

Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

Assessment Report

A Report



For Erewash Borough Council

November 2022

**Document prepared by Tetra Tech Environmental and Planning
Limited**

tetratecheurope.com

T Tetra Tech Group Limited. Registered in England number: 6595608

Registered Office: 3 Sovereign Square, Sovereign Street, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS1 4ER

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In May 2021, Erewash Borough Council appointed Tetrattech to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This strategy updates the existing PPOSS which is dated April 2017.

1.1.2 This document sets out the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment for the Borough. The Strategy, which sets out how the issues identified in this assessment will be addressed, is found under separate cover.

1.1.3 The primary purpose of the assessment and strategy documents is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the Borough.

1.2 Key Drivers

1.2.1 The key drivers for the production of this PPS are;

- Help protect, enhance and improve existing pitch and sports facility provision
- Inform the production of the emerging Local Plan
- Understand the impact of projected population growth and new housing development on demand for playing fields and sports facilities
- Ensure efficient management and maintenance of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
- Provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- Help improve health and wellbeing through participation in sport.

1.3 Vision and Objectives

1.3.1 The vision and objectives remain similar to those set in the 2017 strategy. The strategy therefore seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- To ensure that the supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities is accessible and sufficient to meet current and projected future need
- To provide outdoor sports facilities of appropriate quality; and
- To support increasing participation in outdoor sports alongside sustainable club development.

1.3.2 More specifically, it will;

- Provide a clear understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches at individual sites
- Understand the adequacy of provision to meet current and future demand across the Borough
- Identify the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches
- Provide recommendations and action plans to enhance future delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and to address the issues identified.

1.4 Structure and Scope

1.4.1 The assessment and strategy consider the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future need and sets strategic and site-specific priorities for the following sports;

- Football (grass pitches and 3G)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union (grass pitches and 3G)
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Bowls.

1.4.2 The report is structured as follows;

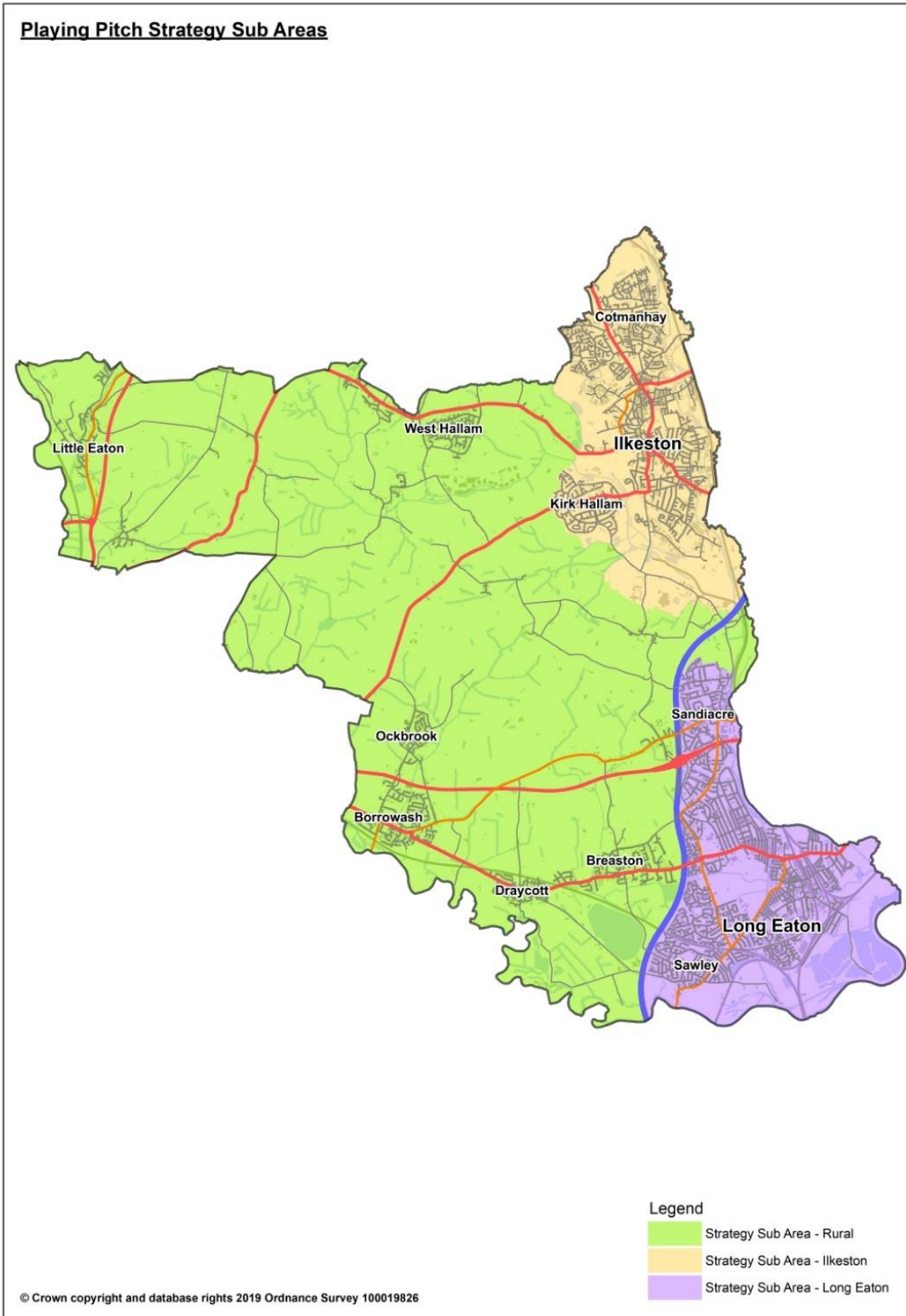
- Section 2: Methodology - this section sets out the methodology undertaken
- Section 3: Strategic Context - this section summarises the key issues in the Borough relating to demographics, health and wellbeing and the facility implications
- Section 4: Cricket - this section outlines the current picture for cricket and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 5: Rugby Union - this section outlines the current picture for rugby union and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 6: Hockey - this section outlines the current picture for hockey and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 7: Tennis - this section outlines the current picture for tennis and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 8: Bowls - this section outlines the current picture for bowls and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand
- Section 9: Football - this section outlines the current picture for football and evaluates the adequacy of existing provision to meet current and projected future demand.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The assessment and strategy have been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2014) and 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013). The assessment of playing pitches and outdoor sports use slightly different approaches. Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) is used to assess outdoor sports, refer to paragraph 2.7, whilst Playing Pitch Guidance (PPS Guidance) is used to assess playing pitches.
- 2.1.2 The remainder of this section summarises the key principles of each methodology and the tasks that have been undertaken at each stage. Work has been tailored to the needs of Erewash Borough following detailed discussions with the project steering group taking into account local knowledge and a clear understanding of the patterns of sports participation.
- 2.1.3 To reflect the geographical features of Erewash and to link with other documents, the Borough has been subdivided into 3 sub areas. These reflect the Sub Areas identified in the Erewash Borough Council Local Plan and are illustrated in Map 2.1 overleaf.
- 2.1.4 These sub areas have been designed to be reflect the characters of the different parts of the borough. They comprise;
- **Long Eaton and Sandiacre** – located to the south East of the Borough, this area includes the key urban towns of Long Eaton and Sandiacre and is mainly urban.
 - **Ilkeston** – located to the north-east of the Borough, the area encompasses the settlement of Ilkeston, as well as Cotmanhay and Kirk Hallam. Again, the area is predominantly urban.
 - **Rural area** – represents the remainder of the Borough and is rural in nature. It includes the settlements of Little Eaton, West Hallam, Ockbrook, Borrowash, Draycott and Breaston. This area is geographically large and settlements are well dispersed.
- 2.1.5 The sub areas use the motorway as a barrier to the rural area. It should be noted however that while Friesland School falls just into the rural area as it is located over the motorway, it has been categorised within the Long Eaton and Sandiacre sub area, as it is this population that the school serves.

Map 2.1 - Sub Areas of Erewash Borough



2.1.6 This PPS has been prepared during 2021 / 2022 at the end of Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst sport has, during the time the assessment was prepared, returned mostly to normal, the following should be noted;

- All steering group meetings have been virtual, and all club and local stakeholder consultation has also been carried out virtually or by telephone rather than face to face.
- Whilst play has taken place during the 2021 season, it is acknowledged that limited activity occurred during 2020 and maintenance procedures also deviated from usual practices. Pitch quality assessments have therefore been scrutinised more than normal in order to ensure that the findings are representative of normal conditions for each pitch.
- The impact that Covid has had on participation has been considered and this is documented within the report. There may be long term impacts arising out of the pandemic that are not yet known at the time of writing.

2.1.7 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a playing pitch strategy for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. It advocates a 10- step approach illustrated in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1 – Ten Step Approach



2.1.8 The tasks undertaken to deliver this PPS are summarised in brief in the section that follows.

2.2 Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance

2.3 Step 1 - Tailoring the Approach

- 2.3.1 The assessment and strategy have been developed in partnership with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport and a steering group has been established to guide the preparation of the PPOSS. In addition to supporting the preparation of the assessment and strategy document, Sport England and the NGBs are also committed to assisting the Council with the ongoing monitoring, updating and delivery of the PPOSS.
- 2.3.2 The initial phase of work included detailed discussions with all key partners in order to tailor the approach that would be taken to consultation and site audits, drawing upon the local knowledge and experience of how each sport is played in the Borough.

2.4 Steps 2 and 3 - Gather Supply and Demand Information and Views

Supply

- 2.4.1 The data collection process included a full audit of pitches across the Borough. For each site, the following information was collected;
- Site name, location, ownership and management type
 - Number and type of pitches and outdoor sports facilities
 - Accessibility of pitches to the community
 - Overall quality of pitches and ancillary facilities (including maintenance regimes)
 - Level of protection and security of tenure
 - Views of users and providers.

- 2.4.2 PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field.

‘Playing pitch – a delineated area, 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.’

- 2.4.3 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

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

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 5 years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field - this remains its lawful planning use whether marked out or not.

- 2.4.4 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 pitch stock, 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).

Disused Sites

- 2.4.5 In addition to the currently active sites identified within this PPS, it should be noted that playing field policy also considers sites that are disused. Whilst sites that are disused for more than 5 years fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit, they still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 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.
- 2.4.6 There are some sites (primarily owned by the local authority) where playing fields have been provided in the past but are not currently used as playing fields. This is primarily as a result of the lack of demand. These will be reported in the site-specific sections, but include;
- Bare Lane Recreation Ground
 - Millhouse Field
 - Stanley Recreation Ground.
- 2.4.7 All of the above sites currently function as informal recreation areas (i.e could be used for informal rather than competitive football) and offer the potential to host formal play if necessary. The strategy document will consider the future requirements for these playing fields.
- 2.4.8 As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches and outdoor sports facilities within Erewash Borough, there may however be instances where a site is omitted as it has not been identified at the time of the audit. Where sites have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view. The strategy document will seek to ensure that the list of sites within the Borough is kept up to date as any omissions arise.

Demand

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

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

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

- Review of existing data on playing fields and the Sport England Active Places tool
- Review of NGB data on pitches, outdoor sports facilities and local participation
- Analysis of local league websites, fixture lists and pitch booking records
- Use of available technical quality assessment reports and Pitch Power data
- Non-technical site visits
- Distribution of a detailed survey and follow up consultation with secondary schools and other schools with community use
- A full programme of consultation with sports clubs and league secretaries
- Consultation with Parish Councils
- Face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities.

2.4.11 A high proportion of teams in Erewash Borough successfully engaged with the process as set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Club Survey Response Rate

Football	Cricket	Rugby Union	Hockey	Tennis	Bowls
88%	90%	100%	60%	100%	70%

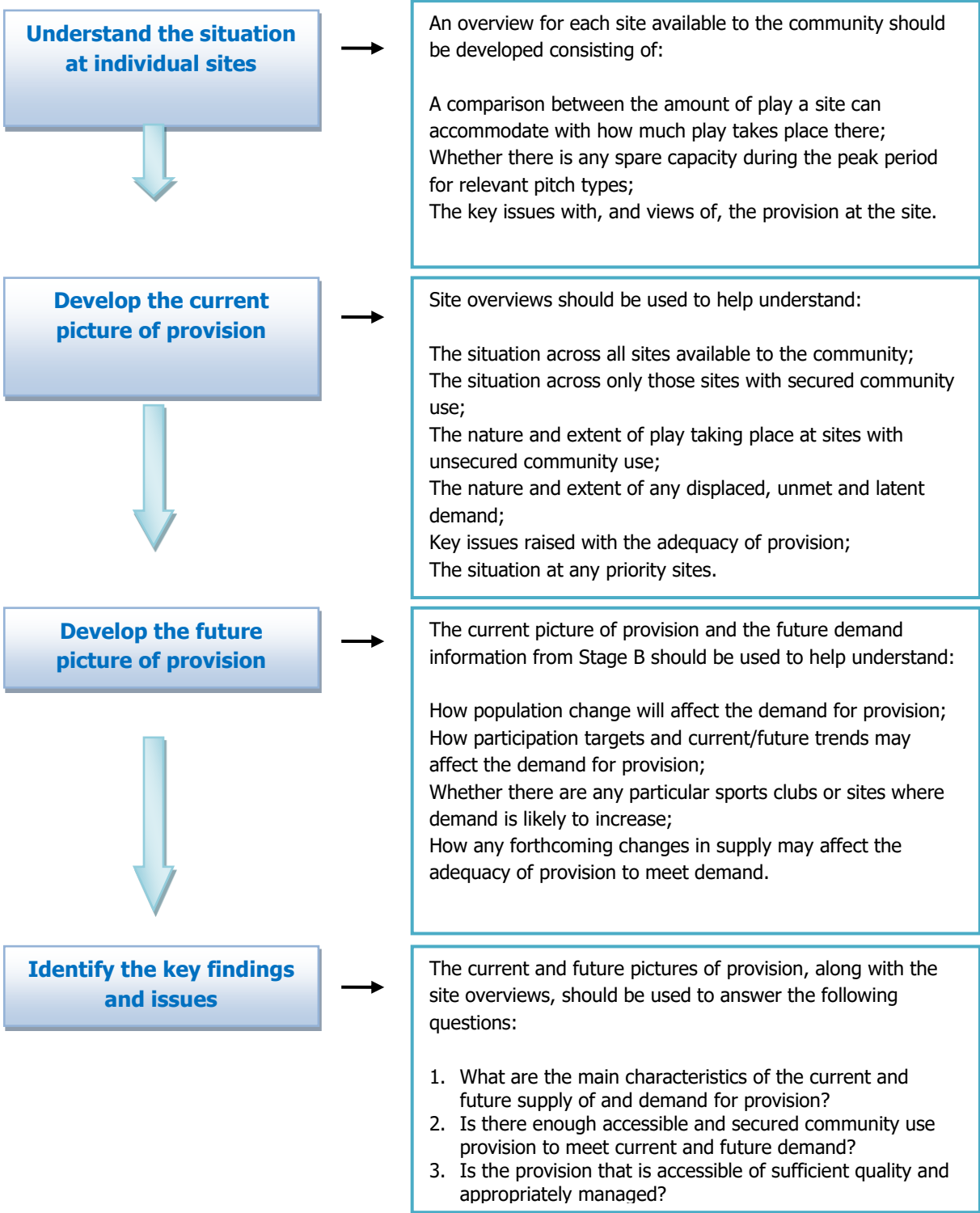
2.5 Steps 4, 5 and 6 – Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

2.5.1 The supply and demand information collated has been used, in line with the Sport England methodology, to update calculations undertaken in the previous assessment to;

- Understand the situation at individual sites
- Develop the current and projected future pictures for each sport; and
- Identify the key findings and issues that need to be addressed.

2.5.2 Figure 2.2 overleaf, extracted directly from the guidance (Sport England 2013), provides further detail of the issues explored during the analysis of the adequacy of provision.

Figure 2.2: Overview of the Assessment Process



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

2.6.1 The strategy and action plan document will build upon the issues identified to set out a strategic framework for the provision of pitches. Recommendations and priorities will be developed following extensive scenario testing and in conjunction with key stakeholders (both internal to the Council and external). The resulting action plan will be used to inform the delivery of the key priorities and to monitor the success of the strategy.

2.6.2 Monitoring of the strategy and regular updates will take on even greater importance than normal, as the full impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on participation and facilities is as of yet unknown.

2.7 Non-Pitch Sports - Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2013)

2.7.1 For bowls and tennis, the assessment stages (Phase A) of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are as follows;

- **Stage 1** – Prepare and tailor your assessment
- **Stage 2** – Gather information on supply and demand
- **Stage 3** – Assessment, bring the information together.

2.7.2 The key tasks undertaken in relation to the assessment are briefly summarised below.

2.8 Stage 1: Undertaking an Assessment:

2.8.1 The approach was tailored following detailed discussions with the steering group.

2.9 Stage 2: Gather Information on Supply and Demand

2.9.1 To gather information on supply, visits were made to all bowling greens and tennis courts, and assessments made of their quality, maintenance and 'fit for purpose' rating. Discussions were held with operators, managers and users.

2.9.2 To gather information on demand, questionnaires were sent (many with follow up phone calls and/or visits) to all known sports clubs. Consultation also took place with national and regional governing body of sport representatives.

2.10 Stage 3: Assessment – Bring the Information Together

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

2.11 B Application of Assessment – Strategy Development

2.11.1 Recommendations and strategy priorities are developed to address the issues identified through the data collection and analysis undertaken in Step A. An action plan is developed, identifying both strategy and site-specific priorities.

2.12 Summary

2.12.1 This is the assessment report. It summarises the key issues arising from the assessment of facilities and informs the preparation of the strategy document (under separate cover). For each of the sports covered, it aims to;

- Summarise the current supply of facilities
- Outline current demand and evaluate likely future demand based upon population growth
- Evaluate the overall adequacy of provision to meet current and projected future demand and
- Identify the key issues for each sport the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy to address.

2.12.2 The strategy document will build on the issues identified and set out strategic priorities and actions for delivery. It will use scenario testing to determine the most appropriate course of action for each sport.

2.12.3 To inform the analysis of the current and projected future picture for each sport and to provide context for the sport specific issues discussed, Section 3 briefly summarises the strategic context, as well as the demographic profile of Erewash Borough.

3.0 Strategic Context, Population and Sports Participation Profile

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 An understanding of the local strategic context, population and sports participation trends is essential in order to ensure that the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy is tailored to the characteristics, profile and aspirations of Erewash Borough.

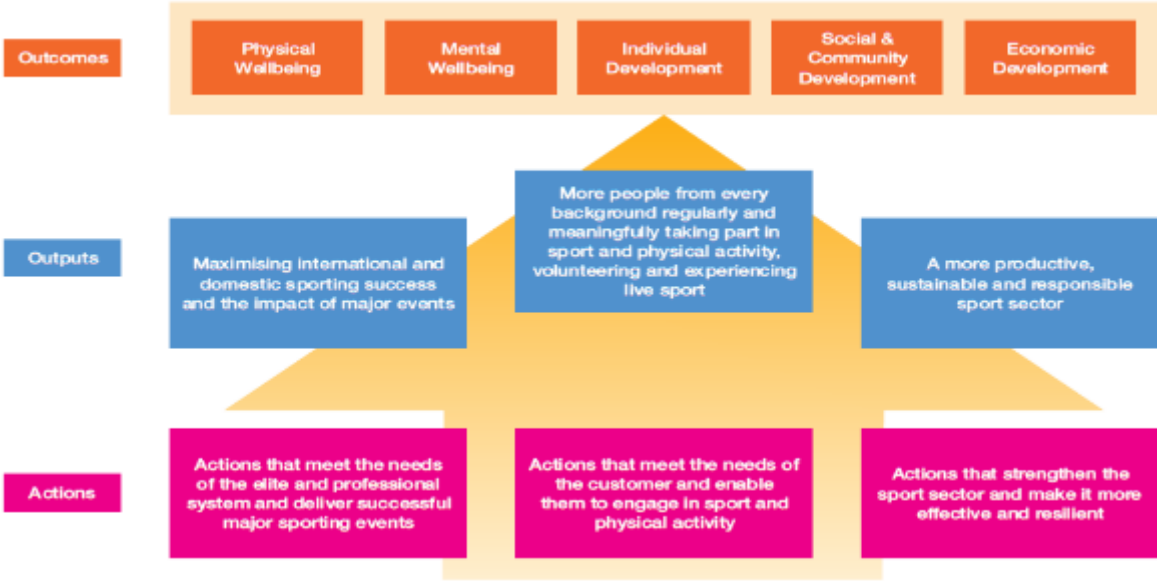
3.1.2 This section therefore briefly summarises the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this assessment and strategy and provides an overview of the demographics and sports participation trends in the Borough.

3.2 Strategic Context

3.2.1 National

3.2.2 A national vision is set in ‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’. This document sets out a framework and outcomes that can be translated locally against issues and opportunities for the Borough. Figure 3.1 illustrates the Government framework.

Figure 3.1 – Sporting Future Framework



3.2.4 This framework lists 5 Core Outcomes: developing physical and mental well-being, individual development, social and community development and economic development. The model includes key outputs such as 'more people from every background regularly and meaningfully taking part in sport'.

3.2.5 To facilitate this, it is recognised that several actions will need to take place to drive behavioural change. The effective provision of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities will be key in helping to achieve the goals of this framework locally across Erewash.

3.2.6 **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** clearly establishes the requirement for local plans to ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs. The NPPF's expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is set out in paragraphs 98 and 99 which require there to be a sound (i.e., up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application. Paragraph 98 indicates that:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including qualitative or quantitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.'

3.2.7 Paragraph 99 states that: *'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

3.2.8 The preparation of this playing pitch assessment and strategy will provide an evidence base to support Erewash Borough Council in delivering upon the requirements of this national policy as well as to contribute to the achievement of wider goals relating to sport and leisure participation.

3.3 Sport England

- 3.3.1 In January 2021, Sport England published 'Uniting the Movement', its new strategy which sets a vision for the next 10 years. The strategy sets a vision of '*a nation of equal, inclusive and connected communities and a country where people live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives*' and highlights that being active is one of the most effective and sustainable ways of achieving this.
- 3.3.2 It replaces the previous strategy, 'Towards an Active Nation' which was aimed at tackling inactivity. This document outlined how Sport England would deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's 2015 Sporting Future strategy.
- 3.3.3 The new strategy seeks to ensure that sport and physical activity is to be recognised as essential to help overcome national challenges. It highlights that before the Covid 19 pandemic, record levels of activity were being achieved in England. It is important to both get that momentum back, but also to reach people who have traditionally been excluded.
- 3.3.4 The strategy sets three objectives;
- Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity
 - Joining forces on five big issues
 - Creating the catalysts for change.
- 3.3.5 With regards advocating for Sport and Physical Activity, the strategy indicates that key tasks of Sport England will include;
- Establishing, building and growing partnerships
 - Developing and delivering behavioural change campaigns
 - Promoting the value of sport and physical activity as part of the solution and communicating the power of being activity.
- 3.3.6 This playing pitch assessment and strategy will help the local authorities and its partners to ensure that an effective network of facilities is in place to support and engage with these priorities.
- 3.3.7 The five big issues highlighted that Sport England will seek to address are of particular relevance to this playing pitch strategy and are as follows;

- **Recover and reinvent** – responding to the short, medium and long term challenges of Covid 19 and supporting organisations and people to return to activity that's stronger, more relevant and more inclusive than before.
- **Connecting communities** – working in collaboration with communities - local people and organisations. This will include investing in clubs and charities and collaborating on local solutions, helping to deliver the outcomes that are needed through sport.
- **Positive experiences for children and young people** – working to ensure that every child / young person experiences the enjoyment and benefits that being active can bring. This will include using sport and physical activity to improve mental and physical wellbeing, creating and protecting quality and safe places and spaces for children to play and enjoy being active outdoors and embracing technology and the digital world.
- **Connecting with health and wellbeing** – ensuring that sport and physical activity is at the heart of health and wellbeing both in terms of stopping health problems arising in the first place, but also supporting people to manage problems when they do arise.
- **Active Environments** – the strategy recognises a range of environments, from dedicated leisure facilities and playing fields, other community spaces (parks / open spaces / community centres and schools) through to the built environment (streets / housing estates etc). The strategy focuses upon making activity easier for everyone and focuses upon the protection and improvement of sport and leisure facilities (as well as the innovation of new designs and operational models), the creation of opportunities around community spaces and the creation of better places to live through an influence on design.

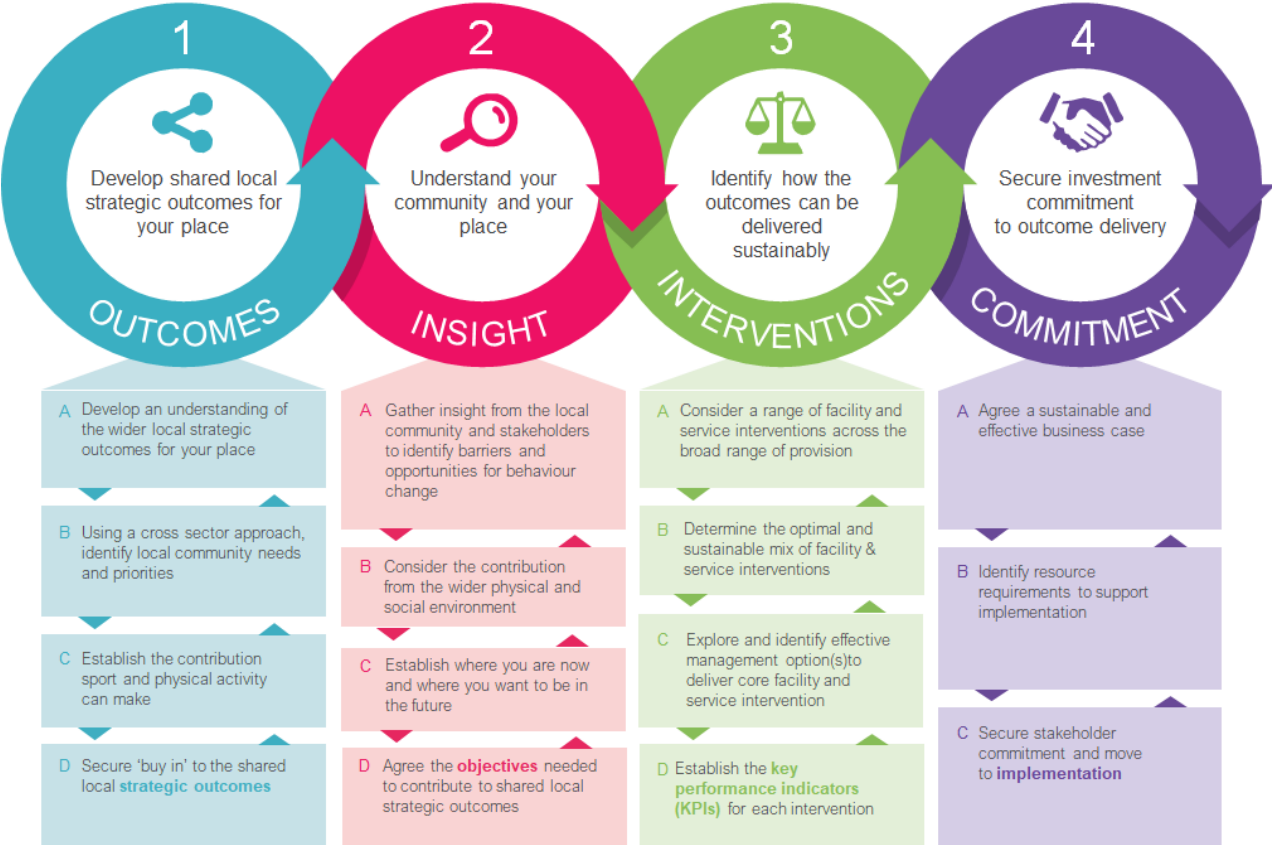
3.3.8 The strategy therefore makes clear recommendations with an emphasis placed on working collaboratively locally to promote and increase the number of active people. It focusses on investment driven by local need that drives down inequalities and puts physical activity and sport at the heart of life.

3.3.9 These national drivers provide an essential context for understanding the picture in Erewash and it will be important to understand how continued investment in facilities can contribute to achieving the targets around physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and so on. Indeed, clarity in these aspects should facilitate even greater engagement in the future with public health partners, education and business sectors.

Sport England’s Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance

3.3.10 Sport England has recently published this guidance to assist local authorities to take a strategic approach to maximising the contribution that sport and physical activity makes to its local outcomes. This guidance has four stages, as set out in figure 3.2

Figure 3.2: Sport England’s Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance



3.3.11 Sport and physical activity are increasingly seen as a co-producer of local outcomes and local authorities across the country are using their services, assets, partnerships and infrastructure to make a significant contribution to their residents’ lives as a direct provider, commissioner or enabler.

3.3.12 Sport England’s guidance shows that having a clear, strategic and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity is essential to making effective investment into provision – both facilities and services.

3.3.13 The guidance is structured around 4 stages;

- **Stage 1 – Outcomes** – Developing shared local outcomes for your place
- **Stage 2 – Insight** – Understand your community and your place
- **Stage 3 – Interventions** – Identify how the outcomes can be delivered sustainably
- **Stage 4 – Commitment** – Secure investment and commitment to outcome delivery.

3.3.14 This Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy is a key component of the evidence base for Stage 2 of this model– Insight.

3.4 Sport England Playing Field Policy

3.4.1 If physical activity is to be maintained and improved, existing facilities must be protected. Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long-established policy of retention, which is the precursor to the National Planning Policy Framework guidance above. The policy indicates that:

3.4.2 *Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of;*

- *All or any part of a playing field, or*
- *Land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or*
- *Land allocated for use as a playing field unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.*

3.4.3 Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up-to-date assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this. Sport England recommend that a strategy is monitored and updated annually and refreshed every three years. This assessment will support the Council in implementing a robust strategic approach to the delivery of pitches.

3.4.4 The importance of the ongoing protection of playing fields is also highlighted within the new Sport England strategy and this assessment and strategy will therefore help to deliver these objectives.

3.5 Local Strategies

3.5.1 We have undertaken a review of the local policy documents to help identify the context for the production of this PPOSS at a local level. This is briefly summarised in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Local Strategic Documents

<p>Erewash Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-2023</p>	<p>The Borough Council Corporate Plan is based upon community consultation and sets out the ambitions of the Council and how they will be met over the next three years.</p> <p>The plan focuses on four strategic themes, specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A welcoming Borough that is clean and safe • Support our communities • Planning for the future • A well run, efficient Council. <p>The strategy identifies a series of service delivery plans, outlining how they will contribute to the delivery of the aims and objectives of the plan. The effective provision of facilities for sport and physical activity will play a role in meeting the above objectives, with the plan specifically highlighting the need for their Sports and Health Development team to improve and promote the healthy lifestyle of their residents;</p> <p><i>'The team will continue to work with key partners to create resilient communities in Erewash and provide more opportunities for residents to become physically active'</i></p> <p>There are also aspirations to promote physical exercise amongst residents, with particular emphasis on tackling obesity and an unequal life expectancy rate.</p> <p>The provision of an effective and accessible network of facilities will be essential if this is to be achieved.</p>
<p>Erewash Borough Council Core Strategy (2011 -2028)</p>	<p>The Erewash Borough Council Core Strategy presents the Council's overall vision and strategy for the borough over the period 2011 – 2028. It sets out a series of core policies. Those of direct relevance to this PPOSS include;</p> <p>Policy 13: Culture, Sport and Tourism;</p> <p>The aims of the policy are to maintain and improve existing facilities and to encourage investment of new sporting facilities where this compliments the strengths of existing facilities located in Erewash;</p> <p><i>'Sporting and cultural facilities are an important part of the tourism and visitor offer of Erewash. These facilities are also important in the ongoing economic development of the area, both directly and through their contribution to the area's quality of life. As such, existing facilities will be protected and enhanced where they are viable'</i></p> <p><i>'When considering new development, account will be taken of the catchment to be served by facilities and the impact of traffic on local residents. Any proposals put forward in the Green Belt will also be considered in the context of Green Belt Policy 3'.</i></p> <p>Overall, the implementation of this policy seeks to increase sporting activity, measuring the success by tracking the participation in sport across the borough.</p> <p>Policy 16: Green Infrastructure, Parks and Open Space:</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish green infrastructure corridors and assets.</p> <p><i>'New or enhanced Green Infrastructure corridors and assets should be as inclusive as possible and multifunctional, looking to make provision for more than one of the following;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) access to employment and leisure facilities and to Green Infrastructure corridors or assets and the countryside; b) physical activity and well-being opportunities for local residents such as formal sports provision; c) educational resource for local residents d) opportunities for sustainable leisure and tourism'

	<p>Policy 19: Developer Contributions</p> <p>Emphasises the need for developers to contribute to the infrastructure requirements of the borough including community facilities and open space for sports and recreation.</p> <p><i>‘All development will be expected to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) meet the reasonable cost of new infrastructure required as a consequence of the proposal;</i> <i>b) where appropriate, contribute to the delivery of necessary infrastructure to enable the cumulative impacts of developments to be managed, including identified transport infrastructure requirements; and</i> <i>c) provide for the future maintenance of facilities provided as a result of the development’</i> <p>This PPOSS will support the council in the delivery of these policies, providing evidence to support the protection and improvement of existing facilities and an understanding of where new provision may be required. It will also provide an understanding of the impact that new housing developments will have on demand for playing fields and sports facilities.</p> <p>The Borough Council are in the early stages of reviewing the Core Strategy – the findings of this PPS will inform this and provide the supporting evidence behind proposed policies.</p>
<p>Erewash Core Strategy Review - Options for Growth - March 2021</p>	<p>The Revised Options for Growth document seeks to review the existing policies within the Core Strategy in order to ensure that enough new housing is provided.</p> <p><i>The document builds on the 2020 Options for Growth Consultation and sets out the response to further consultation and the proposed growth strategy for the Borough.</i></p> <p>The location of proposed growth will have significant impact on the demand for playing fields and outdoor sports facilities and this will be taken into account, and the specific impact evaluated, within this strategy document.</p>
<p>Active Derbyshire – Making Our Move</p>	<p>Active Derbyshire seek to address inequality and empower everyone to be active in a way that works for them. Their documented aims include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a culture where everyone can be active • Enabling children and young people to have positive experiences of being active throughout their childhood • Working with people and communities who experience the greatest need • Maximising the potential of being active to improve physical and mental health • Creating accessible, safe and inclusive places and environments for physical activity <p>The provision of an effective network of facilities will be critical to the achievement of these goals not just across Erewash, but across Derbyshire as a whole.</p>

3.5.2 The assessment therefore directly informs and links with the issues and priorities raised in many of the above local strategic documents. It also looks to reflect the priorities of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport set out in their facility strategies. These include;

- National Football Facilities Strategy (2020) and Grassroots Facilities Investment Strategy – The FA
- National Facilities Strategy – The RFU
- 'Inspiring Generations' – England and Wales Cricket Board
- England Hockey National Strategy (2017)
- RFL National Facilities Strategy.

3.5.3 The key priorities of these documents in relation to facilities will be explored in the sport specific sections.

3.6 Demographics and Population Profile

3.6.1 A variety of different population data is available to provide a picture of the residents living in the Borough. This assessment seeks to use the most up to date data that is available at the level that is required. The most up to date picture of the existing residents can be found in the 2020 mid-year data set and this has therefore been used to inform the below evaluation.

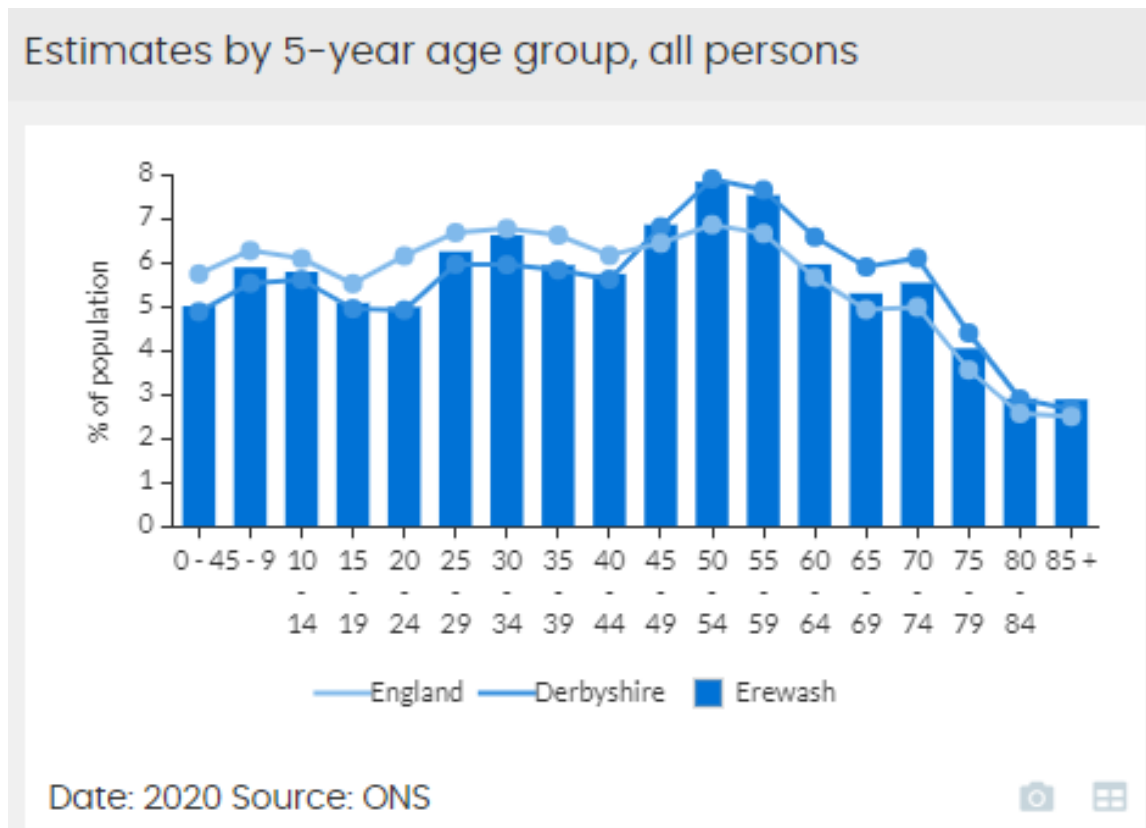
3.6.2 The total population living in Erewash is 115,332. Of these residents, 61.6% fall within the age brackets age 16 – 64, a slightly lower proportion than in England as a whole.

3.6.3 Figure 3.1 illustrates the age profile of the Borough (extracted from Sport England Borough Profiles) with data from ONS. It reveals that;

- The proportion of residents aged below 18 is significantly below England averages although it is broadly in line with Derbyshire averages
- The proportion of people aged above 65 is above national averages, although it falls below Derbyshire averages.

3.6.4 Age profile can influence the amount and type of activity that takes place - with an ageing population, the propensity of residents of the Borough to participate in sport and physical activity is likely to be lower than that nationally.

Figure 1: Borough Wide Age Profile



3.6.5 The above mid-year 2020 data will be used to provide the baseline figures for the Team Generation Rate (TGR) calculations in this assessment, as it represents the most up to date estimate of current population available in single year age brackets.

Population Projections

3.6.6 The use of population projections enables us to provide an indicative forecast of the impact that population growth and changes to the population profile will have on demand for pitch and outdoor sports facilities.

3.6.7 The 2018 Sub National Population Projections represent the most up to date available data set containing single year population projections by local authority and this assessment therefore draws upon these figures and compares the projected position up to 2038 with the current position (based on the 2020 mid-year estimates, which again represent the most up to date available picture of the current population).

3.6.8 They indicate that the existing population will rise from the current base of 115,332 (2020 mid-year estimates) to 120,003 by 2032 and 122,290 by 2038. This therefore suggests that population growth will equate to 6,958 people. It should be noted that this is indicative only, as the 2014 sub national population projections indicate that growth will be much higher, and the housing requirements for the Borough (5800) may also result in higher growth, depending upon the type of houses provided. It is clear however that whichever source of population data used, the number of people living in Erewash Borough over the strategy period is likely to increase.

3.6.9 Whilst it is clear that there will be growth in the number of people in the Borough, analysis of the population profile suggests that the increase in demand for playing fields may not necessarily be proportional to the population growth that will be experienced. Although the total number of people living in the area will increase, there will be some small changes to the population profile. Table 3.2 summarises this and indicates that it is in the population aged 76 and over (who are least likely to participate in pitch and outdoor sports) where the greatest increase in the number of residents will occur. The proportion of residents aged 19 -45 will remain broadly similar, whilst a lower percentage will be aged 0 – 18 and 46 – 75. Given that residents aged 0-18 make up the demand for youth sport, this suggests that there will be an increase in demand, but that this will not be as high as the total population growth figure may suggest. Similarly, the high increase in older age groups compared to younger adult ages suggests that there will be some growth in the number of people playing adult sport, but that growth will not be to the same levels as the total proportional increase in population.

Table 3.2: Change in Participation Profile

Age Bracket	Total Population Current	Percentage of Population	of 2038	Percentage of Population
0-18	24115	20.9%	23743.05	19.4%
19 - 45	36405	31.6%	38968.15	31.9%
46 - 75	44579	38.7%	44671.49	36.5%
76 and over	10233	8.9%	14907.29	12.2%
	115332		122290	

3.6.10 Building on this, Table 3.3 summarises the potential impact on the number of people in age groups likely to play each sport covered by this PPS (using the age groups included within Team Generation Rates)

3.6.11 It indicates that there will be an increase in the number of people in age groups for football and rugby, with a lower impact on cricket, hockey and bowls.

Table 3.3: Number of People in each age group likely to play pitch sports

Sport	Current	Future 2038
Football	50808	55285
Cricket	69370	69934
Rugby	52153	54052
Hockey	63777	64954
Bowls	37241	37864

3.6.12 The direct impact on each sport in terms of teams generated will be considered in the sport specific sections.

Location of Proposed Growth

3.6.13 The Core Strategy Review Process that is currently underway will provide the detail on where future housing development will take place in the Borough.

