



TENDRING

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

MARCH 2017

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
ONS	Office for National Statistics
IMS	International Match Standard
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Tendring District Council (TDC) and its partners. It will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives. It forms part of a wider Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS. These steps are separated into distinct stages:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Tendring District. The Strategy is being produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014) and the national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the District.

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. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 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.

Why the PPS is being developed?

Tendring District Council (TDC) has started the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the District. One of the key pieces of evidence which is needed to guide the production of the Local Plan is, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Audit (formerly PPG17) as required by paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

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This will provide the necessary evidence base to enable the Council to:

- ✦ Plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to target appropriate types of open space, sports and recreation required;
- ✦ Plan for the adequate provision of high quality, accessible open space to meet the needs of the local community, including the needs of future communities;
- ✦ Ensure any accessible funding is invested in the right places where there is the most need;
- ✦ Provide evidence of need to support on-site provision of facilities and/or developer contributions towards new facilities or the enhancement of existing provision;
- ✦ Outline and justify required sports facilities infrastructure and associated costings;
- ✦ review existing planning policies and provision standards;
- ✦ Advice to guide future S106/CIL/development management negotiations.

TDC's Corporate Plan, illustrates what the Council will do to provide individuals with the opportunity to prosper and is the key to its wider aims to improve the District. Meeting the needs of the people of Tendring and providing a safe and attractive place to live, are identified as TDC's most important roles. Its key priorities are:

Prosperity

- ✦ Build a thriving local tourism industry.
- ✦ Promote sustainable economic growth.
- ✦ Ensure people have the knowledge and skills to secure good employment.

People

- ✦ Reduce health inequalities and disadvantage.
- ✦ Promote healthy and active lifestyles.
- ✦ Remain a low crime area and reduce the fear of crime.

Place

- ✦ Ensure all our residents live in high quality housing which meets local needs.
- ✦ Regenerate the District and improve deprived areas.
- ✦ Protect and enhance our environment, countryside and coast.

TDC is also committed to being an active partner with the Police, Essex County Council and NHS North East Essex in the areas of crime, education and health.

Local context

Tendring's Corporate Plan 2010-2016. Tendring Life: A place to be proud of

The Council's Corporate Plan (Tendring Life) sets out the Council's long term aims to shape and develop the District. Its purpose is to focus the full resources of the Authority on improving and sustaining the economic, social and environmental fabric ensuring Tendring is a place residents, businesses and visitors can be proud of. The key priorities to achieving this are summarised below:

- ✦ Build a thriving local tourism industry which supports and enhances both coastal towns and the countryside. This will be achieved by stimulating investment in attractions within resorts and promoting what local communities have to offer.
- ✦ Promote sustainable economic growth by ensuring there are more jobs, unemployment stays at or below the national average and wages remain at or above average. In addition, local businesses are supported.

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- ◀ Ensure people have the knowledge and skills to secure good employment through improved educational attainment and reducing the number of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). Working with employers and a range of partners through programmes to increase skills of the district's young people and the wider workforce.
- ◀ Reduce health inequalities and increase life expectancy across the district by working with North East Essex CCG and other partners, focusing on employment, fuel poverty, housing, obesity and poverty.
- ◀ Promote and encourage healthy and active lifestyles by providing a range of activities and services by working with a range of partners. Also, improving facilities within all communities to ensure that there is increased activities for people of all ages.
- ◀ Remain a low crime area and reduce the fear of crime. Working with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to deliver services which will reduce crime.
- ◀ Regenerate the District and improve deprived areas by working with partners and potential funders to deliver improved infrastructure and regeneration in Jaywick, Harwich and Clacton.
- ◀ Ensure all TDC residents live in high quality, affordable housing which meets local needs. In addition, housing land allocations are made available to support sustainable mixed developments.
- ◀ Protect and enhance TDC's environment, countryside and coast by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, reducing the amount of carbon, developing good coastal flood and inland flood protection and enhancing the natural assets of the coast and countryside.

The Corporate Plan states that to ensure its priorities are achieved, there will be a focus on encouraging and sustaining more people in sport and physical activity. One key factor in delivering this is to have accessible indoor and built sports facilities throughout the District. In addition, a wide range of physical activity programmes must be made available to all via a coordinated approach to reduce health inequalities. This should involve key stakeholders, including, for example, North East Essex CCG.

Tendring District Local Plan: 2013-2033 and Beyond

The Local Plan sets out the vision and key policies for the District to be implemented between 2013-2033. The vision is to ensure TDC is a vibrant, healthy and attractive place to live, work and visit. This will be achieved through the following key objectives:

Table 2.1: Tendring District Local Plan objectives

Objective	Description
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Provide new dwellings within Tendring District up to 2033 of sufficient variety in terms of sites, size, types and tenure. ◀ Deliver high quality sustainable new communities.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Provide for the development of employment land on a variety of sites to support a diversity of employment opportunities and to achieve a better balance between the location of jobs and housing.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Promote the vitality and viability of the town centres, exploiting the benefit of enhanced growth of the town whilst retaining the best and valued aspects of its existing character.

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Objective	Description
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make efficient use of existing transport infrastructure and ensure sustainable transport opportunities are promoted in all new development. Enable provision of upgraded broadband infrastructure and services. Ensure that new growth brings opportunities to enhance existing services, facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of existing and new communities.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and provide good quality educational opportunities and prospects for Tendring's residents as part of sustainable community strategy. To work with partners in the National Health Service, local health organisations and local community groups to ensure adequate provision of healthcare facilities to support growing communities.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate development within Tendring District where it will provide the opportunity for people to satisfy their day-to-day needs for employment, shopping, education, and other services locally or in locations which minimise the need to travel and where there are modes of transport available in addition to the use of car.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance Tendring District's heritage, respecting historic buildings and their settings, links and views
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a network of multi-functional green spaces which secures a net gain in biodiversity, provides for the sporting and recreational needs of the population, promotes healthy lifestyles and enhances the quality of the natural and built environment.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the risk of flooding by securing the appropriate location and design of new development, having regard to the likely impact of climate change
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to provide an enhanced environment for tourism and the maritime sector and its associated services.

Tendring Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2016)

This underpins the Local Plan and is there to address infrastructure need for the following:

- Education (schools, early years and childcare and other education provision).
- Health (health care and emergency services provision).
- Utilities (potable water, used water, electricity, gas and telecommunications).
- Transport (road and public transport capacity and environmental improvements to pedestrian spaces).
- Green Infrastructure.
- Community Facilities.
- Coastal and Flood Defences.

Essex Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health and Wellbeing strategy for Essex (2013-2018)

This strategy identifies three key priorities, all of which have specific development areas which need to be achieved through partnership work as outlined in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Essex Health and Wellbeing Board Key Priorities

Priority	Development areas
Starting and developing well: Ensuring every child in Essex has the best start in life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing children's and young people level of physical activity. Improving development and attainment levels of pre-school children. Working with families with complex needs to ensure better outcomes for children.

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Priority	Development areas
Living and working well: Ensuring that residents make better lifestyle choices and residents have the opportunities needed to enjoy a healthy life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve diet and nutrition. Increase physical activities levels. Reducing smoking, drinking and alcohol use. Supporting community provision and developing community assets.
Ageing well: Ensuring that older people remain independent for as long as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventing and maintaining independence in the home. Reducing dementia levels. Responding to long term conditions and chronic illness. Ensure high level of end of life care.

Active Essex

Active Essex, the County Sports Partnership (CSP) for Essex, set up in 1999 by Sport England and local partners is a not for-profit organisation and the strategic lead for sport and physical activity for the county. It works with and through partners to support the local infrastructure. It is also responsible for delivering major projects including the Sainsbury School Games and Workplace Challenge, supporting programmes such as Sportivate and This Girl Can plus work with clubs, volunteers, athletes, schools, facilities and businesses.

Its vision is to create a more physically active and sporting environment for all people in Greater Essex to enable everyone to participate in the activity of their choice at their chosen level. Six key priorities are listed in its strategy, 'Building an active Essex: A strategic plan for Sport and Physical Activity in Greater Essex 2012-2017'. These are:

- Deliver a London 2012 Legacy;
- Increased Participation in Sport and Physical Activity;
- Encourage Healthy and Active Lifestyles;
- Develop Sporting Pathways;
- Encourage Lifelong learning and skills development;
- Building networks and partnerships for sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Playing Pitch Strategy vision

"To produce a robust and comprehensive Strategy which will provide the essential evidence base for informing decisions on planning and investment in the pursuit to provide appropriate outdoor sports provision for all."

The strategy will run to 2021 (five years based on Sport England recommendations), but should be reviewed on an annual basis to keep it up-to-date and robust. The population projections will run to 2033 (in line with the Local Plan). The review and monitoring process will be developed in accordance with Stage E of the PPS guidance and adopted with the Strategy.

Key outcomes of the study

- Providing robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs and opportunities for new provision in the Local Plan Review period up to 2033.
- Providing evidence to help protect and enhance existing playing pitch provision and other outdoor sports facilities
- Identifying specific needs and quantitative or qualitative shortfalls or spare capacity
- Informing the assessment of planning applications

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- ✦ Identifying potential changes and their impact to the supply of provision due to capital programmes
- ✦ A priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies and provide for future demands
- ✦ Evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ✦ To identify opportunities for asset transfer.

Meeting Sport England PPS requirements

- ✦ To support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ✦ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ✦ The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- ✦ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ✦ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ✦ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ✦ To review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ✦ To develop a priority list of deliverable projects that will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ✦ To prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
- ✦ To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

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. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 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.

Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Scope

The following facility types are to be included in the study, as identified by the District Council:

- ✦ Football pitches (including grass and 3G pitches)
- ✦ Rugby union pitches (including grass and 3G pitches)
- ✦ Cricket pitches
- ✦ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ✦ Tennis courts
- ✦ Bowling greens

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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, within the cost envelope and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team.

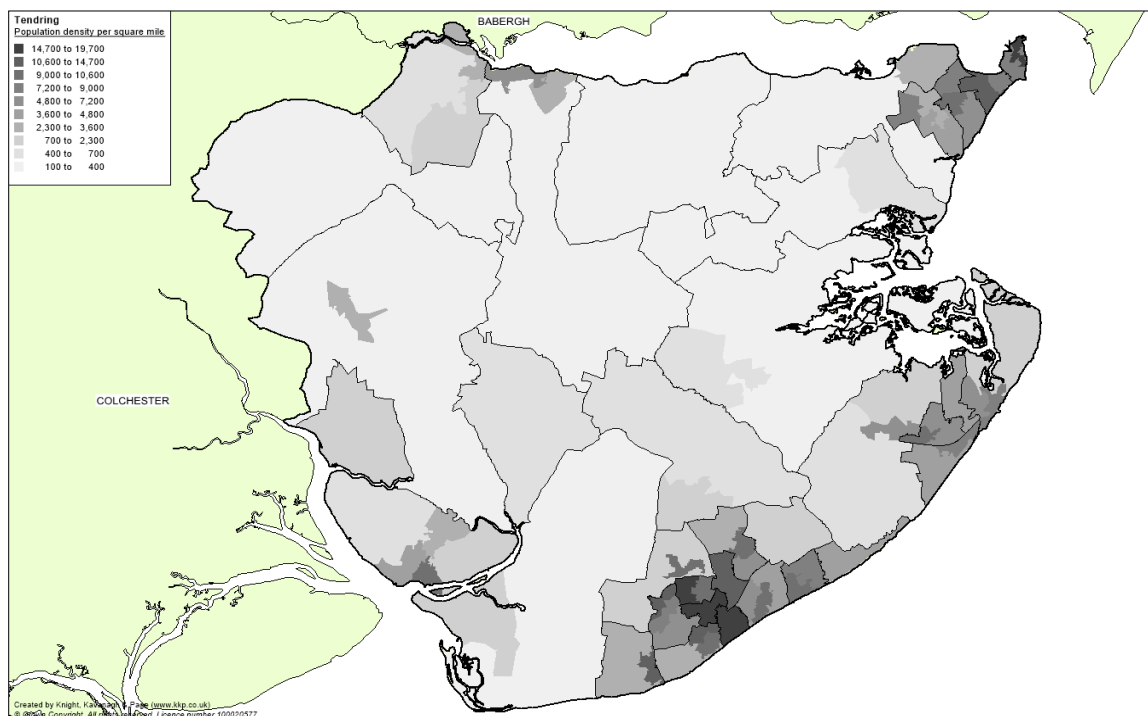
It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

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

Study area

The study area comprises the whole of the Tendring District Council (TDC) 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. Towns in the District include Frinton-on-Sea, Walton-on-the-Naze, Brightlingsea and Harwich. Large villages in the district include St Osyth and Great Bentley. Tendring is a fully parished Area except for Clacton-on-Sea. Covering an area of 30.34 square miles, it has a population of 139,916 which is predominantly White (97.5%).

Figure 1.1: Study area map



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

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Tendring.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

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.

It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. That remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not

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

Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS 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 pitches within Tendring. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report 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

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported 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 as an electronic file):

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

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

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Accessibility

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

- ◀ **Community use** - pitches 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** - pitches 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.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches 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** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as ‘lapsed sites’.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

Quality

The capacity of pitches 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 a pitch affects the playing experience and people’s enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

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

The quality of all pitches 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 pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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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 playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Tendring tends to fall within the following categories:

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

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

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

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

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

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, and proposed housing growth (if available), an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

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Population growth

The resident population in Tendring is recorded as 139,916² and by 2033 (in line with the Local Plan Review timeframe), the District's population is projected to increase to 159,111³ an increase of 19,195 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 13.7%) according to ONS data.

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.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

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

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Tendring. It focused 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.	

² Source: ONS 2015 Mid-Year Estimate

³ Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

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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 in 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.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced 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.

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 playing pitch provision in Tendring. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

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

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Essex County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Tendring District. It is also responsible for discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an online survey was sent to all clubs playing in Tendring District. Contact details were provided by Essex County FA, and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. It was returned by 34 clubs (including those which competed it as part of a face-to-face meeting), which equates to a club response rate of 74% and a team response rate of 86%. The following key clubs were consulted with either face-to-face or via telephone:

- ✦ Alresford Colne Rangers FC
- ✦ Brightlinsea Regent Girls FC
- ✦ Brightlingsea Regent YFC
- ✦ Dovercourt YFC
- ✦ Elmden Rovers YFC
- ✦ FC Clacton
- ✦ FC Clacton Girls
- ✦ FC Clacton YFC
- ✦ Frinton & Walton Girls FC
- ✦ Frinton & Walton Youth FC
- ✦ Harwich & Parkeston FC
- ✦ Holland FC
- ✦ Holland YFC
- ✦ Lawford Lads FC
- ✦ Lawford Juniors FC
- ✦ Lawford Ladies FC
- ✦ Little Oakley FC
- ✦ Little Oakley Girls FC
- ✦ Little Oakley Youth FC
- ✦ Weeley Athletic FC

In addition, the following leagues servicing Tendring District were consulted:

- ✦ Colchester & District Sunday League
- ✦ Essex & Suffolk Border League

Consultation findings are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 101 grass football pitches within Tendring District across 54 sites. Of these, 79 are available, at some level, for community use across 33 sites, as presented in the table below. The majority of unavailable pitches are located within schools.

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Tendring District	37	7	12	14	9	79

There is a large number of adult pitches (37) when compared to other pitch sizes. This reflects the fact that the majority of teams make use of adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may be due to a lack of dedicated provision rather than as a result of preference.

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In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100 x 64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91 x 55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82 x 50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73 x 46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55 x 37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37 x 27 metres.

