, UK Athletics is responsible for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of athletics, including everything from anti-doping, health and safety, facilities and welfare, to training and education for coaches and officials as well as permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics, which is the development and membership body for athletics and running clubs in England. It has a National Head of Clubs and Participation as well as a team of five club support managers across the Country, with one of these covering activities in Tendring as part of the South East region.

Consultation

The one England Athletics affiliated running club within Tendring, Great Bentley Running Club, has been consulted to inform this section of the report.

10.2: Supply

There is no supply of formal athletics provision within Tendring, with any such demand being exported outside of the District to Colchester, specifically the Garrison Athletics Stadium, which provides a floodlit 400m eight lane synthetic track.

Alternative provision

Consultation with England Athletics confirms it is adopting a new approach to facility planning that can enable local councils to install new athletics provision at a much more affordable cost than a traditional 400m synthetic track.

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land.

A 'mini track' features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision. An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym. Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot-put practice areas, in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (much like a formula 1 circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

These three designs present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks.

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Finally, German manufacturer 'Polytan' presents a smart track in which magnetic integrated timing gates are built into the surface intermittently as to enable sports and exercise analysis to take place with much greater ease and precision. The athlete downloads an accompanying 'smart run' app which is then tracked by the magnetic sensors built into the track allowing for split speed analysis to take place without the need for cameras or wires. This allows for the removal of any set up time for analysts whilst also enabling several athletes to be examined simultaneously. As the magnets are embedded within the track it is also vandalism safe and will outlast the lifespan of a brand-new athletics track. The installation of such provision reportedly increases the price to roughly £1.35m for a brand new 400m 'smart track.'

The installation of such provision detailed above, could enable a more affordable means of installing athletics provision within the District.

10.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are also considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

Great Bentley Athletics Club

Great Bentley Running Club caters for beginner runners to England Athletics level events. The Club currently has 240 senior members (120 male, 120 female) and five junior members. It states its membership figures have increased in recent years which it puts down to the increased number of people running during the Pandemic.

The Club runs several sessions throughout a week, with Monday hill training starting from 18:30 from various locations across Clacton and Colchester. Wednesdays the Club meet at Great Bentley Village Hall for road running sessions. Thursdays the Club accesses the cycle track at Northern Gateway Sports Park at 18:00 during winter months. On Fridays it holds a 07:30 morning run starting from north Colchester, and finally Sunday mornings a session is delivered at 08:30 and several groups run at different speeds.

Despite the success of accessing the Northern Gateway Sports Park cycle track in Colchester, it raises frustrations with the lack of athletics provision within Tendring and feel that runners within the area are not adequately catered for. The only issue identified by the Club, is a lack of formal facilities in the local area.

Harwich Running Club

Founded in 1982, Harwich Running Club caters for all levels of abilities and has 150 members. It has two running groups of differing abilities, the first of which meets every Tuesday at 18:30, whilst the second session starts at 20:00. The Club meet at Harwich Rugby Club and provide road running sessions around Harwich.

Clacton Seafront Runners

Clacton Seafront Runners meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 18:45. The Club formed following people attending the Clacton Seafront Park Run and asks that members can run at least 5km.

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Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In Tendring, there are no identified Run Together sessions, however, Colchester and Tendring Athletic Club does host such sessions at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium. A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation in initiatives such as Run Together, meaning this could be further targeted moving forward, especially given the number of other clubs that could be involved.

Park Run

Park Run is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 768 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online in order to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Park Run events. Below are some statistics for each event.

Table 10.1: Tendring Park Run statistics

Park Run	Number of times held	Average attendance	Average finish time (mins)
Clacton Seafront	236	133	31:02
Harwich	315	110	29:20

The Clacton Seafront route sees runners do two laps from the Clacton-On-Sea seafront Toby Carvery to Clacton Pier before finishing in front of the public toilets. The Harwich Parkrun starts in Cliff Park with participants running along Harwich promenade to Earlham's beach before returning back to Cliff Park.

Other running events

Another annual running event that takes place in Tendring is the Great Bentley Half Marathon and the Friday 5 Main five mile. The Great Bentley Half Marathon is scheduled to be held on the 5th of February 2023, with the route starting at the Village Hall and ending on Weeley Road.

The Friday 5 Main five mile event is a series of six open races each, of which, are approximately five miles in length and held during the summer on Friday evenings. The 2022 Friday 5 Main five mile event started on the 20th of May in Felixstowe and sessions continued to July 1st where the last run was held in Great Bentley.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further. In Tendring, Harwich Running Club held a nine-week Couch to 5k session during 2020.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 6,393 people within Tendring or 4.44%. As a comparison, the national average identifies 2.14% of the population wanting to participate in athletics, making Tendring significantly above the national average.