3.6.14 As set out in Table 3.1, a minimum of 5800 new homes will be delivered. The strategy indicates that housing development will take place in the form of the provision of new strategic housing sites as well as numerous smaller sites.

3.6.15 The strategic sites that are proposed are;

- South Stanton – 1000 dwellings
- West of Acorn Way – 600 dwellings
- North of Spondon – 200 dwellings
- South west of Kirk Hallam – 1300 dwellings
- North of Cotmanhay – 250 dwellings.

3.6.16 As new housing development is likely to generate demand for additional pitch provision, it is important to consider where potential growth will be located.

3.6.17 Table 3.4 summarises the likely location of the proposed development by Sub Area. Where a strategic site falls slightly outside of the current sub area boundaries, it has been included within the area that it is considered to be associated with. This table assumes that 2.19 people will be based in each new dwelling.

Table 3.4: Location of New Housing Development

Sub Area	Small Sites (Number of Dwellings)	Strategic Sites (Number of Dwellings)	Total New Dwellings	Likely Population Increase
Ilkeston	1400 dwellings	South Stanton (1000 dwellings) South West of Kirk Hallam (1300 dwellings) North of Cotmanhay (250 homes)	3950 dwellings	8650
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	700 dwellings		700 dwellings	1533
Rural Area	350 dwellings	Acorn Way (600 dwellings) North of Spondon (200 homes)	1150 dwellings	2518

3.6.18 The above table therefore suggests that the amount of housing development will be particularly significant in Ilkeston and that demand is likely to increase particularly in this area. The assessment and strategy document will therefore need to take this into account.

3.7 Sports Participation Profile

3.7.1 As part of the previous Sport England strategy, Towards an Active Nation (2016), Sport England introduced a new national survey **Active Lives** to measure adult participation in sport and physical activity. Active Lives recognises the breadth of both formal and informal ways people choose to get active and stay healthy.

3.7.2 The most recent findings of this survey represent the 2019 – 2020 period. An insight into the impact of the first lockdown that occurred as a consequence of Covid 19 has also been produced.

3.7.3 At a national level, the findings of the survey demonstrate that;

- Walking for leisure showed growth across the 12 months
- While cycling for leisure, running and fitness activities were static
- Swimming, team sports and racket sports all recorded decreases across the 12 months.

3.7.4 The 2019 – 2020 period was however not typical due to the Covid lockdown, where activities available were severely restricted. Findings from previous years however demonstrated similar trends, indicating that;

- Traditional team sports and racket sports both indoors and outdoors were declining in participation.
- Individual based activities such as fitness and exercise classes were increasing in participation.
- There is an increase in adventure and thrill-based activities,
- Participation in all different categories of walking has a considerably higher rate of participation than any sport. Walking for leisure by all adults, has the highest rate of participation of any activity at 25% of all adults participating.

3.7.5 What appears apparent is that the time, organisation and fixed times for playing team sports, both indoor and outdoor were maybe becoming barriers to participation prior to covid. Individual sports and activities which require little organisation and are available at times that suit the lifestyle of participants are becoming more popular. This may have implications longer term on the demand for team sports considered within this Playing Pitch Strategy.

3.7.6 National Covid restrictions made participation in such sports more difficult, with facilities closed and then restrictions on the types of play that could take place. Outdoor activity was however impacted to a lower degree than indoor sports and for some sports, this has been a positive thing.

3.7.7 Reflecting this, since the covid pandemic, the Governing Bodies relating to the majority of sports considered within this strategy document have recorded increases in participation, suggesting that there may have been an overall positive impact on demand. There have however been some changes to the patterns of participation in some sports. This may be reflected in the findings of the Active Lives survey in future years.

- 3.7.8 Analysis of the most up to date version of the Active Lives survey indicates that 57% of the population are considered to be active. In contrast, 28% of the population in Erewash are considered to be physically inactive. This is above national and East Midland averages and suggests that there is significant scope to increase levels of activity in the Borough. An effective network of facilities will be essential if this is to be achieved.
- 3.7.9 Improving the amount of physical activity that takes place will be essential if exercise is to contribute to improvements in health. The proportion of people reporting themselves to be in good health is currently lower in Erewash than it is nationally and the proportion of people who indicate that their day-to-day activities are limited by their health is also higher than national averages (although lower than Derbyshire averages).

3.8 Summary

- 3.8.1 Analysis of the strategic and demographic context therefore demonstrates that;
- The contribution that health and physical activity can make to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of both national organisations as well as Erewash Borough Council and local partner organisations is clear– an effective facility infrastructure will be essential in the achievement of these goals
 - Although the population of the Borough is increasing it is the age groups that are less likely to participate in pitch sports where projected growth is highest. There will however be an increase in the number of people in the age groups likely to participate in pitch sports, and this may generate a consequential increase for demand for facilities
 - Participation levels in the Borough are lower than national and regional averages. An effective and sustainable facility infrastructure will be essential if participation is to be supported and inequalities in participation are to be removed.

4.0 Cricket

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for cricket. It includes;

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

4.2 Supply

4.2.1 Table 4.1 summarises the cricket facilities that are available across Erewash Borough. It demonstrates that there are 23 grass cricket squares in total. All of these facilities are available for community use, although pitches at Trent College are unsecured and there is no existing community use of these facilities. This total includes a grass square at West Park that is newly prepared for this season.

4.2.2 There are also 12 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs), two of which are located at sites that do not contain grass cricket squares (Long Eaton School and Friesland School). The pitch at Friesland School is in very poor condition and is not used and the school indicate that they are now awaiting its removal.

4.2.3 This represents the same level of provision as that identified in 2017. While Gallows Inn Playing Fields no longer contains a cricket ground, an extra square has been provided at West Park.

Table 4.1: Cricket Provision in Erewash

Site	Sub Area	Grass Squares	Non-Turf Pitches	Community Use Status	Status	Ownership / management
Cock Orchard (Off Cat and Fiddle Lane)	Rural	1	0	Unsecured	Available for use and used	Owned by private individual, rented by club
Breadsall Memorial Hall and Playing Fields	Rural	1	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned by Breadsall Memorial Hall and Playing Fields Association, Club rent

Site	Sub Area	Grass Squares	Non-Turf Pitches	Community Use Status	Status	Ownership / management
Crompton Ground	Rural	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Club owned and managed
Friesland School	Long Eaton / Sandiacre boundary	0	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Community School
Long Eaton School	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	0	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Independent School
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Rural	2	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned and Managed by Club
Ockbrook And Borrowash Cricket Club	Rural	2	1	Unsecured	Available for use and used	Owned by private individual. Club previously have had lease but currently rent.
Risley Cricket Ground	Rural	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned by hospice, managed by club
Rutland Sports Park	Ilkeston	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Erewash Borough Council, club have lease
The Stute	Ilkeston	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned and managed by Ilkeston Rugby Club
Sandiacre Town Cricket Club (Longmoor Lane)	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	1	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned and managed by club
Sandiacre Town Cricket Club (Risley Lane) - Soldiers and Sailors Sports Ground	Rural (but close to Long Eaton Sandiacre boundaries.	1	0	Unsecured	Available for use and used	Owned by private individual, rented
Trent College	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	4	3	Unsecured	Not used by the community	
West Park	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	5	1	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned and managed by Erewash Borough Council
St Peters Park	Rural	1	0	Secured	Available for use and used	Owned by Little Eaton Parish Council

4.2.4 Table 4.1 demonstrates that in terms of numbers of sites, the majority of cricket provision is located within the rural sub area. West Park and Sandiacre Town are the only club-based facilities in Long Eaton / Sandiacre whilst Rutland Sports Park and The Stute are situated in Ilkeston. There are however a high number of squares in Long Eaton, as both West Park and Trent College are large sites.

4.2.5 While there are a good number of cricket facilities, it is clear that there are some concerns relating to security of tenure. Several sites are owned by private individuals and clubs rent these facilities without any long-term guarantee of availability. Key issues identified include;

- Ilkeston Rutland CC – only 10 years left on lease
- Ockbrook and Borrowash, previously leased from private owner (Brewery) but land sold and club do not currently have a lease
- Sandiacre Town CC – site of second ground bought by private individual and club do not have a long-term lease.

4.2.6 Added to the above, there are several other grounds where clubs only rent their facilities. These include squares at West Park, The Stute, Breadsall, St Peters Park. Whilst most of these facilities are rented from public bodies, The Stute is owned and managed by a rugby club (who highlight the challenges of providing a cricket pitch at an affordable cost).

4.2.7 Where clubs are not able to demonstrate long term security of tenure, they will struggle to access funding to support qualitative improvements.

4.2.8 Table 4.2 summarises the total provision by sub area. As noted, it reveals that provision in Ilkeston is much lower than in the other two areas (although some sites in the rural area are situated right on the borders of the Ilkeston Sub area). Although there are only a small number of sites in Long Eaton / Sandiacre, there are a high number of squares at both West Park and Trent College.

Table 4.2: Cricket Provision by Sub Area

Sub Area	Grass Squares	Non-Turf Pitches
Rural	10	4
Long Eaton / Sandiacre	11	6
Ilkeston	2	2

Lapsed / Disused Cricket Pitches

- 4.2.9 The majority of sites that have historically provided cricket pitches continue to do so. The only sites where it is known that cricket has previously been provided but no longer exist are;
- Beech Lane previously contained cricket facilities, but is now focused on football
 - A second square at Breadsall Memorial Fields
 - Gallows Inn Playing Fields.

4.3 Grass Pitch Quality

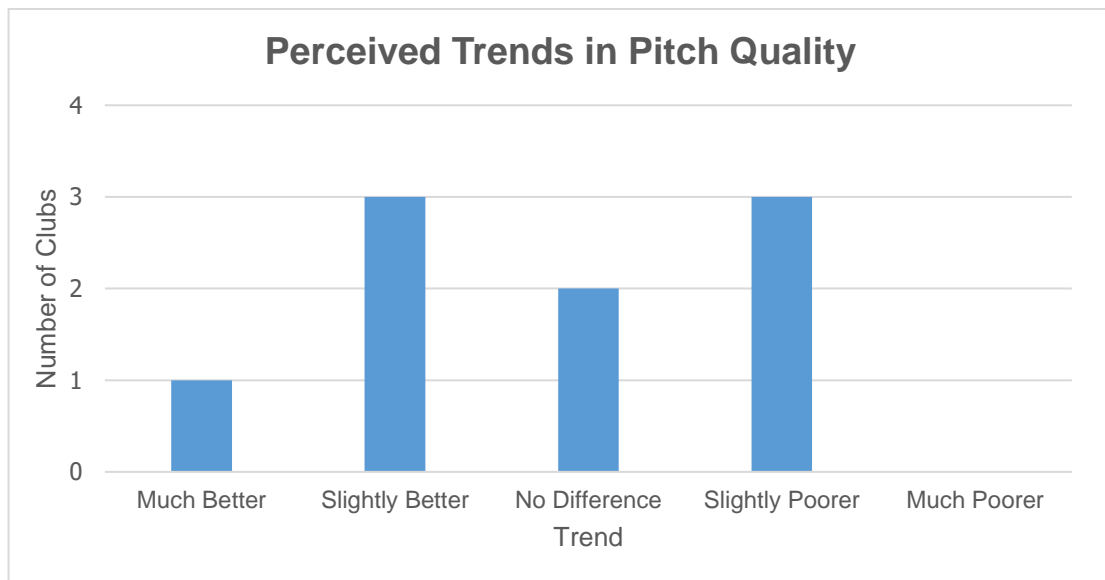
- 4.3.1 The quality of club cricket pitches was evaluated through a variety of means including site assessments and consultation.
- 4.3.2 Non-technical site assessments were undertaken as part of the assessment process. These were carried out during the cricket season and provide an overview of all sites.
- 4.3.3 Quality of ground is also a key requirement of participation in the Derbyshire Cricket League. At the conclusion of each fixture, the quality of the ground and square is rated by the opposition team and umpire, and any issues that need to be addressed are identified. Clubs must reach certain quality standards according to the division in which they play (clubs playing higher up the league must adhere to more stringent quality requirements). Key quality issues were discussed with representatives of the league.
- 4.3.4 Clubs were also asked to comment on the quality of their own facilities and quality issues were also discussed in full with the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation.
- 4.3.5 Final pitch ratings have been derived through the triangulation of data (NGB feedback, club and league feedback, site visits). This has enabled the production of an accurate picture of quality.

Trends in Pitch Quality

- 4.3.6 Chart 4.1 demonstrates that more clubs believe that the quality of their grounds has improved as opposed to declined, although there remain several sites where provision is reported to have worsened. Enhanced maintenance procedures were identified as the key reason for all clubs where improvements have been made, but in contrast, for those where pitches were thought to have declined, this was also attributed to maintenance.
- 4.3.7 Reflecting the perceived importance of maintenance, several clubs raise concern about the cost of maintenance and the challenges that they face in ensuring that their pitches are maintained to an appropriate standard. The Covid 19 pandemic is however thought to have potentially

benefitted pitch quality in terms of time dedicated and rest to pitches (although some clubs did limited maintenance during the lockdown period).

Chart 4.1: Perceived Trends in Pitch Quality



4.3.8 While pitch quality emerged as potentially the biggest issue for clubs during consultation, budgetary pressures alongside challenges recruiting volunteers were central to this. The Derbyshire Cricket Foundation is now working with clubs to help develop ideas to build the volunteer workforce.

4.3.9 The ECB however highlight the need for clubs to improve their succession planning in terms of both grounds maintenance and volunteering.

4.3.10 Despite the challenges identified, there has been strong investment into cricket pitches across the borough in the last three years. Table 4.2 summarises the investment that has been made and demonstrates that improvements have focused upon the pavilion, training facilities and maintenance equipment.

Table 4.2: Improvements in the Last Three Years

Site	Improvements Since Last Strategy
West Hallam Cricket Club	Relaid whole square
Breadsall CC	Replacement pavilion built during 2020 and 2021

Site	Improvements Since Last Strategy
Stanton by Dale CC	Improved pavilion including toilets, kitchen. New ground cover and water removal machines, fencing machine and seating to western boundary.
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Kitchen / clubhouse refurbishment
Ockbrook and Borrowash	scorebox on second pitch, new outdoor nets, improved netting, redecorated pavilion
Risley Cricket Club	None known
Ilkeston Rutland CC	Extended and updated bar and changing room, new training nets
Long Eaton CC	Enhanced training nets
Sawley CC	New sight screens and portable pitch covers

4.3.11 Site visits demonstrate that all grounds are functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain. There was evidence of some clear effort into maintenance at many of the sites.

4.3.12 The quality of facilities does vary however and it is clear that second grounds are of lower quality although they are still playable. The quality of facilities in public ownership is also lower than at private sites. In part, this is reflective of the challenges of providing pitches in a recreational setting, as well as the level of maintenance that is carried out. In general, grounds teams at the private clubs dedicate longer hours to pitch maintenance than the Council is able to provide.

4.3.13 Consultation with the Derbyshire Cricket League reveals that quality of grounds remains the key concern of the league. Pitch quality scores are not improving and there is a danger that the progress of some teams in terms of playing standards will be impacted by the quality of their facility (teams cannot be promoted if their ground does not reach the required standard for the new league). The league emphasise however that they are promoting a joint approach to pitch quality improvement, with league representatives seeking to work alongside clubs and with partners from the DCF and ECB to deliver the improvements that are required. Particular

concerns are expressed in relation to parks pitches across the Derbyshire area, although the challenges that are faced in providing these pitches to an appropriate standard are recognised.

4.3.14 In general, the key issues identified suggest that;

- The importance of adequate maintenance is recognised, with improvements to maintenance viewed as a key contributing factor where clubs are deemed to have improved. There is however a shortage of volunteers at several clubs, and many current volunteers are ageing. This is impacting the running of clubs, as well as the long-term sustainability of the current operations. On the whole, the maintenance at the majority of sites appears to be adequate for the levels of usage experienced, but maintenance will be key to retaining and improving quality.
- Squares are adequate and well maintained on the whole, with clubs prioritising this area of the facility. The quality of the outfield is however more varying with many sites demonstrating undulations / drainage issues.
- Towards the end of the season, some clubs are starting to demonstrate the impact of heavy usage on both the outfield and the square, with bare patches on the outfield.
- Training facilities was key area for improvement in last PPS – this has improved but training facilities remains a concern, with a lack of facilities on some sites and poor-quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, there is a greater reliance on the use of the square.
- The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. That said, several clubs identify further works that are required if pavilions are to continue to be functional. Some pavilions are very basic, and this may potentially impact on player recruitment.

4.3.15 Despite all facilities in the Borough being playable, and the evidence of the many recent improvements that have taken place, many clubs believe that the quality of pitches remains their key priority. Most clubs do however believe that they have the skills to maintain their facilities to the appropriate standard.

4.3.16 There are very few differences in quality by sub area. Instead of varying by geography, it is clear that pitch quality is typically higher on private club sites. Many consultees indicate that there is a widening gap between the quality of private facilities and that of public pitches – expenditure and the time input are seen as some of the key reasons for this. Machinery is also not necessarily available at public sites to address issues that are identified during a game in the way that it might be at a private facility.

- 4.3.17 The key site-specific issues identified for each club through a combination of site visits and consultation are summarised in Table 4.3. Issues are split between pitch quality / pavilion quality and changing accommodation and pavilion.
- 4.3.18 It should be noted that in many instances, outfield and square issues can be improved by tailored maintenance programmes rather than costly interventions such as drainage installation. This will be explored further in the strategy document, but any capital investment should be preceded by detailed grounds maintenance and pitch condition reports in order to determine the best approach to addressing the issues identified.

Table 4.3: Site Specific Club Quality Issues

Site	Pitch Quality	Pavilion Quality	Training Facilities	Priority Quality Issue	Other issues	Overall Quality Rating	League Statistics
West Hallam Cricket Club	Square recently relaid, in good condition. Outfield uneven, some damage to the surface. Drainage issues.	Roll on net cage only. Facilities currently inadequate - no all-weather training.	Pavilion with umpire accommodation in good condition. Owned by Club. Fully heated with hot water	Cost of machinery and upkeep is high. Lack of awareness of site location is key development impact - require signage.	All weather practice facilities, drainage, signage to site.	Standard	5% substandard (average adequate)
Breadsall CC	Outfield and square both even, some drainage concerns. Club also wish to move square to lengthen boundary (medium to long term)	Single lane non turf practice net, mobile net cage. Practice nets of limited quality	New pavilion, 2 changing rooms, owned and maintained by club. Fully heated and in good condition.		Ongoing pitch improvements, practice facilities	Standard	6% substandard (average adequate)

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Site	Pitch Quality	Pavilion Quality	Training Facilities	Priority Quality Issue	Other issues	Overall Quality Rating	League Statistics
Stanton Dale CC	Adequate. Meets with guidance although small.	Mobile practice nets on NTP, bowling machine. Aspiration for practice nets	Recently improved, 2 rooms and umpires' room. Adequate but would benefit from further upgrade. Unheated	Looking to acquire land to improve parking and extend playing area	Parking area. Maintenance equipment, practice nets, pavilion upgrade. Extension of playing area	Standard	No substandard ratings (average adequate)
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Square adequate, outfield slightly uneven with long grass at time of visit.	Non turf practice nets but surface badly worn and ripping. Require replacement. Club suffer from dog fouling.	Good condition, 3 separate rooms with umpire rooms. Would benefit from upgrade.	Road to clubhouse requires upgrade (potholes)	Ongoing maintenance improvements, particularly second square. Training facilities. Pavilion.	Standard	25% substandard (average adequate)
Sandiacre Town	Strong pitch, even square and outfield. Slope on pitch. Tight sight, limited size so strips that can	2 outdoor training nets, mobile cage. Facilities in good condition	4 room changing maintained by club. Umpires room Full functionality and good condition		Security of tenure, ongoing maintenance, particularly second ground	Good (second pitch low standard)	5% substandard (second ground 25%)

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Site	Pitch Quality	Pavilion Quality	Training Facilities	Priority Quality Issue	Other issues	Overall Quality Rating	League Statistics
	be used are restrictive. Second ground quality more limited but has been largely adequate						
Ockbrook and Borrowwash	Square good, outfield slightly undulating but strong well-maintained pitches. Second ground lower quality	4 outdoor nets, 2 training NTPs	Large 6 room pavilion plus officials changing. Heated and in good condition	Security of tenure	Potential need for additional ground, security of tenure	Good (second ground standard)	5% substandard (average adequate)
Risley Cricket Club	Adequate square and outfield, lower grass coverage than some other sites. Thought to be improving.	No off-field practice facilities	Small and basic, internal upgrades planned winter 2021. Would benefit from investment		Ongoing maintenance improvements, training facilities, pavilion upgrade	Standard	25% substandard (average adequate)

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Site	Pitch Quality	Pavilion Quality	Training Facilities	Priority Quality Issue	Other issues	Overall Quality Rating	League Statistics
Ilkeston Rutland CC	Square adequate but outfield uneven. Issues with unofficial use / damage to surface etc evident at site visit.	Outdoor artificial nets (2 lanes) provided on tennis court. Club would like mobile cage	Recently extended and updated, heated, basic but acceptable condition but would still benefit from upgrade. Basic changing room and umpire room.	Club emphasise importance of maintenance	Improved maintenance, Pavilion, mobile net cage	Standard	25% substandard (average adequate)
The Stute	Well maintained basic square, outfield shared with rugby, some uneven patches	No training facilities but functions as separate ground so adequate.	Large art deco rugby pavilion, no separate cricket facility but good changing rooms available for hire.			Standard	9% substandard (average adequate)
Long Eaton CC	Thatch on square, outfield reasonably even although grass is frequently long. Not	Portable nets. No permanent practice facilities.	Small pavilion with 2 rooms and 1 officials' room. Club indicate extension required		Improved maintenance, practice facilities	Standard (low)	N/a

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Site	Pitch Quality	Pavilion Quality	Training Facilities	Priority Quality Issue	Other issues	Overall Quality Rating	League Statistics
	fenced off despite park location but strong for parks pitches						
Sawley CC	Outfield relatively even, but grass can be long, evidence of unofficial use (Club also highlight dog fouling). Issues with bouncing patterns on square.	Planning application for new nets approved in April 2021 - single net facility?	2 changing rooms, officials' room		Improved maintenance needed	Low standard	20% substandard (average is below pass mark)

4.4 Demand

Club Based Demand

- 4.4.1 Analysis of participation in cricket in Erewash presents a positive picture. There are 66 teams in total, of which 42 are senior teams (including 2 midweek teams).
- 4.4.2 Almost all teams in the Borough play in the Derbyshire County Cricket League, which is the major cricket league in Derbyshire and part of the Derbyshire Cricket Pyramid. The Premier Division in this league is an ECB accredited league, but with 9 divisions (many of which are split further geographically), the league offers opportunities for cricketers of a variety of standards. Some teams also play in the South Notts/ Newark Alliance League, whilst female teams play in the East Midlands Women's league. The majority of junior teams participate in the Erewash Young Cricketers League.
- 4.4.3 Only two clubs do not have junior teams (Stanton by Dale and West Hallam CC) suggesting that there are strong foundations for ongoing cricket participation as well as further development. This strong position has been driven by the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation and the League, who require junior development programmes to be put in place in order to progress into the higher playing divisions. Teams playing in Division 3 or above have to field at least a U11, U13 or U15 team, whilst teams playing in the premier division must field at least one of each team. West Hallam CC are required to develop a junior section (and have started this) given their position in the league - they are hoping to start a U11 softball team in 2022. Larger clubs are generally more sustainable and able to provide higher quality facilities. In some instances, however, clubs compete for the same potential junior players and the larger clubs with the better quality facilities attract more players than those of a smaller scale.
- 4.4.4 Whilst adult participation is relatively static when measured against the levels of activity identified in the previous PPS, feedback from clubs suggest that most have been positively impacted by Covid 19, particularly in the junior age groups and in junior participation programmes. The Derbyshire Cricket League indicate that demand has increased significantly across the catchment area and that the numbers of both registered players and registered teams has increased.
- 4.4.5 Most of the larger clubs also suggest that the number of junior players that they have registered is increasing. There is also strong evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos as well as Women and Girls.

4.4.6 Linking with ECB priorities, women’s cricket is also increasing with two senior teams now playing in leagues, 2 further teams training / playing softball and several clubs running girls sections as part of their development programmes.

4.4.7 These positive trends suggest that demand for cricket may increase in future years. Whilst not all of the above programmes require use of the square, the range of activities provided at most of the clubs places greater pressures on the scheduling of games and may require use of parts of the outfield. The DCF also highlight the impact that the additional activity can have in terms of extending the playing season. They also note that the additional growth has also exacerbated already existing pressures on the number of pitches in Derbyshire as a whole.

4.4.8 Table 4.3 summarises the teams at each club and also provides an indication of the participation trends. It reveals that;

- Demand for senior cricket is primarily focused on a Saturday, although there are some teams playing fixtures on a Sunday and female senior cricket also typically is played midweek or Sunday
- Junior play is spread across the week. In addition, there is activity in the development programmes on Friday evenings / Saturday mornings.

Table 4.3: Participation in Cricket across Erewash Borough

Site	Sub Area	Senior Weekend Teams	Junior Teams	Midweek Teams	Trends
West Hallam Cricket Club	Rural	2			Static. Lack of junior section is key concern for local league
Breadsall CC	Rural	2	1		Reduction in number of players has seen decline in senior teams
Stanton by Dale CC	Rural	4 (including 1 female team)			Growth of women’s section, senior section static. Lack of junior section represents a key opportunity.
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Rural	3	4		Club with strong participation baseline, growing junior section

Site	Sub Area	Senior Weekend Teams	Junior Teams	Midweek Teams	Trends
Ockbrook and Borrowash	Rural	5 (including 1 female team)	3		Increasing in all age groups. Female participation particularly growing as a result of Dynamos / All Stars
Risley Cricket Club	Rural	3	2	1	Static
Ilkeston Rutland CC	Ilkeston	5 (including 1 female team)	5		Increasing participation although junior numbers are static
Sandiacre Town CC	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	4	3		Increasing in all age groups, particularly junior section
Long Eaton CC	Long Eaton / Sandiacre	7 (including 1 female team)	3		Increasing senior and female participation. Junior numbers static or declining
Sawley CC		2	2		Increasing senior participation – additional male team added to ensure competitive opportunities for all players
Stainsby Hall CC (displaced into Borough)		1			Part of larger club in Amber Valley. Team displaced to Erewash due to requirement for any available spare capacity

Site	Sub Area	Senior Weekend Teams	Junior Teams	Midweek Teams	Trends
Customs and Exiles			1		Static
Total					

4.4.9 All clubs are affiliated to the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation.

4.4.10 Table 4.4 summarises the participation by sub area. It reveals that the highest amount of cricket takes place the rural area, with several large clubs included in this sub area. Both Nutbrook and Risley Cricket Club in particular are however located in very close proximity to the borders for Ilkeston / Long Eaton and do therefore attract players from these areas.

4.4.11 It is clear that there are opportunities for both junior and senior cricket in all areas of the Borough. In addition, there are female teams running in all areas of the Borough and girls are able to play within the junior sections and / or in female specific junior sections. This means that there are opportunities for cricket across the Borough, regardless of the location in which people live.

4.4.12 Participation in the more rural clubs is increasing significantly at a junior level, while growth in the more urban areas is focusing on senior teams.

Table 4.4: Cricket Demand by Sub Area

Sub Area	Weekend Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Senior Midweek Teams	Trends
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	14	8	1	Increasing senior participation, static or declining junior participation
Ilkeston	5	5		Increasing senior participation, static junior participation
Rural	21	9	1	Increasing junior and female participation, senior cricket largely static

4.5 Other Demand

4.5.1 There is no evidence of significant additional use of cricket venues. Whilst some clubs indicate that they occasionally host club friendlies etc, there is no clear regular usage of the facilities by schools / other teams.

Training Needs

4.5.2 Clubs primarily use indoor training nets during the winter months. Clubs are however finding it increasingly difficult to book indoor cricket nets, with the key issues raised being;

- Reducing availability
- Lack of appropriate facilities
- Lack of appropriate facilities at the right time.

4.5.3 Whilst several clubs use the nets at Trent College, there is limited availability at Trent Bridge, and Broomfield College and Ockbrook School no longer offer community cricket.

4.5.4 In the summer, clubs train predominantly at their club base. Whilst training at many clubs in Erewash takes place on artificial wickets and in training nets at the club base, there is some evidence of the use of the grass squares for training.

4.5.5 Facility quality and availability is varied. Whilst the 2017 PPS drove some investment into training facilities, West Hallam CC, Breadsall CC, Stanton by Dale CC, Nutbrook CC, Risley CC, Ilkeston Rutland CC and Long Eaton CC all require either improvements to existing facilities and

/ or new training facilities. Sawley CC have just had planning permission for new training nets approved.

- 4.5.6 The ECB highlight the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to sustain junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. A lack of off field training facilities can also restrict the amount of development activities that can take place, as youth training / implementation of All Stars programmes etc starts to conflict with space required for training. A lack of practice facilities has also been noted to reduce the potential for smaller clubs to recruit new players.

Schools Cricket

- 4.5.7 Demand for formal cricket pitches is much less evident from the education sector than other sports. While many primary schools play cricket and have cricket teams, this is primarily kwik cricket played indoors or on the playground. The Chance to Shine Programme, which brings cricket back into primary schools and seeks to create strong links between schools and clubs has however been particularly successful nationwide. There are inter school cricket competitions for children run by Active Derbyshire.
- 4.5.8 There are however limited facilities for cricket at school sites. Trent College, who have up to 4 cricket squares (3 currently) as well as non turf facilities however enter national cricket competitions. Online virtual cricket sessions are now being piloted by Active Derbyshire in a bid to maintain momentum in cricket at young ages across the county.

4.6 Adequacy of Provision

- 4.6.1 The adequacy of facilities for cricket is measured by comparing the number of wickets available against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site-specific level and then compiled to present a sub area and borough wide picture.
- 4.6.2 For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a seasonal basis (as opposed to weekly) and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Consideration is however also given to the availability of facilities at peak time.
- 4.6.3 With regards capacity, as a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:
- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)

- 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors)
- 60 matches per season per non-turf wicket (adults); and
- 80 matches per season per non-turf wicket (juniors).

4.6.4 For sites where the condition of the wicket is poorer, the number of games that can be sustained without impact on the condition of the facility is lower. Standard quality wickets are able to sustain 4 adult games (5 junior) per season, whilst poor facilities should not be considered to offer any capacity for health and safety reasons. None of the facilities in Erewash Borough are currently classified as poor, although it should be noted the league indicate that some facilities are inadequate on occasion for the standard of cricket that is played.

4.6.5 For the purposes of calculations, demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season. Calculations summarising the adequacy of facilities for cricket that are available for community use are presented in Table 4.5. They indicate that;

- All active grass pitches are used regularly during the cricket season with many sites hosting fixtures both at weekends and during the week
- There is very little spare capacity in the Borough and there is limited opportunity to increase play significantly on any ground.
- There are several sites where overplay is evident, and some sites where there is overplay are associated with clubs who already have access to two grounds. In many instances, the overplay is a product of the success of the club, who are running large numbers of teams and lots of associated activities
- Whilst there is limited spare capacity on any ground, there is some scope to increase activity at Ockbrook and Borrowash / Ilkeston Town (both have second grounds with some spare capacity). There is also a 5th pitch at West Park which is being prepared this season and will be used next year
- Spare capacity at peak time is even more limited, with only Nutbrook (second ground), West Park pitch 5 and St Peters Park having any availability
- There is scope to increase pitch quality at most sites and this would have a direct impact on site capacity, increasing the additional matches that could be sustained.

4.6.6 In addition to the above pressures, consultation suggest that for many clubs, scheduling of matches and other activities remains as much of a problem as square capacity. Many of the larger clubs indicate that their facilities are used every evening for junior fixtures and / or training, as well as weekend mornings for other activities and developmental participation schemes.

- 4.6.7 The pressures on cricket provision accord with the views of the league and the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation, who highlight that the position in Erewash is even further exacerbated by a lack of pitches in nearby Derby City. The teams that will be using West Park in 2022 are thought to derive from Derby City.
- 4.6.8 Table 4.5 contains the following information;
- Number of wickets required to accommodate adult play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 5 games and standard wickets can sustain 4 games)
 - Number of wickets required to accommodate junior play (based upon number of games each adult team plays and assumption of wicket capacity where good wickets can take 7 games and standard wickets can sustain 5 games)
 - Total number of wickets required to meet demand
 - Spare capacity (i.e capacity of adult wickets on each site minus demand from adult teams, likewise for junior teams) and the potential additional MES that could be accommodated.
- 4.6.9 Figures with a ‘-’ indicate that the wickets are overplayed i.e., demand is greater than supply.
- 4.6.10 Figures assume that all match play takes place on grass wickets, which reflects the feedback provided during consultation. The only exception to this is the U11 team at Ockbrook and Borrowash, who were noted to use the non turf wicket.
- 4.6.11 Non turf wickets offer significantly greater capacity than grass pitches and may provide a viable option to increase capacity at other sites in future years.

Table 4.5: Adequacy of Cricket Pitch Provision in Erewash Borough

	Overall Quality Rating (Pitch)	Number of Games (Adult)	Number of Games (Youth)	Midweek	Number of Additional Games	Number of Wickets Required (adult)	Wicket Required Youth	Total Wickets Required	Spare Capacity	Adult Matches available	Position	
Cock Orchard (Off Cat and Fiddle Lane)	Standard	24	0	0	10	8.5	0.0	8.5	-0.5	0	Overplayed	0
Breadsall Memorial Hall and Playing Fields	Standard	24	6	0	10	8.5	1.2	9.7	-1.7	0	Overplayed	0
Crompton Ground	Standard	36	30	0	4	10	6.0	16.0	-9.0	0	Overplayed	0
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Standard	24	24	0	24	9.6	3.4	13.0	-1.0	-5	Able to sustain additional play	0.5
Nutbrook Cricket Club Pitch 2	Standard	12	0	0	0	3	0.0	3.0	1.0	5	Able to sustain additional play	0
Ockbrook And Borrowwash Cricket Club	Good	36	6	0	10	9.2	1.2	10.4	3.6	18	Able to sustain additional play	0
Ockbrook And Borrowwash Cricket Club Pitch 2	Standard	24	6	0	0	6	1.2	7.2	0.8	4	Played to level can sustain	0
Risley Cricket Ground	Standard	36	12	4	0	10	2.4	12.4	-2.4	0	Able to sustain	0

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	Overall Quality Rating (Pitch)	Number of Games (Adult)	Number of Games (Youth)	Midweek	Number of Additional Games	Number of Wickets Required (adult)	Wicket Required Youth	Total Wickets Required	Spare Capacity	Adult Matches available	Position	
											additional play	
Rutland Sports Park	Standard	36	30	0	0	9	6.0	15.0	1.0	5	Able to sustain additional play	0
The Stute	Standard	24	0	0	0	6	0.0	6.0	4.0	20	Able to sustain additional play	0
Sandiacre Town Cricket Club (Longmoor Lane)	Good	36	12	0	0	7.2	1.7	8.9	-0.9	-5	Able to sustain additional play	0.5
Sandiacre Town Cricket Club (Risley Lane) - Soldiers and Sailors Sports Ground	Low standard	12	6	0	0	3	1.2	4.2	1.8	9		4
Trent College	Good	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	Able to sustain additional play	0.5
West Park Pitch 1	Medium to low standard	12	6	0	10	5.5	1.2	6.7	-0.7	-4	Overplayed	0
West Park Pitch 2	Medium to low standard	72	12	0	15	21.75	2.4	24.2	-8.2	0	Able to sustain	0

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	Overall Quality Rating (Pitch)	Number of Games (Adult)	Number of Games (Youth)	Midweek	Number of Additional Games	Number of Wickets Required (adult)	Wicket Required Youth	Total Wickets Required	Spare Capacity	Adult Matches available	Position	
											additional play	
West Park Pitch 3	Low standard	24	6	0	5	7.25	1.2	8.5	-0.4	-2	Able to sustain additional play	0
West Park Pitch 4	Low standard	24	12	0	0	6	2.4	8.4	2.6	13	Able to sustain additional play	0
West Park Pitch 5	Low Standard	0	0	4	0	1	0.0	1.0	15.0	75		1
West Park Pitch 6	Low Standard	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	11.0	55		1
St Peters Park	Low standard	12	0	0	4	4	0.0	4.0	4.0	20		0.5

4.6.12 The site overviews set out in Table 4.5 can be used to develop an overall picture of provision across the Borough and an understanding of the amount of spare capacity that is available. This is set out in Table 4.6. The figures take into account the quality of each site. It should be noted that these summary figures exclude any provision at Trent College.

4.6.13 It reveals that building on the site-specific analysis set out in Table 4.5, spare capacity is limited in all parts of the Borough. It is however particularly tight in the rural areas, where demand just exceeds the supply. It is in this area where both demand and supply are highest. There is a small amount of spare capacity in both Ilkeston and Long Eaton.

4.6.14 Whilst therefore there is a degree of spare capacity across the Borough as a whole, it is important to note the different standards that teams play at and therefore the differing facility requirements. Where teams play in the higher echelons of league structures for example, facility requirements are stricter and the grounds of teams that play in lower leagues / friendlies may not meet these standards and may therefore be unsuitable, despite having availability.

Table 4.6: Borough Wide Picture of Provision

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets and MES)	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (MES)	Comment
Ilkeston	21	26	5wickets (25 MES)	0	No spare capacity at peak time, some additional capacity across the week primarily at the Stute
Rural	85	85	11.2 wickets (but 11.6 additional wickets required at grounds that are overplayed MES).	1.5	Breadsall, Crompton Ground, Risley Cricket Club all overplayed. Very limited spare capacity at all other grounds. Nutbrook CC (second ground), Sandiacre Town (second ground) and St Peters Park able to sustain additional play at peak time
Long Eaton / Sandiacre	57.6	65	17.6 wickets (88 MES)	1.5	Spare capacity on West Park at peak time (2 pitches) and further pitch to be provided next season. Main pitches for Sandiacre Town, Long Eaton CC and Sawley CC all suffer from overplay. Existing overplay at Long Eaton CC would mean that this pitch does not currently represent genuine spare capacity at peak time
Total	167	176	9 wickets (excluding overplay)	3	Overplay on most sites and outside new pitches at West Park, very limited capacity at all other sites

Peak Time Demand

- 4.6.15 While Table 4.6 demonstrates that there is a small amount of spare capacity across the season, scheduling and programming of cricket matches must also be taken into consideration.
- 4.6.16 Adult cricket fixtures are generally played over several hours and only one home fixture can be played in a day. With most senior cricket taking place at the weekend, this therefore limits the capacity of the ground.
- 4.6.17 The focus on play in the Derbyshire Cricket League means that there is a high demand at peak time. Grounds are however also used outside of this time with increasing numbers of female teams, as well as junior teams (and senior teams playing in alternative leagues) playing in Erewash.
- 4.6.18 Table 4.6 therefore summarises the availability at each ground at peak time and reveals that there is scope for additional play (3 MES at peak time). This spare capacity is located at West Park (including the pitch that is new for this season, a further pitch will be provided next season) and at second grounds in the rural area.
- 4.6.19 It should be noted however that the real ability for Long Eaton CC to accommodate more play would be dependent upon the improvement of capacity at the site, as it is already overplayed based on current capacity ratings over the course of the season. Similarly, for Nutbrook CC, the spare capacity across the season would not quite be sufficiently adequate to sustain the games for an additional team without generating overplay unless capacity was improved.
- 4.6.20 This suggests that the existing spare capacity equates to 2 MES.

Table 4.6: Peak Time Demand

Sub Area	Spare Capacity at Peak Time (MES)	Comment
Ilkeston	0	No spare capacity
Rural	1.5	Spare capacity at Nutbrook CC (second ground), Sandiacre Town (Second ground) and St Peters Park
Long Eaton / Sandiacre	1.5 (including pitch at Long Eaton)	Spare capacity on Long Eaton pitch (0.5) but this is overplayed cross the season. Spare capacity on pitch 5 as this only hosts a midweek team.
Total	3	

4.7 Displaced, Latent and Unmet Demand

Displaced Demand

- 4.7.1 Both Sandiacre Town CC and Ilkeston Rutland CC are using squares at second grounds. This is however essential given the additional peak time capacity that is required (and the constraints of their existing grounds).
- 4.7.2 Stainsby Hall CC are however now travelling into Erewash Borough to use the available ground at St Peters Park. This site became available following Little Eaton CC folding and is thought to be on a short-term lease. Stainsby Hall CC are an Amber Valley club and are therefore displaced into the Borough.
- 4.7.3 Similarly, the known shortage of cricket squares in Derby City is starting to lead to displacement into Amber Valley. An additional square is being prepared at West Park for next season and it is thought this will accommodate teams derived from Derby City.
- 4.7.4 In contrast, there are no teams known to be displaced out of Erewash.

Latent / Unmet Demand

- 4.7.5 Although there is almost no spare capacity within Erewash, there is no clear evidence of unmet or latent demand, with the vast majority of clubs indicating that they are satisfied with the current stock of facilities.

4.8 Future Picture

- 4.8.1 As demonstrated, the existing infrastructure for cricket is tightly matched with demand and interventions are required to ensure that facilities continue to meet with need. Added to this, population growth will impact upon future demand, as will changes in participation trends. These issues are considered in turn in order to build an accurate picture of future demand.

4.8.2 Population Change

- 4.8.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 4.8.4 Table 4.7 summarises the current TGRs for cricket and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of

additional teams that will be generated by 2032 and 2038 cumulatively from 2021 (I.e the figures for 2038 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032). It should be noted that the girls teams recorded are those that include only girls – there are also several girls that play in younger age groups at most clubs.