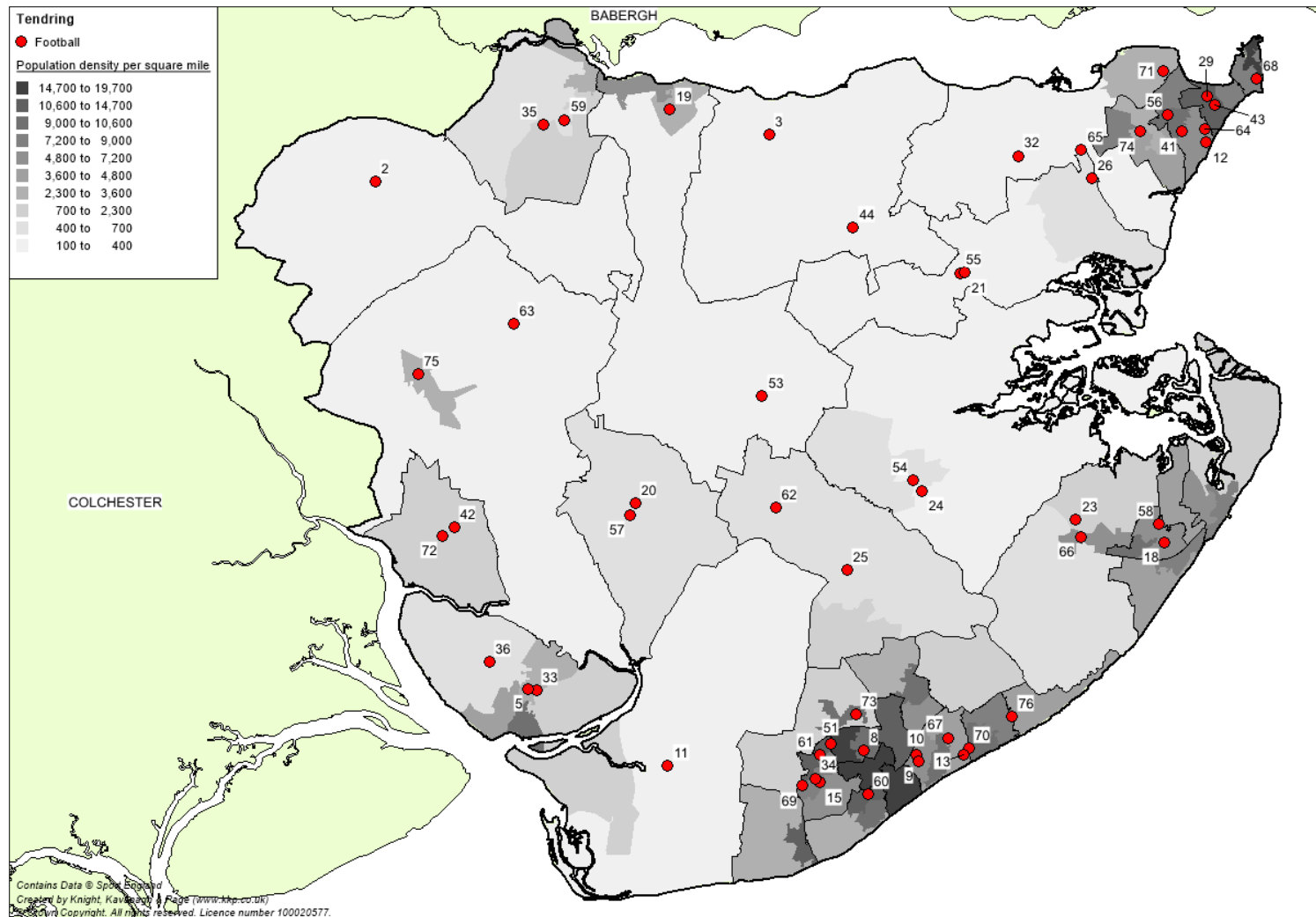
A large number of adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Pitches located on 11 sites are being used by youth teams. Of these, the adult pitches at Regent Road Recreation Ground are used exclusively by youth 11v11 teams and no adult play takes place at the site. It can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no adult teams would be adversely affected by pitch re-configuration; although there may be a need to retain adult pitches should shortfalls be identified.

Future provision

An outline planning application has recently been made in respect of Clacton FC, for change of use of southern section of its site to sports recreation ground incorporating grass football pitches, a 3G pitch, car park for FC Clacton and section of public open space to the northern section of the site and outline application with all matters reserved for up to 100 dwellings with associated access.

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Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Tendring



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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in the District has 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

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; pitches often do not have the drainage or receive the level of maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Those which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they can accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well-maintained pitches 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.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing tends to prevent unofficial use. The maintenance of council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial and informal use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation. The table overleaf summarises the quality of pitches available for community use. In total, one is assessed as good quality, 53 as standard and 25 as poor.

Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
1	25	11	-	13	6	-	15	8

The non-technical pitch quality audit, thus, shows that the majority of pitches are poor or standard quality, particularly at local authority sites. All pitches managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance, which is limited to grass cutting and seeding, when required; aeration once a year; no sand dressing; and annual fertilising and weed killing.

The majority of pitches on schools sites also receive basic maintenance, which in most cases is sub-contracted to an external company.

Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies, with some clubs responsible for maintaining the pitches whilst others rely on the parish or District council to maintain pitches to an appropriate standard.

In general, club consultation indicates varying degrees of change in pitch quality over the previous three years. Of responding clubs, 61% report no significant difference, compared to the 17% that report worsening pitch quality and the 22% that report improving pitch quality.

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Of those that cite pitch quality improvements, it was noted that improved maintenance regimes, either by the Council or clubs has seen an overall improvement. Clubs that reported a decline in pitch quality cited pitch overuse being the main contributor to surface deterioration. For a full breakdown of quality ratings at each site, please refer to Table 2.7.

Over marked pitches

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

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues in respect of kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

Numerous pitches are marked onto cricket outfields. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priority at such sites, that meaning football teams either finish their season early or have to temporarily relocate to other sites.

In addition, some clubs have taken to marking out pitches using cones. This is due to a lack of pitch markings at sites in the locality as well as enabling the clubs to save money on pitch hire costs. Frinton & Walton Girls FC and Youth FC both mark mini 5v5 pitches with cones to allow teams at the youngest age groups to remain on the same sites as the other teams.

Table 2.3: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Three adult pitches are overmarked on cricket outfields
11	Cowley Park	An adult pitch is marked on a cricket outfield
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	Mini and youth pitches are overmarked on adult and youth 11v11 pitches
20	Great Bentley Village Green	A mini 7v7 pitch has a mini 5v5 pitch over marked on top
23	Kirby Playing Field	An adult pitch is marked on a cricket outfield
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	One adult pitch is overmarked by a youth 9v9 pitch whilst a mini 7v7 pitch is marked on a cricket outfield

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing, amongst other elements.

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Clubs that provided feedback and reference ancillary facilities mostly consider the quality to be good. Usually, good quality facilities are confined to club managed and owned sites, however, as few clubs in the District own sites outright, with many renting or leasing venues on a seasonal basis, many of the sites with ancillary facilities deemed good quality are located at council managed sites.

Table 2.4: Clubs response to changing facility quality

Good	Standard	Poor
13	7	4

Some clubs gave reasons for rating ancillary facilities a certain level. These ranged from requiring updating or unsafe, to good quality ancillaries able to accommodate all teams appropriately.

Table 2.5: Comments on ancillary facilities

Site ID	Site	Comments
3	Bradfield Playing Field	Poor quality ancillary facilities which require modernisation and significant repair from vandalism.
5	Brightlingsea Regent Football and Social Club	Good ancillary facilities, although they are only available to male teams and there are only two changing rooms, with no officials room.
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Adequate quality facilities which are secure when not in use. The site does suffer from some vandalism however.
11	Cowley Park	Ancillary facilities require modernising and repair work to damage caused from break-ins.
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Good quality changing rooms but some distance from the pitches.
13	Eastcliffe Recreation Ground	Adequate changing facilities, with a new clubhouse being built in the future.
25	Little Clacton Parish Fields	Adequate changing facilities although they are small when both squads are using them.
26	Little Oakley Memorial Club	Good quality ancillary facilities, although car parking can be an issue.
32	Ramsey War Memorial	Poor quality changing facilities which are essentially just cabins and a toilet.
42	The Playing Field at Ford Lane	Good quality ancillary facilities.
43	The Royal Oak Ground	Good quality ancillary facilities.
71	Welfare Park	Adequate changing facilities which were built by the Club. The toilet facilities are just a port-a-loo and the building is without electricity or water.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Tendring District is generally secure, i.e. through a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.

An exception to this is schools and academies that create their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. In total, 21 educational providers do not allow

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community use of some or all of their pitches. These are all primary schools, with all but one, Ardleigh St Mary's Primary School, being single pitch sites.

The reasons for not allowing community use vary. The most common reason is protection of pitches for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and maintaining quality. Other reasons cited include staffing, health and safety and a lack of profitability.

Moreover, some schools that do provide community availability do so without providing security of tenure, meaning they can limit or cease the external use at any point without warning. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that club users enter binding community use agreements with the schools that they access.

In general, no other clubs report major issues with security of tenure; however, some did state a desire to acquire land via asset transfer and/or to enter into long-term leases. This applies to the following:

- ◀ Frinton & Walton Youth FC
- ◀ Holland FC (along with Holland YFC)

Holland FC reports an ambition to secure a long term lease for both its current home site and the adjacent Eastcliffe Recreation Ground, on which four of its youth and mini teams play. It would hope that leasing both sites collectively would allow greater utilisation of space and make the venue more inclusive for all teams. Leasing the site would also allow improvements to be made to the "stadium pitch" which is currently not used by Holland FC first team, which shared the FC Clacton pitch during the recent season. This agreement is scheduled to expire at the end of the 2016/17 season.

Harwich & Parkeston FC reports that although it currently owns its pitch it does not own the accompanying car park. It is understood that the Club wishes to sell the pitch site and relocate to a new venue with an accompanying 3G pitch, which could then be used by both Harwich & Parkeston FC and Dovercourt Vipers YFC, the youth and mini section of the former club.

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 seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid. The system has 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.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. A club cannot progress into the league above if its ground 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 7 clubs.

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In the District, eight clubs play within the football pyramid, as shown in the table below.

Table 2.5: Tendring District clubs playing within the football pyramid

Step	Clubs
4	Brightlingsea Regent FC
5	FC Clacton
6	Holland FC
7	Alresford Colne Rangers FC; Harwich & Parkeston FC; Holland FC Reserves; Little Oakley FC; Weeley Athletic FC

Additionally, Alresford Colne Rangers FC Reserves; FC Clacton Reserves; Lawford Lads FC and Little Oakley FC Reserves are just one promotion short of joining the football pyramid, whilst a further four teams are two promotions short.

All clubs are currently able to meet their league requirements, although improvements may be needed in some instances for clubs to progress.

Third generation (3G) pitches

There are no full size 3G pitches in Tendring. The only 3G pitch currently servicing the Area is a 5v5 size pitch located at Little Oakley Youth FC.

It is understood that planning permission has been granted for housing on School Lane Playing Fields. As part of the re-provision a small sized 3G pitch will be built, able to accommodate matches for mini 5v5 teams.

As detailed earlier, Harwich & Parkeston FC wishes to relocate to a new venue with an accompanying 3G pitch, which could then be used by both Harwich & Parkeston FC and Dovercourt Vipers YFC, the youth and mini section of the former club.

FC Clacton also has plans to relocate to a new site providing a 3G pitch plus three grass football pitches.

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider AGPs as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, they should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested *in situ* to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

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The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify pitches annually, however, if any replacement takes place the club will need to meet the new performance criteria; FIFA Quality/Quality Pro. Pitches below the national league pyramid must be FA tested every three years.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 175 teams from within 46 clubs were identified as playing within Tendring District; 46 adult men's teams, three adult women's teams, 70 youth boys' teams, six youth girls' teams and 25 mini soccer teams, of which five are dedicated girls' mini teams.

Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Tendring District

	No. of teams					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Tendring District	49	51	25	27	23	175

Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that currently access pitches for home fixtures outside of the District, despite being registered within the Authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met. No clubs in Tendring District report having any exported demand for either match play or training.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand relates to demand for which no access to pitch is available to satisfy. 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 its growth. No clubs (or leagues) report this being the case in the District.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

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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 adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration guidelines on capacity the following ratings were used in Tendring District:

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

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

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and sole use of them is made by the community. The adjustment is typically dependent on the volume of play, 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 and can be further exacerbated by the limitations of basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

For the District, current play at primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and independent schools has been enlarged on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider makes extensive use of a particular pitch.

Informal use

Where information is available and confirmed, informal and unofficial use of pitches has been factored into current play. This is especially the case at high-traffic open access sites such as Clacton Leisure Centre, Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles and Great Bentley Village Green, which are heavily used (particularly during the summer) for club training purposes. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected via improved maintenance regimes and retaining spare capacity to protect quality.

Peak time

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Spare capacity can only be considered as 'actually spare' if pitches are available at peak time. In the District, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all formats of play as this is when the majority of teams access each pitch type.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasion:

- ◀ Spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed, or;
- ◀ More spare capacity is identified in the peak period that exists overall.

This is because the majority of use occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above the overall capacity level. This applies unless quality improvements are made that, in effect, increase overall capacity *per se*.

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Table 2.7: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of community use ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
2	Ardleigh St Marys Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
					(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
3	Bradfield Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	-1	1
5	Brightlingsea Regent Football & Social Club	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Good	2.5	3	-0.5	0.5
8	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	Yes – unused	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	-2	2
9	Clacton County High School	Yes – unused	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	-1	1
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Yes	Secure	Adult		3	Standard	6.5	6	0.5	0.5
				Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	1.5	4	-2.5	0.5
11	Cowley Park	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1.5	4	-2.5	1
13	Eastcliffe Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	2.5	4	-1.5	0
				Mini	(7v7)	2	Standard	1	8	-7	1
15	FC Clacton	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	2	1	1	1
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0
				Mini	(7v7)	4	Poor	3	8	-5	1
				Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	3	1	2	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0
19	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	Yes – unused	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	0	1	-1	0.5
20	Great Bentley Village Green	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0
				Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	-1	0
				Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1.5	2	-0.5	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
21	Great Oakley Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
23	Kirby Playing Field	Yes – unused	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	-2	1
24	Lady Nelson Playing Field	Yes – unused	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	-2	1
25	Little Clacton Parish Fields	Yes	Secure	Adult		3	Poor	1.5	3	-1.5	1.5
26	Little Oakley Memorial Club	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	6	4	2	0
				Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3.5	4	-0.5	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	-	0
29	Mayflower School	Yes	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	3	4	-1	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	2	2	-	0.5
32	Ramsey War Memorial Recreation Field	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1	2	-1	0
				Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	0
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1	4	-3	1.5
		Yes – unused		Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	0	4	-4	1
				Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	0	4	-4	1
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	0	2	-2	1
34	Rush Green Recreation Ground	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Poor	5	2	3	0
				Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	2	2	-	0

⁴ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

⁵ 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 name	Available for community use?	Type of community use ⁴	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Agreed quality rating	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ⁵ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Spare capacity available in peak period (match sessions)
35	School Lane Playing Fields	Yes	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	2.5	2	0.5	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	0
				Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5
				Mini	(5v5)	2	Standard	2	8	-6	0
				Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	-2	0
				Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	2	2	-	0
36	Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner)	Yes – unused	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	-0.5	0
				Adult		3	Standard	3	6	-3	3
41	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	Yes	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	-1	1
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0
42	The Playing Field at Ford Lane	Yes	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	0.5
43	The Royal Oak Ground	Yes	Secure	Adult		2	Standard	1.5	4	-2.5	2
44	Wix Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0
51	St Clare's Primary School	Yes – unused	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	0	2	-2	1
52	St Clare's Primary School	No	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
53	Mistley Norman CofE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
54	Tendring Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
55	Rolph C of E Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
56	All Saints CofE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
57	All Saints CE (VA) Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
58	Great Bentley Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
58	Hamford Primary Academy	Yes – unused	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	1
					(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	1
59	Lawford CofE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
60	Alton Park Junior School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
61	Ravens Academy	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
62	St Andrews CE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
63	St George CE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
64	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Yes – unused	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
65	Two Villages CofE Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
66	Kirby Primary Academy	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
67	Holland Park Primary School	Yes – unused	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	1
68	Holland Park Primary School	No	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	-1	-
69	Harwich Community Primary School/Nursery	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
70	Tendring Education Centre (Jaywick Lane)	Yes	Unsecure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5
70	Holland Football Club	Yes	Secure	Adult		1	Standard	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5
				Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	2	4	-2	0
				Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	2	-0.5	0
71	Welfare Park	Yes	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
72	Alresford Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
73	Can Hall Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
74	Chase Lane Primary School & Nursery	No	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
75	Elmstead Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-
76	Holland Haven Primary School	No	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	-3	-

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2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/exported demand) in each analysis area for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Exported demand includes only teams that express an aspiration to play within Tendring District; Future demand is based on team generation rates, which are driven by population increases, as well as club development plans. A detailed analysis of spare capacity, overplay, latent and future demand is set out later in this section and explains how the overall supply/demand balance is derived.

