

BG003-E



CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

STAGE C - ASSESSMENT REPORT DECEMBER 2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd
Company No: 9145032 (England)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF
T: 0161 764 7040 E: mail@knp.co.uk www.knp.co.uk



Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BAFA	British American Football Association
BSUK	Baseball Softball United Kingdom
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
CCC	Chelmsford City Council
CDNL	Chelmsford & District Netball League
CDJNL	Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League
CFA	County Football Association
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EFL	English Football League
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
GMA	Grounds Management Association
GPMF	Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund
HC	Hockey Club
ISAS	Indoor & Outdoor Sports Assessment and Strategy
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NECGC	North East Chelmsford Garden Community
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NLS	National League System
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
SE	Sport England
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Chelmsford City Council (CCC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to produce an Indoor & Outdoor Sports Assessment and Strategy (ISAS) and to update its Open Space Study. Collectively, this work has produced the following published documents which will provide evidence to support the development of an updated Chelmsford Local Plan:

- ◆ Indoor Sports Needs Assessment.
- ◆ Indoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan.
- ◆ Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment.
- ◆ Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan.
- ◆ Open Space Study.

This document is part of the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Chelmsford City Council (CCC). The PPOSS will provide the necessary robustness and direction to ensure that the Council has a framework for the prioritisation, provision and development of sports facilities across the public, private and independent sectors. It covers all formal playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the authority area to assist it to strategically plan for the future.

This is the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) Assessment. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities across the Chelmsford administrative area. For playing pitch sports, it is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance. This details five stages for the developing the study:

- ◆ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information and views on supply of and demand for provision.
- ◆ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views.
- ◆ Stage D: Develop the strategy.
- ◆ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date.

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D covered in the subsequent strategy document. Stage E references the ongoing work that will be required once the PPOSS has been approved and adopted. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run to 2041, in line with the emerging Local Plan.

For "non -pitch" sports, Sport England's 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG)' is followed. This has a similar staged approach:

- ◆ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◆ Stage B: Gather information on supply and demand.
- ◆ Stage C: Assessment – bringing the information together.
- ◆ Application: Application of an assessment.

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1.2: Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Purpose

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

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

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

It will support the implementation of the Local Plan policies relating to the protection, enhancement and provision of community sport and physical activity facilities and provide an evidence based framework to support negotiations with developers which may provide funding or other assistance to improve local provision.

It will also provide a robust evidence base to support funding bids from National Sports bodies like Sport England and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

The strategy will ensure that a planned approach to sport and physical activity facilities takes place in the Council's area now and up to 2041, ensuring that the community has access to high quality facilities, helping communities to increase their levels of physical activity, improve their health and well-being.

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS from a strategic perspective. Its role is also to support, check and challenge the work of the project team. The Steering Group comprises representatives from the Council, Sport England, the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) and the Active Partnership (Active Essex).

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

- ✦ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value of the PPOSS.
- ✦ Ensure implementation of the recommendations and action plan.
- ✦ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the study and ensure that the PPOSS is updated.

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Why the Strategy is being developed

The PPOSS will replace the existing study for the Chelmsford administrative area, which was originally completed in 2016 and is now out of date, whilst also now covering a wider scope and additional sports. The lifespan of a PPOSS is three years, although this can be extended if it is kept regularly up to date.

The PPOSS is being completed in conjunction with an Open Spaces Strategy, whilst an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy is also being delivered. The inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur e.g., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

This PPOSS will be used as evidence to inform Chelmsford's Local Plan review and therefore needs to provide a robust spatial analysis and assessment of the provision of sports facilities and playing pitches.

It will also meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 102 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

In summary, the PPOSS will:

- ◆ Undertake an objective assessment of the number, type, quality and ownership of sports pitches and ancillary facilities across a range of sports including those which are currently disused or where use has lapsed.
- ◆ Provide a carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future demand and needs for playing pitches for different sports including consideration of the changing nature of different sports focusing on quantity and quality issues broken down into districts and sub-areas.
- ◆ Provide both a strategic overview and a site-specific assessment of playing pitches and ancillary provision across the participating authority.
- ◆ Identify expected housing growth and projected changes in demographic structure including the impact on sport demand and spatial distribution of pitches.
- ◆ Identify and inform which pitches and facilities require improvement. It will also identify where pitches are under-used or in such poor condition that release for other uses may be considered.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section eight of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, stating that “planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.”

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Paragraph 103 sets three criterion that ensures existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b) 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
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Paragraphs 105, 106, and 107 set the parameters for the designation of Local Green Space. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

For Sport England and National Governing Body sporting context, please refer to Appendix 1.

Local context

Chelmsford Local Plan

The Chelmsford Local Plan (2013-2036) was adopted in May 2020. The Local Plan outlines the strategic priorities and long-term vision for Chelmsford along with the locations for delivering housing and other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, and transport development. Strategic Policy S13 committed to commencing a formal review of the Local Plan two years after its adoption.

The Council has begun a review of its adopted Local Plan, further information is available at: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review-2022/>

The review of the Plan is proposing to extend the Local Plan period by a further five years, with 1,000 homes being required per annum to 2041. The PPOSS will therefore cover the period up to 2041 to form part of the evidence base to support the Review of the Local Plan.