4.8.5 It reveals that by 2035, population growth will have limited impact. There will be one additional senior team by 2038, but a potential loss of a junior team as the number of people in this age bracket reduce.

Table 4.7 - Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2038
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	38	26713	703	0.3	1.5
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)	4	28074	7019	-0.1	0.0
Cricket Junior Boys (7-18yrs)	24	7580	316	-0.6	-1.1
Cricket Junior Girls (7-18yrs)	2	7003	3502	-0.1	-0.1

4.8.6 Table 4.7 therefore suggests that demand for cricket pitches will remain relatively constant with an additional senior team replacing a junior team.

4.8.7 Calculations earlier in this section suggested that there is limited spare capacity. There is however a total of 2 MES at peak time available (scope to increase this to 3 if capacity at key sites was maximised. This means that the additional play could be accommodated. It should be noted however that there is no scope to accommodate increased play in the Ilkeston area – it is this area where demand is most likely to increase due to the projected location of housing growth.

4.8.8 Population growth will therefore exacerbate the current position further, placing extra pressures on the current infrastructure.

4.9 Driving Growth in Cricket – Impact on Pitches

- 4.9.1 Derbyshire Cricket Foundation (DCF) serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across Derbyshire. Its aim is to provide every person in Derbyshire with the opportunity to have a positive experience through cricket. The Foundation works with a variety of partners to promote the development of cricket and is now working alongside the ECB on delivering the new national five-year plan, Inspiring Generations. The plan seeks to inspire current and future generations through cricket.
- 4.9.2 It highlights a number of recent successes, including strong growth in participation for 5–8-year-olds through All Stars Cricket, as well as year on year growth in the number of women playing cricket and world cup victories for both male and female teams. This success is believed to provide a strong platform to deliver the strategy.
- 4.9.3 The plan sets six clear priorities for growing cricket and outlines the key mechanisms for the delivery of these objectives.
- 4.9.4 The key objectives of the strategy are summarised in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Key Objectives of Inspiring Generations (ECB 2020)

Objectives	Key Delivery Mechanisms
<i>Grow and Nurture the Core</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create infrastructure investment funds • Invest in club facilities • Develop the role of National Counties Cricket • Drive Governance across the game
<i>Inspire through elite teams</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in the county talent pathway • Incentivise the counties to develop England players • Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
<i>Make cricket accessible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden appeal of Cricket • Create a new digital community for cricket • Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas • continue to deliver the South Asian Action Plan • Launch a new participation product

Objectives	Key Delivery Mechanisms
<i>Engage children and young people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double cricket participation in primary schools • Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age 5 upwards • Develop safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.
<i>Transform women's and girls cricket</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow the base through participation and facilities investment • Launch centre of excellence and a new elite domestic structure • Invest in girls county age group cricket • Deliver a girls' secondary school programme.
<i>Support Communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the number of volunteers in the game • Increase participation in disability cricket • Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches

4.9.5 The success of the above will be measured against the following Key Performance Indicators;

- The number of people playing / volunteering / attending / watching or following cricket
- Percentage of people who have a positive perception of cricket
- Total number of people under the age of 16 engaging with cricket
- Total number of women and girls engaging with cricket.

4.9.6 The strategy commits strategic investment to the delivery of these priorities, specifically;

- £450m of direct funding (60% increase on direct funding levels) for the full five-year period
- £67m in strategic investments for the first two years of the strategy – this includes investment in club and non-traditional playing facilities, increasing participation in primary schools and transforming women and girls cricket
- £255 of committed investments into centrally administered strategic activity to futureproof the game.

4.9.7 The Inspiring Generations Strategy builds on Cricket Unleashed (ECB strategy 2016 – 2020) and embraces a range of targeted programmes that seek to increase participation. These are constantly evolving, in response to demand and new ideas and opportunities.

4.9.8 Most of the current take place on the outfield and therefore put increased pressure on the whole ground as opposed to just the square. This increases the importance of providing level outfields, and places greater emphasis on the importance of effective maintenance and management regimes.

4.9.9 Added to this, while these may not necessarily directly generate a requirement for increased capacity immediately, longer term, if new participants successfully transition into the full game, it is likely that there will be greater demand for cricket pitches in years to come.

4.9.10 The current key schemes and priority delivery areas are;

- All Stars Cricket – In partnership with the ECB cricket clubs in Erewash can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. The engagement with this programme in Erewash is high and once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to

increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs. The programme seeks to achieve the following aims;

- Increase cricket activity for five- to eight-year-olds in the school and club environment
 - Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
 - Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
 - Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
 - Use fun small-sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game
- Dynamos Cricket targets children aged 8 – 11 and builds upon the All-Stars Cricket Scheme. It seeks to make cricket more accessible and complements existing junior cricket structures. It includes simplified rules and uses a soft ball and looks to promote cricket to those that may prefer a more fun, recreational approach (as opposed to competitive cricket in the traditional junior structures). As with All Stars Cricket, there has been strong local engagement with this programme and some clubs have directly referenced the Dynamos programme as being instrumental in the growth of their junior section.
 - Women and Girls Cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish female and girls teams in clubs. Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. The ECB will be looking to establish hubs for women's sport and will seek to ensure that facilities are family friendly in order to accommodate new members.

4.9.11 Inspiring Generations therefore seeks to increase the number of people engaging with cricket and this will have clear implications for facilities if successfully delivered. While the impact of successful achievement of the growth targets of the ECB are not possible to quantify at this stage (as transfer thorough to traditional cricket is yet unknown) it is clear that unmet demand is likely to increase and further capacity will need to be provided at key sites if participation is not to be constrained.

Club Growth Aspirations

4.9.12 As set out, participation in cricket in Erewash is strong, and almost all are running successful junior sections, and many are now also building sections for women and girls. Many of the clubs are very developmentally focused.

4.9.13 While several of the clubs indicate that they are comfortable with the size of their clubs and are not proactively seeking growth, several clubs continue to look to develop further. Many aspirations for growth are linked with the priorities of the new ECB Cricket Strategy, specifically growth in the female / junior game.

4.9.14 Table 4.9 summarises the growth aspirations of clubs and comments upon whether these can be achieved within their existing site infrastructure. It is clear that for many of the clubs where overplay is already an issue, there are still aspirations for growth. This means that additional capacity (for example qualitative improvements to standard quality facilities, as well as the provision of non turf wickets) will take on increasing importance.

4.9.15 Further to this, the impact of the population growth set out earlier in this section will further exacerbate the capacity issues experienced.

Table 4.9: Club Growth Aspirations

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Capacity	Other Issues
West Hallam Cricket Club	Square capacity, availability at peak time.	Junior section required to meet with league requirements – estimate minimum 3 teams (18 MES)	No scope to accommodate additional matches at current time (-21)	Some quality issues on pitch including drainage, currently rated as standard (scope to increase capacity). Increase to good would improve capacity issues and generate minimal overplay. Lack of off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square.
Breadsall CC	Square capacity, availability at peak time.	Reinstatement of 3 rd senior team and 1 additional youth team (18 MES)	No scope to accommodate additional matches at current time (-30)	Some quality issues on pitch currently rated as standard (scope to increase capacity). Increase to good would improve capacity issues. Poor off field training facilities also impacting on usage of square.
Stanton by Dale CC	Square capacity, availability at peak time.	No formal aspirations, although looking to continue growth of women's section (12 MES)	No scope to accommodate additional matches at current time (-36)	Require training facilities, extension of ground and parking. Upgrade of changing room. Upgrade to good

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
					facility would improve position.
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Square on first pitch at capacity, very limited spare capacity on second ground (including peak time availability)	Increased junior and female section. Estimated impact 24 MES	Not all additional match play could be accommodated (-24 MES)		Existing pitches rated as standard, poor practice facilities, changing would benefit from upgrade. Raising quality to good would improve ability of site to accommodate play.
Ockbrook and Borrowash	Some limited spare capacity available on first square, scope for growth of club using second square	Additional team to enter Derbyshire League next season (12 MES)	Additional growth can be accommodated (10 MES remaining), although challenges accommodating the additional demand at peak time (Saturday)		Pitch quality good, but lack of lease represents a key risk for club. Additional growth can be accommodated.
Risley Cricket Club	Square at capacity, no availability at peak time.	None reported	Existing deficiency circa 8 MES		No off-field practice facilities, changing would benefit from upgrade. Pitch upgrade to good would alleviate deficiency.
Ilkeston Rutland CC	Some limited spare capacity available on first square, scope for growth of club using second square	None reported	Capacity to accommodate circa 25 MES		Square adequate but requires ongoing improvement to meet league requirements, scope to improve quality of second ground. No capacity issues
Sandiacre Town CC	First square at capacity / overplayed but scope for growth of club using second square	None reported	Capacity to accommodate circa 4 MES		Security of tenure requires investigation (second ground), ongoing investment into maintenance needed to maintain quality. Functionality of pavilion on second ground is limited.
Long Eaton CC	Both squares at capacity, although not all slots used at peak time.	Aspiration for additional 2 – 3 junior teams (18 MES)	Significant deficiency circa 50 MES taking into account overplay on existing pitches.		Scope to improve square and outfield quality. Club believe extension to pavilion required. Capacity

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
					will still be compromised even if quality is improved to good. Lack of practice facilities further increases use of square.
Sawley CC	First square at capacity / overplayed but scope for growth of club using second square	None reported	Scope to accommodate circa 11 MES		None turf pitch almost unusable; quality of squares requires improvement to meet with league requirements. New nets.
Stainsby Hall CC (displaced into Borough)	Capacity for additional play	N/a	Scope for additional 20 MES, including at peak time		Short term lease of pitch only.
Customs and Exiles	Midweek team only, capacity for additional play including at peak time	None reported	Scope for additional 55 MES, including at peak time.		Quality of pitch questionable as early stages of preparation mean suitability for Derbyshire Cricket League is questionable.

4.9.16 Table 4.8 above therefore demonstrates that whilst some clubs have adequate capacity to sustain their development aspirations at least in the short term, there are many clubs that are already at capacity and wish to growth further. The quality of facilities does impact capacity to a point (with standard facilities able to sustain less fixtures than good ones), and the adequacy of provision is also influenced by the lack of off field training facilities. It is clear however that the future position at many clubs is one of demand exceeding supply. There are many ways to address this (including new grounds / use of NTPS / provision of training facilities) and this will be considered in the strategy document.

4.9.17 Given that population growth is likely to generate additional demand, most likely in the Ilkeston area (one team), it should be emphasised again that whilst there is capacity in the club infrastructure across the season, there would be challenges accommodating any additional demand at peak time.

Informal NTPs

4.9.18 In order to maximise the growth of cricket, ECB / DCF participation initiatives will not focus exclusively on transferring players into the traditional club set up. Instead, it is hoped that

participants will have a choice between formal and more informal routes. The new strategy specifically seeks to install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas and the creation of more recreational venues is considered to provide opportunities to introduce people that wouldn't otherwise play to cricket.

4.9.19 With West Park located within the main urban area, and already containing significant numbers of cricket wickets, this is considered to be a strong potential location for a new informal facility.

4.10 Summary – Key Issues for Cricket

4.10.1 The key issues that need to be addressed in relation to cricket in Erewash Borough are therefore summarised below.

Cricket - Key Issues
<p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 23 grass cricket squares in total. All of these facilities are available for community use, although pitches at Trent College are unsecured and there is no existing community use of these facilities. This total includes a grass square at West Park that is newly prepared for this season • The majority of cricket provision is located within the rural sub area. West Park and Sandiacre Town are the only club-based facilities in Long Eaton / Sandiacre whilst Rutland Sports Park and The Stute are situated in Ilkeston. There are however a high number of squares in Long Eaton, as both West Park and Trent College are large sites. • There are some concerns relating to security of tenure. Several sites are owned by private individuals and clubs rent these facilities without any long-term guarantee of availability. Key issues identified include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ilkeston Rutland CC – only 10 years left on lease, • Ockbrook and Borrowash, previously leased from private owner (Brewery) but land sold, and club do not currently have a lease • Sandiacre Town CC – site of second ground bought by private individual and club do not have a long-term lease. • Pitch quality emerged as potentially the biggest issue for clubs during consultation and budgetary pressures, alongside challenges recruiting volunteers, were central to this. The Derbyshire Cricket Foundation is now working with clubs to help develop ideas to build the volunteer workforce. The quality of facilities also represents the key concern of the Derbyshire Cricket League. • All grounds are functional and playable for the standard of play that they sustain. There was evidence of some clear effort into maintenance at many of the sites. The quality of facilities does

vary however and it is clear that second grounds are of lower quality although they are still playable. The quality of facilities in public ownership is also lower than at private sites.

- On the whole, the quality of facilities is standard. The importance of maintenance was highlighted, and clubs are prioritising the quality of their square. The conditions of outfielders are however more varying, and the quality and availability of training facilities remains a concern.

Demand

- There is strong participation in cricket across the Borough - there are 66 teams in total. Only two clubs do not have junior teams (Stanton by Dale and West Hallam CC) suggesting that there are strong foundations for ongoing cricket participation as well as further development.
- Whilst adult participation is relatively static when measured against the levels of activity identified in the previous PPS, feedback from clubs suggest that most have been positively impacted by Covid 19, particularly in the junior age groups and in junior participation programmes. The Derbyshire Cricket League indicate that demand has increased significantly across the catchment area and that the numbers of both registered players and registered teams has increased.
- There is also strong evidence of engagement with ECB junior development programmes, including both All Stars and Dynamos as well as Women and Girls.
- the highest amount of cricket takes place the rural area, with several large clubs included in this sub area. Both Nutbrook and Risley Cricket Club in particular are however located in very close proximity to the borders for Ilkeston / Long Eaton and do therefore attract players from these areas. There are however opportunities for women and girls, as well as junior players in all geographical areas of the Borough – this means that there are opportunities to play cricket in Erewash regardless of where you live
- The ECB highlight the importance of clubs having access to appropriate training facilities – this is particularly important for clubs trying to sustain junior sections, as juniors tend to gravitate towards high quality training facilities and a developmental environment. A lack of off field training facilities can also restrict the amount of development activities that can take place, as youth training / implementation of All Stars programmes etc starts to conflict with space required for training. A lack of practice facilities has also been noted to reduce the potential for smaller clubs to recruit new players. Clubs report challenges booking indoor facilities and there are also several clubs that are lacking in outdoor training facilities, resulting in increased use of the square.

Adequacy of Provision

- All active grass pitches are used regularly during the cricket season with many sites hosting fixtures both at weekends and during the week
- There is very little spare capacity in the Borough and there is limited opportunity to increase play significantly on any ground.
- There are several sites where overplay is evident, and some sites where there is overplay are associated with clubs who already have access to two grounds. In many instances, the overplay is a product of the success of the club, who are running large numbers of teams and lots of associated activities
- Whilst there is limited spare capacity on any ground, there is some scope to increase activity at Ockbrook and Borrowash / Ilkeston Town (both have second grounds with some spare capacity). There is also a 5th pitch at West Park which is being prepared this season and will be used next year
- Spare capacity at peak time is even more limited, with only Nutbrook (second ground), West Park pitch 5 and St Peters Park having any availability. The pressures on cricket provision accord with the views of the league and the Derbyshire Cricket Foundation, who highlight that the position in Erewash is even further exacerbated by a lack of pitches in nearby Derby City. The teams that will be using West Park in 2022 are thought to derive from Derby City.
- There is scope to increase pitch quality at most sites and this would have a direct impact on site capacity, increasing the additional matches that could be sustained.
- Reflecting the high number of sites with overplay or limited spare capacity, boroughwide there is minimal capacity for additional play, with an ability to accommodate circa 2 match equivalent sessions at peak time and 45 match equivalent sessions across the season.
- Future population growth will have limited impact (1 senior team) however the growth aspirations of clubs will add further pressures, and for many clubs cannot be accommodated within the existing infrastructure.
- On the whole, it is the clubs that are already at capacity that are looking to grow further suggesting that solutions may be required to improve capacity for these clubs
- ECB / DCF participation initiatives seek to install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas and the creation of more recreational venues is considered to provide opportunities to introduce people that wouldn't otherwise play to cricket. With West Park located within the main urban area, and already containing significant numbers of cricket wickets, this is considered to be a strong potential location for a new informal facility.

The key priorities for the strategy to address are therefore;

- **The need to protect all cricket grounds**
- **The need to address qualitative issues – almost all sites have improvements that are required**

- **The need to increase capacity for clubs who are at capacity or are overplaying facilities (or where capacity will be inadequate in future years (West Hallam CC, Stanton By Dale, Nutbrook, Risley CC, Long Eaton CC**
- **Several sites have poor quality / a lack of training facilities**
- **There are several clubs where improvements to changing facilities are required**
- **The potential to develop cricket through the use of NTP in areas of higher population.**

5.0 Rugby Union

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

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

5.2 Pitch Supply

5.2.1 Table 5.1 summarises the rugby union pitches that are available in 2022. It reveals a total of 14 full sized pitches, 13 of which are available for community use on either a secured or unsecured basis. The pitch at Wilsthorpe Community School is not currently available, having been closed for community use as a result of the covid 19 pandemic.

5.2.2 Rugby union pitches are located in the urban areas of Ilkeston and Long Eaton / Sandiacre – there are no rugby pitches in the Rural area.

5.2.3 Supporting the full-sized pitches, there are an additional 11 mini rugby pitches, primarily located at The Stute. There are two small pitches at West Park, and a further area which appeared to be used by the rugby club (but some distance from the club). It should be noted that in addition to the 2 pitches classified as mini pitches at West Park, one of the senior pitches is also undersized and can only be played up to age group U14.

Table 5.1: Rugby Union Pitches in Erewash Borough

Analysis Area	Site	Total Rugby Pitches	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Ownership / Management	Community Use
Ilkeston	Gallows Inn Playing Fields	1	1	Erewash Borough Council	Secured Community Use
Ilkeston	The Stute	3 (and 8 mini pitches)	1	Owned by Independent Club	Secured Community Use
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Long Eaton School	Mini pitch		Independent School	Unsecured Community Use
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Trent College	6*	0	Independent School	Unsecured Community Use
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	West Park	4 (and 2 mini pitches)	2	Owned by Erewash BC, Leased and	Secured Community Use

Analysis Area	Site	Total Rugby Pitches	Number of Floodlit Pitches	Ownership / Management	Community Use
				managed by Club (19 years remaining)	
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Wilsthorpe Community School	1	0	Community School	No community use

5.2.4 Table 5.1 demonstrates that just over half of the facilities are located at sites managed by clubs, while the remaining pitches are primarily at education sites. There is one public rugby pitch – at Gallows Inn Playing Fields.

5.2.5 Pitches at Trent College are located on the fields that are shared with cricket, but up to 6 rugby pitches can be provided. Some were laid out as football pitches at the time of site visit so although six pitches can be provided (and the school define the pitches as rugby pitches), these are also thought to be used for football on occasion.

5.2.6 The stock of floodlit facilities is good with a third of all full-sized pitches floodlit. Both clubs have access to floodlights, with two floodlit pitches at West Park and a further small pitch partially floodlit (Long Eaton RFC) whilst at The Stute, Ilkeston RFC have one full sized pitch has floodlights and the club also have access to the floodlit pitch at Gallows Inn Playing Fields. The club indicate that a further 2 mini pitches can be floodlit for use during the dry months.

5.2.7 There are no 3G AGPs in the Borough that are compliant with World Rugby Regulations meaning that any use of 3G AGPs for rugby must be none contact only.

5.3 Pitch Quality

5.3.1 Pitch quality for a playing pitch strategy is assessed through the triangulation of non-technical site visits and club and RFU feedback. This is particularly important to ensure that all issues experienced are taken into account.

5.3.2 Of particular concern, both rugby clubs report a recent decline in the quality of the facilities available for rugby. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been reported to be particularly for significant, with the lost income that resulted from the closure of the clubhouses reducing the amount of maintenance and out of season reinstatement work that could be undertaken. Levels of maintenance have suffered in particular at Ilkeston RFC who have been unable to carry out all of their typical maintenance procedures due to the reduction in income that occurred whilst national and local lockdowns persisted.

5.3.3 The key issues identified at each site are therefore summarised in Table 5.2. Table 5.2 also summarises the maintenance and drainage ratings achieved at each site. These ratings record the level of maintenance that is undertaken (reported by Clubs / Providers) as well as the adequacy of drainage on each pitch. These will be used to determine the capacity of the facilities later in this section. Where responses were not received, the level of maintenance / drainage has been estimated at site visit.

Table 5.2: Quality of Rugby Pitches at Community Sites

Site	Drainage / Maintenance Rating	Comments
Gallows Inn Playing Fields	M1/D1	Floodlit pitch but moles now encroaching onto pitch and creating dangerous playing surface. Some rust on posts. Small changing facility shared with football. No drainage issues identified
The Stute	M1/D0	Pitches in reasonable condition for time of season although have reported to decline as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Compaction evident on all pitches and drainage is a concern, particularly on Pitches 1 and 3 where standing water is frequent. Maintenance issues exacerbated by lack of income this year.
Trent College	M1/D0	Even, well maintained and good grass coverage although site does suffer from some drainage issues. Posts with safety covers, appear to receive more limited use than other sites.
West Park	M1 / D0	Grass length varying at time of site visit. Significant drainage issues experienced during winter months, and evidence of compaction at time of site visits (which results in further drainage issues). Club also highlight issues with dog fouling / informal recreation due to pitch location within public park. Pitch quality higher at the time of site visit than is known to accurately reflect the year-round position.
Wilsthorpe Community School	M0/D0	Basic rugby pitch with maintenance.
Long Eaton School	M1/D1	Small basic mini rugby pitch only, suffers from drainage issues on occasion. Pitch surface adequate. Changing facilities within school.

5.3.4 It is clear from the above, that there is scope to improve the pitch quality at both club sites. There are some underlying drainage issues impacting playability at both clubs and scope to increase the maintenance of the pitches. Compaction of pitches was also a particular issue, and this is likely to exacerbate drainage concerns further. Feedback from clubs suggests a perception that of the issues experienced are derived from overuse of the pitches and this will be considered later in this section.

5.3.5 Gallows Inn Playing Fields is also used as an overspill by the club. The playing surface at this venue is at risk as a result of moles.

5.3.6 The quality of the rugby pitches at Trent College is good, but outside this venue, the two remaining sites are basic but playable. There has been relatively limited demand for rugby outside of the main club bases and so pitches are thought to have benefitted from limited use.

5.4 Demand

5.4.1 Table 5.3 summarises the registered teams at each club in 2022. It demonstrates that both clubs are large and sustainable clubs, running teams across all age groups. Both clubs have strong junior and mini sections and Long Eaton RFC also offers women and girls rugby, with teams at U13, U15 and U18 levels as well as senior ladies rugby.

5.4.2 In addition to the above, both clubs also offer O2 touch rugby, as well as mini training sessions for children at U6 and U5 levels. This means that there are strong foundations for the ongoing development of rugby in the Borough.

5.4.3 The clubs report varying recent changes in participation, specifically;

- At Long Eaton, whilst adult participation has remained relatively static in recent years, the clubs report that there has been strong growth in youth and mini rugby, with significant increases in playing numbers. The biggest growth has however been experienced in women's rugby
- At Ilkeston RFC, there has been a decline in participation at a senior and older age group youth level and there has been an overall reduction in the number of teams. Participation in younger age groups (mini rugby) has remained relatively steady, with engagement with schools proving successful in helping this. Whilst the club have tried to establish women and girls teams, they have found that players gravitate towards nearby clubs with more established female teams. There have also been issues fielding the colts team this season, with no transition from junior rugby last season compounding the drop in the number of players in older age groups.

5.4.4 Both clubs believe that the Covid 19 pandemic has had significant impact, with both highlighting that youth players are only now starting to return. Ilkeston RFC have identified a particular reduction in players, with adult players only starting to return once full rugby was introduced, but numbers still down on previous levels, whilst colts and older youth groups are also reduced. Long Eaton RFC report issues in similar age groups. On a positive note, levels of participation in the younger age groups have been less affected at both clubs.

5.4.5 It is clear therefore that the immediate short-term impact on rugby was negative, particularly at Ilkeston RFC, but that levels are now starting to return to pre covid levels. There is currently no understanding of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on long term participation.

5.4.6 RFU data across the country in general reflects the experiences of the Erewash clubs and suggests that similar numbers of adult participants returning to the game (although in some instances they are playing less frequently, which mirrors the issues noted within Erewash) but that there is now increasing interest at a mini / junior rugby level. One of the biggest challenges for the RFU therefore is how to ensure that the increased number of players at younger levels are retained.

5.4.7 As highlighted by the clubs within Erewash, the retention of a healthy membership is essential not just to ensure that the club remains sustainable in playing terms, but also in order to maximise the income, which is essential to fund pitch maintenance procedures.

Table 5.3 – Participation in Rugby Union - Clubs

Club	Adult Male	Adult Female	Colts	Youth Boys	Youth Girls	Mini
Long Eaton RFC	3	1	1 male, 1 female	4	2	8 (2 squads at age U7 and U12)
Ilkeston RFC	2	0	1	4	0	6

5.5 Training Needs

5.5.1 As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training for both clubs takes place at the club base. Training for both clubs is focused on the floodlit playing pitches – these pitches are also used for matches and training therefore exacerbates the level of activity that they are exposed to.

5.5.2 In addition to the floodlit pitch at The Stute, Ilkeston RFC also use the floodlit pitch at Gallows Inn Playing Fields, particularly in winter months where drainage issues at The Stute make training at the site difficult.

5.5.3 There are no 3G AGPs in the Borough with rugby shock pads and therefore no opportunities for contact-based training off the main club bases – this is identified as a gap in the infrastructure for rugby by one of the clubs.

5.5.4 According to PPS guidance, two teams training on one pitch for circa an hour and an hour and a half is equivalent to one match - this training therefore clearly places additional wear and tear

on pitches. Analysis of current club training patterns therefore suggests that training amounts to the following levels of activity;

Long Eaton RFC

- Adult / colts age rugby union – 6 teams with 2 training sessions (Tuesday/Thursday) – 6 MES
- Youth rugby union – teams training once (male and female) – 3 MES
- Mini rugby union – teams training on a Wednesday (1.5 MES on full size pitch)
- The total impact on the site is therefore 10.5 MES.

Ilkeston RFC

- Adult rugby union – 2 teams with 2 training sessions (Tuesday / Thursday) – 2 MES
- Youth rugby union – three teams training once per week (1.5 MES) plus two teams (colts and U16) training twice (2 MES)
- Mini rugby union – only U12 and U11 train outside of a Sunday morning (0.5 MES as small sided teams using large pitch)
- The total impact of training on site is therefore 6 MES.

5.5.5 It should be noted that where teams either train or play friendlies on a Sunday morning, this has been counted as competitive activity and the impact is not therefore duplicated in the above training figures.

5.6 Educational Demand

5.6.1 Trent College competes nationally as part of independent school competition programmes, but outside of this, there is relatively limited participation in rugby at a secondary school level with only Wilsthorpe Community School having their own pitch.

5.6.2 Both clubs have however established links with schools in their area and are looking to use these to develop interest in rugby and promote a transition to club membership. Long Eaton Rugby Club are actively working to build links with secondary schools and now work directly with five secondary schools. There is therefore an effective transition between school and clubs teams.

5.6.3 Ilkeston RFC also link with local schools, working with Bilborough College as well as having dialogue with Ilkeston Ormiston Academy, Hall Park and Kirk Hallam Community Academy to

build relationships and support rugby development. This is something that the club are looking to increase in order to rebuild their membership.

5.6.4 There is no known usage of the pitches at West Park (Long Eaton RFC) by schools, however Ilkeston Town RFC allow use of their pitches by Bilborough College in Nottingham (circa 20 matches per season) on Pitches 1 and 2. This increases the amount of wear and tear on pitches at The Stute.

5.6.5 All rugby pitches provided on school sites are available for community use in addition to accommodating demand from school pupils, however curricular use does however reduce the capacity of these pitches for club activity and the lack of floodlights means that usage would only be possible during the summer months or at weekends (not for midweek training).

5.7 Adequacy of Provision

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

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

5.7.2 For rugby union, this analysis is based upon the following principles:

Capacity over the course of a week

5.7.3 The RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches. The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 5.4.

5.7.4 As set out in Table 5.2, the quality of rugby pitches is highlighted as a key priority for improvement at both club bases and this means that the capacity to sustain match play is more limited than it would be if pitch quality was higher. The drainage issues evident on both sites limit the number of matches that can be sustained without overplay.

Table 5.4: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)

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

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

Peak Time Demand

5.7.6 To identify spare capacity at peak time, the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time is measured against the number of match equivalent sessions available. Peak time is considered to be as follows;

- Senior men’s rugby union - Saturday PM
- Youth rugby union - Sunday AM
- Mini rugby union - Sunday AM and
- Women and girls rugby union - Sunday PM (female).

5.7.7 Table 5.5 considers the adequacy of demand to meet the needs of each of the clubs. It considers the pitches at the club bases, as well as the facility at Gallows Inn Playing Fields, which is used by Ilkeston RFC.

5.7.8 It provides an indicative distribution of matches at each club site. This distribution of play is for illustration only, particularly at Long Eaton RFC as fixtures change weekly based on the teams needing to play at any one time.

5.7.9 It should be noted that the calculations presented for Ilkeston RFC also take into account the usage of the pitches by Bilborough College (which equates to another team equivalent per season).

Table 5.5 – Adequacy of Provision at Club Bases (match play)

Club Base	Pitch Number	Approximate Total Match Demand (MES)	Capacity Rating	Capacity of Pitch (MES)	Supply / Demand Balance Match Play (MES)
Long Eaton RFC	1	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	2	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	3	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	4	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	Mini Pitches (2)	4	M1/D0	1.5 x 2 (3 in total)	-1
Ilkeston RFC	1	2	M1/D0	1.5	-0.5
	2	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	3	1.5	M1/D0	1.5	0
	Mini Pitches (8)	3	M1/D0	1.5 x 8 (12 in total)	9
Gallows Inn Playing Fields	1	0	M1/D1	2	2

*NB a negative supply / demand balance means pitch is overplayed.

5.7.10 Table 5.5 reveals that overall, when taking into account just competitive activity;

- At Ilkeston RUFC, the capacity of the full-size pitches is insufficient to meet the demand from the teams. This is impacted by the poor-quality rating of each of the pitches. There is overplay on one pitch and no remaining spare capacity on the other two pitches. There is adequate capacity however on the numerous mini pitches that are dotted around the ground to meet the needs of the younger teams
- At Long Eaton RUFC, capacity pressures are also evident and supply equals demand on all full-size pitches. Again, the capacity available is influenced by the pitch conditions, which are poorly drained. There is a small amount of remaining spare capacity on the mini pitches
- The pitch at Gallows Inn Playing Fields is not used for competitive activity.

Peak Time Demand

5.7.11 Analysis of demand at peak time is also essential, as it provides an understanding of the challenges experienced with competitive fixtures. Based upon the teams that are currently run;

Long Eaton RUFC

- On a Saturday PM, peak time for senior rugby, there is spare capacity for 2 MES
- Spare capacity is also just adequate on a Sunday morning, although some of the mini teams must use full size pitches (playing across) which means there is little remaining capacity.

Ilkeston RUFC

- On a Saturday PM, which is the peak time for senior rugby, there is capacity to accommodate 2 MES further
- On a Sunday morning, when junior and mini teams play, there is also spare capacity.

5.7.12 Peak time capacity is therefore not too restricted given the availability of mini pitches, instead it is the number of games that must be sustained over the course of the week that is causing the pressures – this is directly influenced by the quality issues that are experienced by both clubs.

Impact of Including Training Activity

5.7.13 Training activity adds extra pressures to the pitches at the club sites, with Long Eaton RUFC training exclusively at their home base and Ilkeston using their home facility plus Gallows Inn Playing Fields. The impact of this is outlined in Table 5.6. It demonstrates that the training that

is undertaken on both sites exacerbates the pressures that are already evident and indeed generates further overplay. When assuming that training demand from Ilkeston RUFC is split equally between Gallows Inn Playing Fields and The Stute, Gallows Inn Playing Fields is also overplayed.

Table 5.6 – Impact of Training on Pitch Capacity

Club Base	Pitch Number	Approximate Total Match Demand (MES)	Capacity of Pitch (MES)	Supply Demand Balance Match Play (MES)	Total Training Demand	Position	Club Overall
Long Eaton RFC	1	1.5	1.5	0	5	-5	-10.5
	2	1.5	1.5	0	5.5	-5.5	
	3	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	
	4	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	
	Mini Pitches (2)	4	1.5 x 2 (3 in total)	-1	-1	-1	
Ilkeston RFC	1	2	1.5	-0.5	3	-3.5	-3.5
	2	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	
	3	1.5	1.5	0	0	0	
	Mini Pitches (8)	3	1.5 x 8 (12 in total)	9	9	9	
Gallows Inn Playing Fields	1		2	2	3	-1	-1

*NB a negative supply / demand balance means pitch is overplayed.

5.7.14 It is therefore clear that when also taking into account training requirements, overplay is evident at both club sites. Training can only take place on the training area as it is the only part of the site that is floodlit and the pressures on these pitches are therefore particularly exacerbated.

5.7.15 At both sites, installation of more floodlights would help better spread training activity across a greater number of pitches, although it would increase the wear and tear on other pitches that are currently used for match play. With existing overplay, improvements to pitch quality will be required before these floodlights are installed. It is the limited pitch quality that is particularly impacting upon the overall capacity of each venue (and the degree to which pitch quality improvements can address these issues will be explored through scenario testing in the strategy document).

5.7.16 Alternatively, other options for training would need to be considered. Ilkeston RUFC report aspirations for a WR compliant 3G AGP which would reduce demand on their grass pitches and

support the training activity of the club. They highlight that nearby facilities with the required community shock pad offer limited access for community rugby clubs.

Other rugby pitches

5.7.17 While Table 5.6 indicates that there are pressures on the existing rugby club bases, the remaining pitches in the Borough are able to offer opportunities for further play. There are six pitches at school sites, none of which currently sustain any community use (although community use is available on either a secured or unsecured basis at five of the six pitches), but all of which do accommodate curricular and extra-curricular activity.

5.7.18 In total therefore, spare capacity for the community equates to 3.5 MES on non-club bases. This is summarised in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7: Capacity at other sites

Site	Total Rugby Pitches	Community use	Drainage / Maintenance Rating	Capacity (MES)	Known Rugby Activity (MES)	Supply Demand Balance (MES)
Long Eaton School	1 mini	Available for use	D0/M1	1.5	1	0.5
Trent College	6	Available for use	D0/M1	1.5 (9 in total)	6	3
Wilsthorpe Community School	1	Not available for use	D1/M0	1.5	1	0 for community use

5.7.19 While the above pitches therefore do represent potential spare capacity, the ethos of rugby clubs means that while these pitches are important in ensuring that schools are able to continue to play rugby, their potential role in providing for the club is limited, as clubs would prefer to accommodate all activity at their own base and ensuring the adequacy of provision at the club base remains the key priority. These pitches are however in close proximity to Long Eaton RUFC and may offer an opportunity to address the capacity issues current evident at West Park through the use of these satellite facilities.

5.7.20 None of the above sites represent a real opportunity to address issues at Ilkeston RUFC as none are located in the same sub area.

5.8 Future Picture

Population Change

- 5.8.1 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.
- 5.8.2 Table 5.8 summarises the current TGRs for rugby union and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected changes to the population on demand. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032 and 2038 cumulatively from 2022 (i.e., the figures for 2038 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032).
- 5.8.3 It reveals that population growth will have limited, with insufficient growth to generate any additional teams by 2038, although the equivalent of half an additional adult team will be generated – this is likely to just support existing playing numbers. There will be a short-term increase in participation for youth boys, but this will reduce again by 2038.

Table 5.8: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2038
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	5	17706	3541	0.4	0.5
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)	1	18699	18699	0	0
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	10	3850	385	1.0	0.3
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)	3	3570	1190	0.2	0
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	14	8328	595	-1.5	-1.4

5.8.4 Table 6.8 therefore suggests that demand for rugby union is unlikely to increase, and the overplay evident at both clubs is therefore likely to remain consistent with the current position.

5.8.5 National Governing Body and Club Aspirations

- 5.8.6 The RFU are keen to see both clubs both retain their existing players but also to continue to progress. With both clubs having full junior and mini sections and Long Eaton also running a thriving female section, it is clear that both clubs are sustainable and well placed for further growth.
- 5.8.7 Both clubs believe that to an extent, their potential for growth is now limited by the availability of pitches on their sites and this is reflected in the calculations, which suggest that pitches are at capacity. Without increased capacity at both sites, opportunities for growth are therefore restricted.
- 5.8.8 Both clubs continue to work proactively however on club development, with Ilkeston RFC currently offering rugby taster sessions for young players free of charge, whilst Long Eaton RFC are working with numerous primary schools to develop interest in rugby at a young age.
- 5.8.9 With regards specific aspirations;
- Long Eaton RFC indicate that they are keen to continue club growth, but do not set specific targets for this. The current focus is upon the retention and growth of the existing U15 and U17 age groups, which have been more impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic than other age groups. The club project an increase in demand equivalent to 12% of members in the male section and 30% in the female section. This level of growth may enable the creation of additional teams.
 - Ilkeston RUFC are also keen to increase membership but are focusing initially on ensuring that membership returns to pre covid levels – i.e boosting the number of players within each squad and looking to redevelop teams that have folded and are down on numbers. The club are also looking to engage again with female players by encouraging female participation at any early age and hoping that this eventually transitions into girls teams. The club do not currently set specific targets for this.
- 5.8.10 Both clubs believe that to deliver their aspirations, both in terms of meeting current levels of demand, but also to enable further increases in participation, improvements to the facility stock are required, specifically;
- Long Eaton RFC highlight the number and quality of pitches (and consequently the subsequent capacity of pitches) as the key challenge for them moving forwards and they are seeking to extend the playing area at their site and / or to deliver additional capacity in the form of an AGP. The club also believe that more changing facilities would also be

required. An extension to the existing social space in the pavilion is proposed and is likely to take place in Spring 2022.

- Ilkeston RFC also highlight that the quality and availability of pitches represents a key issue for the club. They are currently struggling with the knock-on impact of covid in terms of sustainability, and challenges maintaining the grounds on reduced income means that these issues are exacerbated. Long term, in addition to address the quality issues that have been identified, the club also highlight their aspiration for a 3G pitch sited at their club base.

5.8.11 The adequacy of the existing provision at club sites to meet current and projected future demand is therefore summarised in Table 5.9. It assumes that 1 MES additional demand is also generated at each site from population growth. Whilst this represents an indicative position, in reality, the proposed location of new housing developments means that growth is most likely to be experienced at Ilkeston RUFC.

Table 5.9 – Adequacy of Provision to Meet Current and Projected Future Provision

Club	Quality Rating	Current Position	Future Position	Key Issues Raised
Long Eaton RFC	M1/D0	Supply meets demand for match play (0), but when including training, two floodlit pitches heavily overplayed. Total position across site – 10.5 MES overplay.	Potential 3 MES additional demand – significant overplay 13.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club believe site capacity is impacting club development – seeking additional pitches • Pitch improvements needed – earthworks and drainage. Current rating M1/D0 • Pavilion good but additional changing facilities potentially required to support growth of club
Ilkeston RFC	M1/DO	Pitch 1 overplayed (1 MES) and this is exacerbated when considering the impact of training (-4.5 MES) taking into account Gallows Inn. Remaining pitches have no spare capacity.	Potential 2 MES additional demand – overplay equivalent to 6.5 MES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club believe site capacity is impacting club development • Pitch improvements needed – earthworks and drainage. Current rating M1/D0 • Club struggling with sustainability following Covid 19 pandemic • Pavilion / clubhouse good

Club	Quality Rating	Current Position	Future Position	Key Issues Raised
		Total Position across site – 3.5 MES overplay.		

5.8.12 The strategy document will therefore use the information collated in this evidence base in order to scenario test the options available to the clubs and the implications of the potential pitch works at both sites in terms of the adequacy of provision. The provision of additional floodlighting will also be considered, alongside the potential rationale for an AGP.

5.9 Summary

5.9.1 The supply and demand for rugby union, and the key issues that need to be addressed are summarised below.

Rugby Union - Key Issues
<p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 14 full sized pitches, 13 of which are available for community use on either a secured or unsecured basis. Pitches are located in the urban areas of Ilkeston and Long Eaton and Sandiacre. There are no facilities in the rural areas of the Borough. There are also 11 mini pitches at West Park and the Stute • The stock of floodlit facilities is good with a third of all full-sized pitches floodlit. Both clubs have access to floodlights, with two floodlit pitches at West Park and a further small pitch partially floodlit (Long Eaton RFC). At The Stute, Ilkeston (RFC) one full sized pitch has floodlights and the club also have access to the floodlit pitch at Gallows Inn Playing Fields. The club indicate that a further 2 mini pitches can be floodlit during the dry months. • There are no 3G AGPs in the Borough that are compliant with World Rugby Regulations meaning that any use of 3G AGPs for rugby must be none contact only. • both rugby clubs report a decline in the quality of the facilities available for rugby. The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic has been reported to be particularly for significant, with the lost income that resulted from the closure of the clubhouses reducing the amount of maintenance and out of season reinstatement work that could be undertaken. • reflecting the perceived decline, there is scope to improve the pitch quality at both club sites. There are some underlying drainage issues impacting playability at both clubs and scope to increase the maintenance of the pitches. Compaction of pitches was also a particular issue, and this is likely to exacerbate drainage concerns further. <p>Demand</p>

- There is a total of 33 rugby teams in Erewash at the 2 clubs, 6 of which are senior teams. There is strong interest in rugby at a younger age at both clubs, and Long Eaton RFC also offers women and girls rugby, with teams at U13, U15 and U18 levels as well as senior ladies rugby.
- The Covid 19 pandemic is perceived by the clubs to have had significant impact, with both clubs highlighting that youth players are only now starting to return. Ilkeston RFC have identified a particular reduction in players, with adult players only starting to return once full rugby was introduced, but numbers still down on previous levels, whilst colts and older youth groups are also reduced. Long Eaton RFC report issues in similar age groups. Levels of participation in the younger age groups have been less affected at both clubs.
- As is common with rugby clubs nationwide, training for both clubs takes place at the club base. Training at Long Eaton RFC is high, equating to 10.5 MES per week and is focused on the two floodlit pitches, whilst training at Ilkeston RUFC is accommodated on The Stute as well as off site at Gallows Inn Playing Field and is equivalent to 6 MES.
- Trent College competes nationally as part of independent school competition programmes, but outside of this, there is relatively limited participation in rugby at a secondary school level with only Wilsthorpe Community School having their own pitch.
- Both clubs have however established links with schools in their area and are looking to use these to develop interest in rugby and promote a transition to club membership.