Table 2.8: Summary of supply and demand balance

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult	14.5	12	-	2.5	-	5.5	3
Youth 11v11	0.5	4.5	-	4	-	1.5	5.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	4.5	-	2	-	3.5	5.5
Mini 7v7	3	0.5	-	2.5	-	5	2.5
Mini 5v5	1	-	-	1	-	3.5	2.5

There is a current and future shortfall of youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches. There is current spare capacity on adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. This capacity is, however, converted to a shortfall when future demand is factored in.

In order to reduce shortfalls, there is a clear need for pitch quality improvements, which will increase pitch capacity. There is also a potential need for access to more pitches, which could be gained, for example, via gaining access to school sites currently unavailable for community use (with secure tenure provided). This, however, depends upon the willingness of the owner/provider to allow this. Although often difficult to achieve, such options will be further explored in the Strategy document.

It must also be noted that only some teams within the District access 3G pitches for matches, exclusively mini 5v5 teams which play for Little Oakley Youth FC, as this is the only surface of this type in the District. Greater availability of 3G pitches would reduce shortfalls and could accommodate expressed future demand. For this to occur there will be a need to increase the level of 3G pitch provision.

Spare capacity

To determine 'actual spare capacity', each site with 'potential capacity' (see Table 2.9) has been reviewed. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting this criterion has consequently been discounted. There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against it. For example, it may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

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Pitches that are of 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 pitches of use which, in turn, should enable improvement of overall pitch quality.

School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as their realistic availability cannot be determined. Further consultation with providers is thus, recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable. Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by pitch type.

Table 2.9: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Tendring District	14.5	0.5	2.5	3	1

This shows that there are 21.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across 17 sites in the District; most expressed on adult pitches. Furthermore, 2.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to quality.

Overlay

Overlay occurs when more play is accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (this is often due to the low carrying capacity of pitches). In Tendring District, 17 pitches are overplayed across eight sites by 21.5 match equivalent sessions. Of these, 12 are assessed as poor quality, accounting for 19 match equivalent sessions. An improvement in quality at these sites should, therefore, result in reduced overlay.

Table 2.10: Overlay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Adult	3	0.5
15	FC Clacton	Adult	1	1
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	Adult	1	0.5
		Youth 11v11	1	2
		Youth 9v9	1	2.5
20	Great Bentley Village Green	Adult	1	2.5
26	Little Oakley Memorial Club	Adult	2	2
34	Rush Green Recreation Ground	Adult	2	3
		Mini 7v7	1	0.5
		Youth 9v9	1	1
41	The Harwich and Dovercourt High School	Youth 11v11	1	2.5
		Youth 9v9	1	1
43	The Royal Oak Ground	Adult	1	2.5

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Only two overplayed pitches are at educational sites, where the main reason for overplay is a culmination of curriculum PE use, extra-curricular use (including school fixtures) and other (over)use by the community. Pitches located at Frinton Park Playing Field are over marked, further increasing potential overplay.

The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches (12) although some level is recorded on most pitch types, excluding those catering for mini 5v5 football.

Future demand

Future demand is calculated via the application of three factors; participation increases, population forecasts and the additional modelled demand generated via housing growth. The latter is assessed via a range of scenarios contained within the Strategy document.

Population increases

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2033) based on population growth. In Tendring District it is predicted that there will be a possible increase of two senior men's teams; five youth 11v11 boys' teams; three youth 9v9 boys' teams; five mini 7v7 teams; and two mini 5v5 teams.

Table 2.11: Team generation rates (2033)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	TGR	Future population within age group (2033)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	19,621	57	344	20,626	59.9	2
Senior Women (16-45)	20,320	3	6773	20,529	3.0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	2,958	37	80	3,382	42.3	5
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,769	3	923	3,352	3.6	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,436	22	65	1,668	25.6	3
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,288	3	429	1,636	3.8	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,711	27	100	3,233	32.2	5
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,817	23	122	3,121	25.5	2

TGRs are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs 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 on developing girl's football nationally which is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore increased demand for pitches.

It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

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Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they run. Based upon the 14 clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 18 teams, as seen in Table 2.12 overleaf.

The total future demand expressed, amounts to nine match equivalent sessions, the majority of which are earmarked against 5v5 pitches. There is no quantified future demand for mini 7v7 teams.

Table 2.12: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁷
Brightlingsea Regent FC	1 x Adult Men's	Adult	0.5
Brightlingsea Regent Girls FC	1 x Youth 11v11 girls'	Youth 11v11	0.5
Dovercourt Vipers YFC	1 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
Elmden Rovers YFC	1 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
	1 x Youth 9v9 girls'	Youth 9v9	0.5
FC Clacton	2 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	1
Frinton & Walton Girls FC	1 x Youth 9v9 girls'	Youth 9v9	0.5
Frinton & Walton Youth FC	1 x Adult Men's	Adult	0.5
	1 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
Harwich Bumble Bees FC	1 x Adult Men's	Adult	0.5
Holland YFC	1 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
Lawford Juniors FC	1 x Mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
Lawford Ladies FC	1 x Youth 9v9 girls'	Youth 9v9	0.5
Parkeston Welfare FC	1 x Youth 9v9 boys'	Youth 9v9	0.5
	1 x Youth 11v11 boys'	Youth 11v11	0.5
Ramsey Mill FC	1 x Adult Men's	Adult	0.5
St Osyth FC	1 x Adult Men's	Adult	0.5

⁷ 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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Football – grass pitch summary

- ◆ There is a current and future shortfall of youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches; this is exacerbated when future demand is factored in.
- ◆ 21.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists across 17 sites in Tendring District.
- ◆ Overplays occurs on 17 pitches/eight sites; this equates to 21.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◆ There are 101 grass football pitches in the District on 54 sites. Of these, 79 are available, for community use (on 33 sites).
- ◆ Various current planning application could result in the provision of new grass or 3G pitches.
- ◆ There are no lapsed or disused pitches within Tendring District.
- ◆ One community available pitch is assessed as good quality, 53 as standard and 25 as poor.
- ◆ Frinton & Walton Youth FC and Holland FC wish to acquire their own sites on a long-term lease.
- ◆ Eight clubs within Tendring District, play within the football pyramid; a further four are one promotion short of entering Step 7.
- ◆ 175 teams in 46 clubs play in the District; 46 adult men's teams, three adult women's teams, 70 youth boys' teams, six youth girls' teams and 25 mini soccer teams (five dedicated girls').
- ◆ No clubs in Tendring District reported creating any exported demand.
- ◆ Team generation rates (to 2033) predict a growth of two senior men's teams, ten youth boys' teams, one youth girls' team and seven mini teams
- ◆ Future demand expressed by clubs amounts to 18 teams and nine match equivalent sessions.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 3: CRICKET

3.1: Introduction

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

Senior cricket is typically played in leagues on Saturday afternoons, although within Tendring District there is also significant demand for Sunday cricket. The youth league structure tends to be club based matches that are played mid-week, meaning there is usually no conflict with access to squares as matches can be played on a variety of days (Monday-Friday), however, some matches still take place on Sunday mornings.

Consultation

There are 11 cricket clubs playing in the District, all of which, responded to consultation requests resulting in a response rate of 100%. Clubs were consulted through either face to face interviews or through an online survey which was distributed by the ECCB.

3.2: Supply

In total, there are 15 grass cricket squares in the District across 13 sites. All but one of these squares is available for community use. The one square which is unavailable for community use is at Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus).

Non turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs not only assist with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also frequently used for junior matches, which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. There are ten NTPs in Tendring District, either accompanying grass wicket squares or as a standalone pitch. The table below lists all NTPs within the District and whether they accompany a grass square or not.

Table 3.1: Summary of NTPs in Tendring District

Site ID	Site	No. of NTPs	Position
8	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	2	Standalone
9	Clacton County High School	1	Standalone
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	1	Square
11	Cowley Park	1	Square
30	Mistley Cricket Club	1	Square
33	Regent Road Recreation	1	Square
39	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	1	Square
45	Great Bromley Cricket Club	1	Square

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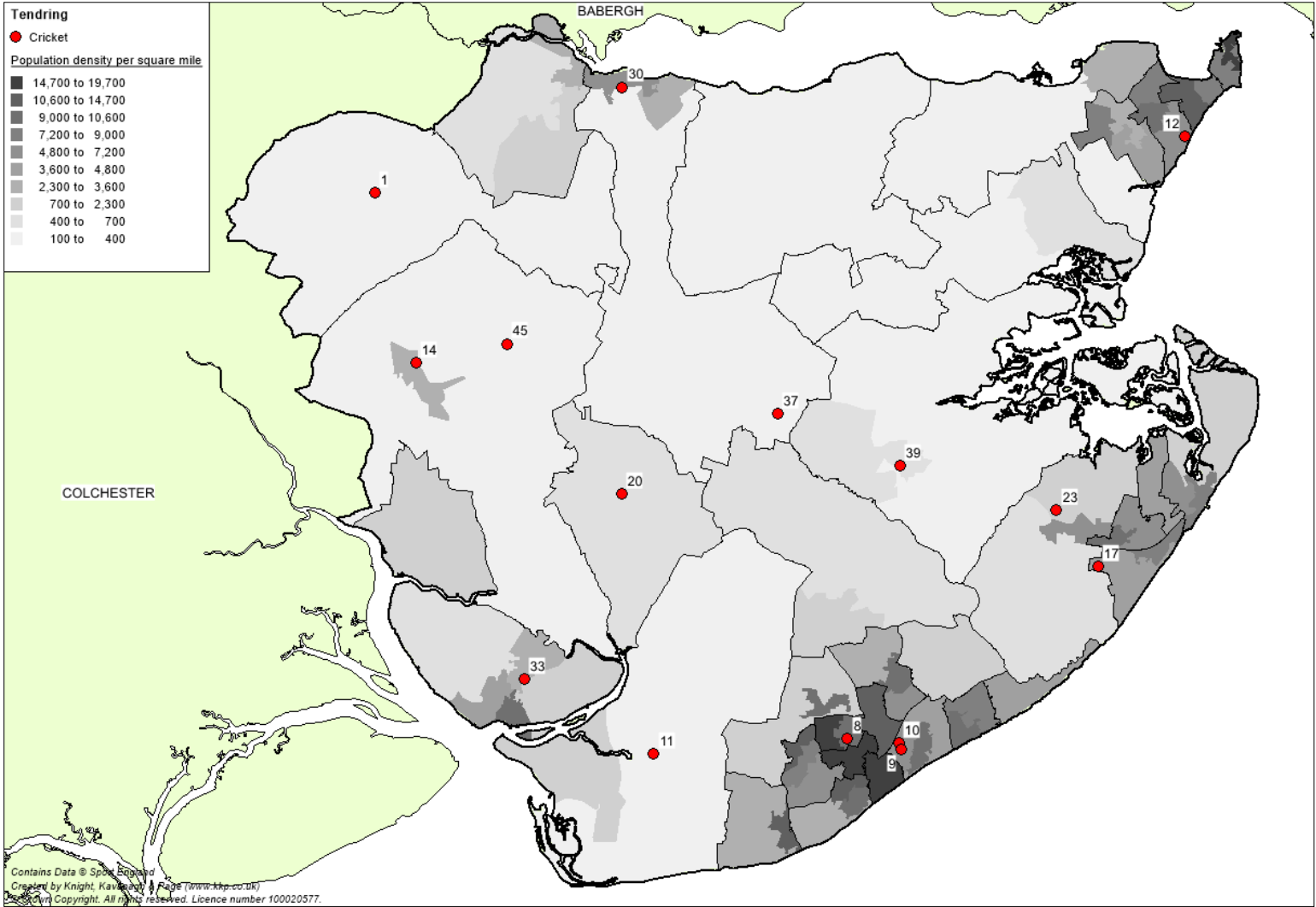
Only Clacton Coastal Academy and Tendring Technology College are unavailable for community use. All remaining standalone NTPs are considered to be available to the community. In addition to the NTPs in Table 3.1 there is also a disused, standalone NTP located at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles. The pitch is not included within the overall figures and lists for this reason and therefore is not considered to be available for community use.

Disused wickets

Other than the aforementioned NTP at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles there are no other disused wickets, natural or otherwise. Kirby CC recently folded, however the pitch that was previously the Club's home venue on Kirby Playing Field is used by Frinton-on-Sea CC as a secondary venue.

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Figure 3.1: Location of all cricket pitches in Tendring



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Table 3.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
				grass	non-turf
1	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	Yes	1	5	-
8	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	No	2	-	2
9	Clacton County High School	Yes	1	-	1
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Yes	2	21	1
11	Cowley Park	Yes	1	8	1
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Yes	1	12	-
14	Elmstead Grasshoppers Cricket Club	Yes	1	15	-
17	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Yes	1	8	-
20	Great Bentley Village Green	Yes	1	7	-
23	Kirby Playing Field	Yes	1	8	-
30	Mistley Cricket Club	Yes	2	14	1
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	Yes	1	9	1
37	Tendring Cricket Club	Yes	1	10	-
39	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	No	1	1	1
45	Great Bromley Cricket Club	Yes	1	13	1

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Security of tenure

The majority of clubs across Tendring District either own their home grounds or have a long term lease arrangement in place, meaning security of tenure is provided. This is not the case, however, for Ardleigh, Great Bentley, Tendring or St Osyth cricket clubs which currently rent squares on a rolling annual basis from local landowners, the District Council or a parish council. Brightlingsea currently has a lease from the Council for its current home venue, however, the short term nature of this lease (six months) categorises tenure as unsecure.

Although the pitch at Great Bentley Village Green is considered to be unsecure, due to the short term rental agreement between the Club and the Parish Council, it should be noted that the Club does not pay a fee to use the site, only requiring permission from the Parish Council when a match is scheduled to take place.

A long term lease arrangement (25 years or more) improves the chances of clubs attracting funding that can be used to sustain and improve square quality, ancillary provision and surrounding infrastructure. Harwich & Dovercourt CC currently has 21 years remaining on its current lease which limits the chances of attracting funding, but is considered secure tenure. This lease agreement between the Club and the Council comes with a review every seven years, allowing fees to be adjusted and the length of the agreement to be extended.

At present, it is unclear what arrangement exists between Frinton-on-Sea CC and the owners of Kirby Playing Field, the former home venue of Kirby CC. Frinton-on-Sea CC use the venue as a secondary venue but without a long term agreement in place for the Club to use the site tenure must be considered unsecure.