North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC)

The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is set to deliver 6,250 homes, employment space and a wide range of sustainable facilities and services to create a self-supporting community and reduce the need for outward journeys. The community will need to include all the services and facilities required for a development of this size, such as employment spaces, education provision, health and community facilities, and sports, leisure and open space facilities.

The Council therefore requires an up-to-date Sport, Recreation and Open Space evidence base, not only for the new community proposed at the North East Chelmsford Garden Community but for the whole Local Plan area as well. This evidence is to inform the strategic spatial planning and the approach to the provision of sport, recreation and open space facilities in the Garden Community as well as the authority's wider administrative area.

As well as the study being used as an evidence base document to support the review of the Council's Local Plan it will also be used to inform planning applications, particularly for the emerging North East Chelmsford Garden Community.

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Chelmsford Corporate Plan¹

Our Chelmsford, Our Plan sets out the Local Authority's priorities which will improve the lives of all residents. The Council wants to make Chelmsford a fairer, inclusive, greener, safer and better-connected place to live, work and visit: The plan outlines a number of priorities under three key themes, as documented in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Chelmsford's Corporate Plan's priority

Themes	Priorities
Fairer and more inclusive place	Promote sustainable and environmentally responsible growth to stimulate a vibrant, balanced economy, fairer society and provide more homes of all types.
A greener and safer place	Creating a distinctive sense of place, making the area more attractive, promoting its green credentials and ensuring that people and communities are safe.
A more connected place	Bringing people together and working in partnership to encourage healthy, active lives, building stronger, more resilient communities so that people feel proud to live, work and study in the area.

To promote healthy communities, the Council is committed to improving and enhancing all leisure facilities, including ensuring that the Riverside Ice and Leisure Centre (which was completed in 2019) is maintained to the highest of standards.

Chelmsford Health & Wellbeing Plan²

This takes its lead from the Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026. It was refreshed in 2022 and represents a partnership between CCC, Essex County Council, Active Essex and NHS partners. It adopts a preventative approach to reducing levels of health inequality and includes a strategic priority to encourage increased levels of physical activity in the Authority. Within its physical activity theme, the following actions are put forward:

- ✦ Work within the planning system to create healthier built environments designed to support healthy lifestyle choices.
- ✦ Ensure new developments encourage sustainable travel, walking and cycling.
- ✦ To further develop the Sport for Confidence model at Riverside (subject to UK Shared Prosperity Fund) to help a wider range of groups to participate in leisure opportunities, with a specific focus on young people.
- ✦ To appoint an Active Health Coordinator (subject to UK Shared Prosperity Fund) to enhance the exercise referral scheme and develop new opportunities with key health partners, such as the cancer referral scheme and pre/post-op hospital referrals.

Chelmsford Housing Strategy 2022-2027

The Strategy seeks to create an additional supply of affordable homes to strengthen the strategic response to meeting local need. Its overall priorities are as follows:

- ✦ Increasing the supply of affordable homes with a focus on larger units.
- ✦ Increasing the supply of affordable homes from the existing housing stock.
- ✦ Supporting landlords and tenants of privately rented homes.
- ✦ Enabling the right supply of specialist housing to meet local need.
- ✦ Developing effective partnerships.
- ✦ Monitoring trends and performance to inform future actions.

¹Chelmsford Corporate Plan - [Chelmsford Corporate Plan](#)

²[Chelmsford-Health-Wellbeing-Plan-2022](#)

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The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) considers not only the current position but also factors in population growth, demographic movements of population from other areas and the economic profile of the housing market. Analysing these trends, the SHMA (last updated in 2015) identifies an annual net need for 175 affordable homes for rent. Since the publication of this assessment, the proposed level of supply from new build is now not sufficient to meet current levels of demand, partly because the supply (relets) from the existing stock of affordable homes is much lower than anticipated in the assessment.

Chelmsford Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

Chelmsford City Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July 2019. This declaration represents a commitment to take appropriate action to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030. The action plan focuses on 15 priority areas of work for the Council which include integrating on-site renewable energy within new developments in particular the role the Council can have to help deliver low carbon affordable housing – this will set standards for the construction of new homes.

Essex Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026

Every local area must have a JHWS setting out the priorities identified through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that local government, the NHS and other partners will deliver together through the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

Essex JHWS aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in Essex by creating a culture and environment that reduces inequalities and enables residents of all ages to live healthier lives.

To achieve this, the JHWS identifies five key priorities, all of which have specific development outcomes which need to be achieved through partnership work, as outlined in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2: Essex JHWS priorities and outcomes

Priority	Outcome
Improving mental health and wellbeing	Supported the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and families with a focus on the vulnerable. Reduced loneliness and social isolation. Reduced suicide through a focus on system support.
Physical activity and healthy weight	Enabled children, young people and their families to be more physically active. Improved levels of physical activity amongst adults by helping them find ways to integrate physical activity into their daily lives. Improved nutritional awareness, healthy eating, and help low-income households access affordable healthy food options.
Supporting long term independence	Improved access to advice and guidance including financial support so that residents with long-term conditions and their carers can better manage their conditions. Reduced digital exclusion to improve access to advice and support online. Help all residents have better access to opportunities in education, work, skills, housing, and their social lives.
Alcohol and substance misuse	Improve access to advice, support and treatment for residents experiencing alcohol or substance use issues. Work across the system to help address the challenges of county lines and drugs related criminality.