Notwithstanding the above, no clubs currently based in Tendring express latent or unmet demand, with no waiting lists in place, suggesting that anyone wanting to participate can do so via the clubs that are in place. Frustrations regarding the lack of athletics provision was raised by Great Bentley Running Club which exports demand into Colchester when accessing Northern Gateway Sports Park.

Future demand

All clubs consulted with express an aspiration to grow membership, although most state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost to not turn demand away. Great Bentley Running Club state it hopes to gain a further 20 male and 20 females.

In addition, England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

10.4: Conclusion

With no athletics provision within Tendring, all running and athletics participation is exported demand into neighbouring authorities. The nearest athletics provision to Tendring is the 400m track at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium. Consultation with Great Bentley Athletics Club state the lack of facilities in Tendring is its biggest frustration.

Despite the lack of provision in Tendring, the need for a new 400m track does not exist with demand being catered for by the provision within Colchester.

Away from formal facilities, with demand likely to continue to increase for more running initiatives such as Park Run, it is important to ensure sites for these events can continue adequately accommodate the demand.

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Athletics – supply and demand summary

- ◀ With no dedicated athletics provision within Tendring, athletics demand is exported outside of the District.
- ◀ Despite the lack of provision, the need for a new 400m track does not exist with demand being catered for by the provision within Colchester.
- ◀ Efforts to install a compact, mini or active track within Tendring should be considered as an affordable means of providing the District with Athletics provision.
- ◀ Priority should also be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Tendring and the events that are being held.

Athletics – supply summary

- ◀ There is no athletics provision within Tendring, with the nearest 400m track located at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.
- ◀ There are also no compact, mini or active tracks within Tendring.

Athletics – demand summary

- ◀ Three clubs have been identified within Tendring, those being Great Bromley Athletics Club, Harwich Running Club and Clacton Seafront Runners. Only Great Bromley Athletics Club have a requirement for a purpose-built facility, with the remaining two clubs operating as road running clubs.
- ◀ None of the clubs consulted with have a waiting list in place and all clubs are open to gaining new members.
- ◀ Harwich Running Club is the only club that delivers the Couch to 5K programme.
- ◀ Two Park Run events are held each week within Tendring, those being Clacton Seafront Park Run and Harwich Park Run.

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PART 11: GOLF

11.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 740,000 members belonging to one of 1,800 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated Heritage Coast sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or listed Historic Parklands.

England Golf writes that more than four million people have played golf on a full-length course in the last 12 months – this is an increase on previous years and highlights a growing golf participation market. Other notable figures regarding golf club participation in the last 12 months suggest a large and growing market of new and existing golfers:

- ◀ 2.6 million people have used driving ranges
- ◀ 2.1 million people played a short course
- ◀ 3.7 million people played a pitch and putt
- ◀ 6.8 million people have been to Adventure Golf facilities

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

The section was informed via consultation with England Golf, which has provided information relating to all facilities and clubs within Tendring.

11.2: Supply

There are three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf, as defined in the table below. Facilities such as pitch and putt courses and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 11.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers).

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Facility type	Description
	Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

Within Tendring, there are six golf venues that provide facilities conforming with the above definitions, as identified in Table 11.1 and Table 11.2 below.

Table 11.2: Golf facilities within Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
52	The Orchard Park Holiday	CO16 8LJ	South
69	Clacton-On-sea Golf Club Ltd	CO15 1AJ	South
70	Frinton Golf Club	CO13 9EP	Central East
72	Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club	CO12 4NZ	North East
75	Millers Park Golf Club	CO15 2GF	South
105	Hamford View Golf Range	CO12 5JJ	North East

Standard hole golf courses

Five of the six of the golf sites within Tendring provide a standard hole course, two of which are 18-hole courses, those being Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club Ltd and Frinton Golf Club. Finally, there is Hamford View Golf Range which purely operates as a driving range.

Clacton-on-Sea Golf Club provides the longest offering at 6,448 yards, whilst the shortest course is Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club. Shorter courses tend to offer some variety that may appeal more so to a defined market that would not feel comfortable playing lengthier provision e.g. beginner and/or casual golfers.

Table 11.3: Summary of standard hole provision in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ³¹		Slope rating
52	The Orchard Park Holiday	9	64	3,906	-	-
69	Clacton-On-sea Golf Club Ltd	18	71	6,448	6,026	5,526
70	Frinton Golf Club	27 (18- and 9-hole par 3)	37	6,149	5,910	5,525
72	Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club	9	35	3,005	2,886	2,694
75	Millers Park Golf Club	9	62	-	-	-

As evident, there are four standard hole 9-hole courses in Tendring. Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase.

³¹ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that two of the identified golf courses within Tendring are considered to be more difficult than the mean.

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game. In Tendring, Frinton Golf Club provides the only Par 3 provision course across Tendring.