It is also considered that pitches at education sites are unsecure, as without a formal community use agreement or long term lease in place then tenure cannot be guaranteed. This is not an issue for clubs within the District, however, it is worth considering when examining pitch provision.

Pitch quality

As part of the PPS guidance there are three levels recommended to assess quality; good, standard and poor. The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares in Tendring District found seven community available pitches to be good quality, eight to be standard quality and none to be poor quality.

Table 3.3: Summary of pitch quality in Tendring District (community use only)

Good	Standard	Poor
7	8	-

The above table includes both natural grass and artificial pitches. The one pitch which is located at an education site and is available for community use is deemed standard quality (Clacton County High School). It should be noted that the three pitches which are unavailable for community use are all located at education sites, Clacton Coastal Academy and Tendring Technology College; and are deemed to be standard and good quality respectively.

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As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. 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. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Tendring District have access to changing facilities at their home ground, with the majority of provision considered good or standard quality. When clubs responded to consultation the majority stated that the clubhouse/pavilion facilities that they access were of a good quality (55%), with 36% rating ancillary facilities as standard quality.

One club (9%), Frinton-on-Sea CC, deemed its ancillary provision to be poor quality. However, since the consultation process took place Frinton-on-Sea CC has a new pavilion which includes new changing facilities, a kitchen and a bar area. The new building will be connected to the older pavilion increasing the overall size of the ancillary facilities that the Club can actively utilise. The Club did not receive any assistance with the project, funding the build itself.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training and many clubs in the District express an aspiration for more nets to be provided or for existing nets to be improved.

Frinton-on-Sea CC is in the process of developing an indoor facility which will accommodate all of the Club's winter training. The facility will be available for community use and other clubs will be able to rent a timeslot for the training demand which currently takes place in sports halls that are often unsuitable for purpose and limit the type of practice that can take place.

It should also be noted that a new purpose built cricket facility is being built just outside of the District, in Colchester, which may attract some training demand from the District, increasing the capacity of pitches within the District.

3.3: Demand

In total, there are 11 clubs competing in Tendring District generating 59 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 30 senior men's, three senior women's and 26 junior boy's teams.

As seen in the table below, the majority of clubs are large clubs offering several senior teams and numerous junior teams across different age levels. Only three of the clubs do not provide a junior section.

Table 3.4: Summary of teams

Club name	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Ardleigh CC	3	-	-	-

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Club name	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Brightlingsea CC	2	-	3	-
Clacton CC	2	-	-	-
Elmstead Grasshoppers CC	3	-	2	-
Frinton-on-Sea CC	5	1	7	-
Great Bentley CC	1	-	3	-
Great Bromley CC	3	-	2	-
Harwich & Dovercourt CC	3	-	3	-
Mistley CC	5	2	5	-
St Osyth CC	1	-	-	-
Tendring CC	2	-	1	-
Totals	30	3	26	-

No unmet, latent or displaced demand is recorded by any of the clubs.

Participation trends

The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

The National Player Survey (NPS) conducted over the past three years by the ECB reveals that the nature of participation in traditional league cricket is currently suffering a decline, although this is being offset by a rapid increase in non-traditional formats (such as LMS and T20 competitions). These are shorter, quicker formats of the game and are referenced further on in this report.

In line with this, participation in Tendring District has decreased overall in the last three years, with seven of the eleven clubs reporting a decrease in the number of teams regularly representing the Club. Two clubs report increases in the number of teams playing as part of the respective clubs; Great Bentley CC report that an additional junior team has been created within the last three years, whilst Mistley CC report the addition of a senior men's team.

The most prominent reason for clubs losing senior teams is due to a lack of players, with people now less likely to play both Saturday and Sunday cricket and instead opting to play on just one day. This has led to Sunday cricket suffering a particular decline.

Last Man Stands

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

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LMS does not currently operate in Tendring District, however, should suitable locations be available it is something that could be considered in the future, although this may affect the existing T20 leagues which operate under the Two Counties and North Essex cricket league headers. The closest Last Man Stands leagues are operating at The University of Essex (Colchester) and Ipswich Cricket Club (Suffolk).

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturdays, with 18 teams playing on this day compared to 14 that play on Sundays and one team that play midweek.

For junior cricket, peak time demand is considered mid-week, although some matches are scheduled on a Sunday. It should therefore be noted that mid-week cricket has the potential to be spread across numerous days (Monday-Friday) and, as a result, pitches have greater capacity to carry junior demand (providing the pitches are not overplayed).

4.3: 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 pitch 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 pitch to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs.

To help calculate spare capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality grass wicket should be able to take five (senior) matches per season (e.g. a square with 12 grass wickets can accommodate 60 matches). This 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 ECB also suggests that a non-turf wicket can accommodate 60 matches per season. As no non-turf wickets are recorded as accommodating more than this in the District, they are all considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity as they are generally accessed during mid-week by junior teams and as a result can be used on a variety of days. For this reason, non-turf wicket capacity has been discounted from the table overleaf so that it does not distort the capacity of grass wickets.

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Table 3.5: Cricket pitch capacity (grass wickets only included)

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
1	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	Yes	1	Standard	5	25	11	14
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Yes	2	Standard	21	105	18	87
11	Cowley Park	Yes	1	Standard	8	40	9	31
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Yes	1	Good	12	60	32	28
14	Elmstead Grasshoppers Cricket Club	Yes	1	Good	15	75	41	34
17	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	Yes	1	Good	8	40	65	25
20	Great Bentley Village Green	Yes	1	Standard	7	35	11	24
23	Kirby Playing Field	Yes	1	Good	8	40	15	25
30	Mistley Cricket Club	Yes	2	Good	14	70	79	9
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	Yes	1	Standard	9	45	30	15
37	Tendring Cricket Club	Yes	1	Standard	10	50	21	29
39	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	No	1	Good	1	5	0	5
45	Great Bromley Cricket Club	Yes	1	Good	13	65	35	25

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3.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent in which current provision can accommodate current and future demand.

As previously mentioned, junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play mid-week on a variety of days; consequently, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future. Each grass wicket square that is not overplayed is thought to have spare capacity for an increase in mid-week demand, and no NTP is at capacity or overplayed. That said, there is evidence to suggest that an increase in provision of NTPs would further help satisfy junior demand, as well as providing an increase in capacity for senior matches on grass wickets.

The table below looks at available spare capacity at peak time for senior cricket (Saturdays) considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. Match equivalent sessions for future demand has been calculated using the average number of matches played per season by that team type (Nine matches for senior men, six matches for senior women).

Table 3.6: Capacity of grass wicket squares

	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Tendring District	225	34	191	43	148

For senior cricket, there is a significant amount of capacity on pitches amounting to total of 191 match sessions available. This is due to the minimal overplay within Tendring District, comprising 34 match sessions across three pitches alongside the high amount of actual spare capacity.

Priority should be placed on retaining the current number of grass wicket squares alongside a drive to increase participation. The ECB is planning to establish a nationwide programme called All Stars Cricket which is specifically aimed at getting participants aged between three and five years old in cricket, with a view that they will then become the core of future junior and senior squads. It would be prudent for clubs within the District to express interest in the programme, recognising the long-term benefit that it could provide.

The establishment of indoor, cricket specific, training facilities should also be monitored, with the facilities at Frinton-on-Sea Cricket Club and in Colchester, could positively influence the retention of participants from season to season.

Spare capacity

The table overleaf ascertains whether any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare 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 operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

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There are 12 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in the District totalling 317 match equivalent sessions per season across 11 sites. Where there is a significant amount of potential capacity available, however, this may not represent actual spare capacity, i.e. whether a pitch is available at the peak time. The table overleaf therefore explores where spare capacity is identified on a Saturday (peak period) as this can be deemed actual spare capacity.

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Table 3.7: Summary of actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Pitches available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
1	Ardleigh Recreation Ground	1	14	0.5	Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions during the peak period.
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	2	87	1.5	Actual spare capacity amounting to 1.5 match equivalent sessions during the peak period.
11	Cowley Park	1	31	0.5	Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions during the peak period.
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	1	28	0	No actual spare capacity during the peak period.
14	Elmstead Grasshoppers Cricket Club	1	34	0	No actual spare capacity during the peak period.
20	Great Bentley Village Green	1	24	1	Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session during the peak period.
23	Kirby Playing Field	1	25	1	Actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session during the peak period.
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	1	15	0.5	Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions during the peak period.
37	Tendring Cricket Club	1	29	0.5	Actual spare capacity amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions during the peak period.
39	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	1	5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as the pitch is unavailable for community use.
45	Great Bromley Cricket Club	1	25	0	No actual spare capacity during the peak period.

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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. Of the 12 pitches identified with spare capacity, only seven are available for further use on a Saturday, totalling 225 match equivalent sessions per season. All remaining squares are either used to capacity on a Saturday with at least two teams assigned to them as a home venue on this day, or are unavailable for community use.

It is worth noting, however, that more squares have spare capacity on a Sunday, meaning additional senior demand could be accommodated outside of the peak period whilst still playing in a league format. The following sites have overall spare capacity and spare capacity on a Sunday:

- ◆ Ardleigh Recreation Ground
- ◆ Clacton Leisure Centre
- ◆ Cowley Park
- ◆ Divercourt Bay Lifestyles
- ◆ Elmstead Grasshoppers Cricket Club
- ◆ Frinton on Sea Cricket Club
- ◆ Great Bentley Village Green
- ◆ Mistley Cricket Club
- ◆ Regent Road Recreation
- ◆ Tendring Cricket Club
- ◆ Great Bromley Cricket Club

Overplay

As guidance, all pitches receiving more than five match equivalent sessions per wicket per season are adjudged overplayed. On this basis, overplay in Tendring District is low, with three squares overplayed across two sites by a total of 34 match equivalent sessions, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.8: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
17	Frinton on Sea Cricket Club	1	25
30	Mistley Cricket Club	2	9

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. This is particularly key at sites that are heavily overplayed, such as Frinton on Sea Cricket Club.

As a large percentage of usage on overplayed squares comes from junior cricket, the best solution would be to install NTPs in situ. Mistley Cricket Club currently has an NTP lying alongside a natural turf square, which could accommodate some of the Club's junior play, thus alleviating overplay. Frinton-on-Sea Cricket Club, however, is currently without an NTP, meaning all play takes place on the natural grass wickets. By installing an NTP at this site, junior matches can be transferred from the grass wickets, thus alleviating overplay.

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Future demand

Future demand can be defined in three ways, through participation increases, using population forecasts and housing growth. The Strategy Report will contain a range of Housing Growth scenarios that will estimate the additional demand for cricket arising from housing development.

Participation increases

In total, four clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future. Where expressed, this amounts to an increase of one senior men's, one senior women's and four junior teams, as seen in the table below.

Table 3.9: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs

Club	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Great Bentley CC	-	-	1
Great Bromley CC	-	-	1
St Osyth CC	1	-	1
Tendring CC	-	1	1
Total	1	1	4

All of the above clubs can currently accommodate all of their expressed future demand for senior teams on the squares that they use. Both St Osyth and Tendring cricket clubs have actual spare capacity during the peak period on respective home venues. Whilst all clubs could accommodate the increased junior demand as this can be accommodated midweek. It should also be considered that the home venues for the respective clubs all have actual spare capacity on Sundays, which could accommodate future demand should teams wish to participate on this day.

Population forecasts

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2033) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of three junior boys' teams is expected. Any other participation increases will be accommodated within existing squads.

Table 3.13: Team generation rates based on population growth (2033)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ⁸	Future population within age group (2033)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	27,450	30	1:915	27,959	30.6	0
Senior Womens (18-55)	28,790	3	1:9597	28,301	2.9	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	8,260	26	1:318	9,413	29.6	3
Junior Girls (7-17)	7,760	0	0	9,268	0.0	0

⁸ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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Due to participation trends nationally within the sport, it is considered unlikely that both population growth and future demand expressed by clubs will be realised, exclusive of each other. Instead, it is considered more likely that population growth will be incorporated into planned club growth, and vice versa.

Cricket summary

- ▶ **For senior cricket, actual spare capacity outweighs the amount of overplay that is currently exhibited on natural grass wickets.**
- ▶ **No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity, which equates to spare capacity existing for junior cricket both currently and in the future.**
- ▶ In total, there are 15 grass cricket squares in Tendring District located across 13 sites, all but one of these are available for community use.
- ▶ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at six sites (six squares) and there are standalone NTPs pitches at two sites (three squares).
- ▶ There is a disused, standalone, NTP at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles which has not been included within the analysis.
- ▶ Tenure is considered unsecure for Ardleigh, Great Bentley, Tendring, St Osyth and cricket clubs which rent pitches on an annual basis, and for Brightlingsea CC, which has only six months remaining on its lease.
- ▶ The audit of grass wicket squares found seven community available pitches to be good quality, eight to be standard quality and none to be poor quality.
- ▶ No clubs reported concerns regarding ancillary facilities. Frinton-on-Sea CC did report that its ancillary provision was poor, however, since the consultation took place the Club has built a new pavilion which will operate as the Club's primary provision.
- ▶ No clubs within the District reported issues regarding access to training provision. Frinton-on-Sea CC are planning to build a purpose built indoor cricket training facility which will accommodate all of the Club's winter training demand. The facility will also be available for community use. A similar facility is currently being developed just outside of the District in Colchester, which may service some of the clubs within Tendring District.
- ▶ In total, there are 11 clubs generating 59 teams, which equates to 30 senior men's, three senior women's and 26 junior boys' teams.
- ▶ There is currently no Last Man Stands (LMS) operating in Tendring District, however, there are two leagues operating just outside of the District in Colchester and Ipswich respectively.
- ▶ Peak time demand for senior cricket is Saturday, whereas for junior cricket it is midweek.
- ▶ There are 12 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets, totalling 317 match equivalent sessions per season; however, only seven of these have actual spare capacity on a Saturday.
- ▶ Overplay in the District is low, with three squares overplayed across two sites by 34 match equivalent sessions.
- ▶ Four clubs report plans to increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to an increase of one senior men's, one senior women's and four junior teams.

PART 4: RUGBY UNION

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. A full-time development officer is responsible for Tendring District (as part of the Essex, Sussex, Surrey and Kent area) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are four rugby union clubs in the District, all clubs were consulted with face-to-face resulting in a 100% response rate.

4.2: Supply

Within Tendring District, there are six sites containing nine senior rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use. Two sites, containing pitches are education sites, namely Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner), which is used by Colne Community School & College as school playing fields and Clacton Coastal Academy.