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Priority	Outcome
	Educate children, young people, adults, and families on the risks associated with alcohol and substance misuse.
Health inequalities & the wider determinants of Health	<p>Ensure that all children have access to quality parenting, early years provision and education that provide the foundations for later in life.</p> <p>Address food poverty and ensure that all children can access healthy food.</p> <p>Improve access to employment, education and training for adults and young people in our most deprived communities.</p> <p>Embed the use of health impact assessments in planning practice to ensure new planning proposals do not negatively impact on health, health services or widen health inequalities.</p>

Fit for the Future: Active Essex Implementation Plan 2021-31

Launched in July 2021, the Fit for the Future strategy provides a rallying call to action for the thousands of organisations and people across Essex who recognise the enormous contribution physical activity and sport makes to the health and wellbeing of everyone.

As of June 2021, there were over 1.6 million people living in Greater Essex and 901,000 are active adults who participate in over 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Active Essex wants to increase this number, unite in one direction and over the next 10 years, create an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing. To active this, the Local Partnership sets out the following key objectives.

- ◆ **Strengthening Communities-** All communities across Essex, Southend and Thurrock use the power of physical activity and sport to build resilience, connection and wellbeing.
- ◆ **Active Environments-** To work collectively to develop and provide well connected, accessible places and spaces that encourage people to be active.
- ◆ **Children and Young People-** To ensure every child has the best start in life, whereby they are active, healthy and happy.
- ◆ **Levelling Up Health and Wellbeing-** To change behaviours, which will enable and empower people to do things for themselves and their local communities. Physical activity is the highest priority for good health.
- ◆ **Sport and Physical Activity-** To support the recovery, development and growth of our sport and physical activity sector, in order to collectively increase opportunities for all.

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Sporting context

In addition to the local and national key drivers set out above, the main pitch sport NGBs have sport specific key drivers, these are set out in full within Appendix 1: Sporting Context.

Vision

In line with existing corporate policies, the proposed vision for the PPOSS is:

“To work with partners to create high quality, inclusive and sustainable sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation and support health and wellbeing now and in the future.”

To achieve this vision the PPOSS will need to deliver the following objectives:

- ✦ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ✦ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ✦ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ✦ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.
- ✦ Ensure planned housing growth makes commensurate provision of new or improved outdoor sports facilities to meet the needs of its residents.
- ✦ Support the Council’s ambition to reduce health inequalities through providing better access to physical activity opportunities.

The approach to developing the Strategy

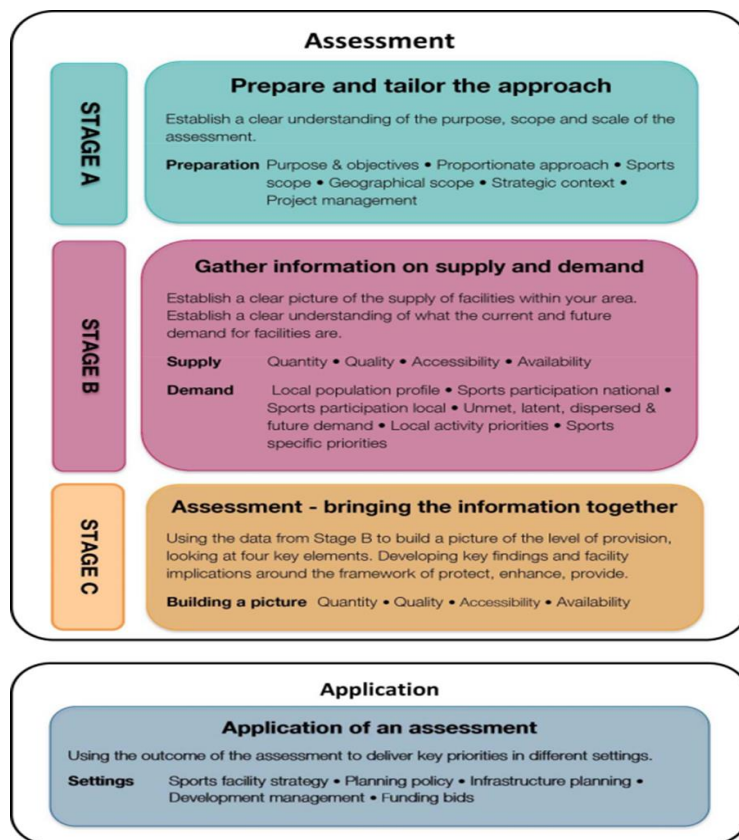
The PPOSS has been delivered in adherence to Sport England’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. This consists of a 13-step approach, as follows:

- ✦ **Section A: Preparation**
 - ✦ Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed.
 - ✦ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements.
 - ✦ Step 3: Tailor the approach.
- ✦ **Section B: Information Gathering**
 - ✦ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches.
 - ✦ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand.
- ✦ **Section C: Assessment**
 - ✦ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used.
 - ✦ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision.
 - ✦ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing.
- ✦ **Section D: Key Findings & Issues**
 - ✦ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues.
 - ✦ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues.
- ✦ **Section E: Strategy Development & Implementation**
 - ✦ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations.
 - ✦ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan.
 - ✦ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS.

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For non-pitch sports (i.e., tennis, bowls, and athletics), the 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide' (ANOG) is applied. This has a similar staged approach, as seen below.