Adequacy of Provision

- When taking into account just competitive activity;
 - At Ilkeston RUFC, the capacity of the full-size pitches is insufficient to meet the demand from the teams. This is impacted by the poor-quality rating of each of the pitches. There is overplay on one pitch and no remaining spare capacity on the other two pitches. There is adequate capacity however on the numerous mini pitches that are dotted around the ground to meet the needs of the younger teams
 - At Long Eaton RUFC, capacity pressures are also evident and supply equals demand on all full-size pitches. Again, the capacity available is influenced by the pitch conditions, which are poorly drained. There is a small amount of remaining spare capacity on the mini pitches
 - The pitch at Gallows Inn Playing Fields is not used for competitive activity.
- The impact of training exacerbates this further, with overplay evident at both clubs and heavy demand on all floodlit pitches. In total, taking into account training, overplay equates to 10.5 MES at Long Eaton RUFC and 3.5 MES at Ilkeston RUFC. This is impacted by the reduced capacity caused by pitch quality as well as the high levels of demand.
- There is a small amount of spare capacity on pitches outside of the club base (3.5 MES) however none of these sites are preferred locations for the two clubs
- Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for rugby, with no additional teams generated by 2038. Both clubs do however have significant aspirations for the development of further teams, which will exacerbate existing shortfalls
- Both clubs have significant aspirations to improve their facilities in order to better meet the needs of the current and future membership and are keen to improve grass pitch quality as well as to consider the potential role that AGPs could play in meeting club need.

Key Facility Issues to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- **The opportunities to improve capacity through increased maintenance across all pitches (but particularly those that currently receive more limited attention)**
- **The need to improve pitch quality (in particular drainage) to enhance capacity**
- **The need to spread the impact of training across a greater number of pitches in order to alleviate wear and tear**
- **The potential need for access to additional pitches / capacity (depending upon the improvements that can be secured through qualitative improvements). This will be tested through scenario testing in the strategy document.**

6.0 Hockey

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section summarises the adequacy of pitches for hockey.

6.2 Pitch Supply

6.2.1 England Hockey Policy Guidance on AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitch Surface Policy 2016) indicates the suitability of AGPs to be as follows;

- Category 1 - Water Based (suitable for high level hockey and football training if the pitch is irrigated)
- Category 2- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
- Category 3 - Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey and suitable for football training)
- Category 4 – Long Pile 3g (acceptable surface for football and introductory Level Hockey but not competitive match play hockey).

6.2.2 A new surface (Gen 2 multi sports area) has also recently been launched for hockey. This multi-sport surface seeks to maximise sustainability in that as well as meeting needs for hockey, it is also suitable for use for tennis and netball (and therefore widening the potential uses of the facility). Gen 2 surfaces can also be used for futsal, lacrosse, softball, korfbal and athletics training.

6.2.3 The stock of full sized AGPs in 2022 across Erewash, and their suitability for hockey is therefore summarised in Table 6.1 It reveals that there are five pitches that are suitable for hockey in the Borough. The majority of provision is however located in Long Eaton. Rutland Sports Park is the only site within the Ilkeston area.

6.2.4 The pitches at Friesland School, Kirk Hallam Community Academy, Ilkeston Town FC and Long Eaton FC are 3G surfaces and therefore cannot be used for hockey.

Table 6.1: AGPs for hockey across Erewash Borough

Site	Number of pitches	Sub Area	AGP Surface	Floodlit	Quality	Access Arrangements	Suitability for Hockey
Rutland Sports Complex	1	Ilkeston	Sand Dressed	Yes	Line markings fading, pitch of lower quality and clearly ageing.	Public leisure centre, available up to 8pm midweek and 9-3pm Saturday / Sunday	Yes
The Long Eaton School	1	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand Filled	Yes	Some line markings fading / grip under foot poor.	School site, pitch available to book between 6.30pm and 10pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 6.30pm Saturday / Sunday	Yes
Trent College	2	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand Filled	Yes	Both pitches of high quality	School site, pitch available to book between 6.30pm and 10pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 6.30pm Saturday / Sunday	Yes, although one does not meet size guidelines.
Wilsthorpe Community School	1	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand Filled	Yes		School site, pitch usually available to book between 6.30pm and 9pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm Saturday / Sunday. No lettings currently due to Covid 19 pandemic.	Yes

6.3.1 Table 6.1 demonstrates that there are several good facilities that are suitable for hockey within the Borough. Three of the four pitches are available to the community and floodlit – the pitch at Wilsthorpe Community School is not currently being let out due to the constraints of the Covid 19 pandemic.

6.3.2 Clubs confirm that the quality of facilities is adequate to meet current demand.

6.4 Demand

6.4.1 There are three hockey clubs currently running in Erewash Borough, which represents an increase in the number of clubs since the 2017 strategy.

6.4.2 Ilkeston Hockey Club is the oldest club in the area, having been formed many years ago. In contrast, both Erewash Hockey Club and Trent Valley Hockey Club are newly formed (2018 and 2020 respectively). This suggests that interest in hockey in Erewash is growing.

6.4.3 Table 6.2 summarises the number of teams now running in each club.

Table 6.2: Demand for Hockey

Club	Senior Male	Senior Female	Mixed Hockey	Junior Male	Junior Female	Masters Male (age 46+)	Masters Female (age 46+)
Erewash HC							
Number of Teams	0	1	1	0	0		
Ilkeston Hockey Club							
Number of Teams	0	2	0				
Trent Valley Hockey Club							
Number of Teams	0		0	Training session only			

6.4.4 Ilkeston Hockey Club run two ladies hockey teams competing in the Derbyshire Hockey League. They are based at Rutland Sports Park for matches, and training also takes place at this venue (1 hour on a Monday).

6.4.5 Erewash Hockey Club play in the Derbyshire League (Division 2) with a home venue of Long Eaton School. They also run a Mixed Team (7s) who travel to the Nottingham Hockey Centre to play in the mixed hockey league. Erewash Hockey Club train at Trent College on a Thursday evening (1 hour).

6.4.6 Trent Valley Hockey Club is focused on junior development, welcoming young people aged U8 to U16 and with aspirations for the development of a Badgers Team (blend of adults and youth players). The club are based at Trent College and training sessions run for an hour and a half on Sunday mornings. The creation of this club means that for the first time, young people in Erewash have a chance to participate in hockey.

6.4.7 With three small clubs now existing in Erewash, this suggests that the picture for hockey in the Borough is positive, particularly as two of the three clubs are recently established. It should be noted however that all three clubs are currently small, which means that sustainability is more challenging.

6.4.8 Added to this, Table 6.2 demonstrates that there are no opportunities for males to play in formal hockey in the Borough with the two clubs running senior teams both focusing on females. Erewash Hockey Club do however run a mixed team. Trent Valley Hockey Club is the only club to run dedicated sessions for junior players.

6.4.9 Ilkeston Hockey Club report that playing numbers have now largely returned to pre covid levels, whilst Trent Valley Hockey Club has managed to establish its new junior training sessions since the covid 19 pandemic.

6.4.10 Consultation with the clubs suggests that the key issues for hockey are now;

- The high cost of facility hire
- Shortage of coaches and volunteers
- Concerns about the loss of sand based AGPs as they are converted to 3G pitch surfaces to target football.

Hockey Development Demand

6.4.11 None of the England Hockey Pathway Development Centres or Academy Centres take place within Erewash Borough meaning that any young players selected for these academies must travel to Buxton, Chesterfield or Belper. This means that there is no demand generated through the England Hockey Single System Development Pathway in Erewash Borough.

Educational Demand

6.4.12 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours and there is therefore no impact on the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).

6.4.13 School participation can however have a knock-on impact on demand for hockey in the Borough by generating new players that subsequently transition into the club. Trent College is particularly active in hockey, successfully competing in national competitions. There is also a small amount of QwickSticks hockey in primary schools, suggesting that there are strong foundations for the sport and potential to increase club membership through school club links.

6.5 Assessment of Supply and Demand Information and Views

6.5.1 The assessment of the adequacy of facilities to meet demand for hockey takes into account both the requirements for competitive play and to meet training demand.

6.5.2 Supply and demand of AGPs is measured by considering;

- The amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the number of hours that the pitch is accessible to the community during peak periods up to a maximum of 34

hours per week). Peak periods have been deemed to be Monday to Thursday 18:00 to 21:00; Friday 17:00 to 19:00 and Saturday and Sunday 09:00 to 17:00

- The amount of play that takes place (measured in hours)
- Whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- Any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through consultation.

6.5.3 Table 6.3 summarises the availability of hockey pitches across the week and the use of the pitches for hockey. It is clear that there is limited use of the pitches for hockey, particularly given the number of facilities that are available. Pitches at Long Eaton School and Wilsthorpe Community College are however also used for football training, and hockey clubs must therefore compete with these other demands. None of the clubs however raise access to the facilities as a key concern.

6.5.4 Table 6.3 summarises the hockey usage at each site in the Borough. It considers the hours available at peak times (6 – 9pm Monday to Thursday and 9-3pm Saturday / Sunday) and demonstrates that there is significant opportunity for further hockey play.

Table 6.3: Site by Site Hockey Usage

Site	Sub Area	Community Hockey Usage (Midweek) - Hours	Community Hockey Usage (weekend) - Hours	User (outside key school hours)	Availability (Hours)	Comments
Rutland Sports Complex	Ilkeston	1	2-4	Ilkeston HC	Midweek – 8 Weekend - 12	Site has significant potential for additional hockey usage. AGP also used for football and is busy most midweek evenings with this.
Long Eaton School	Long Eaton and Sandiacre		2	Erewash HC	Midweek – 10 Weekend - 12	Site has significant potential for additional hockey usage. Clubs must however compete with football - AGP is almost at capacity 4 midweek nights per week

Site	Sub Area	Community Hockey Usage (Midweek) - Hours	Community Hockey Usage (weekend) - Hours	User (outside key school hours)	Availability (Hours)	Comments
Trent College	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	1	1.5	Erewash HC / Trent Valley HC Trent College weekend fixtures	Midweek – 10 Weekend - 12	Significant potential for additional hockey use. Weekend availability more limited as school also have weekend fixtures. Used as overspill for other clubs (Belper HC).
Wilsthorpe Community College	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	00		N/a	None currently	No use for hockey

Peak Time Capacity

- 6.5.5 To ensure that issues for hockey are fully taken into account, as well as evaluating usage over the week, capacity at peak time should also be considered. England Hockey indicates that an AGP should be considered able to sustain a maximum of four to five games per day, however this is dependent on factors such as floodlighting, warm up areas and local league structures. The closure of the pitch at Rutland Sports Complex at 3pm means that play may be restricted to 3 MES at this site.
- 6.5.6 Table 6.4 summarises the supply and demand for hockey in Erewash at peak time (maximum club requirements). It assumes that there is some use of the pitches at Trent College at weekends by the school, but that hockey is not played at weekends by any of the other schools. It indicates that supply is significantly above the level of demand that is evident particularly in Long Eaton.
- 6.5.7 Rutland Sports Park is the only site in Ilkeston and is therefore important in meeting the requirements of Ilkeston HC.
- 6.5.8 For clarity, Table 6.4 measures usage in terms of Match Equivalent sessions that can be accommodated on a peak day.

Table 6.4: Peak Time Demand

Site Name	Capacity of full-sized sand-based pitches across the Borough at peak time (match equivalent sessions)	Total Demand (Match Equivalent sessions)	Difference (Match Equivalent sessions)
Rutland Sports Complex	3	1	2
Long Eaton School	4	1	3
Trent College	4	2	2
Wilsthorpe Community College	4	0	4

6.5.9 It indicates that demand across the Borough equates to 4 MES, meaning that 1 pitch is required to meet demand (if available all hours), although this will then mean that play is spread across the day for the variety of clubs. All peak time play is currently on a Saturday morning.

6.6 England Hockey Perspective

6.6.1 England Hockey have a vision for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

6.6.2 They indicate that;

‘Delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision’.

6.6.3 The core objectives of England Hockey are as follows;

- 1. Grow our Participation
- 2. Deliver International Success
- 3. Increase our Visibility
- 4. Enhance our Infrastructure
- 5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport.

6.6.4 England Hockey Facility Strategy provides a summary of the facilities that they believe are required for hockey. The key features of the strategy are;

- **Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players
- **Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

6.6.5 The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are;

- **PROTECT:** To conserve the existing hockey provision - There are over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) There is a need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- **IMPROVE:** To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively) - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.
- **DEVELOP:** To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

6.6.6 This strategy is currently being updated. Until a new document is released however, the existing strategic framework sets out the key priorities of England Hockey in relation to facilities.

6.6.7 Of particular note, the strategy seeks to provide clear rationale that identifies where multi pitch sites should be placed and strategic priorities to stabilise the future of England Hockey.

6.6.8 With regards facilities, it provides guidance that multi pitch sites are required / viable for clubs reaching 500 members or more (although access to pitches at a second site is likely to be required much before this). England Hockey research indicates that in addition to generating

additional opportunities for training in an evening, a small sized training pitch located adjacent to the main pitch can add benefits at peak time and increase the capacity of the full-size pitch. If this pitch is used for warmups for competitive fixtures, the number of matches that an AGP can sustain on peak day increases to 5 matches.

- 6.6.9 With all three of the clubs currently being small and with memberships falling well below this level, this means that there is no requirement for second pitches to meet the needs of any of the clubs and indeed, there is spare capacity within the existing infrastructure.
- 6.6.10 In reference to the national framework currently, the key priority will be the retention of adequate existing facilities to support hockey – the ‘Protect’ and ‘Improve’ strand. Whilst the pitches at Trent College is good, the facilities at Rutland Sports Park are of lower quality and will require refurbishment in the short to medium term.
- 6.6.11 It is important to note that based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitches at any of the sites commercially. There is limited use of each site for hockey and whilst the primary purpose of the facilities at both Long Eaton School and Trent College is curricular activity, Rutland Sports Centre is a publicly owned facility. Currently, the pitch is also used heavily for football (and indeed is advertised as a football pitch). There is a concern however that as more 3G pitches are provided (the preferred surface for football) some of the income achieved by letting out the pitch to football clubs will disappear. It is therefore essential that the future needs for hockey are planned now, both in terms of the protection of sand-based surfaces long term, but also how the resurfacing of the facility will be funded. This site is the base for Ilkeston Hockey Club and is the only facility in this sub area.
- 6.6.12 It should be noted however that England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all sports. This could be considered as an alternative to sand-based provision in order to improve the commercial viability of the site whilst retaining the pitch surface that is suitable for hockey.

6.7 Future Picture of Provision

Population Change

- 6.7.1 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand.

6.7.2 Table 6.5 summarises the TGRs for hockey. It considers only adult hockey teams, as membership numbers are used to forecast growth in junior participation. It presents the total number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032 and 2038 cumulatively from 2022 (i.e., the figures for 2038 include the number of additional teams that will be generated by 2032).

6.7.3 It reveals that because of low levels of hockey participation; the application of TGRs suggests that population growth will have very little impact. Even by 2038, the population growth will not be sufficient to generate any further teams.

Table 7.5: Impact of Changes to the Population Profile

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2025	Additional Teams Generated by 2031	Additional Teams Generated by 2037
Senior Men (16-55yrs)	0	27991	0	0.00	0	0
Senior Women (16-55yrs)	4	29254	7314	0.00	0	0.3

6.7.4 While team generation rates can be to an extent used to predict the growth of adult participation in hockey, junior participation is primarily projected by membership levels.

6.7.5 The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator provides a more detailed understanding of the potential impact of population growth on demand for hockey, as it takes into account requirements for both matches and training and using membership numbers to predict growth at a junior level, as well as by adults.

6.7.6 Application of this figure (using the total population growth (but not taking into account changes to the population profile) that is projected to occur between 2022 and 2038 as a baseline) suggests that;

- Demand for hockey may increase by 0.12 match equivalent sessions (senior) and 0.06 match equivalent sessions (junior)
- Estimated demand for training per week generated by population growth will be 0.36 (match equivalents) and 0.09 (match equivalents) junior.

6.7.7 The above growth in demand is equivalent to 0.03 sand based AGPs. This therefore reinforces the findings that population growth alone will have limited impact on participation and that any increases in demand for hockey will need to be driven by sports development initiatives.

Targeted Participation Growth

- 6.7.8 England Hockey seek to build participation in hockey, with a particular focus placed upon retention of existing players as well as an increase in the number of players aged 14+. In addition to the traditional form of the game, new forms of hockey have also been introduced, including Rush Hockey and Back to Hockey, as well as Flyerz, a form of hockey suitable for disabled participants. These forms do not require formal facilities and can be played on any facility (including the small sand based AGPs).
- 6.7.9 With the recent creation of new clubs in the Borough, there is significant opportunity for the development and growth of hockey. Ilkeston HC indicate that they are looking to develop further female hockey teams, whilst Trent Valley Hockey Club are looking to translate participation in their junior hockey training sections into formal teams. This means that demand for hockey is likely to increase, particularly at a junior level.
- 6.7.10 The importance of support from England Hockey to grow and develop the sport of hockey is highlighted by Ilkeston Hockey Club. It is felt that there is significant opportunity to do so if the right facilities are retained and clubs are supported in their aspirations. With Rutland Sports Park being the only facility in Ilkeston, it may therefore be important to retain this facility in order to ensure the ongoing viability of the Ilkeston Hockey Club. It is also this location in which the area of greatest population growth will take place.

6.8 Summary

Hockey – Key Issues
<p>Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are five sand-based full sized AGPs in Erewash. Outside of Rutland Sports Complex, these are all located at education sites – The Long Eaton School, Trent College (2), Wilsthorpe Grammar School. • The quality of the facilities at Trent College is good, whilst the other pitches are starting to age. The pitch at Rutland Sports Complex will be due for refurbishment in the short term. <p>Demand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three hockey clubs currently running in Erewash Borough, which represents an increase in the number of clubs since the 2017 strategy. • Ilkeston Hockey Club is the oldest club in the area, having been formed many years ago. In contrast, both Erewash Hockey Club and Trent Valley Hockey Club are newly formed (2018 and 2020 respectively). This suggests that interest in hockey in Erewash is growing. • Clubs play at Rutland Sports Park (Ilkeston HC), Long Eaton School (Erewash HC) and Trent College (Trent Valley HC and Erewash HC). Trent College also plays in regular weekend fixtures.

- Both Erewash and Ilkeston HC have a midweek training session (1 hour each) but play at Trent Valley HC is currently restricted to the weekend
- Opportunities for male hockey are limited, with both Ilkeston HC and Erewash HC running female teams (although there is a mixed hockey team at Erewash HC travelling to Nottingham to play) whilst Trent Valley HC focuses on juniors
- Participation has recently increased, but the clubs struggle with a shortage of volunteers. Alongside the cost of pitch hire, this is viewed as one of the key barriers to growth.

Adequacy of Provision

- There is limited use of the sand based AGPs for hockey, particularly given the number of facilities that are available. Pitches at Long Eaton School and Wilsthorpe Community College are however also used for football training, and hockey clubs must therefore compete with these other demands.
- There is some spare capacity midweek although there is usage of the sand based AGPs for football at Rutland Sports Park and Long Eaton School is high. None of the clubs raise access to their chosen facilities as a key concern.
- Based on existing levels of usage, there is demand for 4 MES at peak time. With the standard capacity of an AGP equalling 4 MES, this means that activity can be fitted into one pitch, although 2 pitches would provide scope for hockey development and more flexibility with push back times. Capacity at Rutland Sports Park also equates to only 3 MES currently (closure of pitch at 3pm) meaning a second pitch would be necessary.
- Based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitches commercially. While currently, the pitches are also used football, there is a danger that if more 3G pitches are provided (the preferred surface for football) some of the income achieved by letting out the pitch to football clubs will disappear. It is therefore essential that the need for pitch resurfacing is planned for now, both in terms of how the pitches can be retained long term, but also how the resurfacing of the facilities will be funded.
- England Hockey have recently worked alongside England Netball / The LTA to develop a Gen2 surface suitable for all sports. This could be considered as an alternative to sand-based provision in order to improve the commercial viability of the site and the function of the pitch for the school, whilst retaining the pitch surface that is suitable for hockey. It is essential that in the long term the clubs have security of tenure on a site and that a surface suitable for hockey is retained.
- Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for hockey. England Hockey do however aspire to achieve a 7% year on year growth, and this would result in demand increasing beyond 4 MES demand at peak time if this was achieved. At this point, 2 pitches would be clearly required.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- **The need to ensure that at least one / two pitches of appropriate surface are retained for community hockey**
- **The quality issues identified at the existing pitches – The pitch at Rutland Sports Park is a key site for Ilkeston HC and will require resurfacing in the short term**
- **The long-term sustainability of the hockey pitches.**

7.0 Tennis

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

7.2 Supply

7.2.1 The audit identifies 57 outdoor courts across Erewash Borough. Of these, 19 offer full community use (located in parks / at club sites).

7.2.2 In addition, there are a further 15 tennis courts located at school sites where community access appears to be available; specifically;

- Friesland School
- Trent College
- Kirk Hallam Community Academy.

7.2.3 Critically, whilst there is a good number of tennis courts, there are no floodlit courts at all identified in the Borough. Floodlighting extends the use of the courts, enabling activity in evenings and during the winter months.

7.2.4 Table 7.1 summarises the spread of courts across the three types of facilities while Table 7.2 summarises the geographical spread of tennis courts across the borough. Site specific detail for each site is included within Table 8.3.

7.2.5 Supplementing the stock of outdoor tennis courts, there are also indoor courts at Rutland Sports Park.

Table 7.1: Type of Tennis Courts in Erewash Borough

Type of Site	Number of Sites	Total Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Courts Available for Community Use	Comments
Club	4	11	0	16	Pay and play not available
Park	2	8	0	3	West Park is the only parks site with full public access. Rutland Sports Park hosts club but also has public access available.
School	7	38	0	15	Trent College, Friesland School, Wilsthorpe Community School available in theory
Total	13	57	0	28	

7.2.7 Table 7.2 summarises the location of tennis courts and indicates that the distribution of courts is geographically balanced across the Borough. There is a greater number of club courts in the Rural areas (and indeed this is the only provision in these areas, highlighting the importance of pay and play provision), whilst school courts are focused in the more urban settlements of Long Eaton / Sandiacre and Ilkeston. The only public venues are in Ilkeston (Rutland Sports Park) and Long Eaton (West Park). This however means that the public courts serve the main centres of population.

7.2.8 As there are no courts with floodlights in any part of the Borough, there is a gap in this form of provision in all sub areas. The indoor courts at Rutland Sports Park therefore provide the only opportunity for tennis in the winter months.

Table 7.2: Location of Tennis Courts

Type of Site	Public Courts	Club Courts	School Courts	Floodlit Courts
Rural	0	11	0	0
Long Eaton / Sandiacre	3	0	23	0
Ilkeston	5	0	15	0

Access to Tennis Courts

7.2.9 Although tennis courts are well distributed across the Borough, analysis of the facilities that are considered to be available to the local community to an extent presents a misleading picture.

7.2.10 It should be noted that;

- Whilst the club sites provide important bases for their home clubs, with the exception of Rutland Sports Park, none of them offer any pay and play options to the general community.
- In theory the public facilities are available for general community use. The courts at West Park are however poor quality (this will be returned to later) and access to the general public is very limited at Rutland Sports Park. The site is leased to a club, although public access is also supposed to be available as part of the agreement. A sign on the facility provides details of this agreement and the means of booking courts, however in practice it is known that the availability of the facility to be public is very limited at best and there is a lack of clarity around who takes bookings for the courts.
- A similar issue also exists for school sites. Whilst courts at some schools are technically available, the customer journey for these facilities is poor. In particular, there is no opportunity to book online and those wishing to hire a court must call the school (often within very restricted time windows). There is also almost no active promotion of the facilities available and on some websites, it is not clear whether tennis courts are available to hire or not.

7.2.11 Many of the school facilities are shared with netball, and where courts are available, they are advertised as a MUGA. The lack of dedicated facilities is likely to impact on the availability of facilities for tennis. It should be noted that this may have been impacted by covid, with many schools unable to open their facilities during the pandemic, and indecision remaining as to whether they are now open or not. Both Wilsthorpe Community School and Ormiston Ilkeston Academy may open their facilities again to the community in the near future.

7.2.12 Whilst there are three indoor courts available for use at Rutland Sports Park, clubs highlight that these are busy and expensive to use. They are also shared with other sports (badminton, basketball, netball etc) and there is currently gym equipment on at least one of the courts.

7.2.13 Access to facilities is therefore a critical issue in Erewash, and one which is likely to impact upon the overall levels of participation in the Borough.

7.3 Quality

7.3.1 The quality of tennis courts was assessed through site visits (using a non-technical site assessment matrix) as well as through consultation with the club and providers. In general, these assessments conclude that while the quality of the club bases is standard to good and school facilities are standard, public facilities are of much lower quality.

7.3.2 In particular, the tennis courts at West Park are poor and require immediate refurbishment, whilst the courts at Rutland Sports Park are also starting to break up and will require replacement in the short to medium term.

7.3.3 Table 7.3 summarises the quality issues identified at individual facilities and also the specific access arrangements at each site.

Table 7.3: Site Specific Quality Issues

Site	Sub Area	Facility Type	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Quality Comments	Court Quality Rating	Access Issues
Breadsall Memorial Hall Tennis	Rural	Club	2	0	Basic courts now demonstrating signs of wear and tear, club undertake regular maintenance	Standard	Club members only
Ockbrook & Borrowash Lawn Tennis Club	Rural	Club	5	0	Well maintained, good condition and good associated facilities, some signs of court surfacing starting to wear	3 good, 2 standard due to wear	Club members only
St Peters Park, Little Eaton Tennis Club	Rural	Club	3	0	basic facilities of standard quality, well maintained but will require refurbishment in medium term – demonstrating wear, clubhouse recently upgraded. Club are regularly cleaning and painting.	Standard	Club members only
Rutland Sports Park	Ilkeston	Park / Club	5	0	Surface worn, lines wearing, refurbishment needed, no clubhouse.	Standard	Leased to club, public access advertised on gate but in reality, there is limited (if any) access to public
West Park Tennis	Long Eaton	Park	3	0	Limited, almost unplayable and require immediate refurbishment	Poor	Public access, free of charge.
Breadsall Priory Marriot Hotel	Rural	Club	1	0	Basic but functional	Standard	Club members / hotel guests only

Site	Sub Area	Facility Type	Number of Courts	Number of Floodlit Courts	Quality Comments	Court Quality Rating	Access Issues
Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy	Ilkeston	School	7	0	Located at the rear of the school. Basic facilities, line markings fading	Standard	No community access
Wilsthorpe Community School	Long Eaton	School	6	0	Located at the rear of the school, overmarked for other sports. Basic tarmac	Standard	Community access previously been available, but on hold through covid pandemic
Friesland School	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	School	5	0	Courts standard to good. Tarmac	Standard	Available to rent through school (not sports centre)
Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy	Ilkeston	School	4	0	Basic tennis courts, overmarked	Standard	Not available for community use
Kirk Hallam Community Academy	Ilkeston	School	4	0	Basic school tennis courts, adjacent to AGP, overmarked	Standard	Community use available. Limited promotion
The Long Eaton School	Long Eaton	School	6	0	Multi-sport MUGA	Standard to Good	Not available for community use
Trent College	Long Eaton	School	6	0	Excellent condition, two banks of courts. Clear line markings	Good	Available for community use but very limited promotion

7.3.4 Table 7.3 therefore demonstrates that overall, there is scope to improve the quality of tennis courts across the Borough. Although club facilities on the whole meet the needs of their members, several courts require refurbishment in the medium term. The quality of public facilities is more concerning and West Park requires immediate upgrade if courts are to be playable.

7.4 Demand

LTA Insight

LTA Vision and Mission (2019 – 2023)

7.4.1 The Vision of the LTA is to “Open Tennis Up” grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. There are 3 key objectives;

1. Increasing the number of fans engaging with tennis
2. Grow participation by increasing the number of adults and juniors playing tennis
3. Enabling new players to break into the world top 100.

7.4.2 Given that this assessment of tennis relates to facilities, it is (2), growth in participation that is most pivotal. Successful delivery of this objective would have an impact on the number and quality of tennis courts required, but alongside this, the provision of an appropriate infrastructure will be central in the achievement of this objective.

7.4.3 The LTA strategy indicates that the key elements connected to growing participation include;

- Widening the appeal of tennis through inclusion of flexible formats of the game
- Improving the customer journey by making it easier to find a court, book it, and find somebody to play with
- Develop more relevant and enjoyable competitions at grass roots level for all abilities and ages
- Support community facilities & schools to provide more opportunities to play
- Help clubs grow & retain members
- Create more opportunities for children to play at school
- Facilitate partnerships to further increase rate of participation in parks
- Support venues to provide a welcoming and enjoyable experience
- Increase awareness of affordability.

LTA Insight into Improving Participation in Tennis

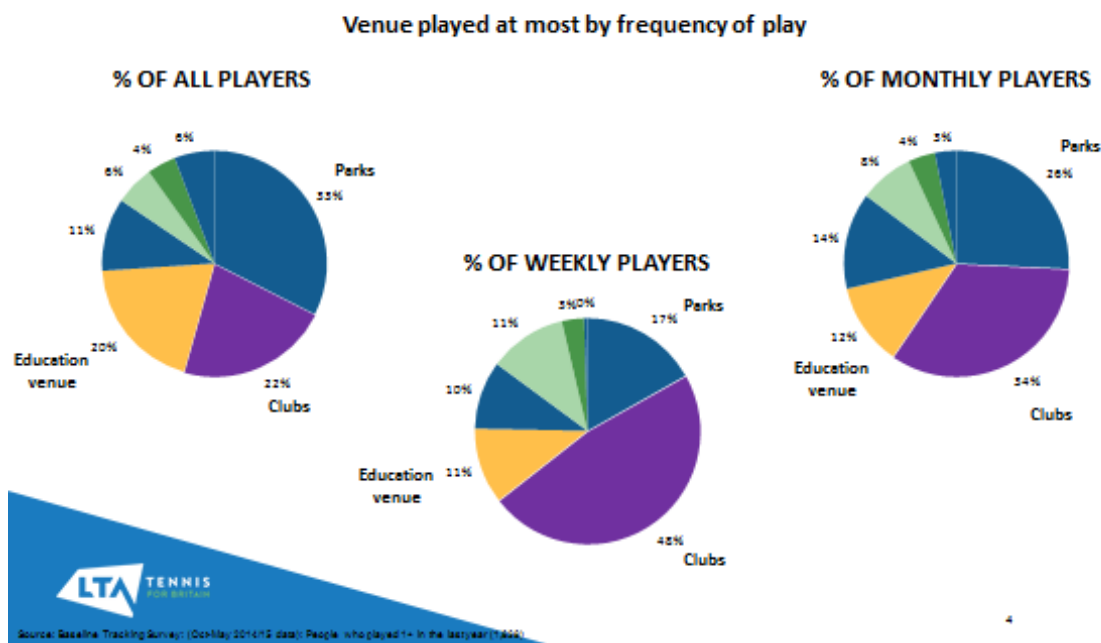
7.4.4 In September 2020, the LTA participation tracker confirmed that 3.99 million people play tennis annually. This represents a 6% increase from 2019 and the highest participation rate in the last

two years. It means that 1.35 million people nationally are playing monthly, and this is consistent with 2019 figures.

- 7.4.5 The majority of those engaging with tennis are aged 45 years or younger and LTA insight reveals that participation has grown 8% nationally since 2018. The full impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on participation is not yet clear, however it appears, at least early on, tennis is one of the sports to benefit from increasing interest. This is potentially because it was one of the first sports to return to play following the national lockdowns. If the increased interest can be capitalised upon and any new participants retained, this would have implications for the number of tennis courts required long term.
- 7.4.6 Previous years had seen a decline, and the LTA focus of addressing the decline in participation through the implementation of a long-term strategy is therefore starting to see success. In particular, the LTA highlight the importance of undertaking targeted activity to drive participation and continue to seek participation improvements. The overwhelming priority remains however around the need to retain players (and particularly the increase in players since the Covid 19 pandemic).
- 7.4.7 The LTA has worked hard to gain a better understanding of where people play tennis and understand some of the barriers that restrict participation levels, and this can be used to inform decision making in relation to facilities. Around 5 million players pick up a racquet at least once a year. This participation is spread across the park, club and education sector.
- 7.4.8 Figure 7.1 overleaf (provided by the LTA) reveals that the majority of participation in the UK (32%) takes place in a park environment, and it is this location where most new participants will start their tennis journey. For those that don't play, most people who have expressed an interest in playing would see the park environment as their first option for play.

Figure 7.1: LTA Insight into Importance of Parks

WHERE DO PEOPLE PLAY – IMPORTANCE OF PARKS



7.4.9 The importance of the parks sector is clear in the Figure above. Parks provision in Erewash is however perhaps the most poorly served sector, with West Park being the lowest quality facility in the Borough, and challenges accessing the courts for pay and play at Rutland Sports Park.

7.4.10 This means that there are no high quality and accessible pay and play venues for public tennis in the two urban settlements of the Borough. There is also limited opportunity in Sandiacre, with Friesland School providing the only pay and play option and this is very poorly promoted.

- 7.4.11 LTA research demonstrates several key points relating to tennis in parks, specifically;
- Participation in parks is often less frequent and generally aligns with the seasonal participation peaks in the summer months. This trend is not helped by the lack of floodlit provision that currently exists in the park environment
 - Park players are generally more interested in recreational play and are less reliant on organised activity
 - Park players are most dissatisfied with the condition of the courts, the number of courts available and the journey from booking a court to the actual play.

7.4.12 This highlights the importance of court quality in attracting players to use public facilities, but also emphasises the need to ensure that these facilities are fully accessible to potential players.

- 7.4.13 In response to this, The LTA is working to implement solutions across the country and has now successfully introduced technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with keypad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates, whilst also generating income that helps to improve the financial sustainability of a venue. The LTA is looking to significantly increase the number of gate access systems that are installed nationally as part of the Digital Participation Pathway.
- 7.4.14 These opportunities can help to transform facilities outside parks sites into pay and play facilities as well as to improve the user experience and promote tennis at parks sites. Engagement with these opportunities at key venues may be crucial if grass roots tennis is to be effectively delivered across the Borough. Reviews of participation also note the successes that been brought about through the emphasis on parks tennis, with a 56% increase in court hours booked at venues where the LTA had worked with the local authority.
- 7.4.15 To increase the play that takes place in an area and to retain new participants, the LTA have devised several programmes. These are constantly evolving, but currently include;
- LTA Youth Start (6-week coaching offer for children)
 - Tennis for Free - free, inclusive weekly coaching sessions
 - Parks Tennis leagues.
- 7.4.16 Implementation of some of these programmes (or varieties of) at sites across Erewash Borough will be essential if grass roots tennis is to thrive (and players are then to transition into clubs). There is no known existing activity in any of the above programmes in the Borough, although Tennis for Free and LTA Youth Start has been delivered in recent years.
- 7.4.17 While the role (and potential role) of facilities in parks and pay and play at other venues is clear, LTA insight reports that the club environment remains an important sector for participation. Specifically;
- Whilst the level of participation is higher in parks, the regularity of play generally increases in the club market
 - The club market has a higher focus on organised activity both via coaching and competition
 - There has been an increase in the number of clubs that are looking to implement online booking systems and the gate access technology. This not only offers the ability to

increase the amount of court usage at a venue but acts as a key marketing tool locally in the quest to attract more users to a venue initially and create a higher level of exposure locally.

7.4.18 This research and insight therefore provides solid foundations for analysis of how tennis in Erewash can be driven in years to come. It highlights the importance of providing opportunities to participate in a range of different environments and the role that good quality facilities and a clear customer journey play in promoting participation.

7.4.19 The next section therefore reviews how effectively each form of participation is currently being delivered.

7.5 Existing Participation in Erewash

7.5.1 Nationally therefore, insight indicates that participation is spread across a variety of venue forms including schools, clubs and parks. This spread of play is evident in Erewash, with activity taking place through;

- Formal club membership – club venues are primarily located in the rural area, although club-based activity also makes up the majority of activity at Rutland Sports Park (Ilkeston)
- Pay and play at school sites
- Informal play at public venues
- Use of the indoor tennis courts at Rutland Sports Park.

7.5.2 Each form of the game is reviewed in the sections that follow.

Informal Play at Public Sites

7.5.3 Access arrangements at the public venues of West Park and Ilkeston Rutland Sports Park are as follows;

- West Park – free of charge access, courts open for all to play
- Rutland Sports Park – courts locked with a padlock (accessed by the club using the padlock). Details of pay and play access listed on fence but unclear in practice whether public access is managed by the club or the Sports Park management.

7.5.4 No monitoring takes place of the current usage of the free of charge public tennis courts at West Park and total usage cannot be therefore accurately quantified. Anecdotal evidence however suggests that there is scope to increase the level of activity on these facilities (with most play

primarily during the small summer window) and there was no evidence of any play during the site visits. Whilst the free of charge access represents a positive opportunity for local residents in that they can access facilities without paying, LTA research also offers an alternative perspective, indicating that the lack of clarity around booking can also serve to reduce demand.

- 7.5.5 There is also thought to be very limited use of Rutland Sports Park outside of the club activity, with a code required for pay and play usage. Players cannot turn up and use the facilities, but at this site, booking procedures for the facilities are not clear and again, there are no online options.
- 7.5.6 There is no proactive marketing of tennis courts at the public sites to drive participation and added to this, as set out earlier in this section, the quality of courts at West Park in particular is poor. When combined with the issues relating to court access, this means that participation is not currently maximised at public tennis venues. LTA insight suggests that public facilities are critical in the development of grass roots tennis and it is therefore likely that these limitations are restricting the overall growth of the sport in the Borough.
- 7.5.7 Linking with their new strategy the LTA see increasing participation at public venues as a key priority. LTA insight (2014) demonstrates that 1 in 4 current players would consider joining a club but standard of play, year-round tennis and associated fees are off-putting. Work is therefore underway across the country focusing on introducing alternatives - organised activity at public venues, such as Introductory tennis courses and coaching is perceived to represent a significant opportunity to improve engagement with tennis.
- 7.5.8 The quality of facilities is however deemed to be essential if they are to be effective in developing grass roots tennis. Issues outlined earlier in this section highlight that there is a need to improve the quality of existing facilities at the key public sites.
- 7.5.9 Given that LTA research demonstrates that enabling the booking of public facilities can enhance usage, the LTA are therefore seeking to work with providers to promote online booking / keypads etc. With no existing mechanisms for monitoring / booking courts at West Park, and challenges around current arrangements at Rutland Sports Park, this opportunity is highlighted as a key priority by the LTA.
- 7.5.10 It should be noted that these opportunities are not restricted to public venues, and the introduction of such schemes at other sites may provide a means of increasing community use on a larger scale (for example such systems at school sites with multiple courts) may facilitate the use of the school facilities by the public and at the same time offer opportunities for more residents to engage with tennis locally.

Pay and Play Access at School sites

- 7.5.11 The availability of tennis courts at school facilities in Erewash is good, however the promotion and marketing of these facilities is poor, and it is believed that there is very limited pay and play activity on these courts. All schools responding to consultation indicated that there is potential to increase activity on their tennis courts.
- 7.5.12 Courts at Trent College are advertised online; however, it is necessary to telephone to book these. Similarly, courts at Friesland School are advertised online, but these are booked through the school (rather than the sports centre) and telephone booking is required. Courts are also available at Kirk Hallam Community Academy, although again these are poorly advertised. Courts at Wilsthorpe Community School have previously been available but are not currently let out due to the covid 19 pandemic.
- 7.5.13 The lack of clear booking systems and information on availability is therefore likely to impact significantly on the level of demand for these facilities. Added to this, the lack of floodlighting on any site means that use after school hours, particularly in winter, is limited.
- 7.5.14 The location and distribution of secondary schools around the Borough, and the higher number of courts that are available therefore means that improving community access to these facilities represents a significant opportunity to enhance the overall tennis infrastructure in the Borough. Schools in areas where there is a lack of other tennis courts represent a particular opportunity.
- 7.5.15 Similar to the LTA intelligence on public parks, LTA insight suggests that the improvement of the customer journey at school sites is essential if use is to be improved. LTA funding related to the installation of technology on the site to improve the opportunities is therefore now extended also to schools. Improvements could be targeted at several sites, but based on facility quality and location, these may include;
- Friesland School – improvement of existing booking systems – potentially important venue as it is the only publicly accessible facility within Sandiacre
 - Trent College / Kirk Hallam Community Academy - improvement of existing booking systems
 - Wilsthorpe Community College – potential to negotiate access again as covid 19 pandemic draws to a close.
- 7.5.16 With no pay and play opportunities in the rural area currently, provision at school sites and / or access to club sites will be key to providing facilities for residents in the rural areas.

Club Membership

7.5.17 As outlined earlier in this section, club members generally participate more regularly and on a less seasonal basis than those that use park facilities. Participation can also be more accurately quantified at club bases.

7.5.18 There are four clubs currently affiliated to the LTA, based in Ilkeston and the rural area.

7.5.19 Consultation with clubs suggests that there are therefore positive signs for tennis in the borough with club memberships typically increasing particularly following covid. Clubs did however identify several issues that they consider to be impacting the further development of tennis in the borough, specifically;

- Lack of floodlighting at club sites – seasonality
- Lack of tennis facilities to support grass roots tennis
- Challenges recruiting coaches / volunteers.