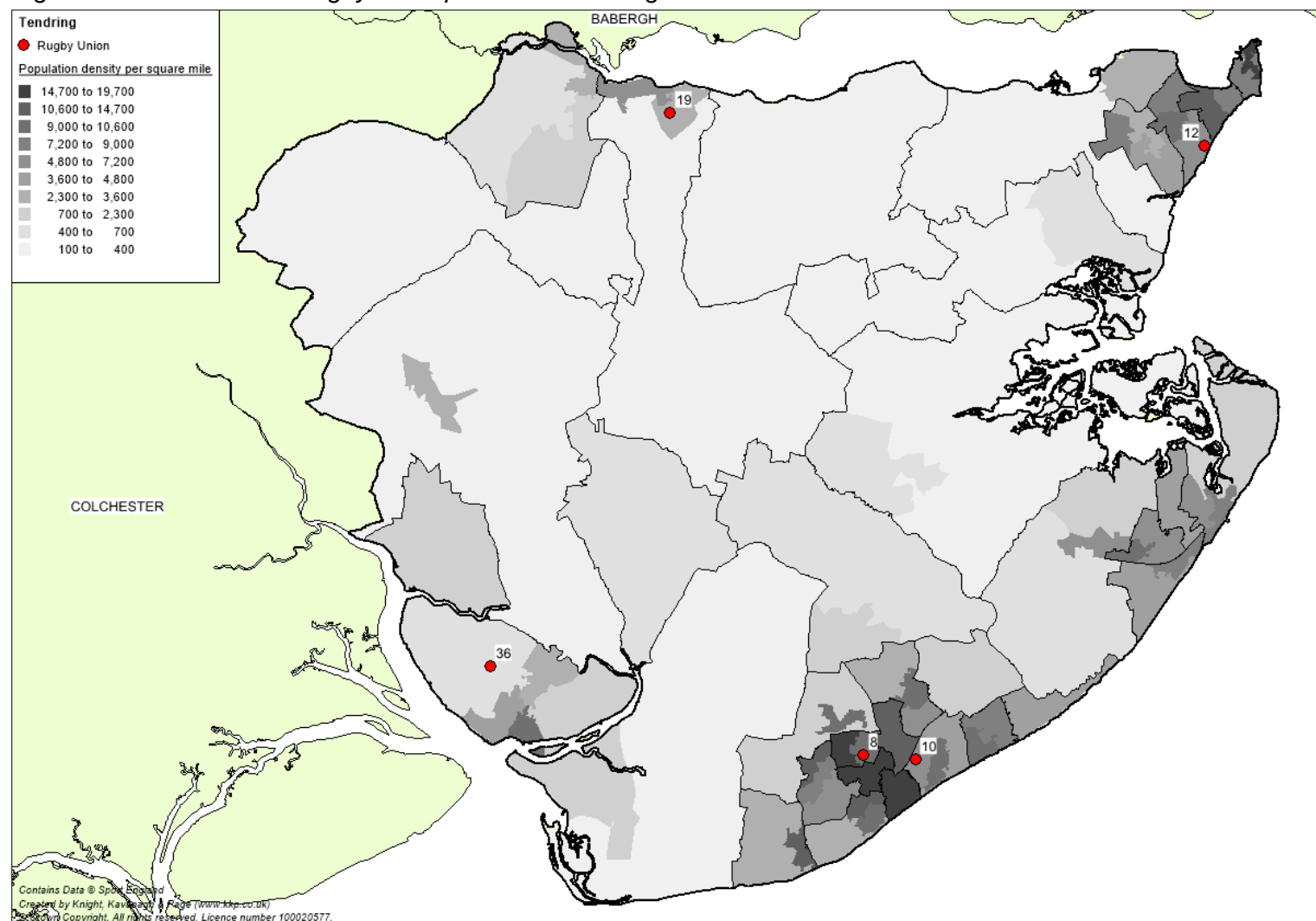
As there is one dedicated junior pitches identified, however, it must be noted that all junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on senior pitches with pitches marked out with cones. There are no dedicated mini rugby union pitches.

Future developments

There is a proposed new rugby union pitch to be established adjacent to Furze Hill Recreation Ground, home of Mistley RFC, linked to new homes to be built off Rigby Avenue. It is understood that as part of this development a rugby union pitch will be established and then gifted to the Parish Council that, in turn, make the pitch available to Mistley RFC. However, it should be emphasised that this is subject to planning permission being accepted and should consider present issues which could be exacerbated further through developments, such as vehicular access, car parking and how the current clubhouse will be developed.

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Figure 4.1: Location of all rugby union pitches in Tendring



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Security of tenure

Clacton Rugby Club is the only club in Tendring District considered to have long term security of secure tenure of its pitches. The Club has a licence on the two pitches at Clacton Leisure Centre which has 20 years remaining and includes the ancillary facilities.

Brightlingsea RFC currently use Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner) which is also used by Colne Community School and College for curricular and extracurricular use. The Club has a 15 year agreement in place to use the site, however, as no formal lease or licence of the pitches is in place tenure is considered to be unsecure. The Club report that it wishes to own and/or manage its own site, however, it recognises that a suitable location is difficult to find in the area.

Mistley RFC and Harwich & Dovercourt RFC both rent pitches on a seasonal basis. Mistley RFC rent the pitches on Furze Hill Recreation Ground from the local Parish Council. Despite the agreement only being on a seasonal basis, the pitches are protected from being built on by a covenant and it is within the Parish Council's obligations to provide two rugby union pitches to Mistley RFC.

Harwich & Dovercourt RFC, as mentioned previously, rent pitches from the District Council on a seasonal basis. However, the associated ancillary facilities are leased to the Club from the Council. The previous lease expired in 2009 as is currently operating on a rolling annual basis. The Club and the Council are in negotiations regarding costs and future developments of the facility. Harwich & Dovercourt RFC would also ideally like to own and/or manage its own site but faces the issue that there does not appear to be a suitable venue locally.

Both Clacton RFC and Harwich & Dovercourt RFC both report concerns regarding increased costs of renting existing home venues, citing that the significant increases are unrealistic for community clubs to achieve or sustain. Clacton RFC report that the cost for its current home venue is due to increase from £900/annum to £5,000/annum whilst Harwich & Dovercourt RFC report a greater increase will affect the Club, with rent going from £70/annum to £10,000/annum.

Pitch quality

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 4.1: 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

Table 4.2: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch

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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 4.3: 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.

Of the available pitches in the District, five are assessed as poor quality and three are assessed as standard quality. There are no pitches assessed as good standard.

Table 4.4: Quality of pitches available for community use

Rugby Union pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor
-	4	5

The table below shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in the District based on a combination of non-technical site assessments and user consultation.

Table 4.5: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non-tech score	Quality rating
8	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	Yes-unused	1	Junior	No	M1 / D1	Standard
10	Clacton Leisure Centre (Clacton RFC)	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles (Harwich & Dovercourt RFC)	Yes	2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
19	Furze Hill Recreation Ground (Mistley RFC)	Yes	2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor
36	Brightlingsea Sports Centre/Strangers Corner (Brightlingsea RFC)	Yes	3	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard

Drainage across all four sites is deemed to be natural and adequate with none of the clubs reporting specific issues regarding drainage of pitches. Maintenance of the pitches

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at Clacton Leisure Centre and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles is undertaken by the District Council and is deemed to require significant improvements to the maintenance programme. Furze Hill Recreation Ground is maintained by the Parish Council and also require significant improvements to the maintenance programme.

Pitches at Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner) are maintained by Colne Community School & College as part of the School's playing field provision. The maintenance regime requires minor improvements to the maintenance programme, contributing to the overall, quality rating of standard.

Ancillary facilities

Mistley RFC report issues with existing ancillary facilities at its home venue. For example, at present, there are two changing rooms with communal showers and toilets and a refreshment serving area, all contained within a single temporary structure. The toilets in the facility are also used by spectators. The Club has submitted a planning application for a two storey brick building which will be located on the same footprint. The new building will contain four self-contained changing rooms, with en-suite shower and toilet facilities, located on the ground floor; and a bar/function room area located on the first floor, providing the Club with a space to operate socially.

Should the building be approved then it will also affect the presence of the floodlit training area that the Club relies on to keep training demand off match pitches. Ideally this would be re-provided on site continuing to enable match play to be the sole use of rugby union pitches on the site. Other issues are also noted at the site such as inadequate car parking.

Brightlingsea RFC report that the changing facilities at its home venue are of a good quality, with changing rooms having en-suite shower and toilet facilities; in addition to a self-contained officials' room. However, the Club is keen to stress that car parking for the site is inadequate resulting in parking along the main road, restricting access for emergency vehicles. Storage at the site is also reported as an issue as it doesn't get access to the school building, it has a storage container on site, which is considered less than ideal.

Harwich & Dovercourt RFC is currently in negotiations with the Council regarding a new long-term lease of the Club's ancillary facilities, however, as mentioned previously, the increased costs for the site have halted negotiations. The ancillary facilities that the Club use are rated as standard quality. There are changing rooms with communal shower; a physio/meeting room; a storage room; a kitchen; and a bar and social area. However, there is a lack of disabled access, the bar and social areas are located on the second storey; and the physio/meeting room is a shipping container which has been adapted to fit the purpose. The Club highlights that if the new lease agreement was to be signed and the site be reclassified as a commercial premise then the Council would need to provide adequate disabled access. It was also highlighted by the Club that the current emergency fire escape has been recently condemned due to it having spiralled stairs; this issue needs addressing as a matter of importance.

The Club has plans to develop the ancillary facilities if a new lease agreement is sought. Including addressing the issue with the fire escape, providing a balcony area to enable spectators to view matches from the clubhouse and incorporating the two shipping containers, which currently act as the physio room and for storage, within the building to provide a greater use of facilities and reduce the amount of vandalism which currently occurs on the site.

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Clacton RFC feel that only having two changing rooms and an officials' room is restricting club growth and therefore hope to address this issue. The Club report that it would seek support to aid ancillary developments but it is happy to continue to be located on the current site.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby 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 must comply with the above specification and must be tested every two years to maintain its World Rugby compliance.

4.3: Demand

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

Competitive play

Four rugby union clubs play within Tendring District. All clubs in the District have senior and mini teams, whilst only Mistley RFC is currently without a junior team representing the Club.

As seen in the table below, there are 37 teams across the clubs, which as a breakdown equates to ten senior, seven junior and 20 mini teams. One of the senior teams is a women's team, provided by Harwich & Dovercourt RFC.

Table 4.6: Summary of demand

Club	No. of rugby union teams			
	Senior (19+)	Colts (18-19)	Junior (13-17)	Mini (6-12)
Brightlingsea RFC (Brightlingsea Sports Centre)	2	-	2	5
Clacton RFC (Clacton Leisure Centre)	2	-	2	3
Harwich & Dovercourt RFC (Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles)	4	-	3	6
Mistley RFC (Furze Hill Recreation Ground)	2	-	-	6
Total	10	-	7	20

No latent or unmet demand is expressed by any of the clubs.

Training demand

Nationally, 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.

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A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting, however, in the District none of the rugby union pitches are floodlit and where a club has provision of portable floodlights, a concerted effort is made to ensure that no training demand takes place on match pitches.

Mistley RFC train on a dedicated floodlit training area close to the Clubhouse, meaning that no training demand takes place on match pitches, other than mini and junior teams potentially training on Sunday mornings. Similarly, Harwich & Dovercourt RFC do not train on match pitches. The Club has portable floodlights and ensures that midweek training does not take place on either of the match pitches at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyle.

Clacton RFC report that the Club's home venue has a floodlit training area which is not marked with a pitch, but does have posts. This allows full training sessions to take place away from the match pitch.

During the summer Brightlingsea RFC train on an unmarked field off Lower Park Road; the site is used by Brightlingsea Scouts and locating summer training at this site allows essential remedial work to take place on the match pitches at its home venue. Winter training for Brightlingsea RFC takes place on the sand based artificial grass pitch at Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Colne Community School & College). The Club rent the pitch for one evening a week for two hours, accommodating all senior and junior teams.

Education

The RFU is active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. The aim is to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU Rugby Development Officers (RDOs). The RDOs deliver coaching sessions and support the schools to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme.

In Tendring District, only Colne Community School & College has extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by them having access to on-site pitches. As such, the pitches accessed by the School are subject to high amounts of curriculum rugby union use.

All of the clubs in Tendring District work closely with the RDO to develop links between schools, both primary and secondary, and clubs. This can be in the form of clubs delivering coaching sessions as part of the sporting curriculum or as extracurricular clubs with RFU community coaches entering the schools to deliver regular sessions. This particularly applies at Harwich and Dovercourt High School, Manningtree High School and Colne Community School & College. Clubs report varying levels of success with the links; Brightlingsea RFC report that the link between the Club and Manningtree High School is tenuous with many players from the School travelling out of the District to participate for Colchester RFC. Harwich & Dovercourt RFC, meanwhile, report that the Club is entering the second phase of the All Schools Programme, potentially strengthening the link between the two parties. As a contribution to the ongoing partnership, Harwich & Dovercourt RFC report that the Club pays rent for the School to use the pitches at the Club's home venue; however, at the time of consultation this was yet to have taken place and therefore was not included within the capacity analysis in Table 4.8.

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The peak period

In order to establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be determined. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Tendring District is Saturday afternoons, although junior and mini teams also access senior pitches on Sundays.

Peak time for colt's rugby is Sunday afternoons, whereas it is Sunday mornings for junior and mini rugby. For women's and girls' rugby, peak time is considered to be Sunday afternoons.

4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to 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 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 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 reduces potential capacity.
- ✦ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where dedicated mini and junior pitches are provided).
- ✦ From u13s upwards, teams play 15v15 and use a full pitch.
- ✦ Mini teams (u6-u12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch
- ✦ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ✦ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ✦ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ✦ Colt's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Women's and girls' rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

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

Table 4.7: 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

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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.

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Table 4.8: Rugby union provision and level of community use within Tendring District

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Quality rating	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
8	Clacton Coastal Academy	Yes-unused	Junior	No	Standard	1	2	1	The pitch has one match equivalent session of spare capacity, is available for community use but is currently only used for curricular demand.
10	Clacton Leisure Centre (Clacton RFC)	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2.75	1.5	1.25	The pitch is used by Clacton RFC and is overplayed by 1.25 match equivalent sessions.
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles (Harwich & Dovercourt RFC)	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	2.5	1.5	1	The pitch is used by Harwich & Dovercourt RFC and is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
			Senior	No	Poor	2.5	1.5	1	The pitch is used by Harwich & Dovercourt RFC and is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
19	Furze Hill Recreation Ground (Mistley RFC)	Yes	Senior	No	Poor	1.25	1.5	0.25	The pitch is used by Mistley RFC and has 0.25 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.
			Senior	No	Poor	1.25	1.5	0.25	The pitch is used by Mistley RFC and has 0.25 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.
36	Brightlingsea Sports Centre/Strangers Corner (Brightlingsea RFC)	Yes	Senior	No	Standard	2	2	0	The pitch is used by Brightlingsea RFC and is subject to curriculum use. As a result the pitch is at capacity.
			Senior	No	Standard	2.25	2	0.25	The pitch is used by Brightlingsea RFC and is subject to curriculum use. As a result the pitch is overplayed by 0.25 match equivalent sessions.
			Senior	No	Standard	2	2	0	The pitch is used by Brightlingsea RFC and is subject to curriculum use. As a result the pitch is at capacity.

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4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity and overplay in the District as a whole for rugby union based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on club development plans, where quantified, and includes future demand for mini, junior and colt's teams as it is presumed that these will access senior pitches.

Table 4.9: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
	Overplay	Current total	Future demand ¹⁰	Future total
0	3.5	3.5	3.75	7.25

Overall, there is a current shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches. This shortfall worsens when considering future demand, with future demand exacerbating the shortfall by increasing demand by 3.75 match equivalent sessions, resulting in an overall future shortfall of 7.25 match equivalent sessions.

To reduce shortfalls there is a clear need to alleviate overplay, which for the most part can be achieved through improving pitch quality through improved maintenance regimes. As mentioned previously, training demand is not an issue on any sites used by community clubs as none of the rugby union clubs in the District train on match pitches during the season.

Improving the maintenance regimes and therefore pitch quality and capacity, would only solve overplay across all three overplayed sites if the pitches were maintained to a high standard. This is not realistic when considering budgetary constraints that local councils operate under, therefore, encouraging and supporting clubs to contribute to the maintenance of the pitches may help improve the overall pitch quality.

Spare capacity

'Actual spare capacity' has been ascertained following review of identified 'potential capacity' in Table 4.10. 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 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.

Despite two senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity to accommodate additional play, due to the amount being minimal for both pitches neither pitch can be considered to have actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior rugby union.