Agreed scope

The scope of the PPOSS will focus geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. Provision included within the project is as follows:

- ❖ Football pitches (grass, third generation turf (3G) and ancillary provision).
- ❖ Rugby union pitches.
- ❖ Cricket pitches.
- ❖ Hockey artificial grass pitches AGPs).
- ❖ Other grass pitch sports as relevant e.g., rugby league, lacrosse, baseball/softball and American football.
- ❖ Tennis courts (including padel and pickleball facilities).
- ❖ Bowling greens.
- ❖ Athletics tracks (and running).
- ❖ Netball courts.
- ❖ Golf courses.
- ❖ Cycling (learn to ride space, road circuits, pump tracks, mountain biking/off road trails)
- ❖ River use (e.g., paddle boarding and canoeing).

In addition, a bespoke 3G pitch section is included within this report, mainly focusing on football activity but also taking into account other sports that can use the surface type (e.g., rugby union and rugby league). Furthermore, other grass pitch sports are also included within the study where supply and/or demand is identified (e.g. American football, baseball/softball).

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Sport England's PPS guidance applies to football, both rugby codes, cricket and hockey as well as any other grass pitch sports identified for inclusion. The ANOG guidance applies to the remaining sports (as these are "non-pitch").

As well as considering current supply and demand, the PPOSS will incorporate future demand to 2041 (in line with the Local Plan review).

Study area

The study area is the Chelmsford City Council administrative boundary area. Further to this sub areas or analysis areas can be used to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

The Chelmsford City Council administrative area is divided into six analysis areas to better reflect the population split within the Authority. Each analysis area is made up of the following Parishes/Wards:

- ◀ **City Centre Area** - Goat Hall, Marconi, Moulsham and Central, Moulsham Lodge, Patching Hall, St Andrews, The Lawns, Trinity, Waterhouse Farm.
- ◀ **Urban Area** - Boreham, Broomfield, Chelmsford Garden Community, Chelmer Village, Galleywood, Great Baddow, Springfield, Writtle.
- ◀ **Rural North Area** - Great and Little Leighs, Great Waltham, Little Waltham.
- ◀ **Rural South Area** - Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers, Danbury, East Hanningfield, Little Baddow, Rettendon, Runwell, Sandon, South Hanningfield, Stock, West Hanningfield.
- ◀ **Rural West Area** - Chignal, Good Easter, Highwood, Margaretting, Mashbury, Pleshey, Roxwell.
- ◀ **South Woodham Ferrers Area** - South Woodham Ferrers.

The Chelmsford administrative area has seven neighbouring authorities: Uttlesford, Braintree, Epping Forest, Brentwood, Basildon, Rochford and Maldon. Due to this, there is a level of imported demand and sports teams from outside the study area that use outdoor sports facilities within the Chelmsford administrative area. In addition, it is likely that sports teams from inside the Chelmsford administrative area also use facilities outside of the area.

For a map showing the analysis areas, please see Figure 1.1 overleaf.

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Gather supply information and views – an audit of provision

Sport England's guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field, as set out by the Government in the 2021 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order':

- ▶ **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 that encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field sets out a minimum size, this PPOSS takes account of smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side. For example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football pitch is included despite it potentially being smaller than 0.2ha. The study counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply, with the definition of a playing pitch also including artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

As far as possible, this report aims to capture all of the playing pitches and relevant outdoor sport facilities within the Authority; however, there may be instances that have led to omissions, such as unused school sites where access was not possible (although facilities at sites not accessed are still included within the study where provision is known to exist from other sources e.g. affiliation data or club/league consultation). Where provision has not been recorded within the report, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database:

- ▶ Site name, address (including postcode) and location.
- ▶ Ownership and management type.
- ▶ Security of tenure.
- ▶ Community availability.
- ▶ Total number, type and quality of provision.
- ▶ Usage levels.

Accessibility

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

- ▶ **Community use** - provision in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.

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- ◀ **Available but unused** - provision that is available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - provision which as a matter of policy or practice is not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club sites along with some semi-professional club sites where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** - provision that has previously been used for sport but not currently used and not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years, these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 103 of the NPPF, with Sport England still likely to challenge a proposed loss which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a such a site is still that of a playing field until such time as its use is formally changed or it is developed for a non-sport use.

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that provision will be available to the community for at least the following three years. If this is not the case, the provision is still included within the report but is noted as having unsecure tenure. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

Quality

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

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

To ensure accurate findings, site assessments for each sport are carried out during the playing season for that sport. As such, the site assessments for sports played in the winter are conducted between November and February, whilst the sports played in the summer have assessments carried out between July and September.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers have also been consulted on the quality. In some instances, the quality rating has been adjusted to reflect this (thus establishing an "agreed quality rating").

Furthermore, technical assessments have also been provided, where undertaken, such as those carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA), which now provides technical assessments across football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket (known as PitchPower reports). PitchPower reports where carried out have informed the quality assessments for the PPOSS to ensure the findings align (unless there is a clear reason for a differential e.g., recent improvements).

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Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities (i.e., recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. To that end, demand for provision in the Chelmsford administrative area tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◆ Organised competitive play.
- ◆ Organised training.
- ◆ Informal play.