Driving range bays

Millers Barn Golf Club provides a 21 bay driving range of which 10 are LED floodlit covered bays. Comparatively, Hamford View Golf Range offers 15 bays 10 of which are covered and floodlit.

Both ranges are available for anyone to use on a pay and play basis and provision is serviced by floodlighting to allow all-year round and late evening usage at both sites.

Table 11.4: Summary of driving range bays in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Floodlit?	Pay and play?
75	Millers Park Golf Club	21	Yes	Yes
105	Hamford View Golf Range	15	Yes	Yes

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with such provision in a bid to increase demand. Others also seek the installation of automatic tees or entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. These allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. Neither Millers Park Gold Club or Hamford View Golf Range offers customers ball tracking technology.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England: members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities. Each of these is summarised in the table below.

Table 11.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.

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Management type	Description
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed with regard to dress codes and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales.

Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability.

In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In Tendring, there are four members clubs and two proprietary clubs; there are no municipal facilities.

Table 11.6: Summary of ownership/management in Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Management type
52	The Orchard Park Holiday	Proprietary
69	Clacton-On-sea Golf Club Ltd	Members
70	Frinton Golf Club	Members
72	Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club	Members
75	Millers Park Golf Club	Members
105	Hamford View Golf Range	Proprietary

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Neither Hamford View Golf Range nor The Orchard Park Holiday are affiliated to England Golf. This means that any competitions held at these sites are not governed by the NGB and do not qualify for handicap certifications or changes; however, it also means that any members of the associated club can save on yearly subscription fees (annual affiliation to England Golf is compulsory for members of affiliated clubs, costing £9.50 in 2021). Non-affiliation is most commonly the case at venues that have a focus on informal activity.

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past few years, many facilities have altered their pricing structures to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf has positively encouraged this as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, some now offer five and/or six-day memberships (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over). Recent analysis carried out by England Golf indicates an increasing number of clubs now operate a waiting list (Approximately one third of all clubs).

England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00. In Tendring, Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club and Frinton Golf Club operate above this figure with costs at all sites exceeding £1,000 per year, suggesting that these facilities are relatively high-end. None of the golf courses across Tendring charge joining fees.

Conversely, there are no clubs within Tendring that offer membership rates below the national average. Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club and Millers Park Golf Club both have membership fees below the national average with the former charging £750 a year and the latter £726 a year, something that is unsurprising as both sites provide 9-hole courses.

Green fees are available at four sites. Pricing for weekday access at conventional clubs varies from £16.50 at Millers Park Golf Club to £36.00 at Frinton Golf Club. Weekend prices range from £20.50 at Millers Park Golf Club to £40.00 at Frinton Golf Club.

Table 11.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities within Tendring

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Green fee (per round) ³²	
				Weekday	Weekend
52	The Orchard Park Holiday	-	-	-	-
69	Clacton-On-sea Golf Club Ltd	-	£1,140.00	£35.00	£40.00
70	Frinton Golf Club	-	£1,213.00	£36.00	£40.00
72	Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club	-	£750.00	£30.00	£30.00
75	Millers Park Golf Club	-	£726.00	£16.50	£20.50
105	Hamford View Golf Range	-	-	-	-

³² Where more than one course is provided, the price displayed is for the larger course.

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Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

In terms of golf course quality in Tendring, it is relatively good across the sites, with no significant issues identified. However, quality is, for obvious reasons, better at the likes of Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club when compared to The Orchard Park Holiday, with more sophisticated and regular maintenance regimes.

Given the coastal location of Tendring there is also a variety in the type of courses offered. Both Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club and Frinton Golf Club provide links courses, whilst Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club, Millers Barn Golf Club and The Orchard Holiday Park offer parkland courses. Links courses offer golfers a different challenge with typical designs featuring uneven fairways and thick roughs. When paired with the increased wind caused by the coastal location and lack of trees, links courses offer golfers a different challenge to that seen on a parkland course.

The ancillary facilities across Tendring are also generally good. The clubhouse at Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club offers a 150-capacity lounge that serves food and drinks. Frinton Golf Club hosts a club room built in 1904 that features a bar serving food, as well as an outdoor terrace.

Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club has a function hall capable of hosting 100 members that can be hired for various social events such as weddings and christenings. Millers Park Golf Club hosts a large wooden clubhouse with plenty of parking provided.

Golf clubs often need such revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals.

From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g. by providing gender specific changing facilities.

11.3: Demand

Around 2004, participation in golf began declining; however, recent signs show that the reduction has not only levelled off, but that demand has started to increase, especially following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both in 2020 and 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people have been able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf has provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g. by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of usual demand compared to pre-pandemic levels, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to retain increased participation in the long-term.