School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as their realistic availability cannot be determined. Further consultation with providers is thus, recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time, are they available throughout the playing season and are they affordable. Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by pitch type.

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁰ As identified from club consultation

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Table 4.10: Summary of actual spare capacity on senior pitches

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual capacity	Comments
19	Furze Hill Recreation Ground	Senior	0.25	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to potential spare capacity being minimal.
		Senior	0.25	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to potential spare capacity being minimal.

The programming of junior and mini rugby union matches can be unclear in regards to ascertaining actual spare capacity, especially at peak time as the number of matches played varies from week to week. Teams do not play regular matches as part of a league format; rather, clubs enter cup competitions or organise for their younger age groups to play those from another club either at home or away and on a friendly basis.

Peak period for mini and junior rugby is Sunday morning, however, when examining whether actual spare capacity at this time shows that all pitches in Tendring District are currently at capacity during this period; therefore, any future demand could not be accommodated within the current supply. For mini and junior teams when matches are not being played, teams will generally hold training sessions instead, meaning that mini and junior teams may require access to their home pitches for consecutive weeks whilst no away fixtures are organised. Consequently, it is presumed that no pitches used by mini or youth teams have significant actual spare capacity for an increase in demand, but it is acknowledged that some does exist when the pitches are not in use.

Overplay

There are four pitches across three sites that are overplayed by a combined 3.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 4.11: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	1.25
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	1
		1
36	Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner)	0.25
Total		3.5

Equal amounts of overplay is recorded at Clacton Leisure Centre and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, where pitches are overplayed due to the site offering a limited number of pitches to the respective clubs. This is further exacerbated when considering that both sites are open access and are subject to unofficial use, resulting in damage to the surface and issues with dog fouling and litter.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Strangers Corner) is overplayed through a combination of both curricular, extracurricular and community use. The pitches at this site are subject to use by Colne Community School & College, in addition to that of Brightlingsea RFC.

It should be noted that all mini and junior rugby takes place on senior pitches, contributing to overplay. If specific sized pitches were made available to teams in those age groups then overplay would reduce. It is also noteworthy that no teams are training on match pitches and therefore this demand has not contributed to the five overplayed pitches.

Future demand

Population increases

In addition to planned club growth, team generation rates are used as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2033).

Table 4.12: Team generation rates (2033)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ¹¹	Future population within age group (2033)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	17,123	8	1:2140	18,096	8.5	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	18,017	1	1:18017	18,075	1.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	4,777	7	1:682	5,075	7.4	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	4,456	0	0	4,976	0.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	8,124	20	1:406	9,783	24.1	4

As seen, an increase of four mini teams is predicted. Participation increases within other categories will be accommodated within existing squads. Please note, however, that this does not take into account contextual events, such as RFU initiatives that preceded and have followed the staging of the competition.

Participation increases

All four teams within Tendring District express future plans to create additional teams. Harwich & Dovercourt RFC has plans to add a second senior women's team and one mini team at under sevens.

Clacton RFC aspires to create a junior girls' team at the under 15 age group, which the Club hopes will aid the establishment of a formal girls' and ladies' section. In addition to this it is hoped that a new mini team will be added at the youngest age group each season until the whole mini and junior sections are full. The Club feels that a lack of changing facilities is inhibiting its future growth and therefore recognise that this issue needs addressing if the Club is to achieve its development ambitions.

¹¹ Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Similarly, Brightlingsea RFC plan to add a mini team each season until the whole mini and junior sections are complete with a team at each age group. This is again the case for Mistley RFC, which also plans to add a third senior men's team which will initially play infrequent friendlies, encouraging new participants to take up the sport; eventually entering in a league to provide regular fixtures.

Where quantified, total future demand reported by clubs equates to seven teams and 3.5 match equivalent sessions.

Rugby union summary

- ◆ **Overall, there is a shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior rugby union pitches to meet current demand, which worsens when considering future demand, with a shortfall of 7.25 match equivalent sessions recognised.**
- ◆ **Shortfalls can be addressed through pitch quality improvements as no clubs currently train on match pitches.**
- ◆ There are five sites containing nine senior rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use.
- ◆ Tenure is considered unsecure for three of the four rugby union clubs in Tendring District. Clacton Rugby Club are the only club in the District, that are considered to have secure tenure.
- ◆ Of the community available pitches, five are assessed as poor quality and three are assessed as standard quality.
- ◆ All clubs report issues regarding ancillary facilities, however Clacton RFC's issue was the most minor, with a low number of changing rooms inhibiting growth.
- ◆ Four rugby union clubs play within Tendring District consisting of 37 teams, which as a breakdown equates to ten senior, seven junior and 20 mini teams.
- ◆ No clubs train on match pitches, with floodlit training areas provided at three of the four club sites. Brightlingsea RFC train on the sand based AGP at Brightlingsea Sports Centre.
- ◆ All clubs report future demand, which, where quantified, amounts to one senior men's, one senior women's, one junior girls' and four mini teams.
- ◆ Despite two senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, none have actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior rugby (Saturday PM).
- ◆ There are four pitches across three sites that are overplayed by a combined 3.5 match equivalent sessions.

TENDRING

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 5: HOCKEY

5.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Essex County Hockey Association.

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 third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown 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
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior teams, a full sized 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. 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.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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 requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Club consultation

There are currently two hockey clubs fielding teams within Tendring District and both responded to consultation requests resulting in a 100% response rate. Both Clacton HC and Harwich HC were engaged in telephone consultations.

5.2: Supply

As seen in the table below, all four of the full size AGPs available for community use are floodlit. However, Brightlingsea Sports Centre is not in current use by hockey clubs.

Table 5.2: Summary of full size hockey suitable AGPs in Tendring District

Site ID	Site	Floodlit?	Community use?	Hockey use?	Size (metres)
6	Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Colne Community School & College)	Yes	Yes	No	105 x 67
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes	97 x 61
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Yes	Yes	Yes	102 x 63
69	Tendring Education Centre (Jaywick Lane)	Yes	Yes	No	98 x 60

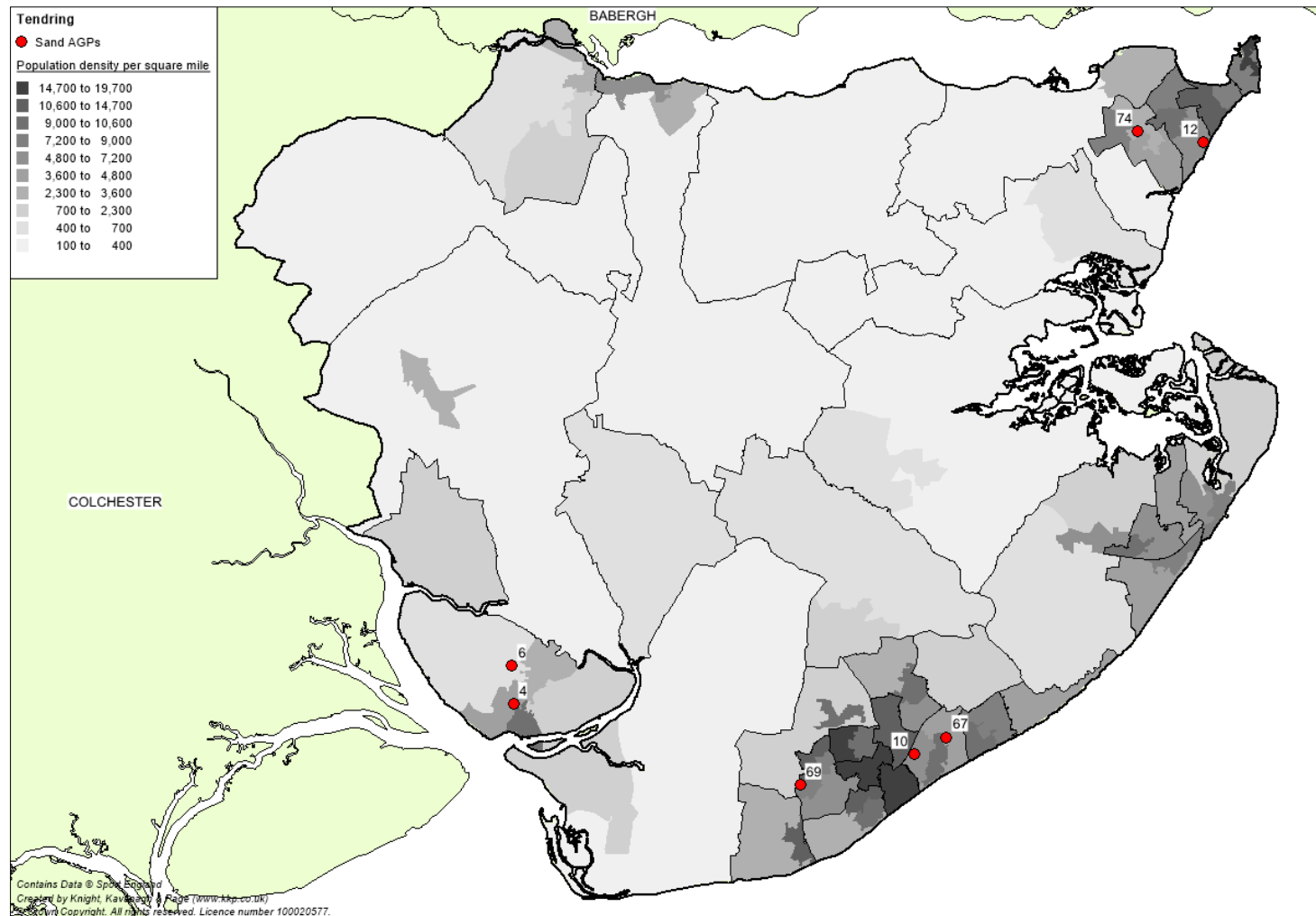
In addition, there are also three smaller sized AGP suitable for hockey use, as seen in the table below. Although too small to host competitive matches, they can be accessed to accommodate some training demand but would need floodlighting installed.

Table 5.3: Summary of smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Community use?	Flood-lit?	Size (metres)
4	Brightlingsea Infant School	Yes	No	35 x 30
67	Holland Park Primary School	No	No	Unknown
74	Chase Lane Primary School & Nursery	No	No	Unknown

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 5.1: Location of all hockey suitable AGPs pitches in Tendring



TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Management

Three of the full size AGPs are located at council managed sites, with programming and maintenance managed in house. The AGP at Brightlingsea Sports Centre has shared management and use from the Council's leisure provider and Colne Community School & College, which has priority use for curricular and extra-curricular activities throughout the school week.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this calculation, three of the four full size AGPs in the District are readily available to the community, with those pitches available for at least 32 hours during the peak period.

Brightlingsea Sports Centre is open for the least amount of time (32 hours) during the peak period, this is due to the pitch being unavailable until 10am on Saturday and Sunday mornings, as opposed to an hour earlier, which both Clacton Leisure Centre and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles are open from.

Table 5.5: Availability of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments	Hockey club users
6	Brightlingsea Sports Centre (Colne Community School & College)	32	Reserved for private use during the week until 16:00 Monday to Friday. Available to the community from 16:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 10:00 until 18:00 on Saturdays and Sundays.	-
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	34	Available to the community from 08:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 07:30 until 18:00 Saturday and Sunday.	Clacton HC
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	34	Available to the community from 07:00 until 22:00 Monday to Thursday; from 07:00 until 21:00 on Fridays; 08:00 to 18:00 on a Saturday; and from 08:00 until 21:00 Sunday.	Harwich HC
69	Tendering Education Centre (Jaywick Lane)	34	Available to the community from 08:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday and from 09:00 until 18:00 Saturday and Sunday.	-

Both Clacton and Harwich hockey clubs are located at single sites; Clacton HC at Clacton Leisure Centre and Harwich HC and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles. Neither club reports issues regarding access to adequate amounts of time for training or matches and therefore neither has explored the option of utilising other sites to accommodate some demand.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

To reiterate, Brightlingsea Sports Centre and Tendring Education Centre are not accessed by hockey clubs; however, that is not to say that they are unused. Usage of sand-based AGPs is also common for football and all full size pitches within the District have recorded football activity taking place on them. The majority of this use is for training purposes.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, together with maintenance levels, that most commonly affects quality. An issue for hockey nationally is that many providers did not financially plan to replace the carpet when first installed.

The following table indicates when each full size pitch was installed or last resurfaced within Tendring District, together with an agreed quality rating following non-technical assessments and user consultation.

Table 5.6: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Year installed/ resurfaced	Quality
6	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	2002	Poor
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	2005	Standard
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	2004	Standard
69	Tendring Education Centre (Jaywick Lane)	Unknown	Poor

As evidenced above, there is a clear need for three of the four AGPs to be resurfaced. Brightlingsea Sports Centre, Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles and Clacton Leisure Centre have exceeded their recommended lifespan.

It should be noted that although pitches have been assessed as standard quality, through a combination of both a non-technical assessment and a user assessment, each pitch has issues which have been identified for potential improvement.

Clacton HC highlights that although the penalty spots have been replaced to a good quality. The Club suggested that there is evidence of moss on the pitch and that the high amount of sand reduces grip underfoot. It was also noted that the surrounding area and fencing need repairing and significant maintenance; whilst litter and unofficial use are both common issues.

The pitch at Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles was noted for having good grip underfoot, with clear markings and secure surrounding fence. Harwich HC notes that the pitch has been patched in places, as a means of temporary repair; these have been done to a good standard with no issues. It should also be highlighted that the pitch was recently relaid and therefore is still considered within its lifespan.

The AGP at Brightlingsea Sports Centre was noted for having poor grip underfoot with some evidence of moss. The surrounding fence is of a good, secure quality with no evidence of unofficial use or litter. The pitch has exceeded its lifespan and should be considered for refurbishment to ensure that quality does not deteriorate to the detriment of curricular and curriculum use.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ancillary provision

All full size AGPs within Tendring District are serviced by changing provision that can range from basic changing facilities and toilets; to more extensive clubhouse facilities that include a bar and kitchen.

Harwich HC report that it uses two changing rooms that are attached to the swimming centre and are dedicated for outdoor sports. These are shared with local football teams that use the adjacent football pitches and therefore space can be limited. For post-match refreshments, the hockey club utilise the bar and social area of Harwich & Dovercourt Rugby Club. The Club report that it is happy to continue this arrangement due to its ongoing good relationship with the rugby club.

Clacton HC, uses facilities at Clacton Leisure Centre and reports that both hockey teams on a match day share a single, small, changing room within the leisure centre, which is deemed to be poor quality. The Club also noted that it previously utilised the cricket pavilion, which was partially funded by hockey and is now leased by Clacton Sports Club, as a venue for post-match refreshments; however, this arrangement ceased due to issues regarding access to the provision, which has seen the Club relocate post-match activities to a local public house. Clacton HC report that it would be open to using the pavilion again due to its proximity to the match pitch, however, access would need to be secured in order to make the arrangement workable.

5.3: Demand

There are currently two clubs fielding teams in Tendring District, both of which are small clubs with only a few senior teams and few or no juniors. Combined, the clubs contribute a total of 30 senior men, 25 senior women and 40 juniors and consist of two senior men's teams, one senior women's teams and two junior teams.

Table 5.7: Summary of teams playing in Tendring District

Name of club	No. of teams				No. of members		
	Men's	Women's	Junior		Men's	Women's	Junior
Clacton HC	2	-	-		30	-	-
Harwich HC	-	1	2		-	25	40
Total	2	1	2		30	25	40

Participation trends

Of the current clubs, Harwich HC report that it formerly had a senior men's team which achieved promotion to Division 2 East League. Participating in this league resulted in an increased amount of travel for matches, which affected the player commitment and availability as fewer members could get the time required off work to travel for matches, this resulted in the team eventually folding.