Current and future demand for provision is presented on a sport-by-sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section (unless no such demand has been identified). Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to provision; it is usually expressed, for example, when a team is in training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the competition.

In comparison, latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available. Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice.

A variety of consultation methods have been used to collate demand information. Firstly, face-to-face consultation (normally via video call) has been carried out with key clubs and leagues (as identified by the Council and NGBs) from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, telephone consultation or an online survey (converted to postal if required) has been utilised.

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

Key providers and other users of provision have also been contacted, including all schools as well as further and higher education establishments. This involves face-to-face meetings with secondary schools, colleges and universities and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPOSS to assess whether the future demand for provision can be met. One method for calculating this is by using Office of National Statistics (ONS) population projections and proposed housing growth to provide an estimate of the likely future demand for relevant facilities. Assumptions can then be made as to whether existing provision can cater for such growth via the use of team/member generation rates. This involves using an existing participation ratio and applying it to predicted growth to help estimate the change in demand for each sport that may arise in the future.

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Other information sources used to help identify future demand include:

- ✦ Recent trends in the participation.
- ✦ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ✦ Feedback from clubs on plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ✦ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets e.g., women's and girls' activity.

All future demand projections across the PPOSS for the Chelmsford administrative area cover the period up until 2041, in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan. For consistency, the housing led population projections from 2022 will be used in replace of the 2018 ONS projections.

The PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan (Stage D) will also contain several housing growth scenarios to test what additional demand will be generated throughout the Local Plan period and in particular the North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC).

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

Building on Stage B information gathered, supply and demand data is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision in the Chelmsford administrative area and to identify key issues, challenges and aspirations. This forms the basis of this report.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative ratings are linked to a capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. For playing pitch sports, the quality and use of each pitch is assessed against recommended capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions provision could accommodate.

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

As a guide, the NGBs for football, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and hockey have set a standard number of matches that each pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality. Given how the sports operate, this is per week for football and the rugby codes, per day for hockey and per season for cricket. This guide is set out in Table 1.3 below.

Table 1.3: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey AGPs	One AGP	4 matches per day	4 matches per day	0 matches per day

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For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a sports-lit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). Other sport specific capacity guidance is detailed within the relevant sections of this report.

Develop the current and future picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site-by-site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an Authority-wide and an area-by-area basis via further interrogation of peak time demand (i.e., the day/time demand is most likely to exist). This then identifies whether there is overall spare capacity on provision or whether there is a shortfall.

Although spare capacity may be identified at some sites and in some areas, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed (actual spare capacity) or a site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable rotation and to reduce wear and tear. There may also be a need to discount some capacity, for example at poor quality sites that should not be used until they are improved or at unsecure sites where long-term access cannot be guaranteed.

Conversely, where a shortfall of capacity is identified, this does not necessarily mean there is a need for increased provision via new facilities. Instead, it may be possible for deficits to be overcome through better utilisation of the existing stock, such as via quality improvements or through improving community access.

Once current capacity has been determined, future capacity can also be calculated via incorporating the future demand that has been identified as well as unmet, latent and exported demand.

Identify the key findings and issues

The Assessment Report, which is this document, is drafted and presented on a sport-by-sport basis, with data analysis undertaken on both a Council-wide and sub-area basis. This focuses on reporting research findings, consultation, site audit information and data analysis supported by detailed GIS mapping. It is agreed and 'signed off' prior to moving on to the strategy and action plan development stages.

Each included section (from Part 2 onwards) summarises the local administration of the included sport (or facility type). Each provides a summary of the supply of and demand for provision, with key issues identified and an overall supply and demand analysis undertaken.

1.5: Stage D: Develop the strategy

The Strategy follows the production of this Assessment Report, once it has been finalised and signed off by the Steering Group. It will feature:

- ◆ Headline findings.
- ◆ An overall vision and associated aims for the PPOSS.
- ◆ Sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios.
- ◆ Strategic recommendations.
- ◆ A site-by-site and area-by-area action plan.
- ◆ Housing growth scenarios.

Additionally, it will provide detail as to how to deliver the PPOSS and keep it robust and up-to-date (Stage E).

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in the Chelmsford administrative area is Essex County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaches and delivering national football schemes.

Facility development for football is largely the responsibility of the Football Foundation (FF), which is a charity, linked to and funded by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England), that helps communities improve their local football facilities through grant funding. It is committed to improving the experience of playing football for everyone involved in the game. The FF also acts on behalf of The FA as the strategic NGB for football in supporting development of a PPOSS.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches, where formal demand is generally defined through five formats of play and five pitch types, linked to the age of teams and players. Please refer to Table 2.1 below for more detail relating to this.

Table 2.1: Football grass pitch playing formats and pitch sizes

Format/pitch type	Age range	Recommended pitch size (metres)
Adult	U17s+	100 x 64
Youth 11v11	U13s-U16s	91 x 55 (U15-16s) and 82 x 50 (U13s-U14s)
Youth 9v9	U11s-U12s	73 x 46
Mini 7v7	U9s-U10s	55 x 37
Mini 5v5	U7s-U8s	37 x 27

The playing season generally runs from September to May.