An opportunity now exists for this to represent a long-term increase in demand, although to what level is unclear as retention may in some instances be challenging as more and more users return to normal working/living conditions.

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Membership

England Golf suggests that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 386, which is based on a central national handicap platform. In Tendring, the table below provides the most recent average membership numbers of the four formal golf facilities within Tendring, based on latest England Golf affiliation data. Information received from England Golf suggests that the average membership per club is now 425, although club-by-club figures are not available.

Table 11.8: Summary of golf membership within Tendring

Clubs	2015 Average	2016 Average	2017 Average	2018 Average	2022 Average
Average Club membership rates	337 members	332 members	337 members	350 members	425 members
Percentage change	-	-1.49%	+1.49%	+3.85%	+21.42%

As seen, membership rates remained fairly stable from 2015 to 2018, with minimal growth of 13 members identified. From 2018 to 2022, significant growth has been experienced with a 21.42% increase in average membership figures. England Golf largely attributes this to the restrictions imposed during covid, meaning it was able to remain a viable sport much sooner than most sports. It is worth adding that this rise in growth has been sustained since other sports have once again returned back to regular demand.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within Tendring are not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf. All four formal golf clubs provide green fee rates, with the remaining two sites also offering pay and play rates.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As such, unmet demand in Tendring is considered to be minimal, with none of the sites having any known capacity concerns. No waiting lists are in place.

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,831 people in Tendring.

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e. through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

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In addition, England Golf has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility, with the population broken down into nine golfing segments. These segments are defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Younger actives
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional time pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

For the South East, demand from each of the segments is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from “casual fun” (6,494 people), whilst the lowest is from “older traditionalists” (5,662 people).

Across Tendring, from a 20-minute drive time catchment area perspective, Millers Barn Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand with 18,779 people falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time, followed by Clacton-On-Sea Golf Club 16,068 people. The Orchard Barn Holiday has the smallest potential demand within the catchment area with 3357 people.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth.

In reality, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels. In that regard, England Golf reports that many of the clubs are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and wider range of membership and playing options.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

With six golf facilities in Tendring, supply is reasonable for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges all being supplied. Furthermore, a variety of operational structures are in place, with some facilities prioritising membership and others prioritising pay and play usage and with some offering a high price point and others offering a low price point. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for.

Notwithstanding the above, demand is also high, particularly given the recent membership increases reported by England Golf. As such, each venue should be protected and supported, including the driving range provision.

To protect and support the facilities, England Golf can offer assistance, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

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Golf – supply and demand summary

- ◀ Tendring has a reasonable supply of golf provision, with a variety of facilities available and with capacity for growth.
- ◀ As no clubs have a significantly low membership and as levels have recently increased, it is apparent that each venue is required, meaning that each facility should be protect and supported to ensure long-term sustainability.

Golf – supply summary

- ◀ There are currently six golf sites in Tendring.
- ◀ Five sites provide a standard hole course, two of which are 18-hole courses.
- ◀ A Par 3 course is provided at Frinton Golf Club, which is in addition to the 18 hole course it provides.
- ◀ Millers Barn Golf Club provides a 21-bay driving range, whilst Hamford View Golf Range offers a 15-bay driving range; both are covered and floodlit.
- ◀ Four sites are members clubs, whilst the Orchard Park Holiday and Hamford View Golf Range are proprietary facilities.
- ◀ Average Club membership across Tendring is at 425 members across the four formal clubs, putting the District above the national average of 386 people.
- ◀ In terms of quality, it is relatively good across Tendring with a range of facilities available for players of differing abilities.

Golf – demand summary

- ◀ Across the clubs with a membership scheme in place, average membership is at 425 people.
- ◀ England Golf reports that membership has increased considerably over the last 12-18 months, with the average membership across the sites having increased by 21.42% from 2018 to 2022.
- ◀ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally, however after achieving its previous it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Millers Barn Golf Club shown to have a more densely populated location.
- ◀ Pay and play usage is unknown but it is provided at all six sites across Tendring.

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PART 12: OTHER SPORTS

Included within the scope of work is four additional sports and sporting provision, those being cycling, American football, rugby league and American football.

12.1: Cycling

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◀ Track cycling – velodromes
- ◀ Road cycling – closed road circuits
- ◀ Mountain biking – trails
- ◀ BMX racing – race/pump tracks
- ◀ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks
- ◀ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues

British Cycling aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Broad cycling specific aims of the project the project included:

- ◀ Making cycling inviting and attractive to everyone
- ◀ Making cycling safe and secure
- ◀ Making cycling easy and intuitive
- ◀ Normalising cycling to reduce inequalities

Supply

Tendring is home to several countryside mountain biking trails and road cycling routes such as the Ardleigh Reservoir Walls Loop, Clacton-On-Sea Promenade, The Tendring Bicycle Ride and the Dedham Vale AONB. The Ardleigh Reservoir Walls Loop is a 28.3-mile road route that begins in East Bergholt and passes through viewpoints such as Ardleigh Reservoir, Colchester, 'The Walls' in Manningtree.