7.5.20 This suggests that while there is a positive picture, there is scope to improve these if these issues were addressed.

7.5.21 The lack of tennis club in Long Eaton provides an opportunity to increase participation in this area if a club structure was provided. The LTA indicate that interest has been expressed in the creation of a club in the Long Eaton area if courts at West Park were improved.

7.5.22 Similarly, the clubs in the rural area have a potentially important role to play in providing opportunities for pay and play tennis, as there are no public facilities in this part of the Borough.

Indoor Tennis Courts

7.5.23 The indoor tennis courts at Rutland Sports Park are available to be booked by clubs or by the general public on a pay and play basis. There is some concern from clubs that it is cheaper to book the facility as an individual than it is as a club. Facilities are reported to be busy, although it should be noted that not all use of the facility is for tennis. It is also reported that whilst tennis is available at the venue, the floor is not a specialist tennis surface.

7.6 Adequacy of provision

7.6.1 Information presented to date concludes that;

- The stock of facilities is primarily club based, with three clubs in the rural area and the site used by Ilkeston TC serving Ilkeston. While club provision is standard to good, the clubs do not regularly offer pay and play opportunities and some qualitative improvements are required
- In contrast to this, there are limited publicly accessible facilities and facility quality is also low. The quality of courts at the only public venue in Long Eaton is poor, and courts will also require improvement at Rutland Sports Park. Added to this, there are challenges relating to accessibility at Rutland Sports Park. A lack of provision in the parks means that there is a significant lack of opportunity for grass roots tennis
- Whilst some schools do provide opportunities for tennis, there is significant scope to increase the level of activity on these sites further
- There is a lack of floodlights in the Borough.

7.6.2 To ensure a fully functioning infrastructure for tennis, the LTA research highlights the importance of providing a balance of different facility types, as well as an appropriate number of courts of adequate quality.

7.6.3 There are no formal demand models providing guidance on how many courts are required in a local area, however the LTA has defined a series of parameters that can be used to determine the number of tennis players that can be accommodated by the existing infrastructure. Parameters used (LTA 2017) are as follows;

- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
- 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
- 200 members per indoor tennis court.
- 40 members per non floodlit, outdoor court
- 60 members per floodlit outdoor court
- 200 members per indoor tennis court.

7.6.4 Using the above figures, it can be determined that the current stock of facilities in Erewash is able to accommodate 1960 players in total as follows;

- Non floodlit outdoor courts –1360 players (34 courts available for community use)
- Floodlit outdoor courts – 0 players (no courts)
- Indoor courts -600 players (3 courts).

7.6.5 In order to determine whether this number of courts is adequate, it is necessary to determine the current and potential demand for tennis. This is difficult to define as there is no monitoring of the use of public courts at West Park and no detailed information about the usage of tennis courts on school sites. The existing demand and potential penetration and consequently the adequacy of the existing infrastructure for tennis can therefore be measured in several different ways in order to give a range of potential figures.

Existing Participation

- 7.6.6 When considering firstly how demand meets existing participation, analysis of the existing club membership – this provides a definitive guide to the number of participants playing on club courts.
- 7.6.7 LTA insight demonstrates that 32% of tennis takes place at parks, but up to 40 – 50% of tennis activity in an area may take place at public venues. As there are no definitive records of the uses of the courts, it can be assumed that up to 50% of participation is on these sites. There are 502 current club members (assuming that Ilkeston TC, who did not provide membership figures, have 125 members which is the average membership of clubs in Erewash. If club membership makes up 50% of activity, this would suggest a total of 1004 tennis players across the Borough currently.
- 7.6.8 Sport England Market Segmentation (<https://segments.sportengland.org>) suggests that 1772 people currently participate in tennis in Erewash. This is a number that is significantly higher than the existing club membership and would suggest that the public and school venues are accommodating large quantities of players, which is not thought to be the case.
- 7.6.9 Sport England Active Lives data suggests that nationally, 1.4% of adults currently participate. Assuming this rate across the whole of the population would suggest that circa 1616 people currently play tennis in the Borough
- 7.6.10 These figures can be used to determine the adequacy of provision to meet current demand as set out in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Adequacy of Provision to meet demand in quantitative terms

Current Demand	Baseline	Market Segmentation (current participants)	1.4% Active Lives Participation
Club Membership	502	502	502
Other Participants	502	1210	1114
Total	1004	1772	1616
Current Supply			
Accessible Floodlit Courts	None		
Accessible Non-Floodlit Courts	36 – capacity 40 per court		
Indoor Courts	3 – capacity 200 per court		
Total Capacity of Courts available for community use (accessible courts)	1960 Players	1960 Players	1960 Players
Total Capacity of courts available (excluding schools)	1360 Players	1360 Players	1360 Players
Adequacy of Provision			
Supply / Demand Balance	Provision above number of players.	Provision above number of players. Importance of school facilities demonstrated as provision is below required number when these are excluded.	Provision above number of players. Importance of school facilities demonstrated as provision is below required number when these are excluded.

7.6.12 It is clear therefore that there are sufficient facilities to accommodate demand overall at a baseline level. Table 7.4 does however demonstrate that there is significant scope to maximise the use of existing facilities before new courts are required, with existing courts having capacity. Whilst club membership is high, it is important to note that there is significant scope to increase participation at park and school sites. The baseline modelling above is based upon a potential usage of 502 players at public parks and schools and it is thought that in reality, nowhere near this level of activity takes place. If participation is to reach target levels however, it is clear that access to the school facilities will also be required.

7.6.13 As demonstrated throughout this section however, number of courts is only a part of the infrastructure – it is the quality and accessibility that is also central to an evaluation of the adequacy of provision.

LTA Insight into Potential Demand

7.6.14 The LTA have researched the number of people playing tennis across the country and the composition of the tennis playing population. This provides both an understanding of who is currently playing, but also the potential tennis playing population within an area.

7.6.15 Modelling for Erewash Borough demonstrates that based on the age structure of the population, total potential demand in the Borough (the number of people who may be interested in tennis) is 42,219. It is assumed likely that circa 8% of this potential demand can be converted into actual tennis participation (known as penetration). This suggests that there are potentially 3378 tennis players in the Borough.

7.6.16 To provide further insight into the type of facilities that are required, The LTA have created 6 different profiles to show what different people want from their tennis experience. These 6 profiles are;

- Tennis Titan - Frequent players & tennis club members for whom tennis is their main sport and key interest
- Tennis Troupers - Often club members, largely family-oriented, middle-aged players for whom tennis is a hobby; interested in playing with teams to partnering with their kids in the sunnier seasons
- Seasonal Spinners - Largely young women, they play sport in general for athletic reasons (often being gym-goers and joggers), and enjoy their tennis a lot, though tennis is very intertwined with friends and being social
- Wimbledon Warriors - Largely young men who are keen athletes, they like tennis and want to play more, though are often held back by other factors outside of the summer
- Social Butterflies - Infrequent, younger and less experienced players for whom tennis is an occasional fun summer activity
- Senior Stalwarts - An older group of players for whom tennis is a social habit and they play with a regular group as a way of keeping social and enjoyable gentle exercise.

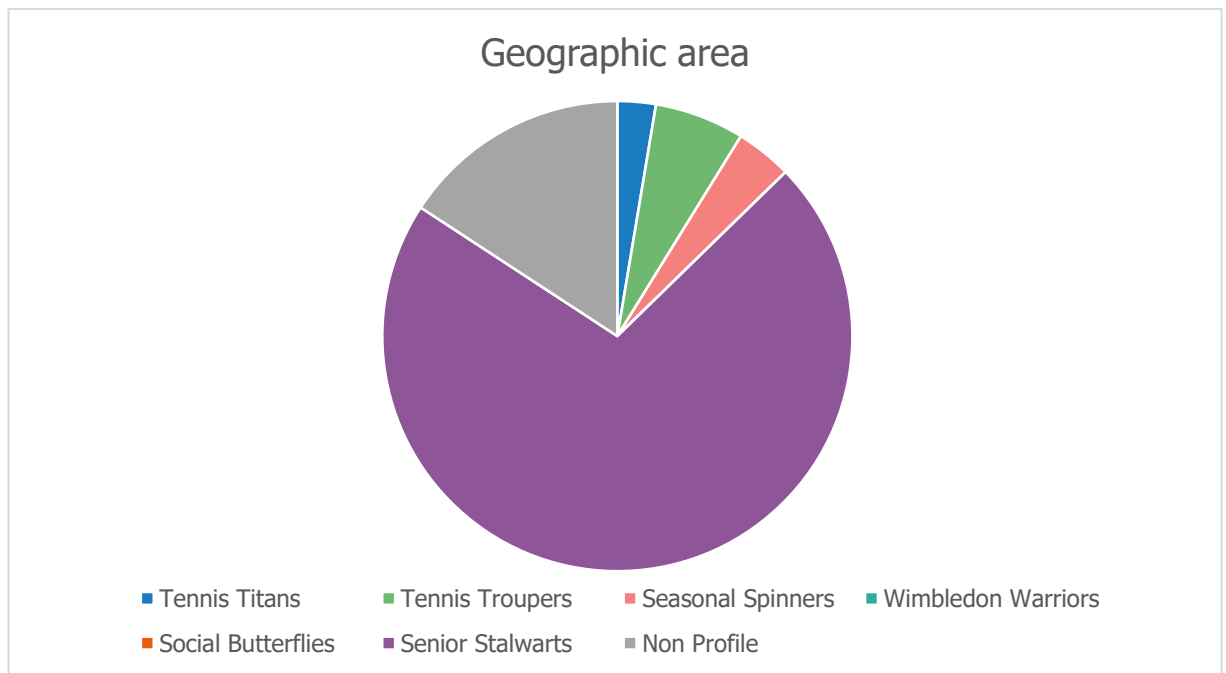
7.6.17 The above profiles can be used to analyse the catchment in terms of the potential penetration for tennis – the number of people in each of the groups within a defined catchment area is determined. They can also be used to understand the facilities that are necessary to provide for the potential demand.

7.6.18 Analysis of the existing LTA membership in Erewash demonstrates that;

- 85% of current members of the LTA fall into the senior stalwarts category. The remaining members are primarily Tennis Titans and Seasonal Spinners and Tennis Titans profile
- Long Eaton is identified as the area with the highest number of potential players within the Seasonal Spinners and Tennis Troupers, whilst Borrowash offers the largest concentration of senior stalwarts with potential to play tennis in Erewash Borough.

7.6.19 The strongest potential for tennis is within the Senior Stalwarts profile group, with 72% of potential participants falling into this group. There is however particular opportunity to increase the proportion of those falling into the Tennis Titans / Tennis Troupers and Seasonal Spinners categories, as well as some potential demand within the group of residents who do not fit the typical tennis profile. Figure 7.2 (provided by the LTA) summarises the split of residents in each of the tennis profile groups.

Figure 7.2: Profile of Tennis Participants in Erewash Borough



7.6.20 With senior stalwarts enjoying regular tennis for social reasons as well as exercise, their interest spans across both club courts and park courts. Critically for this group, play often takes place during the daytime as many are retired. This means that access to facilities at these times is essential and this can often rule out the use of school sites. The high number of people falling into this category suggests that promotion to this group is key to achieving growth in tennis participation.

7.6.21 Potential demand from seasonal spinners / Wimbledon Warriors and Social Butterflies totals 4357. This converts to a potential penetration rate (8% of demand) of 349. With these residents preferring more informal opportunities to participate, this demand may particularly look towards parks / grass roots sites for their tennis activity.

7.6.22 These estimations of potential demand can be used to determine the adequacy of the existing provision, and this is set out in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5: Adequacy of Provision Based on LTA Periscope Modelling

Potential Demand	3378
Total Capacity of Courts available for community use	1960 (1360 excluding schools)

Supply / Demand Balance	Supply insufficient
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7.6.23 Table 7.4 above therefore suggests that if the potential levels of demand are achieved, the existing stock of facilities that are available for community use will be insufficient. Even if all tennis courts in the Borough are made available for community use, provision would remain insufficient (although floodlighting on some sites would improve this position).

7.6.24 Insight suggests that stimulation of new players at a grass roots level is central to increasing participation – this demonstrates the importance of providing facilities to meet the needs of grass roots tennis players (who can then transition into clubs). Typically, this is provided at public parks, which are located amongst large populations and offer pay and play opportunities. Quality at these sites is also important if new participants are to be attracted. LTA insight also suggests that if public facilities are to be successful, there is a need to explore opportunities to install technological solutions to enhance the customer journey.

7.6.25 Looking specifically at whether demand is met for those groups that may use parks / informal tennis courts, it is demonstrated that existing provision equates to 8 parks courts (320 players). With demand equating to 349, provision is broadly in line with need in terms of the quantity of courts (although quality does not meet requirements). The use of the Rutland Sports Park facilities by a club however means that capacity at this site is more limited and again this therefore serves to emphasise the importance of the school courts. Again, it is also important to reinforce the importance of access to pay and play facilities within the rural area.

Site Specific Role in Meeting Demand

7.6.26 The above profiles can also be used to analyse the catchment of a site in terms of the potential penetration for tennis – the number of people in each of the groups within a defined catchment area of the site is determined and assumptions can then be made to determine the potential number of residents playing and the types of facility that would best meet their needs and encourage them to play tennis. The key assumptions made are;

- For club sites or schools only allowing access out of school hours – potential tennis penetration is calculated at 8% conversion of the key Pay & Play segments (Wimbledon Warriors, Social Butterflies and Seasonal Spinners) within a 10min drive time.
- For park sites or schools that can allow access during curriculum time - using the data from the 10min catchment, tennis demand equates to approximately 25% of the population, however it is weighted so that the segments that are more likely to book a

pay and play court hold more weight. The tennis penetration figure is then calculated, based on an 8% conversion of the demand figure.

7.6.27 Table 7.6 outlines the analysis provided by the LTA of the potential penetration of each of the sites. Latent demand of national priority is perceived to exist where the potential catchment is 1000 residents or greater within a 10-minute drive. This information can be used to highlight where sites may be particularly valuable in terms of both sustaining existing players and attracting new participants to tennis.

7.6.28 Table 7.6 also outlines the most likely participant type at each site (based upon analysis of the catchment population within a 10-minute drivetime). It reveals that almost all sites are likely to attract primarily residents falling into the senior stalwart category. These residents play regularly, primarily for social activity. This may inform the type of marketing and promotion that would be successful in driving participation at each site (as well as the choice of new participation initiatives which may also be successful.)

Table 7.6: Potential Penetration of Tennis Court Sites (provided by LTA)

Site name	Sub Area	Population falling into 6 tennis segments - 10min drive time catchment	Population falling into 6 tennis segments - 20min drive time catchment	Potential Tennis Penetration	Potential Participant Type within 10 minutes
Breadsall Tennis Club	Rural	91,385	550,858	884	Senior Stalwarts, Tennis Troupers, Tennis Titans
Ockbrook and Borrowash Tennis Club	Rural	115818	643,146	667	Senior Stalwarts, Tennis Troupers, Wimbledon Warriors
Little Eaton Tennis Club	Rural	69,719	486,759	620	Senior Stalwarts, Tennis Troupers, Tennis Titans
Rutland Sports Park	Ilkeston	39,466	367,509	89	Senior Stalwarts, Tennis Troupers, Wimbledon Warriors
West Park	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	71582	280,124	387	Senior Stalwarts, Tennis Troupers, Wimbledon Warriors

7.6.29 Table 7.6 reveals that several of the sites have a relatively significant number of people falling within the six tennis playing segments within 10 minutes of their site. When extending the catchment to 20 minutes, the number of residents within the catchment who are potentially likely to play tennis increases significantly. The location of Breadsall Tennis Club in particular means

that this site has a strong opportunity to meet high levels of demand. Many of the tennis clubs serve residents outside of the Borough as well as those living within Erewash.

- 7.6.30 Whilst Table 7.6 reveals that there are no sites with a catchment and potential penetration rate that is of national significance, the analysis demonstrates that many sites offer significant opportunities for tennis development and that the promotion of opportunities at club sites targeting the senior stalwarts group would be of particular benefit at all sites. While this can be used to inform the types of marketing that will be most effective, as well as the programmes that may best meet the needs of the potential participants, it should not be amalgamed to represent demand at a borough wide level. While the potential demand within the catchment of each court can be identified, this cannot be considered cumulatively as the catchments overlap.
- 7.6.31 Whilst the public facilities are located in locations where potential penetration for tennis is lower, the opportunities that they offer for grass roots tennis (as opposed to participation through a club environment) means that they will be central to the boroughwide offer for tennis. Many senior stalwarts in particular will enjoy the more relaxed approach to tennis that is on offer at parks sites.
- 7.6.32 Modelling therefore suggests that overall, there is a need to focus initially on tennis development and maximising the role that existing facilities can play. Insight suggests that stimulation of new players at a grass roots level is central to increasing participation – this demonstrates the importance of providing facilities to meet the needs of grass roots tennis players (who can then transition into clubs). Typically, this is provided at public parks, which are located amongst large populations and offer pay and play opportunities. Quality at these sites is also important if new participants are to be attracted. LTA insight also suggests that if public facilities are to be successful, there is a need to explore opportunities to install technological solutions to enhance the customer journey.
- 7.6.33 The key opportunity to address latent demand for tennis is therefore targeted marketing, based on the catchment for each site. The population profile of Erewash Borough means that the Senior Stalwarts category, alongside Tennis Titans represent the largest potential user groups of facilities in general, and marketing and participation initiatives should be targeted at driving these groups to enjoy tennis. There are however several clear groups that enjoy and play activities (rather than club membership) and it is only by providing these opportunities that such groups will become engaged.
- 7.6.34 The existing public sites in Erewash Borough (West Park and Rutland Sports Park) are however limited, with West Park of poor quality and Rutland Sports Park also requiring refurbishment in the medium term. There are also access issues at Rutland Sports Park. There are therefore significant opportunities to improve the provision at grass roots levels, which will have knock on

impact to participation in other forms of the game. This will be essential if the potential levels of participation in tennis are to be achieved.

7.6.35 Modelling therefore suggests that it is the quality of facilities (and the access issues to these facilities) that should be prioritised in the first instance, rather than the provision of new tennis courts.

Capacity of Club Bases

7.6.36 Whilst it is clear that overall, there is adequate provision in quantitative terms (although action is required to address the qualitative and access issues experienced), it is the club sector that is currently functioning well in Erewash Borough.

7.6.37 The capacity of the club can be accurately measured using the LTA parameters – and this is set out in Table 7.7. This reveals that while there is scope for additional play within the parks and schools environment, there is more limited opportunity for growth at key club sites. Outside of Ockbrook and Borrowash TC, there is limited scope to increase participation and even at this site, there are relatively restricted opportunities for growth.

7.6.38 These limited opportunities for growth are particularly critical, as the location of these clubs in the rural area means that they may have a key role to play in supporting participation increases. Given that these sites represent the only courts in this part of the borough, opportunities to implement pay and play may need to be considered.

Table 7.7: Capacity of Club Bases

Current Demand	Membership	Capacity of Courts	Capacity for Growth	Other Issues	Insight
Breadsall TC	102	80	0	Wear and tear (standard)	Almost all members within 10 minutes drivetime, key profile group senior stalwarts (82%), potential markets 52% senior, 18% non-profile but 11% tennis troupers, tennis titans... potential penetration 884, potential penetration based on age 1488
Ilkeston TC	Figures not provided.	160		Parts of surface breaking away, lack of clubhouse adjacent to	Members travelling greater distance, key profile group senior stalwarts (66%), but some non-profile and tennis titans also. Potential for senior stalwarts growth.

Current Demand	Membership	Capacity of Courts	Capacity for Growth	Other Issues	Insight
				courts, access issues to courts.	Potential penetration lower than other clubs (612 based on age)
Ockbrook and Borrowash TC	135	200	65	Floodlighting, Longer term court surfaces, scope to improve maintenance	Most members within 10-minute drivetime, 76% senior stalwarts, but tennis titans are also key. Much more varied potential catchment (trouper / non profile, titans all above 5%). Potential penetration 667 or 1900 based on age.
Little Eaton TC	140	120	0	Floodlighting, Basic site, long term resurface required.	Almost all members within 10 minutes drivetime, key profile group senior stalwarts (92%), potential markets 62% senior, 17% non-profile, scope to also attract tennis trouper, tennis titans... potential penetration 620, potential penetration based on age 1091

7.6.39 In addition to highlighting qualitative issues at club bases that need to be addressed, Table 7.7 therefore also demonstrates that there is a need to extend capacity at club bases. Outside of the provision of new courts (either on club bases or at satellite sites / use of school facilities), the key means for achieving this is through floodlighting. Floodlighting adds capacity for an additional 20 players per court by extending the hours that the court can be used (and extending the playing season, enabling evening activity in winter months).

7.6.40 The lack of floodlights was highlighted as one of the key issues across the borough as a whole, with clubs believing that their activities are now restricted, and that the growth of tennis is compromised. With no floodlit provision at all in the borough, alongside the improvement of access to quality grass roots facilities for tennis, this represents a key priority moving forwards.

Adequacy of Provision to meet Future Population Growth

7.6.41 Analysis of projected population growth indicates that there will be 6958 additional people living in Erewash by 2038.

7.6.42 LTA insight suggests that up to 25% of some age groups within the population may be interested in playing tennis, whilst 8% of this demand will be converted. Assuming that 25% of all groups would play tennis (and relevant conversion rates) suggests that the growth will generate circa 140 additional players.

- 7.6.43 The existing facility stock will, in quantitative terms, therefore be able to accommodate the extra participants generated by the increased number of residents (assuming that current participation is not in line with maximum target levels, where new provision would already be required). New residents will however place further pressures on the existing facility stock.
- 7.6.44 It is clear however that some of the clubs are already at capacity and that population growth is likely to generate further demands on these clubs, with some new residents falling into categories that would like to play tennis at a club site. This therefore accentuates the importance of improving the capacity at the club facilities.
- 7.6.45 As outlined in Table 8.4, the capacity within the existing infrastructure is able to accommodate some increases in demand, although this will need to be monitored as further provision may be required if participation targets are hit.

7.7 Summary

- 7.7.1 The key issues arising for tennis across Erewash Borough are therefore summarised overleaf.

Tennis – Key Issues

Supply

- There are 57 outdoor courts across Erewash Borough. Of these, 19 offer full community use (located in parks / at club sites). In addition, there are a further 15 tennis courts located at school sites where community access appears to be available; specifically, Friesland School, Trent College and Kirk Hallam Community Academy.
- Critically, whilst there is a good number of tennis courts, there are no floodlit courts at all identified in the Borough. Floodlighting extends the use of the courts, enabling activity in evenings and during the winter months.
- Supplementing the stock of outdoor tennis courts, there are also indoor courts at Rutland Sports Park.
- The distribution of courts is geographically balanced across the Borough. There is a greater number of club courts in the Rural areas, whilst school courts are primarily focused in the more urban settlements of Long Eaton / Sandiacre and Ilkeston. The only public venues are in Ilkeston (Rutland Sports Park) and Long Eaton (West Park). This however means that the public courts serve the main centres of population.
- While the quality of the club bases is standard to good and school facilities are standard, public facilities are of much lower quality. In particular, the tennis courts at West Park are poor and require immediate refurbishment, whilst the courts at Rutland Sports Park are also starting to break up and will require replacement in the short to medium term.

Demand

- In terms of demand, tennis in the Borough takes place at the club, as well public venues and at school sites. The 3 indoor courts also host tennis, although they are also used for other sports.
- Public courts are pay and play, however there is almost no marketing or promotion of the opportunities available, and the court quality is limited. There is also some confusion around public access to facilities at Rutland Sports Complex.
- Whilst the club sites provide important bases for their members, with the exception of Rutland Sports Park, none of them offer any pay and play options to the general community. In particular this means that there are no pay and play opportunities in the rural area.
- A similar issue also exists for school sites. Whilst courts at some schools are technically available, the customer journey for these facilities is poor. In particular, there is no opportunity to

book online and those wishing to hire a court must call the school (often within very restricted time windows). There is also almost no active promotion of the facilities available and on some websites, it is not clear whether tennis courts are available to hire or not.

- Consultation with clubs suggests that there are therefore positive signs for tennis in the borough with club memberships typically increasing particularly following covid. Clubs did however identify several issues that they consider to be impacting the further development of tennis in the borough, specifically lack of floodlighting at club sites, lack of tennis facilities to support grass roots tennis and challenges recruiting coaches / volunteers.

Adequacy of Provision

- The stock of facilities is primarily club based, with three clubs in the rural area and the site used by Ilkeston TC serving Ilkeston. While club provision is standard to good, the clubs do not regularly offer pay and play opportunities and some qualitative improvements are required.
- In contrast to this, there are limited publicly accessible facilities and facility quality is also low. The quality of courts at the only public venue in Long Eaton is poor, and courts will also require improvement at Rutland Sports Park. Added to this, there are challenges relating to accessibility at Rutland Sports Park. A lack of provision in the parks means that there is a significant lack of opportunity for grass roots tennis.
- Whilst some schools do provide opportunities for tennis, there is significant scope to increase the level of activity on these sites further.
- There is also a lack of floodlights in the Borough.
- LTA insight demonstrates the importance of providing a balance of different types of facility, so the three types of facility all have a key role in meeting demand. Application of LTA parameters suggests that the existing courts can accommodate 1960 players in total. Application of a range of estimates of current participation in terms of quantity suggest that that existing number of courts is just about adequate, if participation levels broadly equate to those found at a national level. Whilst there is capacity within the existing facilities it is clear that current usage is inhibited by booking procedures
- LTA modelling for the Borough suggests that potential demand equates to 3378 players. If these target participation levels were to be achieved, the number of courts would be insufficient.
- LTA profiling of potential players suggests that a high proportion of the demand is evident from senior stalwarts. With senior stalwarts enjoying regular tennis for social reasons as well as exercise, their interest spans across both club courts and park courts. Critically for this group, play often takes place during the daytime as many are retired. This means that access to facilities at these times is essential and this can often rule out the use of school sites. When added to the

number of people falling into profile groups that are most likely to participate at public venues (349 people), the role of public facilities in meeting tennis demand is clear. Insight suggests that stimulation of new players at the grass roots level is central to increasing participation – these facilities are typically provided at public parks and schools and quality of facilities is essential.

- The above suggests that the balance of provision, is broadly in line with need in terms of the quantity of courts (although quality does not meet requirements). The use of the Rutland Sports Park facilities by a club however means that capacity at this site is more limited and again this therefore serves to emphasise the importance of the school courts.
- It is suggested that while insight data suggests that if potential demand for tennis was realised, additional facilities would be required, improvements to the existing infrastructure currently take on greater priority than new provision. Existing facilities require qualitative improvements, and there are opportunities to improve accessibility by opening up new facilities as well as improving the customer journey on existing facilities. Priority should therefore be given to maximising activity on existing facilities before providing new.
- That said, analysis also demonstrates that sites are not necessarily evenly distributed across the borough, with a lack of access to club facilities in Long Eaton and a lack of pay and play facilities in the rural area.
- Modelling also suggests that spare capacity at existing clubs is very limited and that there is a need to address this if club development aspirations are to be achieved. There is no remaining capacity at Breadsall TC and Little Eaton TC
- The existing facility stock will be able to accommodate the small extra participants generated by the increased number of residents (assuming that current participation does not reach target levels before this, where new provision would already be required). New residents will however place further pressures on the existing facility stock.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore;

- **The need to protect the existing quantities of provision**
- **The need to improve existing courts in order to provide high quality public facilities**
- **The opportunities to improve the customer journey at both public and school sites**
- **The need to address the lack of pay and play opportunities in the rural area and the capacity issues identified at club bases**
- **The need to provide floodlights at key sites in order to address the current issues of seasonality**

- **The potential to increase participation in tennis through effective marketing, promotion and engagement with LTA programmes.**

8.0 Bowls

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This section evaluates the key issues for bowling in Erewash. It sets out the supply and demand for facilities and determines the adequacy of provision both at the current time and in future years.

8.2 Supply

8.2.1 There are eleven bowling greens in Erewash Borough located on nine sites. This provision remains consistent with 2017 PPS.

8.2.2 The Borough contains greens for a variety of different forms of bowls, specifically;

- There are 2 Federation greens at The Stute and Long Eaton Town
- The majority of provision is flat greens, with facilities at West Park (3, 2 appear used this season), Victoria Park (1), Rutland Sports Park (1), Stanton-by-Dale (1), Little Eaton and Enterprise Bowls Club
- There is a crown green at Breadsall Memorial Hall and Playing Fields.

8.2.3 Ownership of bowling greens is split between the Parish Council (Little Eaton / Breadsall), private clubs (Enterprise, The Stute, Stanton Clubhouse, Long Eaton Town) and Erewash Borough Council (West Park, Ilkeston).

8.2.4 Whilst Erewash Borough Council carries out maintenance at the sites it owns, outside of these sites the clubs are responsible for their own maintenance.

8.2.5 Table 8.1 summarises the distribution of bowling greens by sub area. It demonstrates that bowling greens are predominantly found in the urban areas, with only two greens in rural settlements (Little Eaton and Breadsall).

Table 8.1: Distribution of Bowling Greens

Bowling Green	Total Greens	Detail
Long Eaton and Sandiacre	4	West Park (3) Long Eaton Town (1)

Bowling Green	Total Greens	Detail
Ilkeston	5	The Stute (1) Ilkeston Rutland Sports Park (1) Stanton Clubhouse (1) Victoria Park (1) Enterprise Bowls Club (1)
Rural	2	Breadsall Memorial Park (1) Little Eaton Bowls Club (1)
Total	11	

8.3 Green Quality

8.3.1 The quality of bowling greens was explored through a variety of means, including;

- Non-technical site visits
- Consultation with clubs and key stakeholders.

Site Visits

8.3.2 Site visits revealed that the bowling greens were generally at a standard level and that all greens were functional and playable at the time of site visit. There were no greens of significant quality however and most greens achieved scores in the lower echelons of the standard rating. It was concluded that;

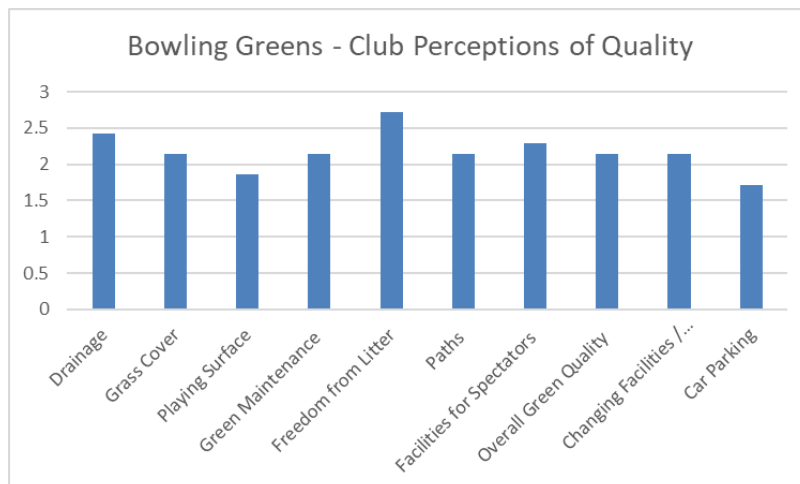
- Whilst several quality issues were identified, issues were to be expected to an extent, given the timing of the site visits, which were undertaken towards the end of the season
- Reflecting the time of year, compaction and thatching were concerns on most greens. There were also several greens suffering from bare patches and areas of poor grass growth. The playing surface was also bumpy on some greens
- There was evidence of water stress on several greens, both in terms of drainage issues but also a lack of watering on some greens
- Maintenance procedures appeared to only just be adequate, with most greens showing a need for increased maintenance and for out of season reinstatement.

Views of the Bowling Community

8.3.3 67% of bowls clubs believe that quality of their green inhibits club activity and growth. This suggests that quality is a key issue for bowling in Erewash.

8.3.4 Chart 8.1 illustrates the views of the bowling clubs on the quality of their greens. It demonstrates that in terms of green quality, the playing surface is the key issue.

Chart 8.1: Club Perceptions of Quality



8.3.5 Most clubs are in agreement that drainage and grass coverage are good and almost all greens are free from litter and debris. Car parking provision was ranked as the biggest concern, likely exacerbating accessibility issues for the older demographic.

8.3.6 Overall, the general amenities such as pathways and facilities appear to be satisfactory.

8.3.7 Green maintenance is also one of the lowest scoring attributes. The key issues raised were;

- Lack of funds to deliver appropriate maintenance schedules
- Lack of volunteers / ageing volunteers / untrained volunteers
- Significant issues mean that extensive maintenance is required.

8.3.8 Crucially, 67% of respondents to the survey suggest that they do not believe that their club has the necessary skills to carry out the required maintenance works. This indicates that maintenance is a key priority for improvement, as issues with maintenance procedures will have a knock-on impact to the green quality.

8.3.9 Consultation with clubs indicates that the impact of Covid 19 has been mixed. For some, the decline in use of the greens allowed the green to heal and as a result, quality has (potentially temporarily) improved, whilst other clubs suggest a lack of maintenance on the greens during the inactivity has resulted in the increased need for maintenance now.

8.3.10 Table 8.2 summarises the greens available in Erewash and highlights the key quality issues identified at each site. It represents an amalgamation of the findings of site visits and consultation.

Table 8.2: Quality of Bowling Greens

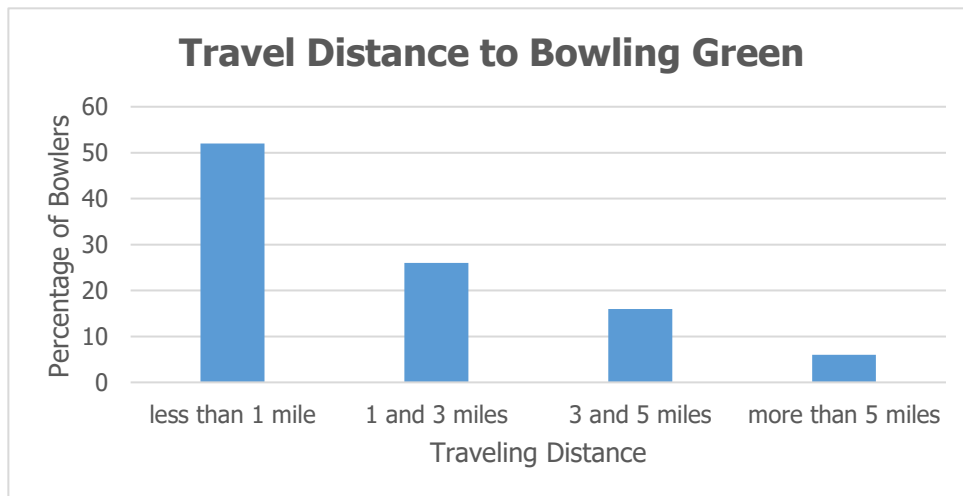
Bowling Green	Sub Area	Quality Comments
The Stute	Ilkeston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing surface showing signs of water deprivation, compaction and thatching. Club believe surface to be adequate, but paths are trip hazards and pavilion is poor
Ilkeston Victoria Park	Ilkeston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidy green, compaction and thatching, brown patches suggesting water stress. Club highlight issues with squirrel issues on green
Enterprise Sports and Social Club	Ilkeston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor playing surface, drainage issues. Clubhouse requires refurbishment, parking issues
Rutland Sports Park	Ilkeston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playing surface – issues with maintenance, fox / rabbit problems, some bare patches
Long Eaton Town Bowls Club	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving green due to rest during pandemic
West Park	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only two greens appear playable (long grass on third), surfaces of limited quality – bumpy, moss, bare patches and divots
Breadsall Playing Fields	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paths poor, surface basic, parking issues. Lockdown meant no maintenance and club do not have manpower to catch up, but surface requires renovation. Bumpy, bare patches
St Peters Park	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floodlit, green in reasonable condition but fencing coming away from posts. Tired
Stanton Clubhouse Bowls Club	Ilkeston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor playing surface, bumpy, bare patches, compacted, thatching

Accessibility

8.3.11 Chart 8.1 illustrates the approximate distance to bowling greens that members from responding clubs travel. It reveals that 78% of members travel 3 miles or less with half of those members travelling less than a mile. Just 6% of club members travel more than 5 miles to their respective greens. This suggests therefore that members mostly play at greens close to their home and that the catchment of a bowling green is therefore very local.

8.3.12 Whilst greens are relatively well distributed across Erewash, they are predominantly located in the urban areas. This means that residents in the more rural parts of the Borough have to travel further to reach a green and may choose not to due to the preference for local facilities.

Chart 8.1: Average Travel Distance to Bowling Greens



8.3.13 Assuming that 3 miles represents the most likely maximum travel distance for at circa 80% of potential bowlers, this means that there are large swathes of the population who are outside of the appropriate catchment of a green.

8.4 Demand

8.4.1 Nationally, the Sport England Active People survey indicated that participation in outdoor bowls declined over the 2005 - 2016 period. In 2005 0.83% of the adult population played outdoor bowls at least once a week. By 2016 this dropped to 0.51%.

8.4.2 The Active Lives Survey records activity from 2017 up to the present day. It reveals that between 0.7 and 0.8% of the population participation in bowls or boules. Figures released in October 2019 represent a statistically significant decline in participation from the baseline, suggesting that participation in bowls continues to struggle. Figures produced the following year onwards also present a decline but are influenced by the Covid 19 pandemic and are therefore less representative of long-term trends.

8.4.3 Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data enables evaluation of the proportion of the population that currently play bowls. The key findings of this analysis reveal that;

- The demographic in bowls in Erewash is largely made up of older generations. The key participants are ‘Elsie and Arnold’, ‘Frank’, ‘Ralph and Phyllis’ and ‘Roger and Joy’. According to the mapped data participation is even across the borough
- Market segmentation reveals that overall, across Erewash, there are 933 people playing bowls currently. The age profiles of ‘Elsie and Arnold’ and ‘Frank’ are higher than the

national average, the 'Roger and Joy' profile is in line with the national average whilst 'Ralph and Phyllis' is below the national average

- there is relatively limited latent demand (214 people) in comparison to the amount of people that currently play. This suggests that around 80% of those residents that expressed an interest in playing bowls are already playing. Those that would like to play but do not currently do so fall into the same groups as those that already play. This may influence the type of marketing that should be undertaken by clubs in order to successfully generate new participants.

Actual participation

8.4.4 Table 8.3 illustrates the current playing membership of responding bowling clubs on greens across the Borough. It reveals that there are 223 active playing members across the bowling greens in Erewash, a number significantly below the level estimated by the Sport England database.

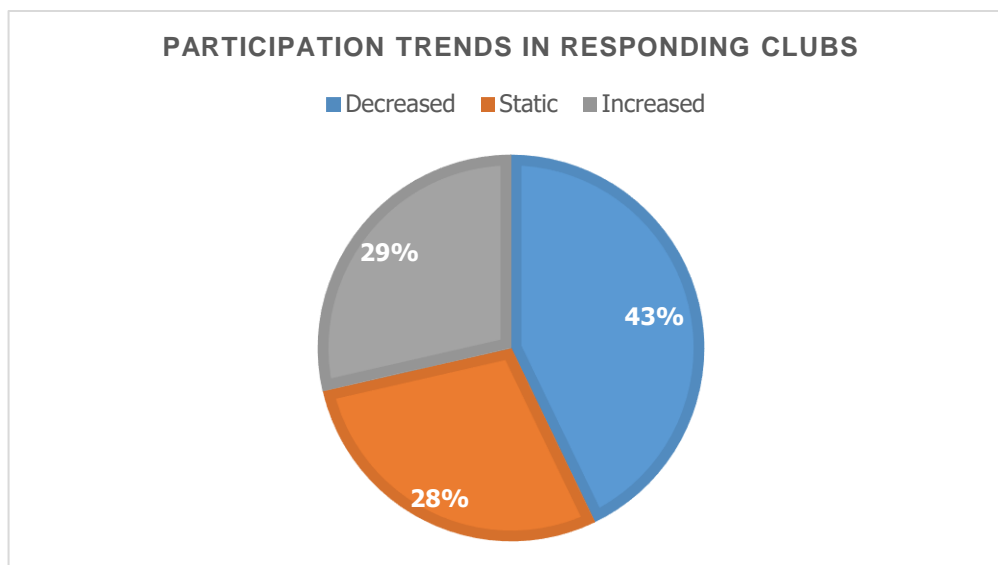
8.4.5 Only 3 of these bowlers are juniors. It is also evident that participation is skewed towards males with 79% of members being male.

Table 8.3: Membership of existing clubs

Club Name	Sub Area	Club Green	Total Members	Participation Levels
Ilkeston Rutland Bowls Club	Ilkeston	Rutland Sports Park	27	Decreased
Breadsall Bowls Club	Rural	Breadsall Playing Fields	40	Static
The Stute Bowls Club	Ilkeston	The Stute	34	Increased
Stanton Clubhouse Bowls Club	Ilkeston	Stanton Clubhouse Bowls Club	20	Decreased
Long Eaton Town Bowls Club	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Long Eaton Town Bowls	50	Decreased
Enterprise Bowls Club	Ilkeston	Enterprise Sports and Social Club	22	Static
Ilkeston Victoria Park Bowls Club	Ilkeston	Ilkeston Victoria Park	30	Increased

8.4.6 Table 8.3 and Chart 8.2 demonstrate that there are mixed trends in participation. Stanton Clubhouse and Long Eaton BC are the only clubs currently experiencing a decline in membership. There are no geographical patterns in terms of the clubs that are experiencing growth and those that are declining.

Chart 8.2: Trends in Participation



8.4.7 Some player movement is attributed (by clubs) to the quality of greens, with players perceived to be gravitating towards the better-quality facilities. Some player movement is also thought to be caused by the availability of different levels of competition, so some players will for example move to clubs who are more competitive.