Part 3 of this report captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches), which is the preferred artificial surface type for football. There is a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, in addition to training needs, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local football facility plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Game Strategy (NGS), the FA commissioned a nationwide consultancy project which was completed in 2020. As part of this, an LFFP has been produced for every local authority across England, with each plan being unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

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

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Each LFFP draws on the PPOSS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game as well as including strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational/informal and indoor activity). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as under-represented communities. This includes those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

The LFFP for the Chelmsford administrative area was produced in 2023. As it is a 'live' document it should be updated following the completion of this study as an up-to-date supply and demand assessment may present findings and recommendations that need to be incorporated for investment purposes. LFFPs identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require potential funding through the FF.

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to recognise that the LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPOSS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP does, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans.

Consultation

A total of 468 teams from 89 affiliated football clubs are based in the Chelmsford administrative area and playing regular fixtures on grass pitches. Please note this does not include demand relating to walking football and futsal teams (which totals 490 teams). This is discussed in greater detail under additional demand in Section 2.3.

A total of 313 teams responded to consultation requests from 25 clubs, equating to a team response rate of 67% and a club response rate of 30%.

Most clubs that have not responded are small clubs fielding just one or two teams. Key clubs consulted as part of the study include:

- ❖ Broomfield FC.
- ❖ Chelmsford City FC.
- ❖ Chelmsford City Girls.
- ❖ Chelmsford City Women.
- ❖ Chelmsford City Youth FC.
- ❖ Galleywood FC.
- ❖ South Woodham Ferrers United.
- ❖ Springfield FC.
- ❖ Uplands Rangers FC.
- ❖ Wilvale Rangers FC.
- ❖ Writtle Minors FC.

It should be noted that in order to provide additional information, consultation has also been carried out with other key stakeholders for football in the Chelmsford administrative area. This includes the Council, Essex County FA, local leagues and schools.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 179 grass football pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area across 68 sites. Of these pitches, 151 are available at some level for community use (although not necessarily used) across 48 sites. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.

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Table 2.2 below shows the breakdown of the pitches which are available for community use. The Urban Areas Analysis Area has the most (61), followed by the City Centre Analysis Area (43 pitches). The Rural West Analysis Area has the fewest pitches (four).

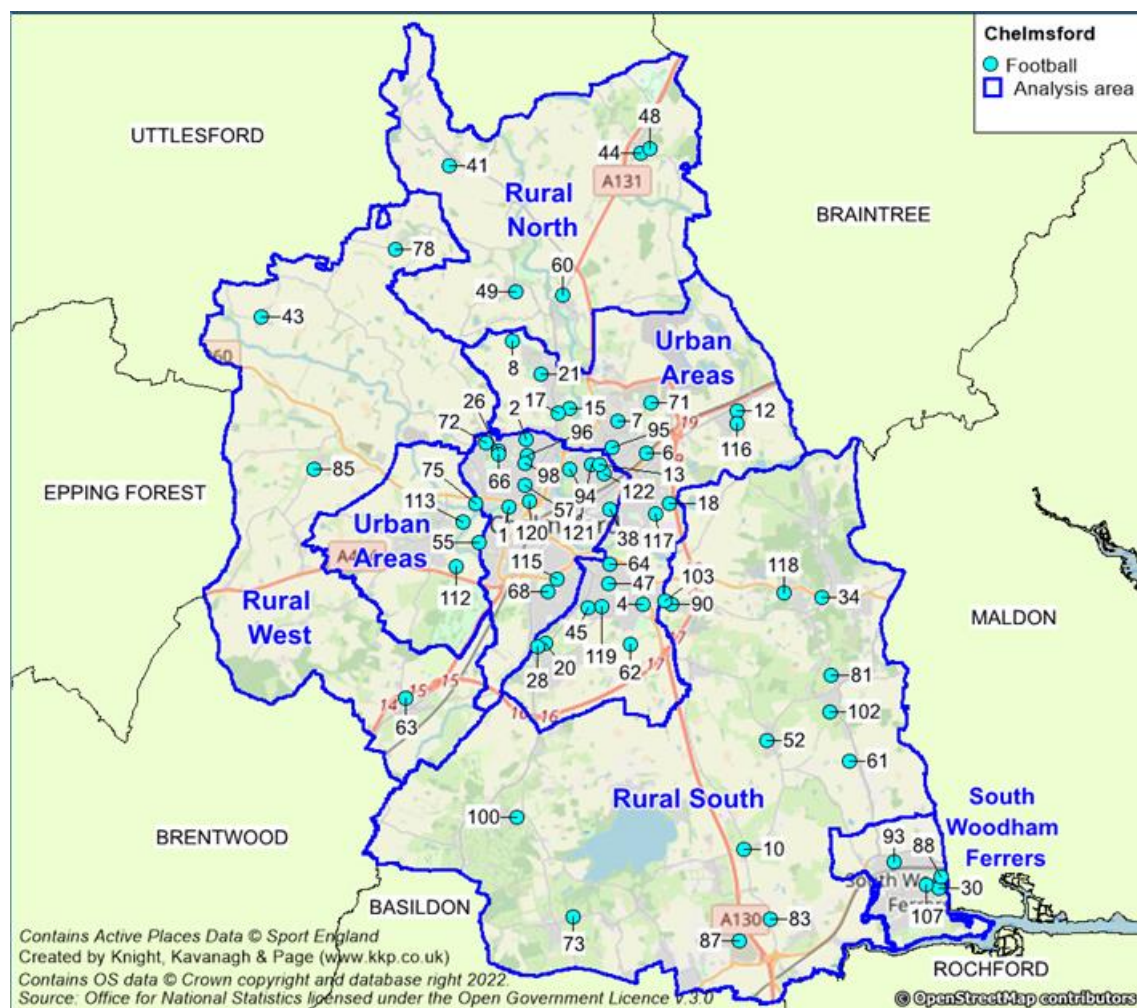
Table 2.2: Summary of number of grass football pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
City Centre	18	7	6	6	6	43
Rural North	4	-	1	-	-	5
Rural South	14	7	2	2	-	25
Rural West	3	-	-	1	-	4
South Woodham Ferrers	4	5	2	1	1	13
Urban Areas	26	7	11	9	8	61
Total	69	26	22	19	15	151