Clacton-On-Sea Promenade offers a long straight stretch of road and walkways starting from Clacton-On-Sea and continuing to Holland-On-Sea. The route offers a flat well paved stretch with views of the Thames Estuary throughout.

The Tendring Bicycle Ride is a 23-mile route starting and concluding at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, with cyclists heading 9.9 miles to Mistley Towers before turning back on themselves and returning back to Dovercourt via Bradfield and Wrabness.

Finally, the 'Painters Trail' is a 69-mile cycle route that passes through the Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley. The recommended start and end point for the route is Manningtree railway station.

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Demand

Prominent cycling clubs within Tendring include Tendring Cycling Club and Mistley/Manningtree Social Cycling Club.

Tendring Cycling Club caters for a range of abilities and has four weekly sessions on Wednesdays from 18:45, Thursday's from 09:15, Saturday's from 10:00 and Sundays from 09:00. This allows the Club to vary its speed and difficulties across the week, meaning more abilities are catered for.

Mistley/Manningtree Social Cycling Club has a Facebook page with 11 members, with people sharing various Strava cycling routes across both Tendring and the wider area.

HSBC UK Go-Ride

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Go-Ride is not currently implemented in Tendring, although sessions are offered nearby at Colchester Rovers Cycling Club and Ipswich Bicycle Club.

Future/latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,970 people or 4.16% of people who would like to participate in the sport within Tendring. As a comparison, the national average identifies 4.09% of the population wanting to participate in cycling, making Tendring above the national average.

The demographic featuring the highest percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling is sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with a partner. This high total should be caveated that it includes people looking to cycle recreationally or as a means of transport, meaning that cycling provision shall not always be required.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that future and latent demand does not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to participate in sport and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus by British Cycling to develop youth participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride or HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

Supply and demand analysis

Tendring has a variety of offering for cycling provision, with Dedham Vale AONB and Clacton-On-Sea promenade providing a variety of routes to the population of Tendring. Protecting and sustaining such sites should be seen as particularly key given the off-road facilities offered (it should be seen as a destination venue for cyclists in the area). The installation of pump tracks and BMX tracks should be explored as to offer a wider variety of provision.

A continuation of initiatives promoted by British Cycling, such as Go-Ride and Breeze should also be encouraged as to further grow the sport within Tendring.

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12.2: American football

Introduction

The British American Football Association (BAFA) is responsible for the governance of the sport which is continuing to grow in popularity in the UK and there are now hundreds of clubs and thousands of players competing regularly across the country.

The American football season in England generally runs from May until August.

Supply

There are no dedicated American football pitches within Tendring, and no other sports pitches are used for the sport.

Demand

There has been no identified demand for American football within Tendring, with the nearest Club being the 'Essex Blades American Football Club,' part of Essex University.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, American football should not be identified as a sport for the Council to prioritise. It is, however, imperative that any demand that does exist is directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure that it is catered for.

12.3: Rugby league

Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Supply

There are no rugby league pitches in Tendring, nor are any provided in neighbouring authority Colchester.

Demand

No demand has been identified for rugby league in Tendring. Any residual demand is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to Colchester to play for 'Eastern Rhinos Rugby League Club.'

Supply and demand analysis

As no demand has been specially identified within Tendring for rugby league, it is acceptable that any demand will travel to Colchester and therefore, there is no requirement for provision to be provided in Tendring.

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12.4: Multi use games areas (MUGAs)

Multi use games areas (MUGAs) are a reference to any sport or games areas which are often used for social and recreational sport in the community and are generally categorised into typologies, as seen in the table below. To qualify as a MUGA, a facility should be minimum of a five-a-side football pitch (two tennis courts) in size and be marked out for at least three sports.

Table 12.4.1: Types of MUGAs

Type	Surface	Characteristics	Preferred sports
Type One	Open textured porous macadam	Used for ball rebound sports. Suitable for wheelchair sports.	Tennis and netball.
Type Two			
Type Three			
Type Four	Polymeric surface over macadam base	Due to their greater shock absorbency and lower surface friction, these areas are not recommended for tennis or netball.	Football, basketball and recreational activity
Type Five	Sand based or third generation turf (3G)	Shock pad and either heavily doused with water before play or filled or dressed with sand or rubber crumb	Formalised sports including hockey, football, American football, lacrosse and rugby.

Supply

Across Tendring there are a total of 16 MUGAs, with the South Analysis Area providing the most provision with five, whilst the Central West Analysis Area has one MUGA identified.