Clacton HC report that the majority of its members travel from outside of the District, with as few as eight members being local to the District. The Club also previously hosted a free initiative providing youth training on a Sunday morning at Clacton Leisure Centre. This ceased after limited interest but may start again following discussions with EH.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase of juniors taking up hockey within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Latent demand

Clubs were asked if they had more AGPs would they have more teams. Neither clubs report that there is latent demand, with access to AGPs not being an issue for either club.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, EH has an aim to double participation over the next ten years.

Clacton HC hopes to increase the number of participants, with an emphasis on increasing more local players to become members, citing that many of its players travel to play for the Club. The Club has not put a figure on how many more teams it would hope to have representing it. The Club is actively working with EH with a view to re-establishing a specific junior section, noting that many of its current players are under the age of 20. It is hoped that forming a link with Clacton County High School would prove fruitful, with its close proximity to Clacton Leisure Centre making early evening training a possibility.

Harwich HC notes that it hopes to add a second ladies team next season, whilst there are also discussions of restarting the men's section of the Club. It is also hoped that strengthening the existing links with local primary and secondary schools will eventually filter in to an increased number of teams representing the Club, however, no figure was placed on this with it being merely an aspiration at present.

Usage

The table below shows all available sites with full size hockey suitable AGP provision and a summary of use at each site against the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

Table 5.9: Summary of usage

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
6	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	32	-	Unknown	-	-

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Hockey Club users	Other usage	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	34	Clacton HC	Unknown	Hired on a Thursday evening 8-9pm for the Club's entire training demand. There is no need for additional capacity at present.	Sunday – two hours for matches once every fortnight.
12	Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	34	Harwich HC	Unknown	Hired on Thursday 7-9pm for junior training (7-8pm) and then senior training (8-9pm).	Saturday – 1.5 hours for senior matches. Sunday – 1.5 hours for some junior matches, although teams often play in tournaments.
69	Tendring Education Centre (Jaywick Lane)	34	-	Unknown	-	-

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is adequate supply of hockey suitable surfaces within the area to accommodate current levels of demand. This remains consistent when future population and participation increases are factored in, with enough spare capacity available to accommodate increased levels of demand.

Training demand could be increased and still be accommodated within the current capacity, with hockey usage being minimal across the three hockey suitable surfaces. Considering issues that both clubs have previously experienced regarding travelling for matches, it would not be prudent to simply amalgamate the two clubs, with them then being based at one site. However, it would be beneficial if both clubs could work together to increase hockey participation within the District, building on the existing teams and sections which each club currently possess, i.e. Harwich HC has women's and girls' sections whilst Clacton HC has only a men's section.

Regarding development of both clubs it may be prudent if potential participants that cannot be currently met within the existing sections of either club were directed to the other club within Tendring District, thus retaining the participation within the sport whilst also strengthening the presence of the sports within the District.

The priority, therefore, should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. To that end, it is imperative that Clacton Leisure Centre is refurbished and continues to provide a hockey suitable surface as it has reached the end of its lifespan, despite being assessed as standard quality.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface' which can be found on Sport England's website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/>

Hockey summary

- ◀ **Due to the landscape of hockey within Tendring District, the priority should be to protect or mitigate the loss of any of the pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.**
- ◀ It could be beneficial for clubs in the District to work together to enable participants to access appropriate quality, aged and gender specific teams.
- ◀ There are currently four full size hockey suitable AGPs in Tendring District, all are floodlit and available for community use. However, only two are used for hockey; Clacton Leisure Centre and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles.
- ◀ In addition, there are also three smaller sized AGPs suitable for hockey use, which, although too small to host competitive matches, could be used to accommodate some training demand, if floodlit.
- ◀ Three of the full size AGPs have reached the end of their lifespan and therefore require resurfacing.
- ◀ There are currently two clubs fielding teams in Tendring District. Combined, the clubs contribute two senior men's teams, one senior women's teams and two junior teams.
- ◀ Neither club reported any latent or exported demand.
- ◀ Only Harwich HC quantified future demand, with ambitions to add a second senior women's team and restart the men's section of the Club by creating a new senior men's team. Increased future participation will not result in an increased number of teams within the District.

PART 6: TENNIS

6.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Tendring District. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to targeting a number of national focus areas whilst having a current focus on developing tennis at park sites.

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with the LTA Regional Tennis Participation Manager in order to inform the assessment with regards to background information and specific NGB focuses for the area. An online survey was also distributed to all tennis clubs in the District, all of whom provided feedback, equating to 100% of clubs. It is reported that Dovercourt Lawn TC no longer operates and therefore the Club was not consulted with.

6.2: Supply

There is a total of 80 tennis courts identified in Tendring District, of which, 20 are unavailable for community use and located at school sites. The courts are located across 13 sites including private sports clubs, parks, schools and leisure centres. There is one single court site, Frinton Park Playing Fields, which is managed by the District Council.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play.

Kirby TC previously had two, additional, grass surface courts; however, the cost of maintaining these was too high for the Club to sustain and therefore it decided to no longer mark or maintain these courts.

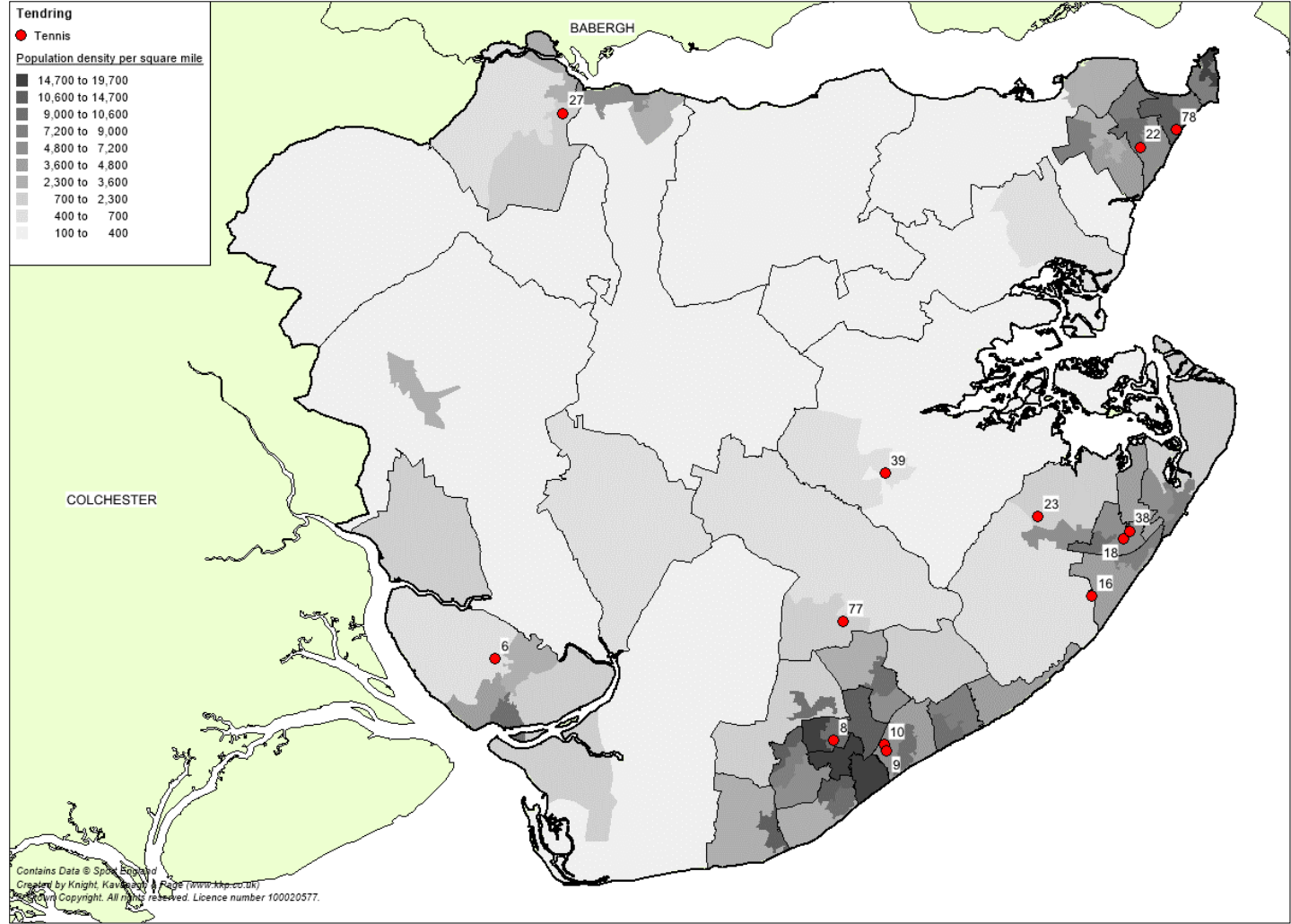
Future supply

In addition to the current supply, through club developments there is expected to be an increase in the number of courts available for community use. Little Clacton TC report that it is planning the establishment of an additional four macadam courts at the current site which will be available for community use and hopefully increase the Club's membership.

Kirby TC noted that if funding can be sought then the Club would explore options to provide floodlighting on one of its currently non-floodlit courts. However, as mentioned this is subject to sourcing funding.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of all tennis courts in Tendring



TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 6.1: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Management	Availability for community use?	No. of courts	No. of floodlit courts	Court type	Court quality ¹²
6	Brightlingsea Sports Centre	Local Authority	Yes	6	-	Tarmac	Standard
8	Clacton Coastal Academy (Town Campus)	School	Yes	5	5	Macadam	Standard
9	Clacton County High School	School	No	4	4	Macadam	Standard
				3	-	Tarmac	Standard
10	Clacton Leisure Centre	Local Authority	Yes	4	4	Macadam	Good
16	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Sports Club	Yes	16	-	Grass	Good
				8	8	Macadam	Good
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	Local Authority	Yes	1	-	Macadam	Poor
22	Harwich Sports Centre	Local Authority	Yes	4	4	Macadam	Good
23	Kirby Playing Field (Kirby TC)	Sports Club	Yes	4	2	Macadam	Good
27	Manningtree High School	School	Yes	4	-	Macadam	Standard
38	Tendring Technology College (Frinton Campus)	School	No	6	-	Tarmac	Standard
39	Tendring Technology College (Thorpe Campus)	School	No	7	-	Macadam	Standard
77	Little Clacton Tennis Club	Sports Club	Yes	4	4	Macadam	Good
78	Dovercourt Lawn Tennis Club	Private	Yes	4	-	Macadam	Standard

¹² Assessed using a non-technical site assessment pro-forma and also takes account of user comments.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

The majority of courts were assessed as standard quality (55 courts – 69%), whilst the remaining courts were assessed as either good (24 courts – 30%) or poor (one court – 1%) quality.

Table 6.2: Summary of the quality of courts by surface type

Surface type	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Macadam	24	24	1	49
Artificial Turf	-	-	-	-
Clay	-	-	-	-
Grass	16	-	-	16
Tarmac	-	15	-	15
Total	24	55	1	80

Issues affecting court quality include evidence of moss, loose gravel, poor grip underfoot, and/or poor line markings. Some sites are unsuitable for club tennis, whilst courts at school sites are often also used as general playground areas and are therefore subject to regular use which often impacts on quality.

Court quality at Council managed sites is generally standard quality (14), with only one courts assessed as poor quality, at Frinton Park Playing Field.

The majority of courts within the District have a macadam surface (61%), whilst all of the grass surface courts are located at club sites; and the tarmac courts are at educational sites.

Frinton, Kirby and Little Clacton tennis clubs all have good quality courts. All courts rated as good quality at club sites are macadam surfaced. Kirby TC did note that the quality of its courts is decreasing each year, highlighting that despite remarking and general maintenance the courts are in need of resurfacing.

The current LTA Facilities Strategy focuses on developing tennis participation from park sites and as such is seeking to improve and invest in improving the quality of tennis courts in parks.

Ancillary provision

In total, there are 31 floodlit courts in Tendring District (39% of supply) across seven sites. Further to this the following was reported by clubs during consultation regarding ancillary facilities.

Frinton Lawn TC report that its ancillary facilities are of an adequate quality with no reported issues regarding maintenance, parking or potential refurbishment of ancillaries. However, the LTA acknowledges that, as one of the largest clubs in the District, the ancillary facilities require improvement and refurbishment. It is recognised that improving the current ancillary facilities would allow the Club to operate a more sustainable business model, increasing capacity to host social events, generating increased income streams.

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Kirby TC also noted that although car parking access was not an issue, the quality of changing facilities is poor and are essentially used as toilets. The Club states that although the clubhouse is small it is adequate for the number of members it currently has. The Club's main concern is resurfacing the courts and the potential for further floodlighting.

Little Clacton TC report that its current ancillary provision is of a good quality with no issues with changing facilities, car parking or social areas. Despite this the Club is planning to build a new clubhouse, which is currently being designed. It is felt that the new clubhouse will enhance the Club's membership numbers, increasing its sustainability.

Only Kirby TC highlight an issue regarding access to floodlit provision. Noting that at the start and end of the season, three courts are often used simultaneously for competitive match play. However, as only two courts are floodlit this can result in one match having to be halted early due to reduced light.

Ownership and management

Management of sites with outdoor tennis provision varies from publicly accessible park sites which form part of the Council's leisure offering through to club operated sites, with most in the District being located at the latter. Tennis courts at the three main leisure centres are available to book online and are therefore accessible for members of the public seeking pay and play, infrequent or occasional play.

Tenure of all clubs is considered to be secure, with Frinton Lawn TC and Little Clacton TC both owning current home venues, whilst Kirby TC has a long term lease from the District Council for the land on which the Club is located. Kirby TC understands that its annual fee, as part of the lease, is due to increase in July 2017, causing concern amongst club committee members.

6.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are a number of leagues in the District and surrounding areas catering for senior tennis. Competitions are available for male, female or mixed entries across various formats including singles and doubles. The main local competitions are:

- ✦ Essex Junior League (Doubles – April to October)
- ✦ Slazenger Essex Winter League (Doubles – November to March)
- ✦ Seniors Summer League (Doubles – April to October)
- ✦ Essex Seniors League (Doubles – November to March)
- ✦ Colchester & District Tennis League (Singles & Doubles - April to October)

Table 6.3: Summary of recorded demand within Tendring District (where known)

Club	Sites used	Total members	Men's teams	Women's teams	Mixed teams	Junior teams
Frinton Lawn TC	Frinton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	462	3	4	2	-
Kirby TC	Kirby Playing Field	91	4	1	4	-*
Little Clacton TC	Little Clacton Tennis Club	28	1	1	1	-

**Indicates that although junior players exist within the Club, no formal junior teams compete within competitions.*

TENDRING PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Frinton Lawn TC states that it is seeking to increase membership, continuing its recent trend of increasing senior membership. The Club did not report a reduction in the number of junior players but would be interested in increasing this aspect of the membership. As detailed earlier, it is hoped that improving the ancillary facilities will help attract new members.

Little Clacton TC also hopes to increase membership numbers, with up to 15 additional senior members and 30 additional junior members. The Club feels that the construction of four new macadam courts, in addition to the ancillary development plans, will help attract potential new players. The Club report that there has been no change in overall membership numbers, however, in the last five years there have not been any junior members.

Kirby TC reports that senior membership has remained the same in the recent past, whilst junior membership has recently begun to increase after previous decreases. The original decrease in junior membership was attributed to losing a coach, however, since the Club has a new coach, junior membership has since started to increase again. The Club is hoping that junior membership will continue to grow, along with the number of senior members.

Parks tennis

Parks pay and play tennis is less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in recreational tennis at local venues. The LTA is not actively seeking to increase pay and play at park sites as attempts are made to increase the sustainability of local clubs through increased membership.