As shown in the table above, more adult pitches (69) are identified when compared to pitches of other sizes, although youth 11v11 football is the most prominent in the Authority (see Table 2.13). Mini 5v5 pitches are the least represented with 15 pitches, followed by mini 7v7 pitches with 19 pitches.

The location of the pitches servicing the Chelmsford administrative area can be seen in the figure overleaf. For a key to the maps, see Table 2.24.

Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area



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Changes from the previous study

Since the previous PPS study, last updated in 2016, there has been an overall increase in the total number of grass football pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area, with 147 previously available compared to 179 now. This represents a 22% increase. Furthermore, the number available for community use has also increased, with 131 previously available compared to 151 now. This represents a 15% increase. This is shown further in Table 2.3 below.

The increase in pitches is predominantly a consequence of some pitches previously being preserved (i.e. not marked/used) for quality purposes whilst some new pitches have also been marked out on existing playing fields.

Table 2.3: Pitch comparison of community available grass football pitches

PPOSS Year	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
2024 (current study)	69	26	22	19	15
2016 (previous study)	68	9	21	19	14
Change	+1	+17	+1	-	+1

The above generally aligns with participation changes over the same time period, with the number of teams increasing significantly since 2016 (as shown in Table 2.14). The largest increase is in youth 11v11 pitches (increase of 17 pitches) in line with youth 11v11 teams increasing by 54 teams.

Future provision

New pitches are being proposed at a new community recreation ground in Beaulieu, located to the East of New Hall School. This is to be developed by the City Council relating to a new housing development in Beaulieu, which will create up to 3,600 homes. It is yet to be identified what pitches will be marked out. In the Strategy & Action Plan, the new housing development will be run as a scenario to understand what pitches will be needed based on demand from the new population.

Discussions are ongoing with Galleywood FC to reconfigure the adult pitch at Clarks Field by either moving the pitch to Chelmer Park (located adjacent to Clarks Field) or moving it further north of the site. This is due to issues at the end of the football season with the overlapping cricket outfield.

The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of 6,250 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools. As part of this, two Council run sports hubs are proposed together with a co-located sports facility at the school. In the Strategy & Action Plan, the new housing development will be run as a scenario to understand what pitches will be needed based on demand from the new population.

A residential housing development is being developed in South Woodham Ferrers and has planning permission subject to the s106 agreement (21/01961/OUT and 22/00311/OUT). As part of this, South Woodham Ferrers RUFC will be relocated to a new ground. This means there could be additional pitch capacity up to four additional football pitches of various sizes at Saltcoats Park and Compass Gardens Recreation Ground where the Club currently plays. In addition, there will be space for an additional cricket square.

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The planning applications suggests that a new rugby sports ground will be provided North of Burnham Road, it is thought this has the space for four adult pitches and four grass rugby pitches, car parking and a pavilion with associated club facilities.

A residential housing scheme is also being developed at Warren Farm (21/01545/OUT) and is also expected to provide future grass pitch provision. This includes a new sports ground that could indicatively accommodate three adult/youth 11v11 pitches in addition to a pavilion.

FC Evolution reports it is trying to find land working with an investor to be able to develop a facility that would allow the club to grow. The Club states it would like to have a men's and women's team that compete in Step 5 men's football and Step 4 women's football.

Chelmsford City FC has a long-term aspiration to build a new stadium within the Chelmsford administrative area. The Club compete in the National League South, the second tier of the Non-League System (NLS). The Club are two promotions away from the English Football League (EFL) and aspires to reach its target in the coming years. It's current stadia site, at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre, is not ideal for the EFL and is felt by the club to be one of poorer footballing venues within its league. At the level the Club compete at, there may also be a need to increase the level of capacity to 4,000 which with its current infrastructure cannot be easily achieved. Ideally the stadium would be centrally located, increase opportunities for Women and Girls and have a footballing centre including a 3G pitch that would also provide wider community use.

Disused provision

A disused site is a site that has previously been used for sport but that is not currently being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either (often being unmarked).

There are three sites identified as being disused that previously provided football pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area. These are as follows:

- ❖ Chetwood Fields (CM3 5ZX) - last marked out circa 2018.
- ❖ Meadowbank Park (SS11 7QU)- last marked out circa 2021.
- ❖ Sandford Mill Lane (CM2 7RT) - last marked out circa 2016.

The Strategy & Action Plan will include a scenario which analyses the impact of bringing these pitches back into use and how this will affect the current shortfalls and if they are deemed sustainable.