Table 12.4.2: Summary of MUGAs in Tendring

Analysis area	Number of MUGAs
Central East	4
Central West	1
North East	4
North West	2
South	5
Tendring	16

Table 12.4.3: Summary of provision

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting?	Quality
39	Parkeston Welfare	North East	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
90	Langham Drive	South	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Good
91	Plough Corner	Central East	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Good
92	Brooklands Jaywick	South	1	Type One/two	Yes	Good
93	Crossways Jaywick	South	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
94	Walton Skatepark	Central East	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Poor
95	Cliff Park	North East	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
96	Mace Park	North East	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
97	Abdy Avenue	North East	1	Type Five	No	Standard

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of courts	Surface type	Sports lighting?	Quality
98	Hilltop Crescent	Central East	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
99	Stourview Crescent	North West	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
100	Priory Meadow	South	1	Type Five	Yes	Good
101	Wix Village Hall	North West	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard
102	Neasden Avenue	South	1	Type One/Two	Yes	Standard
103	Beaumont Playground	Central East	1	Type One/Two	No	Poor
104	Pawsons Playground	Central West	1	Type One/Two	No	Standard

Future developments

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP)

Ten potential opportunities for MUGAs are identified within the Tendring LFFP. In each case the rationale is based on the site being in an area with limited recreational provision with high local demand for informal football. The sites identified are:

- ◀ Clacton Seafront
- ◀ Cliffe Park
- ◀ Hartley Gardens
- ◀ Jaywick Community and Resource Centre
- ◀ Jaywick Lane
- ◀ Legerton Drive
- ◀ Oakwood Estate
- ◀ Percy King Estate (MUGA upgrade)
- ◀ Royden Way (MUGA upgrade)
- ◀ Walton on the Naze Lifestyles

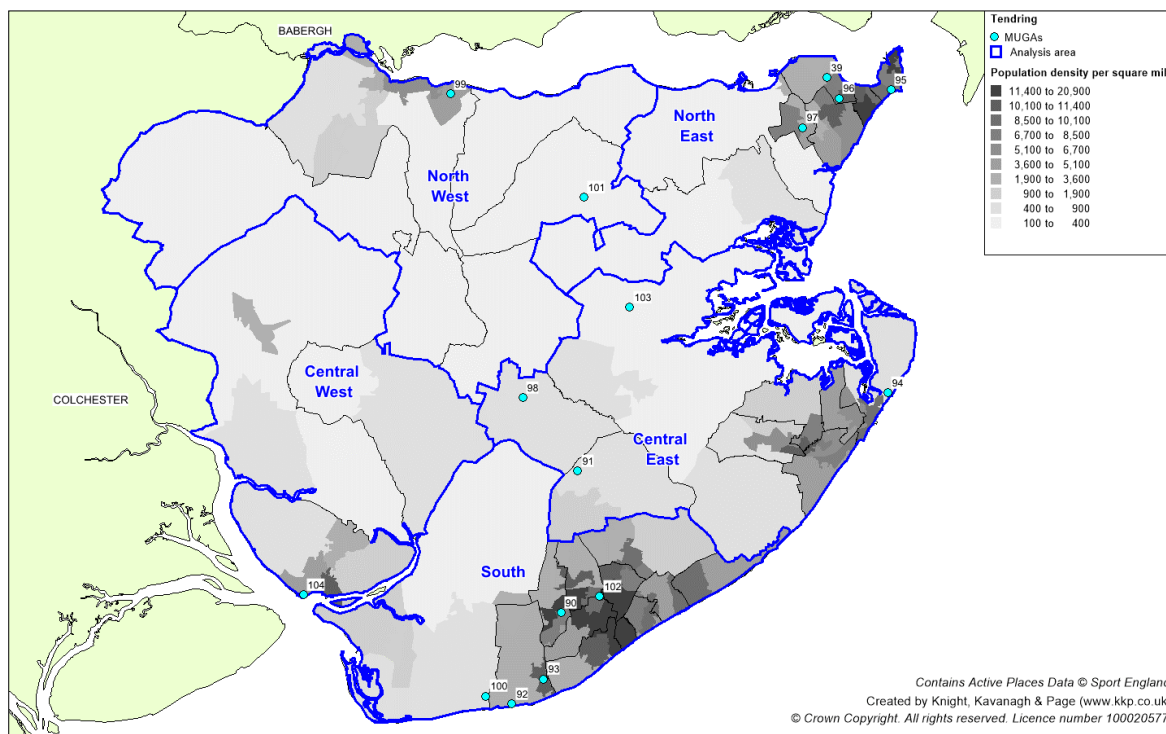
Informal players require facilities that are open and free to access as this enables play opportunities that are often spontaneous. In these circumstances MUGAs can be effective in areas of high urban population and limited green space. Such facilities can be modern, bright, creative and engaging. The facilities are often caged macadam courts with goals built in to the surrounding cage. MUGAs also have line markings for a number of sports such as football, basketball and netball and can often also have basketball nets built into the facility.