The LTA is not aware of any current park sites within Tendring District generating revenue which could then be used as a sinking fund for court maintenance or resurfacing. It is imperative that where possible revenue should be generated in order to sustain or improve court quality. This could be done through cafes, court rental or shops which then feed funds in to court sinking funds ensuring that when those courts require resurfacing then the funding will already be in place.

Informal tennis

Courts on education sites are largely unavailable for community use, likely due to the poor quality of areas which are often used daily as playgrounds and social areas. Alternatively, school sites are often unavailable due to access issues inhibiting community use.

It is likely that demand for recreational play increases annually following events such as Wimbledon. Although it is hard to measure casual use at some courts, it is assumed that they are generally busy throughout the summer months when the weather is favourable and longer daylight hours reduce the requirement for floodlighting.

6.4: Conclusions

In conclusion, there is sufficient supply of tennis courts in Tendring District to cater for current club demand and casual use, including the delivery of participation schemes, parks leagues and informal bookings.

Participation is largely club based and club sites are generally self-serving, taking part preferred format sessions; and active in providing a variety of inclusive sessions for adults and juniors of all abilities. Access to additional courts or floodlit courts does not appear to be an immediate issue for clubs in the District.

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The LTA is focused on developing the sustainability of clubs in the area, ensuring that the clubs not only operate as sporting centres but also as businesses, becoming self-sufficient and able to offer both sporting and social activities. The LTA is, due to club sites providing a significant number of courts, actively working with the clubs to increase memberships, prioritising club tennis over casual park tennis.

Tennis summary

- ◀ **There is sufficient supply of tennis courts in Tendring District to cater for current demand and casual use from both clubs and community participation initiatives, meaning that courts in use should be protected to maintain current supply.**
- ◀ There are a total of 80 tennis courts identified in Tendring District, of which 20 courts are not available for community use.
- ◀ There are 31 floodlit courts in Tendring District spread across seven sites.
- ◀ The majority of courts were rated as standard quality (55 courts – 69%), whilst the remaining courts were rated as either good (24 courts – 30%) or poor (1 courts – 1%) quality.
- ◀ The majority of courts are macadam surfaces, representing 61% of existing supply.
- ◀ Tenure of all club sites is considered to be secure, with Frinton Lawn TC and Little Clacton TC both owning home venues.
- ◀ All responding clubs report ambitions to increase membership numbers, with Little Clacton TC specifically hoping that the current development of new courts will lead to potential new members.
- ◀ Kirby TC report a need for an increase in floodlighting provision at its site.
- ◀ It is likely that demand for recreational play increases annually following events such as Wimbledon and publicly accessible Council managed sites are generally assumed to be busier during the summer when the light allows for more evening play.
- ◀ Participation is largely club based and club sites are generally self-serving. Club access to floodlit courts does not appear to be a significant issue and court quality at club sites is generally good.
- ◀ The LTA is prioritising club development in the area, ensuring that clubs become increasingly self-sufficient and capable of providing both sporting and social activities.

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PART 7: BOWLING GREENS

7.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Tendring District are flat greens. Bowls England (BE) is the governing body responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country. More locally the sport is run and administered by County Bowling Associations and Tendring District clubs generally affiliate to the Essex County Bowling Association (ECBA).

Consultation

There are 11 clubs identified as using bowling greens in Tendring District, all of which, were sent an online survey to register their views. Contact information for affiliated clubs was provided via the Bowls England website and the Tendring District Council Sports Clubs Directory. Six clubs responded to the survey representing a response rate of 55%.

7.2: Supply

There are 11 crown bowling greens in the District located across ten sites, of which, there is one double green site (Clacton-on-Sea Bowling Club). There are no artificial surfaces and all are natural turf greens. There are no crown bowling greens located in the District.

There are no reported disused sites in Tendring District, although there may be disused greens attached to public houses which have not been located.

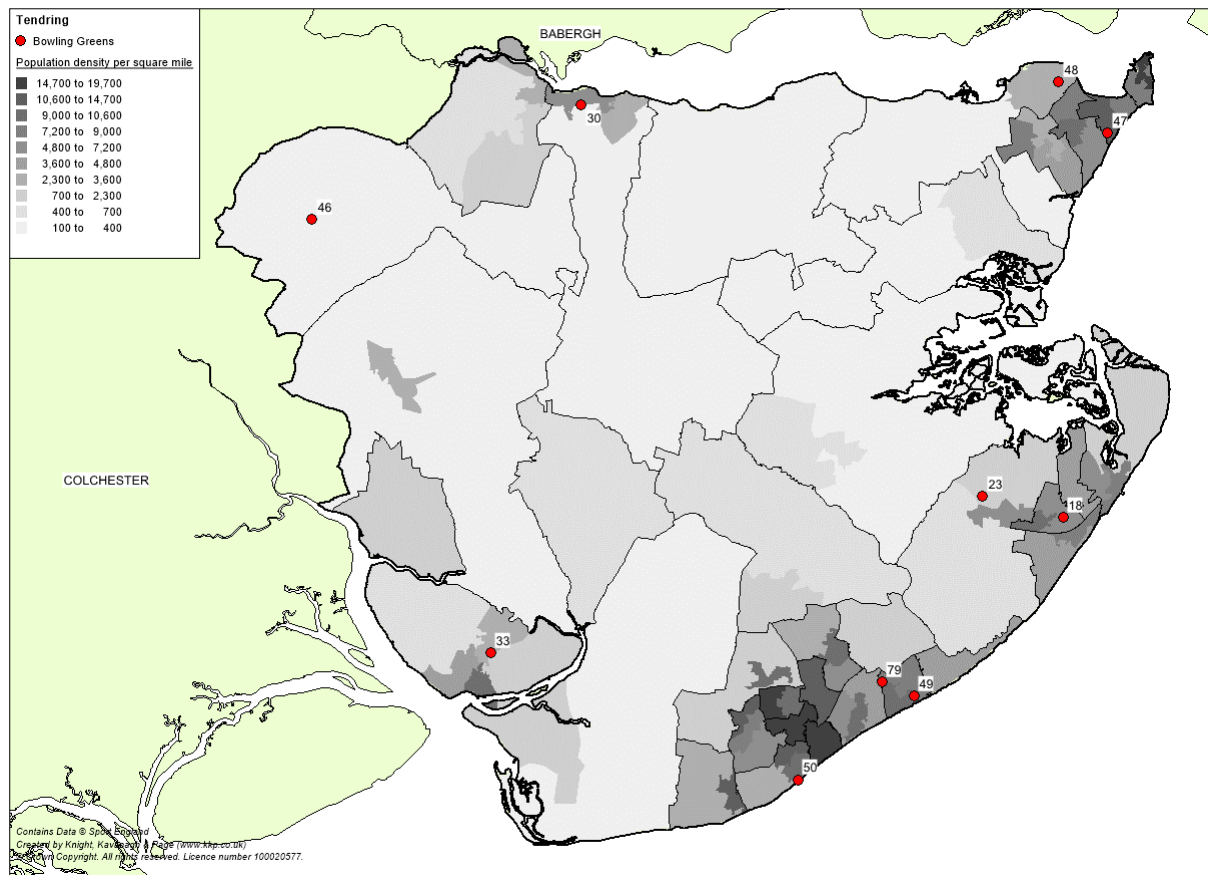
Table 7.1: Current supply of bowling greens in Tendring District

Site ID	Site name	No. of greens	Quality ¹³	Management
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	1	Good	Local Authority
23	Kirby Playing Field	1	Good	Local Authority
30	Mistley Cricket Club	1	Good	Sports Club
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	1	Good	Local Authority
46	Colchester Bowls Club	1	Good	Sports Club
47	Dovercourt Bowling Club	1	Good	Sports Club
48	Parkeston Railway Bowling Club	1	Good	Sports Club
49	Holland-on-Sea Bowling Club	1	Good	Sports Club
50	Clacton-on-Sea Bowling Club	2	Good	Sports Club
79	Happy Valley Bowling Club	1	Standard	Sports Club

¹³ Determined via non-technical assessment and club feedback

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Figure 7.1: Location of all bowling greens in Tendring



Quality

Quality ratings are determined through non-technical assessments and club feedback. Most greens are managed and maintained by the individual sports clubs, whilst Council managed greens amount to three of the 11 greens. Ten of the 11 greens in the District are good quality, with the one standard quality green located at Happy Valley Bowling Club.

Happy Valley BC highlights that there are some issues with dog fouling, stones, litter and damage to the surface from unofficial use. The unofficial use of the green is despite a surrounding fence inhibiting unauthorised access. Despite these concerns the Club report that the quality of the green has not changed since last season.

Most responding clubs report that the quality of their green has improved since last season. In all cases, improvements have been as a result of an improved maintenance regime. The sites with improved green quality are also all maintained by the resident clubs, with maintenance costs funded through membership funds and voluntary work.

Ancillary facilities

Usually, security and the absence of fencing to help protect against inappropriate use of the greens is an issue, but in Tendring District, all responding clubs report that a surrounding fence is in place; limiting unofficial use. Two clubs, Parkeston Railway BC and Holland-on-Sea BC both report that there have been break ins, with the latter reporting that although nothing was stolen, significant damage to changing rooms, locks, doors and the alarm system occurred.

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Four of the seven responding clubs also report that ancillary facilities have improved since last season, all as a result of work by volunteers.

Ownership and management

Most greens are managed by the resident sports club and, in some cases, are rented or leased by clubs. Three greens are Council managed (27%), and eight (73%) are managed by sports clubs. Clubs are charged an annual fee for use of Council owned greens.

The Council funding for bowling greens in Tendring District may potentially be subject to change as it faces continuing budget pressures. Bowling green quality is heavily dependent on the quality of maintenance but this is often proportionally expensive in relation to the number of greens when compared to the supply of other sports pitches the Council maintains. It is important to highlight the potential for budgetary pressures to impact on the ability of the Council to maintain and sustain the current level of bowling green provision it manages.

There may be opportunities for clubs to take greater responsibility and to seek new investment which could both alleviate financial pressures and give clubs more autonomy in preparing and providing a facility which is able to meet their requirements. Further to this, the feasibility of long-term leasing could present opportunities to both reduce Council costs whilst allowing clubs to continue to maintain and ensure the viability of provision. This may see clubs taking on responsibility and costs of maintenance if they wished and were realistically able to do so to the required standard. However, should there be a change in approach consideration should be given as to whether the club or clubs in question are realistically equipped to assume greater responsibility for the site and whether they have the right resources and personnel base to sustain the asset to the required standard.

10.3: Demand

Clubs typically have several teams which play on multiple days of the week as part of different leagues. The main leagues servicing the area are:

- ◀ Tendring Hundred and District Bowling Association leagues
- ◀ Stanford Bowling League
- ◀ Windsor Bowling League

There are ten bowling clubs identified in the District, most with multiple teams playing various evenings and afternoons throughout the week. Many clubs, teams and bowlers may play in a number of leagues simultaneously throughout the week and so although there may be a large number of teams; many are made up of the same players, thus representing a smaller player base. The analysis below summarises information where known, gathered from consultation with clubs:

- ◀ The level of membership of clubs varies from 30 to 100 members.
- ◀ Parkeston Railway BC has the fewest with 30 members.
- ◀ Clacton-on-Sea BC has the most with 100 members.
- ◀ Junior membership is only recorded at Dovercourt BC.

Bowling has experienced an overall decline in participation nationally which may be due to access to facilities in some cases; however, most clubs acknowledge a lack of interest in the sport amongst the local community, with few new bowlers taking up the sport. This adds to a player base which is largely drawn from the elderly community and in most cases the fall in

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numbers has been attributed to ageing players, with a lack of younger players coming through. That said, Clacton-on-Sea BC report that there has been an increase in members in the past three years, which the Club report is due to the increased amount of competitive fixtures available.

Pay and play

Council managed greens are available for pay and play but little demand for this type of recreational use is reported. There are a number of reasons that contribute to this. Many Council greens are fenced which discourages the public from accessing the greens. There is a lack of advertising and promotion which also makes it difficult to attract the public on a 'pay and play' basis whilst access is generally operated by key holders from the resident club at most greens, with nobody onsite to operate pay and play other than when club members are using the green themselves.

Some clubs report that pay and play is not available at club sites, however, it is accepted that potential players may access the green with existing members as a trial, before then deciding whether to become a club member.

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2014-2033) the number of persons aged 65 and over in Tendring District is likely to increase from 40,702 in 2014 to 56,800 in 2033. This represents an increase of 39.6%.

Sport England Market Segmentation shows that the majority of people who play bowls in Tendring District are Elsies/Arnolds (retired singles) or Franks (retired twilight year gents). In total the tool shows segments representing retired participants (additionally including Normas and Ralphs/Phyllis') to account for the majority of people playing bowls in the District. As people of retirement age in the 65+ age band are the most likely to play bowls, future population increases suggest demand for bowling greens is likely to increase. However, this is based solely on population forecasts and does not take into account the decline in playing numbers nationally, whilst people may not necessarily take up bowling just because they are increasing in age.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

Capacity 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 is operating but may be empty for the rest of the week. However, in many cases greens are used during the afternoons by club members who bowl socially.

It is generally considered by Bowls England that a green accommodating less than 60 playing members is considered to have spare capacity for further play. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

Based on this guidance and known membership figures from club responses, Clacton-on-Sea and Parkeston Railway bowling clubs are considered to have spare capacity. Whilst, a remaining three sites are considered to be operating above the recommended capacity level, notably at Holland-on-Sea and Happy Valley bowling clubs. It should be noted that none of the greens in the District are operating below the membership level under which the sustainability of the green becomes questionable.

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Table 7.3: Club membership use of bowling greens (where known)

Site ID	Site name	Number of greens	Clubs	No of members
18	Frinton Park Playing Field	1	Frinton on Sea BC	65
23	Kirby Playing Field	1	Kirby-le-Soken BC	Unknown
30	Mistley Cricket Club	1	Mistley & Manningtree BC	Unknown
33	Regent Road Recreation Ground	1	Brightlingsea BC	Unknown
46	Colchester Bowls Club	1	Colchester BC	Unknown
47	Dovercourt Bowling Club	1	Dovercourt BC	51
48	Parkeston Railway Bowling Club	1	Parkeston Railway BC	30
49	Holland-on-sea Bowling Club	1	Holland-on-Sea BC	83
50	Clacton-on-sea Bowling Club	2	Clacton-on-Sea BC	100
79	Happy Valley Bowling Club	1	Happy Valley BC	85

7.5: Conclusions

There is sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to accommodate current demand across Tendring District. Existing provision is also enough to cater for the likely level of demand in future given a national trend of decline in participation and an ageing membership demographic. The supply will only remain sufficient if surface quality is not adversely affected by greens operating above the recommended threshold.

Bowling greens summary

- There is sufficient supply of outdoor bowling greens to accommodate current demand across Tendring District. Existing provision is also enough to cater for the likely level of demand in future given a national trend of decline in participation and an ageing membership demographic.
- There are 11 flat bowling greens in the District provided across ten sites with one double green site. There are no crown greens in Tendring District.
- Most greens in Tendring District are rated as good quality (ten greens), with the remaining green assessed as standard (one green) quality.
- Most greens are managed by clubs. Of the 11 total greens in the District, there are just three Council managed greens (27%).
- There are ten clubs using bowling greens in Tendring District and membership of responding clubs ranges from 30 to 100 members.
- Three sites are considered to be operating above the recommended capacity level, notably Holland-on-Sea and Happy Valley bowling clubs.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Department of Media Culture and Sport 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.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

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National Planning Policy Framework

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.

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.

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- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

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England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities.

‘The right pitches in the right places’¹⁴

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ✦ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ✦ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ✦ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH's new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

¹⁴

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

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Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. 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.