8.4.8 Covid has also had an impact on participation, with some former players re-evaluating their lives and / or displaying a reluctance to interact with other people due to covid. The age profile of members means that natural loss represents a bigger proportion of club decline than it does for other sports.

8.4.9 A reduction in members is particular concern for clubs because it exacerbates the challenge of maintaining the green due to the reduced income into the club, as well as decrease in the number of potential volunteers willing to carry out maintenance.

8.4.10 Alongside green quality, falling membership and a lack of volunteers are identified as the biggest issues for bowling clubs.

8.5 National Governing Body Perspective – Bowls England

8.5.1 Bowls England is the NGB for Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. The majority of greens in Erewash Borough therefore fall under the remit of Bowls England. The organization's new strategy (Fit for the Future – August 2021) identifies five key priorities;

- Improve the brand - Ensure bowls is relevant, visible, reach target audiences
- Make bowls accessible – introductory forms of the game, modernise digital platforms, break down barriers, diversity and inclusion strategy, building new partnerships
- Positive playing experiences – support mixed memberships and pay and play, broadening involvement, performance pathways and providing annual structured programme of competition
- Support volunteers – support club management teams, arrest the decline in facilities, support volunteering programme, ensuring appropriate quality and quantity of officials.

8.5.2 There is limited direct reference to facilities within the strategy document, although clearly facilities are an important component of retaining and increasing participation and the Governing Body will seek to support clubs and county boards through the provision of a variety of online resources. Specifically, the strategy prioritises;

'Working at a local and national level to arrest the decline in facilities to ensure places to play bowls are accessible, inclusive and sustainable.'

8.5.3 The key priorities of the strategy therefore reflect many of the issues identified in relation to bowls in Erewash. These include the decline in facility quality and the need to support volunteers.

8.5.4 Further consultation with Bowls England reports the following key issues;

- The older age profile of members and the impact that this has on growing and maintaining participation. In particular, there is a lack of people aged 20 - 50 and a

dearth of young people. Consultation as part of the national strategy development suggests that bowls is perceived to be a sport mainly for older people

- The need for greater flexibility in the sport if participation is to increase. Current patterns of play rely on afternoon / early evening starts, meaning that the sport can be restrictive for younger members. The dress code etc is also perceived to be limiting
- The cost of maintaining facilities, declining membership and lack of funding to effect improvements
- The need for closer involvement with schools and sports development staff
- Lack of voluntary help for clubs – coaches and administrators; and
- The need to promote new ‘short’ forms of the games (e.g., new age bowls, sets play) to attract new players with less spare time
- The need to better engage with technology – the survey for clubs demonstrated significance support for the wider use of technology.

8.5.5 The Bowls Development Alliance (which is the body incorporating Bowls England, British Crown Green Bowling Association, English Short Mat Bowling Association and English Indoor Bowling Association) Whole Sport Plan seeks to;

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

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

8.5.7 A research report (October 2016) undertaken by Sport England into the issues facing the sustainability of bowls reflected many of the concerns raised above, indicating that there is;

- Falling membership and high age profile of existing members
- Reduction in the number of new members
- Members are very sensitive to increases in fees, but that increase in membership fees has been necessary to offset declining numbers
- Increasing maintenance / green upkeep fees.

8.5.8 It concludes that;

- Recruitment of new members is key to ongoing sustainability
- There is a need to implement sound financial management practices. This includes a need to explore alternative methods of income generation (a bar / social facilities etc are key to financial sustainability). There is also a need to maximise secondary income streams (hire out facilities / sponsorship etc) to ensure that income can be ring fence for a sinking fund
- Maintenance costs and machinery are the highest financial burdens - there may be opportunities to think creatively about how this can be improved (maintenance hubs etc)
- The 40 - 55 age group is crucial to reduce the overall age profile and to drive club activities (but there is a struggle to engage with these groups)
- There is often a reliance on one individual and development business plans need to be put in place.

8.5.9 It is clear therefore that numerous issues that are experienced nationally are evident in Erewash Borough.

8.6 Adequacy of Provision

8.6.1 The key components determining the adequacy of provision are discussed in the section that follows. There are no formal demand models for bowls and so instead a combination of quality, quantity and accessibility must be considered.

Green Quality

8.6.2 Green and pavilion quality is considered to be perhaps the key issue for clubs in the Borough. In particular, there is concern around the maintenance procedures, in terms of both the regularity that this is undertaken but also the procedures that are applied.

8.6.3 It is clear that a lot of effort is put into the maintenance procedures and that there is a reliance upon a small number of ageing volunteers. With around 75% of clubs believing that they are not

fully skilled to carry out the maintenance that they are required to do, this highlights the challenges that effective maintenance of the green can bring and it is clear that there is a need to upskill the existing volunteer workforce, as well as for succession planning and knowledge sharing.

- 8.6.4 Improvements to maintenance and implementing appropriate maintenance practices for the long term therefore represent one of the key issues that need to be addressed in relation to the bowling infrastructure.

Amount of Greens

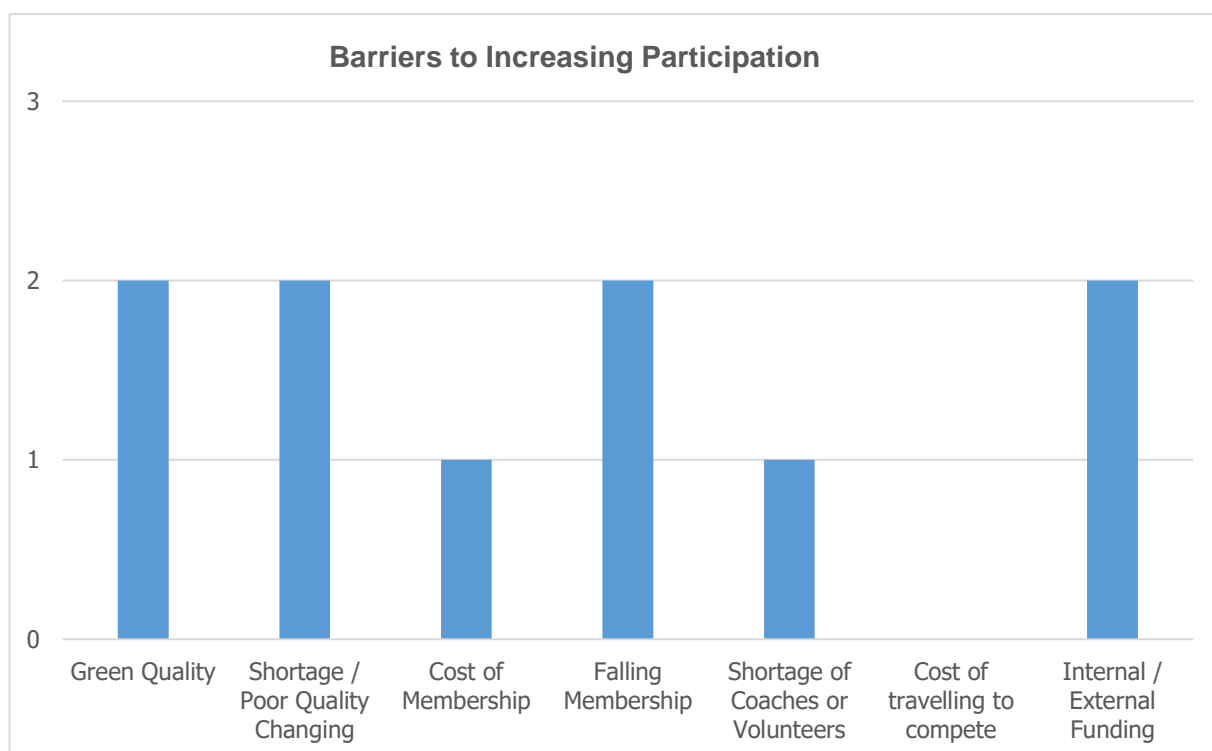
- 8.6.5 The historic Sports Council standard recommended 10 greens per 60,000 people (Planning for Sport 1970), which gives a requirement of circa 19 greens across Erewash based on a population of 115,490. With 11 greens, current provision falls significantly below this level. This is however a dated measure which does not take into account the level of participation in the Borough, the geographical structures of the Borough, or the propensity of the local population to participate in bowls.
- 8.6.6 As a guide, 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowls club, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members.
- 8.6.7 As set out in Table 8.2, the clubs in Erewash have relatively low memberships, with most clubs having between 20 and 35. With 50 members, Long Eaton Town Bowls Club has the largest membership. With an overall Borough average of 34 members (responding clubs only), this means that there is significant scope to increase the number of people playing bowls.
- 8.6.8 At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can be sustained is significantly higher. While there are some sources that suggest that clubs accommodating a higher number of players than this become overplayed, Bowls England indicates that clubs should be encouraged to promote a spread of play across different time slots in order to maximise the number of people that are involved in the club.
- 8.6.9 Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. With low membership across greens at Erewash, this means that there is a need to focus on increasing participation quickly. In particular, Stanton Clubhouse Bowls Club has 20 members, whilst Enterprise Bowls Club has only 22 members.
- 8.6.10 From a quantitative perspective therefore, although the number of greens is low, there are also questions around the sustainability of existing facilities and increasing the number of residents

using each green is a key priority. There is therefore no evidence to suggest that additional greens are required.

8.6.11 Added to this, all existing greens have significant capacity to accommodate additional members and all clubs responding to the survey indicate that they are proactively looking for new members. In particular, several clubs highlight their intentions to expand their existing membership to female and junior players. Some clubs are however reluctant to increase their membership too high as they look to ensure that all members have ample competitive opportunities.

8.6.12 In order to ensure that participation growth is deliverable, it will be essential to address the existing barriers. The perceived barriers are set out in Chart 8.3.

Chart 8.3: Barriers to Increasing Participation



Accessibility

8.6.13 Alongside quality issues (which clubs see as the biggest issue), access to bowling greens is also a relatively significant issue.

8.6.14 Clubs highlight concerns with a lack of awareness of greens, which in many instances is caused by a lack of promotion. The location of some greens in Erewash means that they are difficult to find, which further makes recruitment of new players difficult.

8.6.15 It should also be noted that whilst there is significant capacity at bowling greens in the Borough, the geographical dispersion of greens does mean that facilities are focused in the more urban areas. In addition to meaning that some residents in the rural parts of the Borough are outside of the catchment for a facility, this also suggests that some clubs are located in relatively close proximity to each other and therefore are competing for the same potential bowlers.

Future Requirements for Bowls

8.6.16 Trends based population projections indicate that there will be an increase in population of 6958 people by 2038. Proportionally, the largest growth in the population is expected in the 75 years and over population. The profile of current participants in bowls therefore means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports, although many bowls players are aged lower than this.

8.6.17 Analysis indicates that the number of residents aged 60+ is likely to increase from 37241 now (2022) to 37,864 in 2038. The propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow. This is likely to stimulate additional demand for bowling and place additional pressures on the existing infrastructure.

8.6.18 Table 8.6 summarises the potential impact of the population growth. It uses the existing club membership as a base (359). This is based upon the total number of members at each responding club, plus the assumption that each of the greens where clubs did not respond has a membership equivalent to the Boroughwide average (34). This figure is much lower than estimations of participation presented through Sport England Market Segmentation (which indicates that 933 people currently play) and both scenarios are therefore considered.

Table 8.6: Calculation of potential growth in bowls

Current Situation (2022)		
Area considered	Current Participation (Known Club Membership)	Sport England Market Segmentation
Current Population Aged 60+	37241	37241
Participation in Bowls	359	933
% Of Current Population Participating in Bowls	0.96%	2.5%
Future Situation (2038)		
Future Population aged 60+	37864	37864
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	0.96%	2.5%

Potential Future Participants in Bowls	363	946
Change (2022 - 2038)	+4	13

8.6.19 Table 8.6 therefore indicates that based upon existing club membership, assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by a small number.

8.6.20 This level of membership is still sustainable within the existing stock and indeed, continues to offer spare capacity. This suggests therefore that there is sufficient stock of facilities to meet current and future demand and there is scope for growth within the facility stock.

8.6.21 It is acknowledged however that growth is unlikely to be even. There is however capacity in all areas of the Borough to accommodate additional bowlers and indeed, a number of bowls clubs require additional members to ensure that they remain sustainable.

8.7 Summary and Key Issues

8.7.1 The key issues for bowls that need to be considered as part of the strategy development are summarised overleaf.

Bowls – Summary and key Issues

Supply

- There are 11 active bowling greens in Erewash. Most greens are single green sites with the only exception being West Park that has 3 greens.
- While all greens are playable, they are typically of a low standard quality. The playing surface is identified as the key quality concern but issues with maintenance also emerge as a key issue. There are concerns about both the regularity of maintenance and the procedures followed, and critically, 76% of clubs that maintain their own facilities do not feel that they are appropriately skilled to do so. Car parking was also raised as a key concern. Quality was considered perhaps the key issue for bowls across the Borough.
- There are few differences in terms of quality geographically.

Demand

- 80% of people playing bowls in Erewash live within three miles of a green.
- National databases reveal a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing bowls. The profile of players is also much more focused towards the older age groups than other sports considered.
- Club membership data suggests that the average club in Erewash has just 34 members. It is also evident that participation is skewed towards males, with almost 80% of club members being male and very little participation at junior levels.
- There are no clear trends in participation levels at clubs across the Borough. Whilst some clubs have grown their memberships, others have declined. The quality of facilities is considered by clubs to be a key means of attracting players, and some player movement also takes place as players choose the level of competition that they want. There is however a concern that it is the smaller clubs that are losing members at a greater rate, as the lower levels of income that these clubs get means that the quality deteriorates... this then becomes a vicious circle.
- Bowls England highlight retention and recruitment of members as a key priority.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- Green and pavilion quality is considered to be perhaps the key issue for clubs in the Borough. In particular, there is concern around the maintenance procedures, in terms of both the regularity that this is undertaken but also the procedures that are applied.
- It is clear that a lot of effort is put into the maintenance procedures and that there is a reliance upon a small number of ageing volunteers. With around 75% of clubs believing that they are not fully skilled to carry out the maintenance that they are required to do, this highlights the challenges that effective maintenance of the green can bring and it is clear that there is a need to upskill the existing volunteer workforce, as well as for succession planning and knowledge sharing.
- The clubs in Erewash have relatively low memberships, with most clubs having between 20 and 35. With an overall Borough average of 34 members (responding clubs only), this means that there is significant scope to increase the number of people playing bowls and no clear rationale for additional provision. Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. With membership of some clubs approaching these levels, increases in participation as a priority will be vital if the clubs are to remain sustainable over the strategy period
- All existing greens have significant capacity to accommodate additional members and are proactively looking to do so
- Alongside quality issues (which clubs see as the biggest issue), access to bowling greens is also a relatively significant issue.
- Clubs highlight concerns with a lack of awareness of greens, which in many instances is caused by a lack of promotion. The location of some greens in Erewash means that they are difficult to find, which further makes recruitment of new players difficult.
- Analysis indicates that the number of residents aged 60+ is likely to increase from 37241 now (2022) to 37,864 in 2038. The propensity to participate in bowls is therefore likely to grow. This is likely to stimulate additional demand for bowling and place additional pressures on the existing infrastructure. The analysis suggests that growth in bowls will be relatively limited and that if anything, this growth will be positive in that it will help to improve the sustainability of bowling greens.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

The key issues for the strategy to address are therefore;

- **Address quality issues at the bowling greens – this should focus upon improving maintenance procedures and the playing surface**

- **Consider how clubs could be supported to address maintenance issues and associated costs and to reduce the risk of clubs becoming unsustainable. This may include supporting clubs to access funding and promoting joint working**
- **Ensure that existing greens are protected**
- **Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and working with clubs to improve the promotion of bowls. There is a need to increase membership at some key sites to ensure that venues remain sustainable**
- **Address the identified barriers to the growth of bowls – these include awareness and the volunteer base.**

9.0 Football

9.1.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for football in Erewash. It includes;

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

9.1.2 It considers the provision of both grass football pitches and 3G pitches.

9.2 Pitch Supply

9.2.1 Table 9.1 summarises the breakdown of pitch sizes that are available to the community. Site specific detail is provided later in this section. Pitch totals should also be considered approximate only, as on many sites, layouts change weekly in response to league fixtures. In addition, the layout of pitches at school sites often changes from week (school use) to weekend, as clubs lay out pitches to meet their own needs.

9.2.2 It indicates that circa 49% of pitches available to the community are full sized pitches, whilst the remainder of facilities are small sized. It should also be highlighted that whilst we have considered pitches sustaining adult play to be adult pitches, many of these meet only minimum size requirements and are also used by junior teams.

It should be noted that pitches and teams within this section are categorised according to pitch size requirements (i.e., teams in U17 and U18 age groups use adult pitches). This differs slightly from the categorisation methods used in FA affiliation data, which considers U17 and U18 teams to be juniors.

Table 9.1: Community Use Football Pitches in Erewash Borough

Pitches Type	Total Pitches	Number of Secured Pitches	Number of Unsecured Pitches	% Of Community Use Pitches Secured
Adult Football (aged 16+)	35	35	0	100%
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	7	7	0	100%
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	11	10	1	90%
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	10	9	1	80%
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	3	3	0	100%

9.2.5 Table 9.1 therefore reveals that of the pitches that the proportion of pitches that are used by the community that are secured is high. This does not however present a full picture, as there are several schools that have previously offered community access but do not currently offer full community use (despite having formal community use agreements). This is primarily as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, which led to schools closing their doors and not yet reopening. Key venues that are not currently open are Ormiston Ilkeston Academy and Wilsthorpe Community Academy. Whilst both schools indicate that they are likely to consider community use again in the short term, this highlights the uncertainties that can exist in relation to schools, even where there are community use agreements available.

9.2.6 Many primary schools that have previously offered community use also no longer have this available, again due to Covid 19 protocols. Whilst the majority of primary schools are not open for community access, most have some playing fields. Many of these are basic playing fields and are not marked out as formal pitches regularly and therefore offer limited potential resources for the local community. Unless the school have formal pitches currently marked out, they are excluded from the above totals.

Lapsed / Disused Sites

9.2.7 There are several examples of sites where football pitches have been provided previously but are not currently in use. This is primarily as a result of a need for qualitative improvements and / or a lack of current demand for the facilities that were provided. Sites where this is currently the case include;

- Bare Lane Recreation Ground
- Millhouse Field
- Stanley Recreation Ground.

9.2.8 In addition, there are several sites where there is scope to increase the number of pitches. These include;

- Breaston Park
- Deans Drive Recreation Ground
- Derwent Meadows (pitch provision will be increased next season to respond to identified demand).

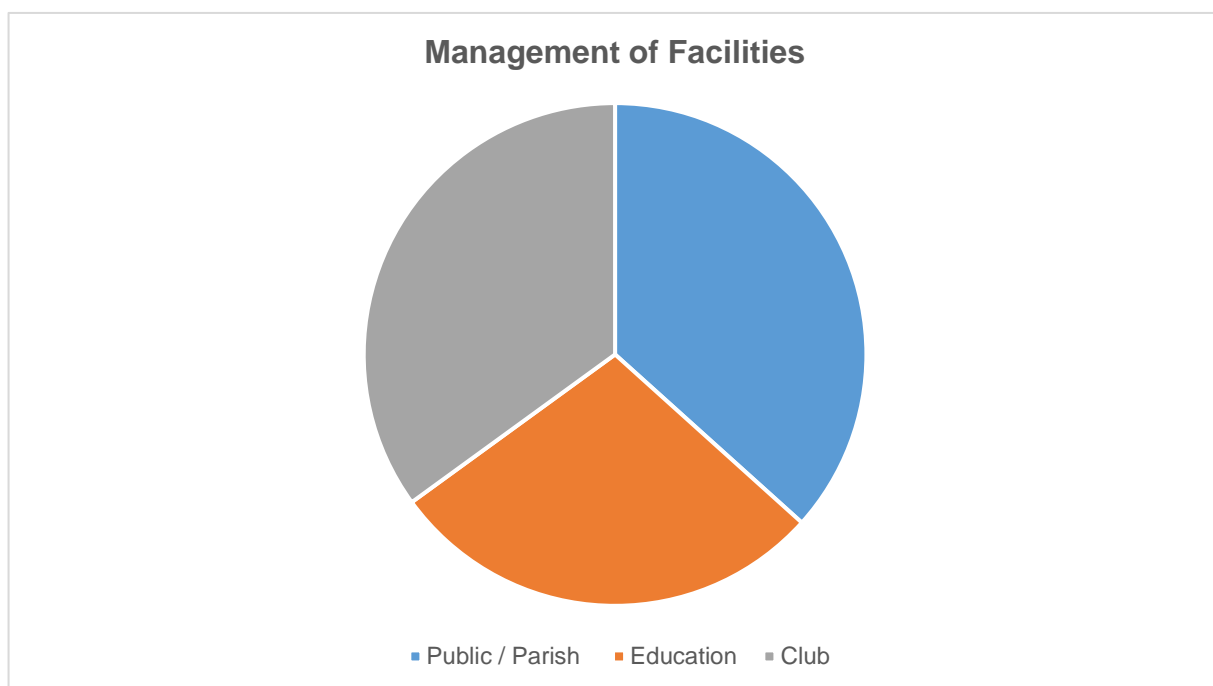
Ownership and Management

9.2.9 Chart 9.1 illustrates that management of active community pitches within Erewash is mixed, with the public sector being just the largest provider. An almost equal proportion of facilities are managed by clubs, whilst the remainder are located on education sites.

9.2.10 It should be noted that in previous years the proportion of facilities located on education sites has been higher, but there are several schools that closed their facilities as part of the covid 19 pandemic and have not yet reopened them. There is significant scope to increase the availability of pitches in this sector.

9.2.11 The FA National Strategy seeks to increase the number of asset owning and managing clubs and the proportion of sites in Erewash that are managed by clubs suggests that there are some strong foundations for this in the Borough. The pitches managed by the Council however play a clear role in meeting demand, particularly from single adult football teams.

Chart 9.1: Management of Pitches



Geographical Distribution of Football Pitches

9.2.12 Table 9.2 sets out the distribution of football pitches by sub area. It reveals that adult football pitches are relatively evenly distributed across the Borough and make up circa half of the provision in each area. There is more limited provision in the Rural area, with few smaller pitches, but each area contains pitches of a variety of size.

Table 10.2: Geographical Distribution of Football Pitches

Pitches Type	Ilkeston	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Rural Area
Adult Football (aged 16+)	12	14	9
Junior Football (age U13 - U16)	5	2	0
9 v 9 (age U11 and U12)	2	6	3
7 v 7 (age U9 and U10)	1	6	3
5 v 5 (age U7 and U8)	0	2	1

9.3 AGPs

- 9.3.1 The FA now approves certain types of AGP for use in competitive fixtures (those listed on the FA register), and the FA National Facilities Strategy recognises the role that these facilities play in the provision of facilities for football.
- 9.3.2 Across Erewash there are nine active AGPs. These are summarised in Table 10.3 overleaf. It demonstrates that of the AGPs that are provided, four have a 3G surface whilst five pitches have a sand filled or sand dressed surface. Whilst the FA are looking to ensure that all football takes place on 3G AGPs, it is acknowledged that at times, sand-based facilities are used for training, particularly in areas lacking in 3G pitch provision.
- 9.3.3 In addition to the full-sized pitches, there are a series of small AGPs as follows;
- 2 small AGPs at Grange Park
 - Small AGP at Friesland School.
- 9.3.4 The active full sized AGPs are summarised in Table 9.3 overleaf. It demonstrates that there are two 3G AGPs in both Ilkeston and Long Eaton and Sandiacre Sub areas, but no 3G AGPs in the rural area.

Table 9.3: AGPs

Site Name	Number of Pitches	Management Type	Sports Lighting	Sub Area	AGP - Surface Type	AGP - Hours available to the community	Listing on FA Pitch Register
Friesland School	1	Academy (Education)	Yes	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	3G	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 22:00 Weekend 10:00 - 19:00	Yes
Ilkeston Town Football Club	1	Football Club	Yes	Ilkeston	3G	Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but mostly used by Ilkeston Town FC. Some community use of facility is however available.	Yes
Kirk Hallam Community Academy	1	Academy (Education)	Yes	Ilkeston	3G	Monday-Friday 17:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 14:00	Yes
Rutland Sports Park	1	EBC (Commercial Management)	Yes	Ilkeston	Sand	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 09:00 - 22:00 Friday 09:00 - 21:30 Weekend 09:00 - 17:00	No
The Long Eaton School	1	Independent School	No	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand	Monday-Friday 18:30 - 22:00 Saturday 09:00 - 18:00 Sunday 10:00 - 16:00	No
Trent College	2	Independent School	Yes	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 23:00 Weekend 09:00 - 23:00	No
Wilsthorpe Community School	1	Education	Yes	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Sand	Typically Monday-Friday 18:00 - 21:00 Weekend 09:00 - 17:00.	No

Erewash Borough PPS



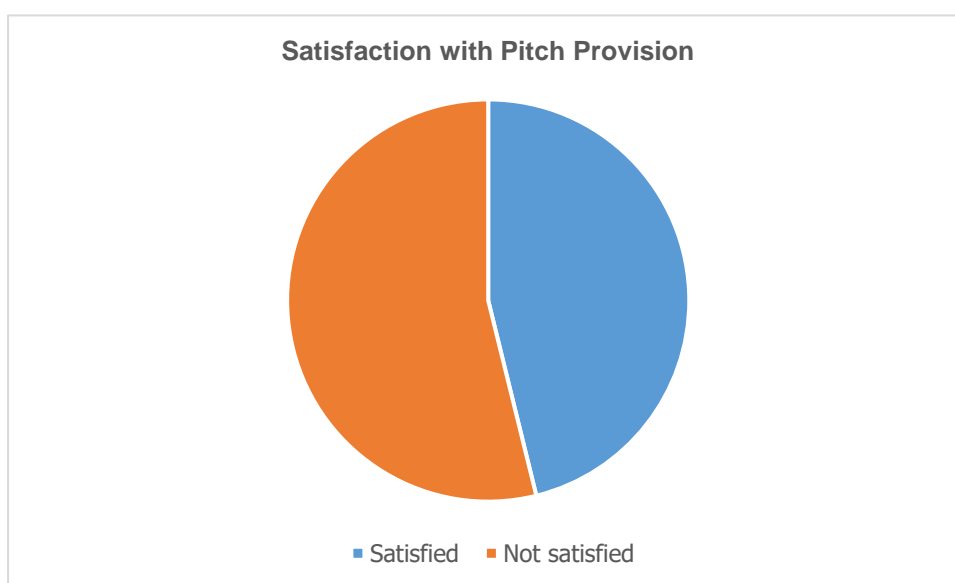
Site Name	Number of Pitches	Management Type	Sports Lighting	Sub Area	AGP - Surface Type	AGP - Hours available to the community	Listing on FA Pitch Register
						Facility not currently open due to Covid	
Long Eaton United (Grange Park)	1	Football Club	Yes	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	3G	Monday – Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9am – 10pm	Yes



9.4 Views on the Pitch Stock

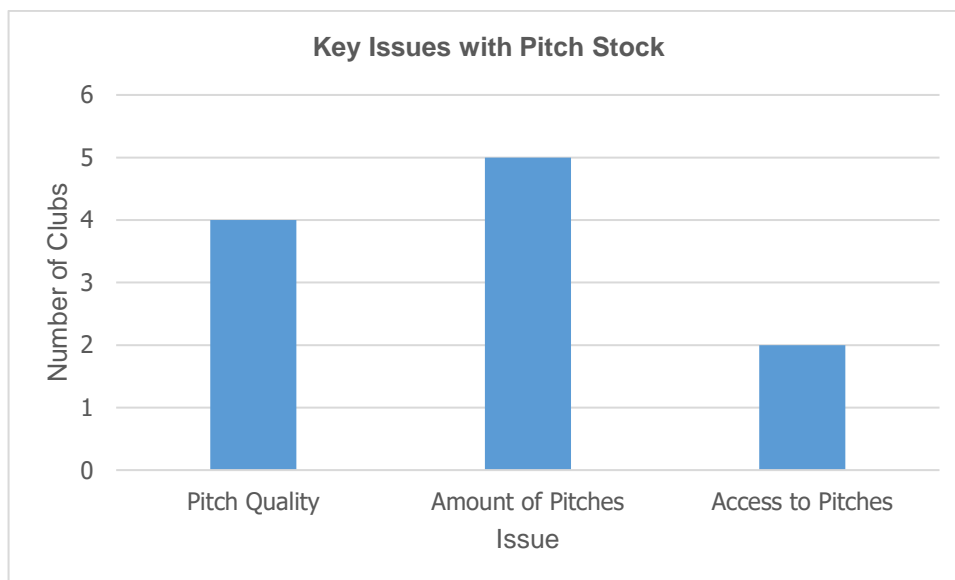
9.4.1 Chart 9.1 indicates that there are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in the Borough, with a larger proportion of clubs indicating that they are unhappy with the pitch stock than are satisfied. 54% of clubs responding to the consultation are currently unhappy with pitch provision.

Chart 9.1: Satisfaction with Pitch Provision



9.4.2 Multiple reasons were identified for the dissatisfaction, many of which are specific to the sites that clubs are using. Chart 9.2 provides a general overview of the key issues identified.

Chart 9.2: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Pitch Provision



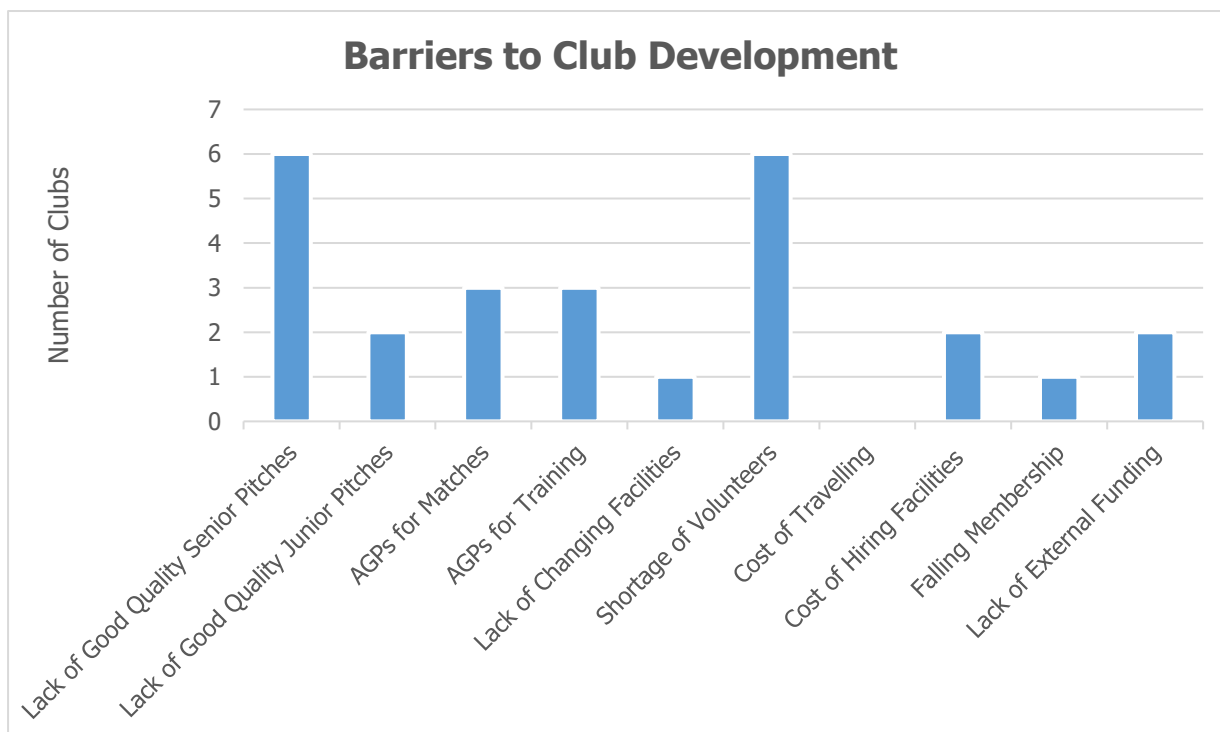
9.4.3 It reports that both the number of pitches and the quality of pitches are considered to be problematic for some clubs. Specific issues raised include;

- Insufficient pitches available to meet the needs of clubs playing at higher standards
- Challenges accommodating all teams for larger clubs
- Pitches that were previously available no longer being available / now dedicated to other sports
- Perceived lack of training facilities
- Issues with the maintenance of playing fields
- Poor quality surfaces on existing playing pitches.

9.4.4 There are no patterns by geographical area, with clubs across the Borough experiencing issues. It is clear however that it is typically the larger clubs that have concerns about the number of pitches, whilst quality issues are evident for clubs of all sizes. Many of the larger clubs indicate that they have no room for the ongoing expansion of their club and that they are struggling to accommodate the number of teams that they have. Overplay and heavy usage is also considered to impact on the quality of pitches at some sites, again particularly the larger clubs.

9.4.5 Reflecting the dissatisfaction, Chart 9.3 illustrates that there are a number of issues that are perceived to impact club development. Again, the quality and access to facilities of appropriate quality, in particular for senior pitches is a key concern however it clearly demonstrates that the other major issue impacting club growth is a shortage of volunteers.

Chart 9.3: Barriers to Club Development



9.5 Pitch Quality and Changing Accommodation

- 9.5.1 Pitch quality and changing accommodation emerged in consultation as one of the key issues for clubs and satisfaction is relatively low.
- 9.5.2 All local leagues running within the Borough require (within their rules) clubs to keep their grounds in playable condition (and deemed suitable by the Management Committee). Pitch quality is therefore an essential component of an effective pitch stock. The presence and quality of changing facilities can also be of significance in determining the suitability of pitches and a lack of facilities can impact on the desirability of grounds for clubs, particularly where there is a lack of toilets as well as changing facilities. Whilst rules around changing facilities have relaxed as a result of covid in some leagues, these are still considered desirable, and it is likely that the requirement for these facilities will return.
- 9.5.3 To ensure that pitches meet league requirements, pitch quality and changing accommodation is therefore as important as the number of pitches. Pitch quality also impacts upon the capacity of pitches, as well as player experience.
- 9.5.4 Pitch quality has been assessed through a variety of methods, specifically;

- Non-technical site assessments
- Review of FA Pitch Power Data Reports
- Consultations with Clubs.

9.5.5 Final views on the quality of each site have been reached through the triangulation of data. The key issues identified are explored in the sections that follow.

Site Visits

9.5.6 Site visits were undertaken to all sites offering community access using the non-technical site assessment matrix provided alongside the Playing Pitch Guidance. Site visits were carried out during the playing season, just prior to the Christmas break. This means that pitches had received a high amount of use when the visits were undertaken.

9.5.7 In general terms, with regards football pitch quality, site visits reveal that;

- There was evidence of compaction, poor drainage, boggy areas and standing water on numerous pitches in the borough. The issues with drainage and waterlogging may be caused (or exacerbated) by the compaction that is evident. There was a clear need for spiking and aeration
- Many of the sites were evidently heavily used and exhibited lots of signs of wear and tear. It is likely that this heavy use contributes to the compaction identified above
- Many of the pitches have poor and uneven surfaces and some sites would benefit from levelling to improve the playing surface. Several sites had issues with moles, some of which is now impacting in close proximity to the pitches themselves
- Site visits suggest that levels of maintenance vary, but there is poor grass coverage and a requirement for increased maintenance at many sites. In some instances, the heavy usage means that additional maintenance is required just to keep up with demand
- Many sites are open to the public (and indeed function as parks / recreational facilities) and as a result, dog fouling and litter is problematic. There were also vehicle tracks evident at the time of visits on a small number of sites
- The condition of associated ancillary facilities varies and there are many sites where changing blocks / clubhouses would benefit from improvement.

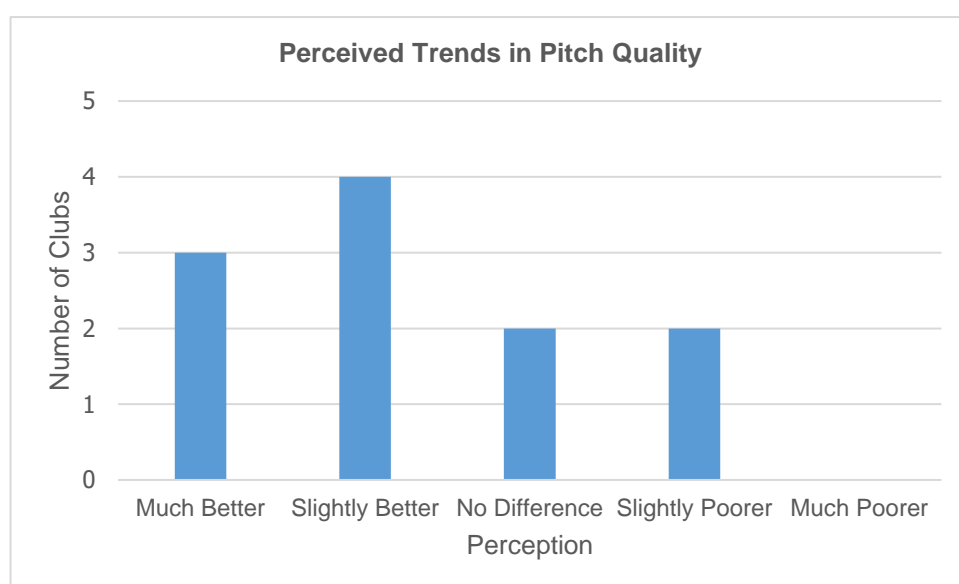
9.5.8 Site visits did not identify any clear differences in quality by geographical location. It was clear however that pitches on public sites were generally of a lower quality than club-based facilities in particular.

9.5.9 The findings of site visits have been triangulated with feedback provided by clubs in relation to quality.

Club Consultation

9.5.10 As outlined, quality emerged as one of the key issues for clubs and pitch quality is currently perceived to be one of the key barriers to club development. On a positive note however, more clubs consider quality to be improving rather than declining. This is illustrated in Chart 9.4.

Chart 9.4: Views on Trends in Pitch Quality

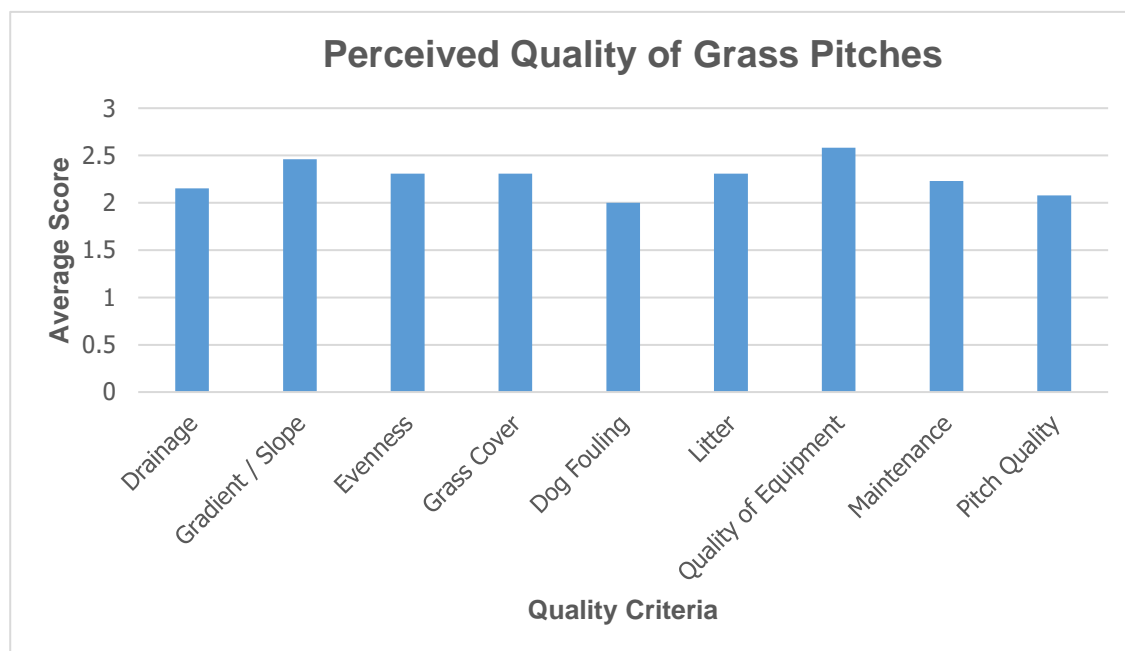


9.5.11 Interestingly, maintenance and playing surface are the key reasons attributed by clubs to the changes in pitch stock. Where pitches are improving, this is noted to coincide with an increased focus on maintenance and investment. Struggles with maintenance also emerged however as one of the main reasons for the deteriorating pitch quality, with insufficient and reducing maintenance procedures evident. Added to this, many clubs are experiencing drainage issues which are perceived to be multiplying year on year. Drainage concerns can be a by-product of poor / limited maintenance (compacted pitches are more likely to experience drainage issues) and it will be essential that this interrelationship is evaluated in detailed pitch assessments over the strategy period.

9.5.12 To provide an overview of the perceived quality of pitches, Chart 9.5 summarises the average quality ratings attributed by clubs to each of the key features of pitches (an average score of 1 equates to poor, 2 to standard and 3 to good). Reflecting the views set out above, it is the drainage on pitches that is of greatest concern, alongside the level of unofficial use. The impact that unofficial use (and the bye products of this) was raised as the key concern by league secretaries, who highlight that this has a significant impact on player experience.



Chart 9.5: Overall Views on Pitch Quality



9.5.13 The specific issues identified appear to occur on pitches across the board and there are no clear patterns arising in terms of the type of facilities used or geographically.

9.5.14 It appears however that issues relating to the quality of pitches are more directly linked with maintenance procedures and impact of informal recreation on public pitches, whilst at private clubs it is more typically heavy use that is causing the pitch quality issues. Whilst the impact of unofficial use is evident on all types of facility, it is particularly apparent on public recreation grounds.