Management

All MUGAs across Tendring are owned by Tendring District Council or town and parish councils and available as open access meaning they do not need to be booked. Anecdotal evidence suggests that they are well used in the summer months for activities such as informal football.

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Figure 12.4.1: Location of MUGAs in Tendring



For a key to Figure 12.4.1, please refer to Table 12.4.3.

Quality

The quality of MUGAs across Tendring has been assessed via a categorisation of the scale and quality of provision, with matters such as quality of fencing, lighting, quality of surface and line markings determining the quality of the MUGA.

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%).

In total, across Tendring there are four MUGAs assessed as good quality, seven assessed as standard quality and five assessed as poor quality.

Table 12.4.4: Summary of MUGA quality in Tendring

Analysis area	Number of MUGAs		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Central East	1	0	3
Central West	-	1	-
North East	-	3	1
North West	-	1	1
South	3	2	-
Tendring	4	7	5

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MUGAs are deemed to be poor quality if they have inadequate grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss with maintenance of such provision also considered to be basic and infrequent. Sites such as Beaumont Playground and Stourview Crescent lack the same level of fencing that is seen at Langham Drive, meaning the play area is not enclosed.

Sports lighting

The presence of sports lighting is considered to encourage more demand as it enables evening use all year round. However, it is also acknowledged that it also encourages higher levels unofficial use resulting in increased anti-social behaviour, vandalism and littering.

In total six MUGA's across Tendring are accompanied by sports lights, as seen below:

- ◀ Brooklands Jaywick
- ◀ Langham Drive
- ◀ Neasden Avenue
- ◀ Plough Corner
- ◀ Priory Meadow
- ◀ Walton Skatepark

Demand

Given that demand for MUGAs falls into informal use it is difficult to assess and quantify demand. It is likely that the courts are utilised by residents of the District, as well as others which live in close proximity to provision from outside of the Borough.

Supply and demand analysis

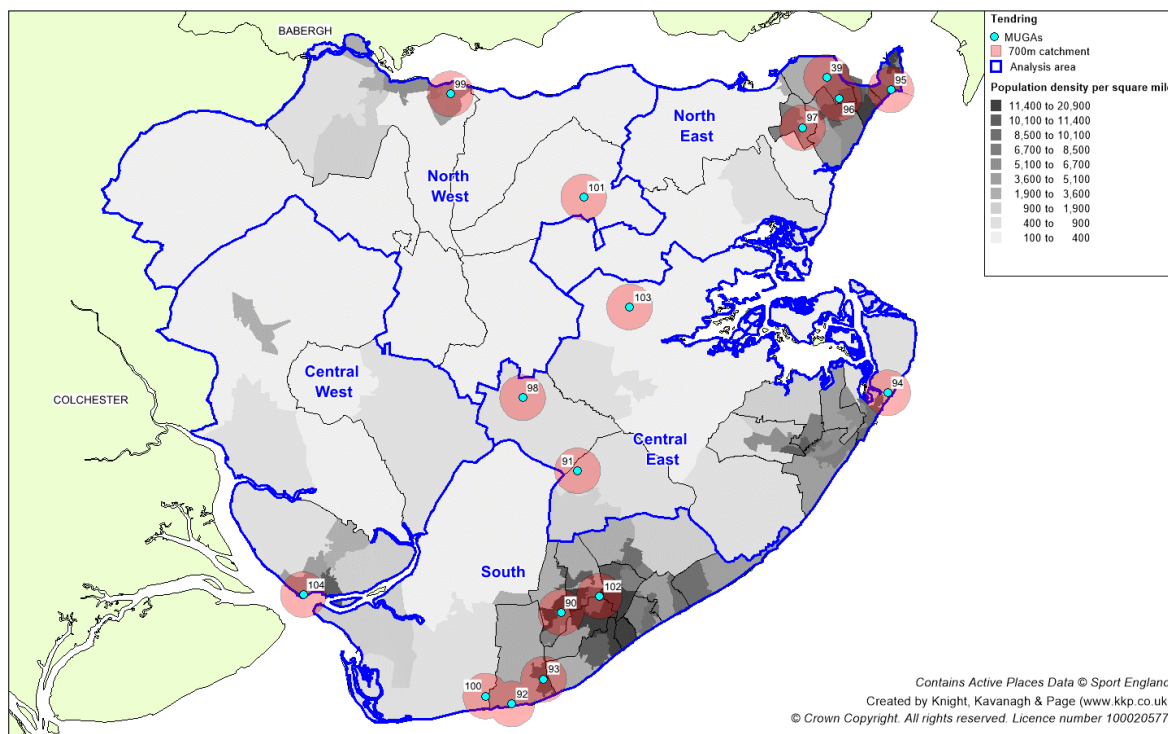
In order to analyse the catchment for MUGA facilities in the District, a standards based approach has been taken from the Fields in Trust guidance³³, unlike all other sections of this report, which take a non-standards based approach. The catchment guidance for MUGAs is set at 700m walking distance.

Taking this into consideration a total of 22.8% of the District population (or 33,665 people) live within 700m of a MUGA. The map can be seen below in Figure 11.2.

³³<https://www.fieldsintrust.org/Upload/file/guidance/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

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Figure 12.4.2: Coverage of MUGAs across all analysis area



As seen in the map above, four of the five analysis areas have significant gaps in coverage of MUGAs. Analysis suggests that the North East Analysis Area population has the highest population of people located within a 700m walk of a MUGA with 12,016 people, which totals 51% of the total population.

Table 12.4.5: Summary of MUGA population coverage in Tendring

Analysis area	MYE 2020	Population within 700m walk of a MUGA		Population not within 700m walk of a MUGA	
Central East	26,973	1,492	5.5%	25,481	94.5%
Central West	18,398	1,413	7.7%	16,985	92.3%
North East	23,552	12,016	51.0%	11,536	49.0%
North West	14,706	1,656	11.3%	13,050	88.7%
South	63,724	17,088	26.8%	46,636	73.2%
Total	147,353	33,665	22.8%	113,688	77.2%

Conclusion

Tendring provides 16 MUGA's, five of which are assessed as of a poor due to having inadequate grip underfoot, loose gravel and evidence of litter, glass and moss with maintenance also considered to be basic and infrequent. Sites such as Beaumont Playground suffers from the limited fencing provided.

With 22.8% of Tendring's population located within a 700m radius of a MUGA, it can be considered that the District is well serviced for MUGA's. This is largely caused by the North East Analysis Area, where 51% of the population lies within the specified radius. Therefore, it can be considered that Tendring is adequately serviced with MUGA's.

Of the 16 MUGAs across Tendring, four are assessed as good quality, seven as standard and five as poor quality.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Framework.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this framework is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

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The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. A Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) has now been produced for every local authority across England. Each plan is unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

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Essex FA aims and objectives

In conjunction with the LFFP, Essex FA has outlined released a 'Moving Forward 2024' strategy looking to united grassroots environment which delivers football opportunity for all.

With regards to facilities, the strategy has the goal develop a sustainable network of quality football facilities across the county which allows participation to continue to sustain and grow. It outlines four key areas of focus in order to achieve such a goal which are as follows:

- ◀ Work with local authority network and other partners to address shortfalls in 3G provision through actively developing projects identified in Local Football Facility Plans, targeting £2 million of total project cost investment in each year of the strategy.
- ◀ Work with our grass pitch operators to improve a minimum of 328 pitches to a good standard across the country, utilising Grounds Maintenance Associate expertise, Pitch Power and respective Football Foundation opportunities.
- ◀ Support our grassroots club network to access relevant funding opportunities which improve the training and matchday environment.
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England and our local authorities to respond to planning applications which influence future facility development to service grassroots football.

Through outlining these goals, Essex FA hopes to improve the overall football experience within both Tendring and all of the County through tackling a wide range of issues from grass pitch improvements, the development of 3G pitches and other associated planning applications.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

"Inspiring Generations" is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

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

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2021 onwards

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

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England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it to the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;

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- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,

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- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation.

The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2033, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

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- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

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England Golf Course Planner – Strategic Direction (2021-2025)

England Golf has always had a mission to lead, support, inspire and deliver for its community of golfers, golf clubs and counties. To help enable this, its Course Planner forms the core of its strategy, with 18 guiding principles established that are designed to best position growth in the game:

- ◀ Strengthen governance in all aspects of the sport
- ◀ Deliver safeguarding throughout the golfing community
- ◀ Utilise data and technology to enhance decision making
- ◀ Drive equality and equity in everything it does
- ◀ Support golf clubs with member recruitment and retention
- ◀ Connect and engage with all golfers
- ◀ Inspire and educate golf's network of volunteers
- ◀ Increase golf's influence
- ◀ Advocate and inform on all elements of sustainability
- ◀ Drive diversity at all levels of golf
- ◀ Create more opportunities for junior and young adults
- ◀ Promote the health and wellbeing of golf
- ◀ Inspire more women and girls to play golf
- ◀ Develop greater access for disabled people
- ◀ Enthuse all golfers through relatable role models
- ◀ Communicate a positive perception change for golf
- ◀ Deliver an excellent talent development pathway
- ◀ Host best-in-class competitions for all golfers

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/Englandgolfstrategy/>