Pitch Power Reports

9.5.15 To provide further insight into pitch quality, the issues arising in recently completed Pitch Power reports have also been considered. Pitch Power provide a rating for each pitch on a scale of poor / basic / good / advanced / high).

9.5.16 Ratings across Erewash Borough vary, with pitches maintained by Ilkeston Town achieving ratings of high, whilst at the other end of the spectrum, two sites have been awarded poor ratings. With 70% of the pitches where ratings have been awarded achieving a score of basic or below, it is clear however that there is significant scope for improvement.

9.5.17 The implications for the achievement of a basic rating are set out in Chart 9.6 below, which clearly suggests that the quality scores mean that pitches need improvement if they are to meet

the required standard for community football. Based on the snapshot of pitches across the Borough, only 30% are of the required quality.

9.5.18 Site specific issues relating to pitch quality will be highlighted later in this section.

Chart 9.6: Pitch Power Ratings



Quality Summary

9.5.19 In with guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy guidance, the above combination of consultation, site visits and analysis of Pitch Power Assessments have been used to provide a quality rating for each of the grass pitches in the Borough as either good, standard or poor.

9.5.20 These ratings, as well as issues specific to each site are outlined later in this section. Overall, however the key messages arising from in relation to quality are;

- Across the borough in general, the quality of pitches is standard to poor. 12 pitches achieve a poor rating. For those pitches that do fall into the standard category, the vast majority of pitches are clearly closer to the poor categorisation than they are good (and consequently are rated low standard). There is a concern that if maintenance procedures are insufficient to keep up with usage across the season, more pitches will become poor later in the season.
- While pitches are low standard / poor, they are generally playable. Some pitches do not however meet FA specifications in relation to size (or have inadequate run offs if pitches

are used all at once) as they have been shortened in order to make room for other pitches on the site.

- maintenance schedules vary but in general, are basic. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long-term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance. In some instances however, pitch quality appears to be impacted by the high levels of use on pitches – demonstrated by the evidence of wear and tear. Increased maintenance procedures are required on some sites just to accommodate the required level of demand.
- while drainage emerges as a key issue, it is clear that in some instances, this is exacerbated by heavy usage and the resulting compaction at the site. Waterlogging is responsible for the majority of cancellations on pitches across the borough. Improved drainage, linked with better maintenance procedures will significantly enhance the quality of pitches.
- unofficial use of pitches, and the resulting dog fouling, litter and tyre tracks is detrimental to pitch quality, but also is impacting the user experience.
- the quality of changing provision is varied and there are some sites where clubs have no access to changing facilities at all.

Quality of AGPs

9.5.21 All 3G pitches that are available are listed on the FA 3G AGP register and as a result are considered to be of good quality. Pitches at both Long Eaton Town and Ilkeston Town are reasonably new, although the initial 3G pitch registration for this facility will expire soon. Whilst the pitch at Kirk Hallam Community Academy remains on the FA pitch register, this is soon to expire and the school highlight that it is now starting to deteriorate (it is 10 years old). It is showing signs of wear and tear and does retain surface water after heavy rainfall.

9.6 Demand

9.6.1 Football is the biggest sport in terms of the number of teams that are playing in the Borough.

9.6.2 Table 9.4 summarises the number of community teams affiliated and playing within the Borough in season 2021 – 2022. It reveals that there are 221 teams in total, including affiliated 6v6 teams. In addition to this, there are several teams playing walking football.

- 9.6.3 Whilst most teams based in the Borough do play within Erewash, there is some evidence of teams travelling out to play. This movement primarily takes place between Erewash Borough and Derby City, with junior teams travelling to Derby to play in Derby City Leagues, many of which are played at central venues. Table 9.4 indicates that there are 18 teams associated with clubs based in Erewash Borough that currently play in Derby City.
- 9.6.4 The majority of play takes place in the urban areas of the Borough (Long Eaton / Sandiacre / Ilkeston) with more limited play in the more rural areas.
- 9.6.5 FA affiliation data suggests that this represents a positive increase in participation, with 204 teams playing in 2018. This suggests that if anything, there has been a positive impact of covid 19 on the number of people playing football.
- 9.6.6 This upturn in affiliation reflects the direct experiences of clubs, with very few clubs reporting a decline in membership and the majority reporting an increase both in membership and the number of teams being run. Most clubs have experienced an increase in the number of junior teams and all clubs with mini football sections have experienced an increase. Notably, the greatest increases have taken place at the largest clubs.
- 9.6.7 Whilst there have been positive trends in mini and junior football, local clubs demonstrate no growth in adult football participation. Consultation with Long Eaton Sunday League, the largest league focused in the Borough suggests that numbers of teams entering the league is declining significantly. This is in part attributed to social priorities having changed and a lack of interest in playing weekend football. The decline was evident much before the Covid 19 pandemic and it is not thought that this has had a significant additional impact. It is noted that now instead of playing themselves, many adults focus on introducing their children to the game.

Table 9.4: Teams Playing in Erewash

Type of Football	Number of Teams Playing in Erewash	Erewash Teams playing in other authorities	Play in Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Play in Ilkeston	Play in Rural
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	48		21	22	5
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	7		2	4	1
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	48	1	29	16	3
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	4		2	1	1



Type of Football	Number of Teams Playing in Erewash	Erewash Teams playing in other authorities	Play in Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Play in Ilkeston	Play in Rural
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	24	5	13	6	5
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	4	1	2	1	1
Football Mini Soccer 7v7 (mixed)	31	5	19	5	7
Football Mini Soccer 5v5 (mixed)	21	6	12	6	3
Adult 6v6 Football	34		12	22	

9.6.8 Table 9.4 suggests that whilst circa 25% of teams are senior teams, the remainder are playing age group football.

9.6.9 There are very few female football teams. The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) reports this level of participation to be lower than local areas of a similar size. It should be noted however that the local girls league is a central venue league, which may mean that some teams with players from Erewash are registered against Derby City instead as they play in this area. The Derbyshire Girls and Ladies League Plays on a home and away basis. This means that there are adequate opportunities for female teams in terms of the availability of leagues, consultation as part of this PPS suggests that both the number of pitches available and the pressures on changing facilities may inhibit the development and growth of female football.

Displaced and Imported Demand

9.6.10 As indicated, 18 teams travel outside of the Borough to play football. These are predominantly in the younger age groups (5v5, 7v7 and 9v9). Teams primarily play in the Derby City Leagues, which run central venues on Derby Council pitches. There are however one or two examples of teams travelling to Derby because of a lack of available venues closer to home. The majority of teams that are playing in Derby City are associated with Stanton Ilkeston FC, West Hallam FC and Riverside Juniors.

9.6.11 All of these clubs raised issues with a lack of access to grass pitches of appropriate quality (and size) within Erewash Borough.

Other Demand

Curricular Use

- 9.6.12 All of the secondary schools in the borough have their own facilities. Availability of these facilities is however currently ad hoc and there is little online presence outlining which facilities can be hired and which cannot. The picture with regards use of school sites has become a little more complex over the Covid pandemic, with schools more reluctant to allow community users on to their sites than previously and this may be reason behind the lack of promotion.
- 9.6.13 We believe pitches at the majority of secondary schools have historically been available for use, but this has reduced since the Covid 19 pandemic presumably because of the challenges that the Covid 19 pandemic continues to bring. Ormiston Ilkeston Academy and Wilsthorpe Community College are the key sites that have previously been available but do not currently offer lettings. The amount of activity at primary schools is also now negligible.
- 9.6.14 Whilst curricular and extra-curricular use typically does not take place at peak time for community bookings, this usage does reduce the amount of community use that can be sustained without creating overplay.

Recreational Use

- 9.6.15 Several of the clubs deliver walking football sessions. This takes place largely on AGPs but extends the appeal of football into the older age groups. This is a strong developmental priority for the County FA moving forwards.

Casual Use

- 9.6.16 Casual use is a feature of many of the playing fields. As noted in the site visits, some sites also function as public recreational areas, which impacts upon the quality of some pitches, particularly with regards dog fouling and litter. The use is not however sufficiently extensive to reduce capacity of pitches, although it is important that the overall impact on player experience is taken into account, and this was highlighted as a key concern by league secretaries. Clubs identify issues with dog fouling, litter and misuse amongst the more prevalent concerns relating to pitch quality in the borough.

9.7 Pyramid Clubs

- 9.7.1 There are no professional football clubs based within the Erewash Borough boundaries. Teams from Long Eaton Town, Ilkeston Town and Sandiacre Town do however play within leagues in the National League System.



9.7.2 Teams playing within the National League System must adhere to specific requirements in relation to the facilities provided at the home ground. If the club continue to progress up the pyramid, requirements and regulations for facilities will become more onerous and a club may lose the opportunity to be promoted if their facilities do not meet the required standards. The ground grading requirements are set out in full at <https://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/ground-grading>. The grade required for each of the clubs playing in the pyramid system and any known issues relating to the existing facilities meeting this grade are summarised in Table 9.5. It should be noted that where there are two teams from a club, assuming that they use the same pitch, the specification for the team playing at a higher level will need to be met.

Table 9.5: Requirements of Pyramid Teams

Club	Team	League	Pyramid Level	Ground Grading Requirement	Comments
Ilkeston Town FC	1 st Team	Northern Premier League (Division 1 Midlands)	Step 4	D	Meets with league requirements.
	U23		Step 7		
Long Eaton FC	Female Team	FAWNL 1	Tier 7 Women's County Leagues	F	Meets with league requirements. Club require improved and tailored machinery for maintenance
	1 st Team	United Counties Football League	Step 5		
Sandiacre Town FC	Sandiacre Town Youth	Notts Senior League	Step 7	Entry Level Ground grading	Meets with league requirements. Club require improved and tailored machinery for maintenance

9.7.3 Table 9.5 reveals that the basic infrastructure of the playing fields is currently adequate and none of the clubs identified issues with meeting their current ground grading criteria. Reflecting the general consultation however, the maintenance of the facilities was considered to be the key priority and only way of ensuring that facilities continue to meet standards.

9.7.4 Evidencing the challenges of progressing through the football pyramid, Stanton Ilkeston FC, who wish to embark on a journey into the football pyramid, indicate that the lack of available barriered pitch with floodlighting at their home ground is likely to inhibit the progress of their senior ladies team and is also restricting opportunities to progress senior male teams.

9.8 Training Needs

- 9.8.1 Consultation demonstrates that clubs primarily use AGPs for training during the winter months. With several 3G AGPs in the area, the majority of training takes place on these facilities and there is very little evidence of any training on grass during the winter months.
- 9.8.2 Most clubs use 3G pitches, but there is some usage of the sand based AGP at Long Eaton School for training (17 teams).
- 9.8.3 Chart 9.5 suggests that the majority of clubs are satisfied with the training facilities that are provided and indeed, several of the large clubs now have 3G pitches at their home venues which they use for both training and matches.

Chart 9.5: Satisfaction with Training Facilities



- 9.8.4 For those clubs that were not satisfied, the key issues raised are;
- The challenges accessing facilities at preferred times
 - The use of pitches by teams not from Erewash impacting access for more local clubs
 - The poor condition of floodlighting of the 3G AGP at Kirk Hallam Community Academy.
- 9.8.5 Almost all clubs that do not currently access a 3G AGP (or the sand based AGP at Long Eaton School) are small single teams, or very small clubs.



9.9 Adequacy of Pitch Provision – Assessing Supply and Demand

9.9.1 The Sport England Guidance enables evaluation of the adequacy of provision, taking into account both the quality and number of pitches provided. Adequacy is measured both over the course of a week and at peak time using the concept of match equivalent sessions (MES)². There is a strong interrelationship between the quality of a pitch and the number of matches that it can sustain.

9.9.2 It should be noted that at some sites, pitch provision changes weekly to ensure that supply is matched with demand that weekend. Pitch totals and associated capacity ratings used in this assessment are therefore indicative only.

Weekly Capacity

9.9.3 The quality of the pitch has a greater influence on weekly capacity - this directly impacts the number of matches that can be sustained. Table 10.5 summarises the guidelines used with regards pitch capacity (extracted from Sport England Guidance on the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy, prepared by the FA).

Table 9.5: Capacity based upon Pitch Quality

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

9.9.4 It is known that many of the pitches considered to be of standard quality are however confirmed to be in the lower echelons of this range by non-technical site visits and / or FA Pitch Power assessments, and it should be noted that if sites are not appropriately maintained for the level of use that they receive, there is potential that some of the lower scoring sites could become poor. This assessment and associated strategy will therefore explore the impact of pitch quality deterioration.

9.9.5 The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on pitch quality is also unclear. Lockdowns have meant that pitches have not been maintained as they would have been under normal circumstances, with some sites benefitting from extra attention and others not maintained during 2020. Whilst this means that many pitches were rested, the lack of maintenance that was carried out may

² A match equivalent session refers to the number of matches that a team will play weekly on a pitch. For example, one football team will usually play at home fortnightly. Demand from this team will therefore equate to 0.5 match equivalent sessions weekly. If the team also trains on a grass pitch, this too will be measured and recorded in match equivalent sessions.

later impact. This means that the long-term impact on quality is unclear and that monitoring will take on an even greater importance.

Peak Time Demand

- 9.9.6 Peak time demand is determined by evaluating the number of match equivalent sessions at peak time and comparing it to the number of pitches available. Peak time is deemed to be the period in which the most play on that pitch type takes place.
- 9.9.7 Pitches can only be considered to have spare capacity at peak time when they are not already utilised to their full capacity over the course of a week. A standard quality adult pitch that is not used on a Sunday morning (borough wide peak time), but is used more than twice per week at other times (Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon for example) would not be considered able to sustain additional play either at peak time, or at other times, even though no one would be using the facility then, as this would be detrimental to the quality of the pitch.
- 9.9.8 In general, junior leagues have greater flexibility than adult leagues with regards kick off times, with matches able to be staggered to ensure that all games can be accommodated. All adult leagues have definitive start times.
- 9.9.9 Whilst peak time in Erewash for the majority of age groups is a Sunday morning, play is quite well spread across the weekend.
- 9.9.10 Adult participation is most clearly skewed towards peak time, with the majority of teams playing in the Long Eaton Sunday League (Sunday morning). Outside of this league, teams play Saturday afternoons in the football pyramid or in female / older youth leagues on a Sunday afternoon.
- 9.9.11 Peak time for youth football is also a Sunday morning, but this is much more closely balanced with Saturday morning. This means however that adults and junior teams (many of whom use adult pitches) have the same peak time.
- 9.9.12 There is also a balance of play between Saturday and Sunday for both 5v5 and 7v7 football, with Sunday morning again just more popular for both forms of the game.
- 9.9.13 9v9 football is the only age group where a higher proportion of teams playing in Erewash play on a Saturday morning than a Sunday morning. As with other junior age groups however, the distribution of teams is relatively balanced. Notably, when taking into account the number of teams that travel outside of the Borough to play at central venues, the peak time for 9v9 is also Sunday morning.



9.9.14 The spread of play in the younger age groups is largely attributable to participation in the YEL, which offers both Saturday and Sunday leagues.

9.9.15 This ability to spread of play has a significant impact upon the requirements on facilities, as teams can play at different times (for example a club can enter teams on both a Saturday and Sunday) if there are not enough pitches to play all games at the same time. Where this happens however, there may be a reliance on pitches to sustain two games over the weekend (Saturday and Sunday), which places an emphasis on pitches to be of sufficient quality to sustain at least two games without deterioration.

Competitive Demand on AGPs

9.9.16 With all 3G AGPs listed on the 3G pitch register, they are approved for match play and can therefore be used by teams to take the pressures off the grass pitches.

9.9.17 The following pitches are used for match play;

- Friesland School
- Long Eaton United
- Ilkeston United.

9.9.18 There is no known usage of Kirk Hallam Community Academy AGP for match play.

9.9.19 Where teams are known to play on AGPs, this assessment calculates this demand against the AGP. The potential role that AGPs could play in meeting demand is also considered.

9.10 Grass Pitches – Situation at Individual Sites

9.10.1 The activity that takes place at each site is summarised in Table 9.5. Table 9.6 provides an overview and sets out the current supply and demand and outlines whether the pitch is being overplayed, played to the appropriate level or is able to sustain additional fixtures. Adequacy of provision is measured in Match Equivalent Sessions (MES).

9.10.2 Overplay is demonstrated by minus figures (i.e., demand exceeds supply).

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

- Across the week, there is spare capacity across the Borough as a whole, with most sites having scope to sustain additional play. There are however some sites with overplay



and little additional capacity. The requirement to sustain games on both Saturday and Sundays contributes to this.

- Very few sites exhibit significant overplay. The only sites where overplay is evident include Long Eaton FC, Ilkeston Town FC (Booths Playing Fields), Ron Brooks Playing Fields, St Giles Park, The Long Eaton School and Friesland School. Crucially, these are the homes of the largest clubs in the Borough, meaning that it is clear that capacity is more constrained on sites where large clubs are based.
- There are some sites where there is no formal community play registered for 2022 on the grass pitches. These include Abbotsford Playing Fields (team folded), Deans Drive, Derby College, Derwent Meadows, Kirk Hallam Community Academy or Stanley Common Recreation Ground. There is also no community use of Ormiston Enterprise Academy or Wilsthorpe Community Schools (both currently considered unavailable for community use), as a result of the schools stopping community use since Covid 19. Some other sites also contain only informal pitches currently, specifically Bare Lane Recreation Ground, Mill House Field and Stanley Recreation Ground.
- Accommodating play at peak time can often be more difficult for larger clubs, who have a limited number of pitches on which to accommodate all of their teams in the same time slot. The flexibility of the leagues in Erewash with regards the timing of fixtures reduces this, however reflecting the analysis of spare capacity across the week, it is clear that spare capacity at peak time is also relatively constrained, particularly for the larger clubs. There are 19 pitches that have no remaining capacity at peak time (around 25% of the whole stock).

9.10.4 It is clear therefore that overall, in quantitative terms, there are enough pitches to meet demand across the borough as a whole. There are however pressures at some key sites and to meet the needs of large clubs and this will be returned to later in this section.



Table 9.5: Site Overviews

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents		Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity
ABBOTSFORD PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 adult	standard	0	4	2
BEECH LANE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Low standard	1.5	0.5	0.5
BEECH LANE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	2	7v7	Poor	3	1	0.5
BOOTH'S PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 youth	Standard	6.5	-2.5	0
BOOTH'S PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	1	7v7	Standard	3	1	0
BREASTON PARK	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Low standard to poor	2	0	0
CLOUDSIDE ACADEMY	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Unsecured	1	7v7	Low standard	1	2	0.5
CLOUDSIDE ACADEMY	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Unsecured	1	9v9	Low standard	0.5	0.5	0.5
COLLINGWOOD ROAD RECREATION GROUND (CORNWALLIS CLOSE)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Poor to low standard	0.5	0.5	0.5
COTMANHAY PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Poor	1	1	1
DEANS DRIVE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Poor (undulation)	0	1	1
DERBY COLLEGE (BROOMFIELD HALL)	Rural	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Standard	0	2	2
DERWENT MEADOWS	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Poor	0	1	1
DRAYCOTT RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Poor to low standard	1	0	0
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 youth	Standard	6.5	-5.5	0
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Standard		1	1

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents		Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	9v9	Standard	2	-1	0
GALLOWS INN PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 youth	Poor	2	0	0
GALLOWS INN PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	1	9v9	Poor	0	1	1
GORDON STREET RECREATION GROUND	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Low standard to poor	4	0	0
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Good	2	1	1
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	9v9	Standard (medium to high)	2.5	-0.5	0
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	7v7	Standard (medium to high)	3	5	1
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	5v5	Standard (medium to high)	0.5	3.5	1
KIRK HALLAM COMMUNITY ACADEMY	Ilkeston	Secured	1	11v11 youth	Standard	0	1	1
KIRK HALLAM PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Low standard, approaching poor	1	3	1
MANNERS AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Low standard	2	2	1
NUTBROOK CRICKET CLUB	Rural	Secured	1	9v9	Standard	1	1	1
NUTBROOK CRICKET CLUB	Rural	Secured	1	5v5	Standard	1.5	2.5	0
RON BROOKS PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Low standard	2	0	0
RON BROOKS PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	1	9v9	Low standard	3	-1	0
SANDIACRE TOWN CRICKET CLUB (RISLEY LANE)	Rural	Secured	2	9v9	standard (low)	1.5	2.5	0.5
SANDIACRE TOWN CRICKET CLUB (RISLEY LANE)	Rural	Secured	1	7v7	Standard	1	3	0
MELBOURNE COURT (HADDON WAY)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	7V7	Low standard	0.5	3.5	0.5

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents		Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity
MELBOURNE COURT (HADDON WAY)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	9v9	standard	1.5	0.5	0.5
SAWLEY PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	11v11 adult	Poor	1	1	1
ST GILES PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Standard	3.75	-1.75	0
ST GILES PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	7v7	Low standard	0.5	3.5	0.5
ST PETERS PARK	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Poor	1	0	0
Stanley Common Recreation Ground	Rural	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Low standard	0	2	1
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 adult	Standard (Mid)	1	0	1
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	11v11 youth	Standard (Mid)	2.5	-1.5	0
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	9v9	Standard (Mid)	1	1	1
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	7v7	Standard (Mid)	1	2	1
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	5v5	Standard (Mid)	0.5	2.5	0.5
THE STUTE	Ilkeston	Secured	1	11v11 adult	standard	1.5	0.5	0
WEST PARK (LONG EATON)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	7	11v11 adult	standard	5.5	8.5	3

9.10.5 The site overviews set out in Table 9.5 provide an understanding of the situation at individual sites. Table 9.6 summarises this further, providing an overview of spare capacity across the week (taking into account all activity) and at peak time.

9.10.6 The key used in this table is set out below.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site overplayed in this age group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site played to level it can sustain
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site has potential to accommodate more play but is not currently used
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to accommodate more play - and used already for play
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No available capacity at peak time

Table 9.6: Summary of Site and Pitch Availability at Peak Time

Site Name	Sub Area	Access (AP)	Quality Rating	Changing	Adult Football	Junior Football	9v9	7v7	5v5	AGP
Abbotsford Playing Fields	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Standard	Yes						
Beech Lane Recreation Ground	Rural	Available for community use	Low Standard / Poor	Yes						
Booths Playing Fields	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Standard	No		x		x		
Breaston Park	Rural	Available for community use	Low Standard / Poor	No	x					
Cloudside Academy	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Unsecured community use	Low Standard	No						
Collingwood Road Recreation Ground (Cornwallis Close)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



Site Name	Sub Area	Access (AP)	Quality Rating	Changing	Adult Football	Junior Football	9v9	7v7	5v5	AGP
Cotmanhay Playing Fields	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						
Deans Drive Recreation Ground	Rural	Available for community use	Poor							
Derby College (Broomfield Hall)	Rural	Available for community use	Standard	Yes						
Derwent Meadows	Rural	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						
Draycott Recreation Ground	Rural	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						
Friesland School	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use				X	X			
Gallows Inn Playing Fields	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						
Gordon Street Recreation Ground	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Low standard / poor		X					
Grange Park	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Good / Standard	Yes			X			X
Ilkeston Football Club	Ilkeston	Available for community use								
Kirk Hallam Community Academy	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Standard	Yes						
Kirk Hallam Playing Fields	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Low standard	Yes						
Manners Avenue	Ilkeston	Available for	Low standard	Yes						

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



Site Name	Sub Area	Access (AP)	Quality Rating	Changing	Adult Football	Junior Football	9v9	7v7	5v5	AGP
Playing Field		community use								
Nutbrook Cricket Club	Rural	Available for community use	Standard	No					x	
Ron Brooks Playing Field	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Low Standard	Yes	x		x			
Sandiacre Town Cricket Club (Risley Lane)	Rural	Available for community use	Standard	No				x		
Melbourne Court (Haddon Way)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use (leased to club)	Standard	No			x			
Sawley Park	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Poor	Yes						
St Giles Park	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use (leased to club)	Standard		x					
St Peters Park	Rural	Available for community use	Poor							
Stanley Common Recreation Ground	Rural	Available for community use	Low standard	Yes						
The Long Eaton School	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Standard	Yes		x				
The Stute	Ilkeston	Available for community use	Standard	Yes	x					
Trent College	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Good	Yes						



Site Name	Sub Area	Access (AP)	Quality Rating	Changing	Adult Football	Junior Football	9v9	7v7	5v5	AGP
West Park (Long Eaton)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Standard	Yes						
Wilsthorpe Community School	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Available for community use	Standard	Yes						

9.10.7 In order to fully understand the issues in terms of supply and demand across the borough, we have evaluated the adequacy of provision as follows;

- For each type of pitch
- By sub area
- On a site-specific basis where issues have been identified.

9.10.8 The interrelationship between grass pitches and 3G pitches is also considered in this section.

9.10.9 It should be noted that calculations providing a spatial overview contain some assumptions due to the complexities of the position and therefore require detailed interpretation.

9.10.10 Where there is overplay at a site at peak time (ie games are played consecutively because of a lack of pitches), we have deducted the quantity of overplay from the total spare capacity that is available at peak time to present an accurate overall picture of spare capacity (Tables 9.7 – 9.11 illustrate where there is site specific overplay at peak time).

9.10.11 For some forms of the game however, it is not necessarily the spare capacity at peak time that is causing the issue, but the level of play that takes place over the week. This is particularly true for 9v9 and youth pitches, which are often used on both a Saturday and Sunday by community teams, but also by schools midweek.

9.10.12 To ensure that figures represent actual need at peak time and across the week, only overplay **at peak time** has been deducted from the available spare capacity at peak time. In some instances however currently, the level of overplay across the week is actually higher than the unmet demand at peak time.

9.10.13 It is therefore necessary to consider both figures when interpreting the data;

- Figures outlining the spare capacity at peak time represent the number of MES that are currently unmet at peak time... taking into account the pitches that have capacity at



peak time. Where pitches are overplayed in the week, they are deemed to offer no spare capacity. The total overplay across the week has not however been deducted from peak time availability – as whilst there is demand, this is not necessarily at peak time.

- Figures across the week represent the current position (spare capacity or overplay) that is currently evident taking into account all play, regardless of when it occurs. Where overplay across the week exceeds unmet demand at peak time, this is arising because pitches are used in multiple time slots and there is insufficient capacity for this. Whilst it is recognised that this has a knock on effect... ie addressing the overplay in the week by moving play to sites that currently have spare capacity means that they will no longer have any capacity at peak time, it is the ability of the pitches to meet the usage during the week that will need to be addressed, alongside the peak time issues. Ie. for youth football, there is a need to provide a minimum of 8 MES additional over the week as a whole, 4 MES of this will need to be available at peak time.

Adequacy of Provision by Pitch Type

9.10.14 It should be noted that there are some sites where there is no dedicated provision for younger teams (5v5, 7v7, 9v9) and pitches are therefore overmarked on bigger pitches. This impacts on the level of use and the capacity of the larger pitches and will be returned to in site specific analysis later in this section.

Adult Football Pitches (11 v 11)

9.10.15 Table 9.7 summarises the usage at full size grass football pitches and the adequacy of provision.



Table 9.7: Full Sized Football Pitches

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Pitch Type Capacity	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Weekly Capacity	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity	Overplay at Peak Time
ABBOTSFORD PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	standard	0	4	4	4	2	
BEECH LANE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	Low standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	
BREASTON PARK	Rural	Secured	1	Low standard to poor	2	2	0	0	0	
COLLINGWOOD ROAD RECREATION GROUND (CORNWALLIS CLOSE)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	Poor to low standard	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	
COTMANHAY PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	1	
DEANS DRIVE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	Poor (undulation)	0	1	1	1	1	
DERBY COLLEGE (BROOMFIELD HALL)	Rural	Secured	2	Standard	0	4	4	2	2	
DERWENT MEADOWS	Rural	Secured	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	1	
DRAYCOTT RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	1	Poor to low standard	1	1	0	0	0	
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	Standard		2	2	1	1	
GORDON STREET RECREATION GROUND	Ilkeston	Secured	2	Low standard to poor	4	4	0	0	0	0.5
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	Good	2	3	1	1	1	
KIRK HALLAM PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	Low standard, approaching poor	1	4	3	3	1	
MANNERS AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	2	Low standard	2	4	2	2	1	
RON BROOKS PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	1	Low standard	2	2	0	0	0	0.5

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy



Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Pitch Type Capacity	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Weekly Capacity	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity	Overplay at Peak Time
SAWLEY PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	1	
ST GILES PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	Standard	3.75	2	-1.75	-1.75	0	
ST PETERS PARK	Rural	Secured	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	0	
Stanley Common Recreation Ground	Rural	Secured	1	Low standard	0	2	2	2	1	
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	Standard (Mid)	1	2	1	0	1	
THE STUTE	Ilkeston	Secured	1	standard	1.5	2	0.5	0.5	0	
WEST PARK (LONG EATON)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	7	standard	5.5	14	8.5	8.5	3	

9.10.16 Table 9.7 therefore reveals that;

- There is some spare capacity on adult football pitches in all parts of the Borough. Considering all demand (match play and training as well as curricular use), there is 27.25 MES spare capacity taking into account the 1.75 MES overplay that is evident at St Giles Park
- St Giles Park is the only site where overplay is evident on the adult pitches – this arises as a result of the heavy usage of the pitch by teams of all ages. As well as the senior teams, smaller sided games are also played on this pitch
- This spare capacity is relatively evenly distributed across the three sub areas (and this will be returned to later in this section)
- Spare capacity equates to 18 MES at peak time which is more than adequate. However, with overplay equating to 1 MES at peak time there is 17 MES spare capacity. Several sites accommodate only a small number of teams whilst some sites not used at all. Breaston Park, Draycott Recreation Ground, Gordon Street Playing Fields, Ron Brooks Recreation Ground, St Peters Park and The Stute do not have any remaining spare capacity and there is overplay at peak time on Gordon Street Playing Fields and Ron Brooks Recreation Ground. Notably, whilst there is overplay at St Giles Park across the week, this does not take place at peak time.

9.10.17 Whilst the above table demonstrates that for adult football, there is adequate capacity, it is clear that the quality of provision has a significant impact on the availability and subsequently the spare capacity for adult football. Several sites are rated as poor (Collingwood Road Recreation Ground, Cotmanhay Playing Fields, Deans Drive, Draycott Recreation Ground, Sawley Park and St Peters Park) and numerous other sites are considered to be low standard (close to poor). This impacts on the number of matches that pitches are able to sustain, with poor quality pitches able to accommodate only one game rather than two – three.

9.10.18 The quality of adult pitches is poorer than the quality of all other types of pitch and consultation suggests that it is this that in part creates the impression to clubs that there are not enough pitches – there are not enough pitches of the right quality to meet their needs. The spread of play across the weekend in Erewash means that there is demand in more than one time slot for adult football, however the availability of pitches to meet these needs is restricted by their quality.

Role of AGPs in Meeting Demand for Adult Football

9.10.19 Nationally, AGPs are often used to accommodate younger teams, as several fixtures can be held on the pitch at any one time and matches can be accommodated flexibly. With kick off times

typically less flexible for adult games, along with the pitch size required means that one adult match uses the whole pitch, AGPs do not increase the amount of capacity that is available as much for adult play.

9.10.20 The 3G AGP at Ilkeston Town FC however is crucial for accommodating the home games of the first team and all of the other senior teams. The spread of teams means that adult football takes on the pitch on Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as midweek. There is some scope to increase the use of facility for match play at peak time for adult football (Sunday morning) with no regular use recorded on the site at this time. It is thought however likely that this venue in reality functions as an overspill for other Ilkeston Town teams on a Sunday morning.

9.10.21 The AGP at Long Eaton FC is also fully utilised on both Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings and therefore has limited potential to increase the role it plays in meeting demand for adult football.

9.10.22 Similarly, the AGP at Friesland School is also used by younger age group teams on a Sunday morning, adult peak time, meaning that there is limited scope to meet demand for adult teams. There may however be an opportunity to use this pitch on a Saturday afternoon.

9.10.23 Whilst this means that at the above sites, there is limited opportunity for increased usage at peak time for adult football, there is no use of the AGP at Kirk Hallam Community Academy for match play and therefore potential for adult football to be played at this site.

9.10.24 It is clear that the new AGPs have significantly reduced the demand on senior grass pitches at the club sites and now play an important role in meeting the demand for adult football.

Youth Football

9.10.25 In reality, some sites are used by both adult teams and youth teams and there is little difference in terms of the size of pitches. Many sites are marked weekly according to the teams that use them and as documented, site visits suggest that the majority of pitches considered to be full size are close to minimum standards.

9.10.26 Table 9.8 demonstrates that there is limited dedicated provision for youth football, with just a small number of pitches in Ilkeston and Long Eaton and Sandiacre and none in the rural area.

9.10.27 Across the Borough as a whole, when taking into account all activity, overplay equates to 9.5 MES and there is just one site with any spare capacity (Kirk Hallam Community Academy). Overall therefore, the supply of youth pitches is insufficient to meet demand.



9.10.28 At peak time, Kirk Hallam Community Academy is the only site with capacity available. There is however a need to relocate all of the overplay from other pitches if provision is to be adequate. 5 MES of the overplay takes place at peak time (therefore the total position is -4 MES).

Role of AGPs

9.10.29 As documented in the adult football section, all four 3G AGPs are able to sustain youth football in that they are on the 3G pitch register. There is little opportunity for further play outside of the existing uses of the facilities, as pitches are predominantly already in use on a Sunday morning.

9.10.30 It should be noted however that there is no match play registered to Kirk Hallam Community Academy and this therefore represents an opportunity to address match scheduling issues in this area.



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 9.8: Use of Youth Football Pitches

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Capacity Rating	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Adequacy of Provision (all play)	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity
BOOTH'S PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	2	11v11 youth	Standard	6.5	-2.5	-2.5	-2
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	2	11v11 youth	Standard	6.5	-4.5	-5.5	-2
GALLOWS INN PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	2	1	11v11 youth	Poor	2	0	0	0
KIRK HALLAM COMMUNITY ACADEMY	Ilkeston	Secured	1	2	11v11 youth	Standard	0	2	1	1
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	2	11v11 youth	Standard (Mid)	2.5	-0.5	-1.5	-1



9 v 9 Pitches

9.10.31 Table 9.9 summarises the use of 9 v 9 football pitches. It reveals that despite a small amount of overplay at Grange Park, Ron Brooks Playing Field and Friesland School (when taking into account all activity), there is some spare capacity across the week. Overplay equates to 2.5 MES, but there is spare capacity for 6.5 MES meaning that overall, there are 4 MES spare capacity across the Borough. With the exception of the sites that are overplayed, all venues have capacity to accommodate a small amount of additional play.

9.10.32 Availability at peak time is similar (4.5 MES) with the same sites, as well as Melbourne Court unable to accommodate more play. Scheduling at Ron Brooks Playing Field is particularly tight, with games played consecutively.

9.10.33 It is clear therefore that there is a small amount of capacity available on 9v9 pitches however this is exceeded by the amount of overplay that is evident.

9v9 - Impact of Unsecured Pitches

9.10.34 Cloudside Primary School is the only unsecured venue offering 9v9 pitches to the local community. Usage currently equates to 0.5 MES community teams and there is therefore scope to locate this elsewhere. That said, whilst this is true when looking at the boroughwide picture, this site is functioning as an overspill for teams based at Friesland Academy, and it is therefore providing a locally critical role. Ongoing use of this site will therefore be essential in meeting the needs of the club.

Role of AGPS in Meeting Demand for 9v9 Football

9.10.35 As peak time for 9v9 football is outside of the peak time for other forms of football (Saturday morning), this represents an opportunity to maximise the use of AGPs for 9v9 football. There is very little use of AGPs currently for 9v9.

9.10.36 Analysis of existing patterns of play suggest that there is some use of all AGPs (except Kirk Hallam) on a Saturday morning (for a variety of recreational / training activities) but potential opportunity to also accommodate 9v9 at this time.

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 9.9: 9 v 9 Football Pitches

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Capacity Rating	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Adequacy of Provision (All Play)	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity	Overplay at Peak Time
CLOUDSIDE ACADEMY	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Unsecured	1	2	9v9	Low standard	0.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0
FRIESLAND SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	2	9v9	Standard	2	0	-1	0	0
GALLOWS INN PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	1	1	9v9	Poor	0	1	1	1	0
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	2	9v9	Standard (medium to high)	2.5	-0.5	-0.5	0	0.5
NUTBROOK CRICKET CLUB	Rural	Secured	1	2	9v9	Standard	1	1	1	1	0
RON BROOKS PLAYING FIELD	Ilkeston	Secured	1	2	9v9	Low standard	3	-1	-1	0	0.5
SANDIACRE TOWN CRICKET CLUB (RISLEY LANE)	Rural	Secured	2	2	9v9	standard (low)	1.5	2.5	2.5	0.5	0
MELBOURNE COURT (HADDON WAY)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	2	9v9	standard	1.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	2	9v9	Standard (Mid)	1	3	1	1.5	0



7 v 7 Pitches

9.10.37 Table 9.10 summarises the use at 7 v 7 football pitches. It reveals that across the week there is a good level of spare capacity (21 MES) and no sites with any overplay.

9.10.38 At peak time, spare capacity is much lower however, with just 4 MES spare capacity available. In reality however, the length of 7v7 fixtures means that these can easily be scheduled consecutively and therefore most sites are able to accommodate additional play if required, even where there are high numbers of teams. Outside of Booths Playing Fields, where consecutive fixtures are already scheduled (resulting in theoretical overplay of 1.5 at peak time) there is therefore scope to accommodate additional demand. There are no sites with more than 1 MES spare capacity available at peak time.

9.10.39 It is clear therefore that supply is currently just adequate to meet demand. There is however little remaining spare capacity at peak time on any site. When taking into account the overplay at Booths Playing Fields which occurs at peak time, total peak time capacity equates to 2.5 MES.

Impact of Unsecured Pitches

9.10.40 Cloudside Academy offers unsecured access to a 7v7 pitch. As per the situation for 9v9 pitches, whilst when looking at a boroughwide perspective, supply would remain just adequate without this site, it is playing an important local role in meeting demand to prevent overplay at other club bases.

Role of AGPs in Meeting Demand for 7v7 Football

9.10.41 There is no current 7v7 football regularly taking place on the AGPs. Scheduling of further consecutive fixtures may increase the number of games that could be accommodated slightly, but there is limited opportunity for this when taking into account the existing usage by other age groups. 7v7 teams play at the same peak time as most other age groups.



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 9.10: Use at 7 v 7 Football Pitches

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Capacity Rating	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Adequacy of Provision (all play)	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity	Peak Time Overplay
BEECH LANE RECREATION GROUND	Rural	Secured	2	2	7v7	Poor	3	1	1	0.5	
BOOTH'S PLAYING FIELDS	Ilkeston	Secured	1	4	7v7	Standard	3	1	1	0	1.5
CLOUDSIDE ACADEMY	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Unsecured	1	4	7v7	Low standard	1	3	2	0.5	
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	2	4	7v7	Standard (medium to high)	3	5	5	1	
SANDIACRE TOWN CRICKET CLUB (RISLEY LANE)	Rural	Secured	1	4	7v7	Standard	1	3	3	0	
MELBOURNE COURT (HADDON WAY)	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	4	7v7	Low standard	0.5	3.5	3.5	0.5	
ST GILES PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	4	7v7	Low standard	0.5	3.5	3.5	0.5	
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	4	7v7	Standard (Mid)	1	3	2	1	



5 v 5 Pitches

9.10.42 Table 9.11 outlines the spare capacity that is available at 5 v 5 pitches. It reveals that like at 7v7 pitches, there is no overplay on 5v5 pitches across the week and a small amount of spare capacity (8.5 MES across the week).

9.10.43 The position at peak time is however constrained, with 1.5 MES spare capacity available. There is no capacity at peak time at Nutbrook Cricket Club and indeed, with consecutive fixtures, there is theoretical overplay of 0.5 MES. A small amount of spare capacity is available at both Grange Park and Long Eaton School (without scheduling fixtures consecutively) and total peak time spare capacity, taking into account the overplay, is therefore equivalent to 1 MES.

9.10.44 This suggests that capacity is just adequate overall to meet demand at a borough wide level.

Role of AGPs

9.10.45 AGPs are important in meeting demand for 5v5 both at Grange Park and Friesland School. With the peak time similar to that of most other forms of football however, any increase in play will need to be balanced with the needs of other age groups. Nationally however, AGPs play a key role in meeting demand for 5v5 as several games can be sustained at any one time.



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Table 9.11: 5 v 5 Pitches

Site name	Sub Area	Secured / Not secured	Number of Pitches	Capacity Rating	Pitch Type	Quality Rating	Community Use - Match Equivalents	Adequacy of Provision (Match Play)	Adequacy of Provision (all play)	Actual Peak Time Spare Capacity	Peak Time overplay
GRANGE PARK	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	4	5v5	Standard (medium to high)	0.5	3.5	3.5	1	
NUTBROOK CRICKET CLUB	Rural	Secured	1	4	5v5	Standard	1.5	2.5	2.5	0	0.5
THE LONG EATON SCHOOL	Long Eaton and Sandiacre	Secured	1	4	5v5	Standard (Mid)	0.5	3.5	2.5	0.5	

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

9.11 AGP Analysis

- 9.11.1 As outlined, AGPs are becoming increasingly important for football and the FA facility strategy seeks to shift football usage away from sand based AGPs to 3g pitches and to increase the amount of match play that takes place on 3G pitches (rather than grass).
- 9.11.2 In particular, the FA cite the additional capacity that AGPs offer compared to grass and their ability to sustain play during periods of inclement weather, resulting in a reduced number of cancellations.
- 9.11.3 In order to establish the adequacy of the existing AGP infrastructure, demand can be classified into three areas;
- Matchplay (requires use of a 3g pitch that is included on the FA register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches – as usage of 3g AGPs increases and they become increasingly important, the requirement for grass pitches can reduce
 - Informal / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and
 - Training (The FA would like to see all clubs having access to a 3g pitch – they discourage the use of sand-based facilities).

Competitive Use

- 9.11.4 As noted, all 3G pitches that are publicly accessible are listed on the FA Pitch Register which requires regular testing and quality control. Pitches at Ilkeston Town, Long Eaton FC and Friesland School are well used for peak time match play (Saturday and Sunday morning) however there is potentially scope to increase the usage of Kirk Hallam Community Academy which receives no use for match play currently.

Informal Use

- 9.11.5 Recreational football (including formal leagues and informal pay and play) is a key part of football participation, and one that playing pitch strategies do not currently quantify in the same way as match play. 3g pitch provision is however an important means of providing opportunities for recreational play. Indeed, the promotion of recreational football is seen as one of the key means of boosting participation in the sport in the coming years. Small sided football is identified in the National Game Strategy as one of The FA's key growth targets for adult football and the FA are increasingly interested in the use of MUGAs and small sided pitches, as well as full sided facilities to support the more informal game.

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9.11.6 There are six a side leagues (with teams affiliated to the FA) at both Long Eaton FC and Ilkeston Town FC. Both sites offer a Sunday League and a midweek league is also available at Ilkeston Town.

9.11.7 West Hallam Community School is also used as a venue for Leisure Leagues (Monday night), a more league promoting more informal midweek participation.

9.11.8 In addition, use of the AGPs for other development initiatives, including Walking Football is also evident. Several of the clubs are now running walking football teams, encouraging older residents back into football. This does not tend to impact on demand at peak time, but instead benefits the facilities in terms of sustainability and increased usage.

Club Training

9.11.9 Analysis of club training patterns demonstrates that almost all clubs are now using AGPs for training. There is very little evidence of winter training on grass although some clubs continue to train on sand-based pitches (primarily at Long Eaton School). The sand-based pitch at Ilkeston Rutland Sports Centre also continues to be advertised as a football pitch.

9.11.10 Consultation did not reveal any clubs that were unable to access training venues, but some issues were raised about the lack of slots that are available for training at desirable times.

Use of the existing AGPs

9.11.11 The Sport England guidance indicates that the adequacy of AGPs is measured through;

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

9.11.12 Analysis of the use of the existing 3G AGPs demonstrates that;

- There is very little remaining spare capacity at Ilkeston Town FC, with the pitch full most evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings. There is a small amount of spare capacity at 5pm – 6pm, with demand more limited at these times due to challenges

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obtaining volunteers to run sessions. 34 teams name this pitch as their main home training venue

- Long Eaton – used heavily by Long Eaton United and also home training venue for Breaston Park FC. There are 44 teams who consider this facility to be their main training venue. Pitch is busy most evenings Monday to Thursday PM in particular
- Kirk Hallam Community Academy – mostly at capacity Monday to Thursday, although school indicate that there is scope to increase usage slightly. The pitch accommodates 44 teams on a regular basis
- The pitch at Friesland School is also busy. The school indicate that they believe there to be some scope to increase the usage but it appears to be mostly fully booked at peak times. The high levels of use of the facility by Sandiacre Town contribute to this and the pitch accommodates 39 teams regularly.

9.11.13 There is therefore relatively limited scope to increase the use of the 3G AGPs, with limited capacity available at the time that the clubs would like to access the facilities. That said, there are few clubs that are not using 3G pitches already for training. 23 teams are using sand based AGPs (at The Long Eaton School).

9.12 FA Data Modelling

9.12.1 Reflecting the increasing importance to football of 3G pitches, the FA has devised a theoretical model to evaluate the demand for 3G AGPs in given area. The results of this modelling can then be compared against the analysis of real-life usage of the AGPs in the Borough.

9.12.2 The modelling evaluates the baseline requirement for 3g pitches taking into account the training requirements of clubs. It assumes that one 3g pitch is required per 38 teams and that based on FA policy, all football training should take place on 3g pitches (as opposed to sand).

9.12.3 Using a baseline of 211 community teams in Erewash (which includes teams based in the Borough but travelling out to play but excludes those playing in the six a side leagues as the modelling is based on training for club teams), this would mean that there is a theoretical requirement for 5.5 full size AGPs.

9.12.4 FA data modelling therefore suggests that there is a need for one - two additional 3G AGPs to meet community need. It should also be noted however that there are small sized facilities at both Long Eaton FC and Friesland School which provide additional venues for activity and therefore increase the amount of football that can be accommodated.

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- 9.12.5 The Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) also identified a need for 5 full sized AGPs, although at the time only 1 was provided. The three priority projects have since been delivered and the gaps identified at that time (Long Eaton / Ilkeston) filled.
- 9.12.6 With 23 teams currently training on sand-based provision at Long Eaton School (Riverside Juniors), as well as the training venue of a number of smaller teams unknown, there is some evidence to support the need for one additional AGP. This club do however play their home games at the school and therefore have a degree of affinity with this site.
- 9.12.7 Whilst the majority of the provision is to the east of the Borough, it is this area that contains the highest proportion of the population. The number of teams to the west of the Borough is more limited and it may be that new pitches in this area would serve residents of Derby City. The level of growth identified in this part of the Borough may however mean that this will change in future years and this will be returned to later in this section.

9.13 Overall Spatial Picture

- 9.13.1 Overall, analysis has therefore demonstrated that overall, across the borough as a whole, in general the stock of facilities is just adequate. Whilst the availability of smaller sized pitches is relatively limited, there is strong availability of adult pitches and some spare capacity on these pitches. It is clear however that some small sided games are played over the top of senior pitches due to a lack of availability of smaller pitches, and there are insufficient 9v9 and youth football pitches. There are also particular concerns about the quality of the pitch stock, particularly for adult football pitches. There is funding available from the FA / FF to support pitch improvements, and this may be a key route to increasing capacity in the Borough. Funding is also available at school sites, although existing community use is a pre-requisite of funding.
- 9.13.2 Table 9.12 provides a summary of the adequacy of provision across the Borough for each type of pitch. The text that follows then explores the key issues in each sub area.
- 9.13.3 It should be noted that Table 9.12 assumes that unsecured pitches remain available.



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Table 9.12 – Summary Position

Sub Area	Adult Football		Youth Football		9v9		7v7		5v5	
	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)	Across the Week (MES)	Peak Time (MES)
Ilkeston	10.5	4	-1.5	-1	0	0.5	1	-1.5	0	0
Long Eaton / Sandiacre	10.25	7.5	-7	-3	0.5	1	16	3.5	6	1.5
Rural	6.5	5.5	0	0	3.5	1.5	4	0.5	2.5	-0.5
Total	27.25	17	-8.5	-4 MES	4	3.5	21	2.5	8.5	1
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal spread of spare capacity Availability both across the week and at peak time Pitch quality limiting capacity St Giles Park is only overplayed site 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches heavily overplayed – interrelationship with adult football Concentration of overplay in Long Eaton / Sandiacre Booths Playing Fields, Friesland School and Long Eaton School all experience overplay Kirk Hallam Community Academy unused 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity limited both across the week and at peak time Spare capacity most limited in Ilkeston, but also minimal in Long Eaton and Sandiacre Overplay at Friesland School, Grange Park and Ron Brooks Playing Fields 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good level of capacity across the week particularly in Long Eaton Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) Minimal spare capacity in rural / Long Eaton areas No overplay across the week on any site. Booths Playing Fields is only site to experience overplay at peak time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good level of capacity across the week Limited spare capacity at peak time (although potential for consecutive fixtures) No spare capacity / provision in Ilkeston area and limited in both rural and Long Eaton No overplay across the week on any site. Nutbrook Cricket Club is only site to experience overplay at peak time 	

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9.13.4 The next section summarises the key issues by sub area.

Ilkeston

9.13.5 Provision in Ilkeston is closely balanced with supply. The grass pitches are supported by the 3G pitch at Ilkeston Town FC, which is heavily used across the weekend and is a key training venue in the week.

9.13.6 As in other sub areas, spare capacity of adult pitches is good, with 10.5 MES available across the week, although spare capacity is more limited at peak time due to the concentration of play at this time – 4 MES. The capacity of adult football pitches is however limited by pitch quality - Cotmanhay Playing Fields, Gallows Inn Playing Fields are both rated as poor. Improving the quality of these facilities would improve the availability of pitches.

9.13.7 Whilst the amount of adult pitches is good, there are pressures on youth pitches, with a small shortfall both across the week and at peak times. This shortage is created by the pressures at Booths Playing Fields, which is overplayed, accommodating play in multiple time slots and with no spare capacity at peak time. This site serves a high number of teams from Ilkeston FC. Whilst the 3G AGP has reduced the pressures at this club, there remains high demand due to the significant number of teams that the club have. In contrast, there is a small amount of spare capacity at Gallows Inn Playing Fields (which would increase if pitch quality was improved) and the pitches (and 3G AGP at weekends) at Kirk Hallam Community Academy are not used at all by the community and therefore offer spare capacity. There are also two pitches at St John Houghton Catholic Academy which are not available for community use at all, as well as opportunities at Ormiston Ilkeston Academy which has previously been available for use but does not currently offer any community use as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

9.13.8 Like junior football, 9v9 capacity is also restricted in Ilkeston, with only Gallows Inn Playing Fields and Ron Brooks Playing Fields offering 9v9. Whilst there is 1 match equivalent available at Gallows Inn Playing Fields, there are scheduling issues at Ron Brooks Playing Field at peak time (as well as overplay across the week). Ron Brooks is a busy ground accommodating Stanton Ilkeston FC. This suggests that for junior football, addressing capacity across the week will be as critical as meeting the unmet demand at peak time.

9.13.9 Booths Playing Fields is the only dedicated 7v7 pitch in Ilkeston. There is no remaining spare capacity at peak time (with matches already scheduled consecutively) although 3 MES could be accommodated during the week. This suggests that scheduling of these matches will be difficult in this area.

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- 9.13.10 It is clear therefore that in Ilkeston overall, there is adequate spare capacity, with available senior pitches with potential for improvement and potential to convert them to pitches of other size. There is however pressure to accommodate games on both a Saturday and a Sunday (particularly youth and 9v9) and this places extra emphasis on the quality of the pitches with pitches used more than once. Ensuring that pitches are able to sustain multiple fixtures will therefore be critical. The use of facilities at Kirk Hallam Academy represents a particular opportunity, with grass pitches and the 3G AGP unused at weekends (although the 3G pitch shortly requires resurfacing). Reinvigoration of pitches at Ormiston Enterprise Academy would also represent an opportunity to increase the stock both during and outside peak times.
- 9.13.11 Pitches used by both Ilkeston Town FC and Stanton Ilkeston however demonstrate evidence of heavy usage and overplay. Both clubs raised concerns with accessing appropriate pitches during consultation and believe there to be pressures on both match and training pitches. While both clubs have recently invested significantly in the quality of their pitches having received grant funding, the poor quality of other pitches is highlighted as a key concern. It is clear that on the whole, the pressures arise from the high number of teams wishing to play in the area coupled with the poor quality of the existing pitches.

Long Eaton and Sandiacre

- 9.13.12 Grass pitch provision in Long Eaton and Sandiacre is supported by two good quality 3G AGPs, both of which are extensively used for match play and training.
- 9.13.13 Reflecting the Boroughwide position, again the amount of adult football pitches available in Long Eaton and Sandiacre is good, with spare capacity equivalent to 7.5 MES at peak time. St Giles Park is however located in this area (Sandiacre Town FC), and this is the only overplayed adult pitch in the Borough. The heavy use of this site is reflective of the use of this pitch not only by senior adult teams (some of whom play in the football pyramid), but also by the younger teams in this club across the weekend. Whilst the club also use Friesland School, this site is also very busy, and use of the adult pitch is therefore necessary to accommodate all of the demand. The majority of spare capacity for adult football in the area is located at West Park. Some of this capacity is actually used by teams from the rural area.
- 9.13.14 For youth football, there are significant pressures and this offsets the spare capacity evident in the adult football pitch stock. There are shortages of pitches at peak time (3 MES), but the amount of overplay across the week is even greater (7 MES). This arises as a result of the spread of play of youth football (pitches are used both Saturday and Sunday) as well as the reliance on school sites (Friesland School and Long Eaton School), both of which must also accommodate curricular activity. There is no current available community use of Wilsthorpe Community School. It will therefore be necessary to consider how additional capacity will be

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provided to meet the requirements for an additional 7 MES across the week, at least 3 MES of which will be needed at peak times.

9.13.15 There is a good supply of 9v9 pitches in Long Eaton and Sandiacre, but high demand means that there is limited spare capacity both across the week and at peak time. Across the week, Grange Park and Friesland School are overplayed as a result of the high number of teams that are using the pitches. There is however some spare capacity on other sites. When considering the requirements at peak time, it is clear that there is a small amount of spare capacity, similar to that across the week although Grange Park has unmet demand. Indeed, the pressures on the 9v9 pitches arise as a result of heavy usage over the course of the week.

9.13.16 There is a good supply of 7v7 pitches, and the majority of spare capacity in the Borough is located in this area. Capacity is quite limited at peak time (3 MES in total), but there is 14 MES available across the week, scoping that there is significant capacity to increase the use of pitches outside of the Sunday morning peak period. All dedicated 7v7 pitches in the area are able to sustain additional play at peak time.

9.13.17 The picture for 5v5 pitches is similar, with adequate supply to meet demand both across the week and at peak time. Supply at peak time is more constrained, but there is scope to introduce a small amount of additional play.

9.13.18 It is clear therefore that the main pressures in the Long Eaton and Sandiacre Area arise in youth and 9v9 football. For both of these, the adequacy of provision over the course of the week is as much of a concern as the availability at peak time. For youth football in particular there is a need to increase the availability of pitches to accommodate play across the weekend as well as at peak times. Circa 3 – 4 MES are required at peak time, but 7 MES across the week.

9.13.19 Wilsthorpe Community School represents a key opportunity in this area of the Borough, as the site is not currently open to community use following the covid 19 pandemic. While there are some concerns about pitch quality (and several opportunities to improve), it is clear however that the bulk of unmet demand arises as a result of the high number of teams playing at key clubs – Long Eaton United and Sandiacre Town. The Long Eaton School is also an important venue for club football, hosting Riverside FC. All clubs highlight quality issues on site and also note the challenges ensuring that teams are able to access appropriate training and match play facilities. For these clubs, the provision of the new 3G pitches has made significant improvements to the adequacy of provision.

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Rural Area

9.13.20 Pitch provision in the rural areas is less under pressure in general. Whilst Beech Lane Recreation Ground, Nutbrook Cricket Ground and Breaston Park are well used, there is no use of Stanley Common Recreation Ground, Deans Drive or Derwent Meadows. A club is now however working with the Council with a view to developing additional pitches on Derwent Meadows. Work will however be required to bring these pitches up to the required quality, with drainage in particular problematic as a result of the clay soil.

9.13.21 As with other areas, there is strong capacity for adult football, with availability at both peak time and across the week. It is notable however that quality is particularly poor, with several poor pitches limiting capacity. Deans Drive, Derwent Meadows, St Peters Park and Draycott Meadows all achieve ratings of poor. Breaston Park FC, who are based at Breaston Park and Soldiers and Sailors Ground also use West Park, because they are unable to find further suitable grass adult pitches in closer proximity to their club base.

9.13.22 Below adult sized pitches, provision in the rural area is much more limited than in other parts of the Borough. There are no youth pitches, meaning that youth teams are also using adult pitches. Nutbrook Cricket Club and Sailors Ground are the only sites with 9v9 provision and both have a small amount of spare capacity, although this is limited, totally just 1.5 MES at peak time. There are no opportunities for 9v9 in the more outlying rural areas.

9.13.23 For 7v7 football, again provision is limited to Beech Lane and Sailors Ground. Whilst there is spare capacity across the week, this is much more limited at peak time. A similar position is evident at Nutbrook Cricket Club which is the only site containing 5v5 pitches. There is inadequate capacity at peak time at this site.

9.13.24 It is clear therefore that provision in the more rural parts of the Borough is relatively limited, and indeed many of the smaller pitches are used as overspill venues by teams from Sandiacre. There are however some venues that have previously been used as pitches but no longer function as such (Stanley Recreation Ground, Bare Lane Recreation Ground, Millhouse Field), which offer the opportunity to increase the level of capacity if this was required.

Site Specific Issues

9.13.25 Analysis in the preceding section therefore suggests that supply is tightly matched with demand for youth and 9v9 pitches, although there is some capacity in the adult pitch stock.

9.13.26 Site specific analysis suggests that there are some facilities with very limited or no use (these are typically small sites / poor sites or schools), but also highlights others where small amounts

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of overplay is evident, or where sites are close to capacity. In some instances, overplay is caused by heavy usage while on other sites it is influenced by quality.

- 9.13.27 Although there is some spare capacity across the Borough in the adult pitch stock, this is not of the right quality to meet with club needs. Indeed, quality of pitches (particularly adult pitches) is perhaps the key issue across the pitch stock as a whole. There are numerous poor-quality pitches and several more pitches that are of a low standard quality and therefore require improvement to prevent further deterioration. Increasing the quality of pitches would improve player experience but would also significantly increase the capacity of the existing facility stock.
- 9.13.28 Whilst on the whole private club grounds are well maintained, these are typically suffering from overuse and are impacted by the same quality issues as the public facilities. Tailored maintenance programmes, supplemented by capital investment programmes where issues cannot be addressed by improved maintenance alone will be critical in ensuring that the facility stock is able to meet the needs of clubs. Many of the clubs have already benefitted from some investment to improve the maintenance of facilities, and consultation highlighted the benefits that this has brought.
- 9.13.29 In addition to the potential benefits that can be derived from quality improvements, there are opportunities to re distribute existing play to make better use of the facilities that are available. While to an extent, this will be dependent upon the successful achievement of goals to improve quality, there will be a need to consider how access to more facilities will be provided for key clubs.
- 9.13.30 Kirk Hallam Community Academy is currently available for community use but is unused. In addition, Ormiston Enterprise Academy and Wilsthorpe Community College have previously been available but are currently closed to the community (thought to be due to Covid 19). These sites offer significant potential to reduce the pressures on the existing infrastructure if access can be renegotiated.
- 9.13.31 The situation for many of the larger clubs is most concerning – a lack of access to appropriate pitches at their home grounds is causing overplay of the existing facilities and several of the clubs are at capacity. This position has been significantly improved by the addition of new 3G AGPs at both Ilkeston Town and Long Eaton United, but there remain challenges for these and other clubs. This, alongside quality, is perhaps the greatest issue. Clubs where capacity remains limited include;

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- Long Eaton United FC
- Ilkeston Town FC
- Stanton Ilkeston FC
- Riverside AFC.

9.13.32 Overall, there are enough pitches, however when considering the needs of the larger clubs, these do not necessarily meet requirements because;

- Despite the new 3G AGP, access to pitches is still tight for Ilkeston Town. Booths Playing Fields are at capacity and the club believe that facilities are restricting growth
- Sandiacre Town are also struggling with capacity. The pitches at Friesland School are of limited quality and struggle to accommodate the required levels of curricular and club activity without deterioration
- Riverside AFC are approaching capacity at Long Eaton School / Melbourne Court. Whilst pitches are reasonable quality, they are suffering from overplay
- The high demands on pitches at Long Eaton FC mean that quality is of paramount importance, which places significant pressures on the maintenance of facilities.
- Stanton Ilkeston FC are struggling to grow their club as facilities are inadequate for teams to progress to higher levels.
- Some pitches are poor and / or reducing quality – some pitches are already poor and others have achieved low basic standards, suggesting that any deterioration will see them become poor
- Not all sites are fit for purpose – some have no changing accommodation and / or inappropriate facilities.

9.13.33 The adequacy of provision for each of the key clubs is therefore explored below briefly in Table 9.13. Evaluation of the impact of declining quality is also considered where relevant.

Table 9.13: Club Specific Adequacy of Provision

Club	Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
Long Eaton United	Grange Park	AGP heavily used, overplay on 9v9. Limited remaining spare capacity on other pitches.	Pitch quality requires heavy maintenance to retain quality at usable level due to heavy usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing maintenance • Investment into appropriate machinery • Long term potential capacity issues

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Club	Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
Sandiacre Town	St Giles Park / Friesland School / Cloudside Academy	Main pitch at St Giles Park overplayed, some spare capacity at Cloudside Academy on small pitches, but heavy use of pitches at Friesland School generates overplay on 9v9 pitches.	Main pitch worn and compacted, pitches at Friesland School also of limited quality and require investment into maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of maintenance at St Giles Park, require new machinery Investment into pitch quality at Friesland School Capacity issues
Riverside FC	Long Eaton School / Melbourne Court	Overplay on youth pitches but provision otherwise adequate, but more limited at peak time	Pitches generally of reasonable quality, although some minor issues and concerns with drainage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance Access to training facilities
Breaston Park	Soldiers and Sailors, Breaston Park	Good availability across the week, but capacity more limited at peak time. No remaining capacity on 11v11 pitches causing relocation to West Park	Pitches all showing signs of heavy usage, would benefit from investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch maintenance / quality improvements Access to training facilities
Ilkeston Town FC	Ilkeston Town, Booths Playing Fields, Gordon Street, Manners Avenue, Cotmanhay	AGP at Ilkeston Town heavily used, overplay at Booths Playing Fields. Some limited capacity at other sites.	Pitches at Booths Playing Fields demonstrate evidence of heavy usage, requirement for decompaction despite strong maintenance. Heavy reliance on AGP, lack of changing at Booths Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance improvements at Booths Recreation Ground Investment into Cotmanhay / Gordon Street to improve quality Changing provision at Booths Recreation Ground Challenges accommodating all teams
Stanton Ilkeston FC	Ron Brooks Playing Fields, Gallows Inn, Kirk Hallam Playing Fields	Some overplay at Ron Brooks and no remaining spare capacity, 1 MES spare at Gallows Inn PF	Gallows Inn Playing Fields poor quality, changing also poor. Evidence of heavy use at Ron Brooks with overmarking evident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement to poor quality facilities at Gallows Inn Investment into machinery

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Club	Venue	Current Position	Other Issues	Comments / Key Priorities
		and spare capacity at Kirk Hallam Playing Fields.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch improvements to ensure ground remains suitable for higher quality adult football
West Hallam Juniors	Beech Lane / Nutbrook Cricket Club	Some spare capacity available at both sites	Scope to improve quality with poor pitches at Beech Lane. Compaction issues arising from heavy usage and waterlogging evident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch quality improvements, potential to provide additional pitches on site.

9.13.34 The above therefore suggests that there are some site-specific capacity issues to be addressed but that on the whole, it is the quality of facilities that requires immediate improvement. As demonstrated, many of the pitches are used in multiple time slots and this places greater pressures on the quality of pitches as they need to sustain multiple games without deterioration.

9.13.35 There are some opportunities to increase the number of pitches provided at key sites, and there is interest from clubs to increase activity, particularly at Derwent Meadows.

9.13.36 Modelling earlier in the section also suggested that there is potential demand for an additional one – two AGPs and this could also be used to support club match play activity.

9.13.37 The geographical location of any new facility is challenging, however it is clear that despite the existing AGPs being based within the Long Eaton and Ilkeston sub areas, the majority of demand remains in these parts, and the pressures on pitches are highest in these areas.

9.13.38 There are particular opportunities to increase the use of pitches at Kirk Hallam Academy (which would improve the situation for Ilkeston based Clubs). Other potential venues include Wilsthorpe Academy (current sand based AGP is not used for hockey) or Ormiston Ilkeston Academy. The sand based AGP at Long Eaton School would potentially be of benefit if converted to 3G, as this site houses one of the key clubs in the Borough where overplay is evident and who are struggling to access training facilities. It is clear however that this pitch is currently used for hockey.

9.13.39 The strategy document will consider the location of potential additional AGPs in further detail through scenario testing.

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9.14 Future Demand

9.14.1 The future requirement for playing pitches (grass and AGP) will be impacted by several factors, including;

- Population growth or change to the demographic profile of the population
- Changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played
- Club specific development plans and aspirations and
- Amendments to the current facility stock.

9.14.2 Future demand may also be influenced by changes in the way the game is played, for example the increasing use of 3G pitches over grass.

9.14.3 The impact of changes to the population are considered below. Scenario testing will also be carried out in the strategy document to explore the potential impact that improvements / changes to the pitch stock could have.

9.15 Population Change

9.15.1 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are used to project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth up to 2038.

9.15.2 Table 9.14 summarises the current TGRs for football and uses them to evaluate the potential impact of projected population change on demand for football in Erewash. It takes into account the projected changes in population profile, as well as the increase in the number of residents and is based upon population data set out in Section 2.

Table 9.14: TGRs for Football in Erewash

Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2038
Football Adult Men (16-45yrs)	48	19582	408	4.4	4.3
Football Adult Women (16-45yrs)	7	20446	2921	0.4	0.3

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Sport and Age Groups	Number of Teams	Current population in age group within the area	Current TGR	Additional Teams Generated by 2032	Additional Teams Generated by 2038
Football Youth Boys (12-15yrs)	48	2698	56	0.2	0.9
Football Youth Girls (12-15yrs)	4	2474	619	0.3	-0.1
Football 9v9 Boys (10 and 11 years)	24	1433	60	-2.2	-2
Football 9v9 Girls (10 and 11 years)	4	1342	336	-0.5	-0.5
7V7 (8 – 9 years)	31	2833	91	-4.2	-3.7
5v5 (6 – 7 years)	21	2666	127	-1.8	-1.5

9.15.3 It indicates that whilst there will be growth in adult football (up to 4 senior teams by 2038) and youth football (1 team) the amount of 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 football will actually decrease.

9.15.4 This suggests that based upon changes to the population growth alone, the peak time for football, with the exception of adult and youth football, is now.

9.15.5 Whilst population growth may see a small increase in adult football, it is likely that this will only help to offset the current decline that is evident in this form of the game and therefore it is unexpected that significant increases will be experienced. Recent evidence both nationally and locally suggests that population growth

9.15.6 Assuming that population growth does generate additional demand for adult and youth football;

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- The adequate provision for adult football will remain – there will be 15 MES at peak time.
- The position for youth football will remain inadequate – -4.5 MES at peak time (but -8.5 across the week)
- The position on all other pitch types will remain consistent with existing provision.

9.15.7 The above assumes that all play generated by population growth takes place at peak time.

9.15.8 With the bulk of growth likely to take place in the Ilkeston area (80%), this suggests that the impact will be felt particularly in this area. Ilkeston already has insufficient youth pitches, but there are enough adult pitches available to sustain the likely growth. This will however place greater pressures on the existing infrastructure.

9.15.9 The increased demand in Ilkeston is likely to equate to;

- Around 1 adult football pitch – this can easily be accommodated within the existing stock
- 2 youth pitches – this will add to the existing capacity issues for 9v9 and youth football pitches
- 1 mini soccer pitch -this can be accommodated.

9.16 Increasing Participation

9.16.1 Whilst population growth will have some impact on demand, as highlighted, the changing population profile to some extent will the increases in the number of people in the Borough.

9.16.2 It is clear however that although significant in terms of the changes to the way that football is played, and ongoing club development initiatives have potential to stimulate further demand and require additional capacity to meet this demand. Many of the football clubs demonstrate that they have significant aspirations for growth.

9.16.3 The current picture for football is however very uncertain, with the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on both short- and long-term participation in football unclear. In the first instance, reinvigorating and stabilising the football scene is key priority.

9.16.4 With regards participation, The County FA seeks to “retain and grow participation through flexible and exciting opportunities across all formats of the game”.

9.16.5 In particular, this will focus on supporting male participants, growing the number of female players and providing inclusive environments to support players with a disability.

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9.16.6 The achievement of these goals will see particular increases in female and disability sport, but also some growth in the male game.

9.16.7 Whilst there is capacity in the adult pitch stock (and potential to redesignate some of these pitches to better accommodate smaller sized fixtures)

9.16.8 There is some capacity for growth in other forms of the game too, although capacity for youth and 9v9 football is already restricted and there is little room for growth at most of the key clubs.

9.16.9 Consultation with clubs however demonstrated that most do have aspirations to grow, with increasing the number of girls and women's football teams seen as the key priority. Several clubs also have an aspiration to increase the number of mini teams.

9.16.10 We have therefore considered the impact of a 10% growth in junior, 9v9 and mini football participation on the adequacy of provision and this reveals the following results;

- An increase of 5 youth teams would generate 2.5 match equivalents. Taking into account the projected changes to the population profile (which generate an additional 0.5 MES, unmet demand would increase to 7 MES at peak time (11.5 across the week) – this suggests that additional capacity would be needed to meet this demand
- Pressures would increase on 9v9 pitches, with a further 3 teams (1.5 match equivalent sessions) resulting in spare capacity equivalent to just 1.5 MES at peak time. The change in population profile may however offset this growth
- The growth in 7v7 teams could be accommodated (3 teams), with spare capacity across the week reducing to 19.5 MES across the week but just 1 match equivalent available at peak time.
- 2 additional 5v5 teams could also be accommodated (7.5 MES across the week, but supply would equal demand at peak time).

9.16.11 This therefore suggests that the position will remain similar to the existing position – i.e., that there is adequate stock of adult pitches, but that provision for junior and 9v9 football is constrained.

9.16.12 Table 9.15 therefore reviews the aspirations of each of the key clubs in terms of development and evaluates whether these could be accommodated within the existing infrastructure. It should be noted that achievement of all of the club development goals would significantly exceed the 10% growth targets which were modelled above.

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Table 9.15: Meeting Club Growth Aspirations

Club	Venue	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Accommodating Future Growth
Long Eaton United	Grange Park	AGP heavily used, overplay on 9v9. Limited remaining spare capacity on other pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 youth boys • 4 youth girls • 2 mini soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient capacity for youth football • Able to accommodate small growth in mini soccer
Sandiacre Town	St Giles Park / Friesland School / Cloudside Academy	Main pitch at St Giles Park overplayed, some spare capacity at Cloudside Academy on small pitches, but heavy use of pitches at Friesland School generates overplay on 9v9 pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 senior male • 1 mini soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Giles Park overplayed, small amount of capacity on 11v11 pitches at Friesland School • Mini soccer could be accommodated at Cloudside Academy
Riverside FC	Long Eaton School / Melbourne Court	Overplay on youth pitches but provision otherwise adequate, but more limited at peak time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 adult male • 2 youth boys • 2 mini soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional adult play can be accommodated, but challenge to accommodate youth play
Breaston Park	Soldiers and Sailors, Breaston Park	Good availability across the week, but capacity more limited at peak time. No remaining capacity on 11v11 pitches causing relocation to West Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 mini soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams can be accommodated
Ilkeston Town FC	Ilkeston Town, Booths Playing Fields, Gordon Street, Manners Avenue, Cotmanhay	AGP at Ilkeston Town heavily used, overplay at Booths Playing Fields. Some limited	No. Limited by pitch availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club indicate that capacity is already restricting club growth

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Club	Venue	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Accommodating Future Growth
		capacity at other sites.		
Stanton Ilkeston FC	Ron Brooks Playing Fields, Gallows Inn, Kirk Hallam Playing Fields	Some overplay at Ron Brooks and no remaining spare capacity, 1 MES spare at Gallows Inn PF and spare capacity at Kirk Hallam Playing Fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 adult male • 1 adult female • 2 mini soccer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New teams would need to be accommodated at Gallows Inn / Kirk Hallam Playing Fields following pitch improvements
West Hallam Juniors	Beech Lane / Nutbrook Cricket Club	Some spare capacity available at both sites	1 adult 2 youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited capacity on 11v11 pitches to accommodate this growth

9.16.13 The above therefore demonstrates that there is a need to improve pitch capacity for several of the key clubs, particularly if growth aspirations for junior football are realised. For all clubs, reflecting the overall Boroughwide picture, it is accommodating junior / 9v9 football where the greatest challenges will be felt.

9.16.14 As noted, with 80% of the population growth in the Ilkeston area, it is likely that the demand increase will be felt in this part of the borough.

9.17 Summary and Issues for the Strategy to address

9.17.1 Table 9.16 overleaf therefore briefly summarises the current stock of football facilities and the key issues for the strategy to address.

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Football– Key Issues

Supply

- 49% of pitches available to the community are full sized pitches, whilst the remainder of facilities are small sized. It should also be highlighted that whilst we have considered pitches sustaining adult play to be adult pitches, many of these meet only minimum size requirements and are also used by junior teams.
- The proportion of pitches secured for community use is high. This does not however present a full picture, as there are several schools that have previously offered community access but do not currently offer full community use (despite having formal community use agreements). This is primarily as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, which led to schools closing their doors and not yet reopening. Key venues that are not currently open are Ormiston Ilkeston Academy and Wilsthorpe Community Academy. Whilst both schools indicate that they are likely to consider community use again in the short term, this highlights the uncertainties that can exist in relation to schools, even where there are community use agreements available.
- The majority of sites that are not available to the community are at primary schools. Some primary schools have also previously hosted community football but ceased to do so during the covid 19 pandemic.
- There are several examples of sites where football pitches have been provided previously but are not currently in use. This is primarily as a result of a need for qualitative improvements and / or a lack of current demand for the facilities that were provided.
- management of active community pitches within Erewash is mixed, with the public sector being just the largest provider. An almost equal proportion of facilities are managed by clubs, whilst the remainder are located on education sites.
- Pitch provision is reasonably equitably distributed across the Borough although stock is lower in rural parts (where population is also lower) There is a selection of pitches of different sizes
- The stock of grass pitches is supported by four full size 3G AGPs and two small pitches. All pitches are available for use and on the FA 3G pitch register, although registration of the pitch at Kirk Hallam will shortly expire and it is likely that resurface will be required in the short to medium term.
- there are mixed views in relation to the overall pitch stock in the Borough, with a larger proportion of clubs indicating that they are unhappy with the pitch stock than are satisfied. 54% of clubs responding to the consultation are currently unhappy with pitch provision. Reasons behind these perceptions include both the number of pitches provided and the quality of facilities. Maintenance

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is also raised as a key issue. Many of the larger clubs indicate that they have no room for the ongoing expansion of their club and that they are struggling to accommodate the number of teams that they have. Overplay and heavy usage is also considered to impact on the quality of pitches at some sites, again particularly the larger clubs.

- Across the borough in general, the quality of pitches is standard to poor. 12 pitches achieve a poor rating. For those pitches that do fall into the standard category, the vast majority of pitches are clearly closer to the poor categorisation than they are good (and consequently are rated low standard). There is a concern that if maintenance procedures are insufficient to keep up with usage across the season, more pitches will become poor later in the season.
- While pitches are low standard / poor, they are generally playable. Some pitches do not however meet FA specifications in relation to size (or have inadequate run offs if pitches are used all at once) as they have been shortened in order to make room for other pitches on the site
- Maintenance schedules vary but in general, are basic. This has a detrimental effect on both the immediate quality of the pitch, but also the long-term capacity of the pitch across the season and beyond. Many of the issues arising (including drainage / compaction / evenness) could be addressed through improved in and out of season maintenance. In some instances however, pitch quality appears to be impacted by the high levels of use on pitches – demonstrated by the evidence of wear and tear. Increased maintenance procedures are required on some sites just to accommodate the required level of demand
- While drainage emerges as a key issue, it is clear that in some instances, this is exacerbated by heavy usage and the resulting compaction at the site. Some pitches do not however meet FA specifications in relation to size (or have inadequate run offs if pitches are used all at once) as they have been shortened in order to make room for other pitches on the site.
- The quality of changing provision is varied and there are several sites where clubs have no access to changing facilities at all. Improvement to changing facilities is a key priority on several sites

Demand

- There are 221 teams in total, including affiliated 6v6 teams. In addition to this, there are several teams playing walking football.
- 18 teams travel outside of the Borough to play football. These are predominantly in the younger age groups (5v5, 7v7 and 9v9). Teams primarily play in the Derby City Leagues, which run central venues on Derby Council pitches. There are however one or two examples of teams travelling to Derby because of a lack of available venues closer to home. The majority of teams that are playing in Derby City are associated with Stanton Ilkeston FC, West Hallam FC and Riverside Juniors.

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- The majority of play takes place in the urban areas of the Borough (Long Eaton / Sandiacre / Ilkeston) with more limited play in the more rural areas.
- FA affiliation data suggests that this represents a positive increase in participation, with 204 teams playing in 2018. This suggests that if anything, there has been a positive impact of covid 19 on the number of people playing football. This is supported by club consultation which suggests that there has been an increase in junior / mini football play. The senior football league is however declining significantly.
- Although there are some female teams, participation is lower than may be expected for an area of this size.
- There are no professional football clubs based within the Erewash Borough boundaries. Teams from Long Eaton Town, Ilkeston Town and Sandiacre Town do however play within leagues in the National League System.
- Clubs primarily use AGPs for training during the winter months. With several 3G AGPs in the area, the majority of training takes place on these facilities and there is very little evidence of any training on grass during the winter months.
- Most clubs use 3G pitches, but there is some usage of the sand based AGP at Long Eaton School for training (17 teams). The majority of clubs are now satisfied with training facilities. For those clubs that are not, the challenges accessing facilities at key times, as well as floodlighting at Kirk Hallam Community Academy were raised as the key issues.

Adequacy of Provision

On a site-specific level;

- Across the week, there is spare capacity across the Borough as a whole, with most sites having scope to sustain additional play.
- There are some sites where there is no formal community play registered for 2022 on the grass pitches. These include Abbotsford Playing Fields (team folded), Deans Drive, Derby College, Derwent Meadows, Kirk Hallam Community Academy or Stanley Common Recreation Ground. There is also no community use of Ormiston Enterprise Academy or Wilsthorpe Community Schools (both currently considered unavailable for community use), as a result of the schools stopping community use since Covid 19. Some other sites also contain only informal pitches currently, specifically Bare Lane Recreation Ground, Mill House Field and Stanley Recreation Ground.
- Very few sites exhibit significant overplay. The only sites where overplay is evident include Long Eaton FC, Ilkeston Town FC (Booths Playing Fields), Ron Brooks Playing Fields, St Giles Park,

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The Long Eaton School and Friesland School. Crucially, these are the homes of the largest clubs in the Borough, meaning that it is clear that capacity is more constrained on sites where large clubs are based.

- Accommodating play at peak time can often be more difficult for larger clubs, who have a limited number of pitches on which to accommodate all of their teams in the same time slot. The flexibility of the leagues in Erewash with regards the timing of fixtures reduces this, however reflecting the analysis of spare capacity across the week, it is clear that spare capacity at peak time is also relatively constrained, particularly for the larger clubs. There are 19 pitches that have no remaining capacity at peak time (around 25% of the whole stock).
- When adding together the site-specific findings in order to present a general picture of the adequacy of provision, it is clear that while there is a good stock of adult football pitches, the supply of youth and 9v9 pitches is more closely balanced with demand. There are some facilities with very limited or no use (these are typically small sites / poor sites or schools), but also highlights others where small amounts of overplay is evident, or where sites are close to capacity. In some instances, overplay is caused by heavy usage while on other sites it is influenced by quality.
- The same pattern is evident in all three sub areas, there is spare capacity for adult football, and a lack of adequate capacity for 9v9 and youth football. The new 3G Pitches in Ilkeston, Sandiacre and Long Eaton have reduced pressures, but the challenges in meeting the demands of larger clubs remain.
- Overall, therefore, there are enough pitches, however when considering the needs of the larger clubs, these do not necessarily meet requirements because;
 - Despite the new 3G AGP, access to pitches is still tight for Ilkeston Town. Booths Playing Fields are at capacity and the club believe that facilities are restricting growth
 - Sandiacre Town are also struggling with capacity. The pitches at Friesland School are of limited quality and struggle to accommodate the required levels of curricular and club activity without deterioration
 - Riverside AFC are approaching capacity at Long Eaton School / Melbourne Court. Whilst pitches are reasonable quality, they are suffering from overplay
 - The high demands on pitches at Long Eaton FC mean that quality is of paramount importance, which places significant pressures on the maintenance of facilities.
 - Stanton Ilkeston FC are struggling to grow their club as facilities are inadequate for teams to progress to higher levels.

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- Some pitches are poor and / or reducing quality – some pitches are already poor and others have achieved low basic standards, suggesting that any deterioration will see them become poor
- Not all sites are fit for purpose – some have no changing accommodation and / or inappropriate facilities
- Future population growth will have limited impact, with only the number of adult football teams projected to increase. This increase is however more than likely to offset the current decline in participation in this age group, rather than create significant additional demand.
- Whilst population growth will have limited impact, club development initiatives, have potential to stimulate further demand and require additional capacity to meet this demand. Analysis of club aspirations for growth suggests that this is likely to have the biggest impact in terms of the adequacy of provision. There will remain capacity pressures for many of the key clubs, mostly at a 9v9 / youth level
- Demand modelling for AGPs demonstrates a requirement for 2 additional AGPs. Use of these facilities for match play, alongside the redesignation of some adult pitches and the improvement of quality would help to reduce the capacity pressures that are experienced.

Key Issues for Strategy to Address

The key facility issues for this strategy to address are therefore;

- **The quality issues identified at the existing pitches, particularly where poor quality is reducing capacity. Many of the pitches are a very low standard quality (basic). Pitch quality improvements are essential if the needs of clubs are to be met and for cancellations to be reduced. Pitch quality emerged as the key theme of consultation, and several clubs have already started to engage with the Pitch Improvement and Pitch Power FA programmes. The quality of pitches is particularly important given the requirement for many to sustain matches in more than one time slot – it is evident that there are pressures to sustain the total number of fixtures that are required and not just demand at peak time. Many clubs do not have the right machinery for the maintenance that is required, whilst others are unable to carry out the maintenance that is required to accommodate the heavy usage that their pitches experience.**
- **The capacity pressures on key club sites – there is a need for additional capacity to be delivered particularly in Ilkeston, Long Eaton and Sandiacre. This can be delivered through quality improvements / access to AGPs for match play but also through access to school sites that are not currently available (Wilsthorpe Community School, Ormiston Ilkeston Academy).**

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- **The potential to increase the stock of AGPs reduce pressures on grass. Although AGPs are currently located in Ilkeston / Long Eaton / Sandiacre, it is in these areas where the highest demand remains.**

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