As shown in the list above, one adult grass football pitch was marked out at Meadowbank Park and was used by South Woodham Ferrers United FC until they located to Compass Gardens and Saltcoats Park in 2021.

In addition, the former St Peter's College closed in 2011 and now lies disused and was previously used by the community. The site was previously marked out for football pitches that were both used by the school and by the community. A planning application has been submitted to provide 185 homes and two special schools and result in the permanent loss of the site.

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Current demand indicates that there are deficiencies in provision in terms of the carrying capacity of pitches to meet such demand and demand for pitches at peak times outstripping current supply. Replacement or local off-site pitch and facilities improvements are required to offset the loss, whilst also providing for increased demand as a result of the development.

However, there are several sites that are still in use recreationally that previously provided formal football pitches but no longer do so. These are not classified as disused as they are still being accessed, although they are no longer marked out for affiliated football. The sites are:

- ◆ Angel Meadow (CM1 7AH).
- ◆ Chase Field CM1 6AT).
- ◆ Jubilee Park (CM2 8AG).
- ◆ Little Waltham Park (CM3 3NY).

The informal grass area in Jubilee Park is associated with the local scout group based in the park and is used as an informal kickabout area with occasional pop up goals provided by users but not routinely marked out (and has not been for the past 15 years).

Several primary schools also previously provided pitches but no longer do so. Examples include:

- ◆ Chetwood School.
- ◆ Elmwood Primary School.
- ◆ Ford End Primary School.
- ◆ Parkwood Academy.
- ◆ The Priory County Primary School.
- ◆ Woodville Primary School.

Management

Most community available pitches in the Authority are managed by the Council, with this amounting to 48 pitches or 32% of all community accessible provision. In the Chelmsford administrative area, 37 community available pitches are managed by education providers, 35 by sports clubs, 19 by parish councils and the remaining 12 by other entities as shown in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Management of community available pitches by pitch type

Pitch type	Council	Parish council	Education	Sports club	Other
Adult	23	15	11	15	6
Youth 11v11	3	2	10	6	1
Youth 9v9	8	1	5	7	2
Mini 7v7	7	1	3	6	2
Mini 5v5	7	-	6	1	1
Total	48	19	37	35	12

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Security of tenure

A site is considered to have secure tenure if it has a long-term lease agreement in place or a guarantee exists that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. This protects sites from potential loss and is also generally required for clubs looking at site development, particularly from a funding perspective. As such, all local authority sites in the Chelmsford administrative area are considered to provide this as continued community use is ensured through an ongoing commitment to provide sports and leisure facilities.

In contrast, security of tenure is not offered by sites which face development pressures or where existing arrangements are coming to an end as there is no guarantee that they will continue to be accessible in the future. Based on this, most education sites are not deemed to provide secure use, unless a robust community use agreement is in place.

An exception to the above is at Writtle University College, where binding community use agreements are in place with the sports clubs which use its facilities at the sites. Tenure at these sites is considered to be secure.

Several sites are owned or operated by sports associations/trusts or commercial providers. These are considered to provide security of tenure as part of this arrangement and this includes Good Easter Sports Field, Pleshey Village Hall & Playing Field and South Woodham Playing Field.

Most sites operated by sports clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold or a lease arrangement. However, in some instances, existing agreements are coming to an end, such as for Springfield FC, which has only three years remaining on its lease from the Council.

Danbury & Bicknacre FC report it is in discussions with Danbury Parish Council to extend the length of its lease agreement to 25 years to allow the Club to apply for funding to improve provision.

Writtle Minors Youth FC reports it has a 25-year lease agreement at Writtle Sports & Social Club, although it is unsure on how long is left on the agreement.

Generally, to carry out site development and/or attract external funding, clubs and sites generally need long-term security of tenure, with arrangements of at least 25 years often required (unless recently entered into). As an example, this is a requirement for Football Foundation investment (freehold or a lease of 21+ years is needed for funding over £100,000).

Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across the Chelmsford administrative area have been assessed via a combination of site visits (between December 2023 and January 2024) using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA, PitchPower assessments (see below) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full site assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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

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

Table 2.5 summarises the quality of community available pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area. As seen, although most pitches are assessed as good, with 55 (36%) being rated as such, 53 (35%) are also assessed as poor quality. The remaining pitches, 43 (28%) are assessed as standard quality.

Table 2.5: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Adult	27	20	22
Youth 11v11	6	12	8
Youth 9v9	9	6	7
Mini 7v7	9	4	6
Mini 5v5	4	1	10
Total	55	43	53

Poor quality scores are generally a result of issues relating to natural drainage problems, basic maintenance regimes and signs of wear and tear. Poor quality pitches are located across 24 sites and can be seen in Table 2.24. Many of these sites are operated by the Council and schools, where maintenance tends to be less dedicated than at sites managed by sports clubs.

In some instances, sites with poor quality pitches also provide good and standard quality pitches, this includes Runwell Sports & Social Club where the adult pitch is assessed as poor quality, but the remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.

Danbury & Bicknacre FC report that the pitches at Priory Fields have declined in recent seasons due to the heavy rain and the lack of opportunity to re-seed the pitches during the summer season.

Great Leigh's Youth FC states the pitches at Great & Little Leighs Playing Field are subject to wider public use and reports this impacts the quality of the pitches and damage to the goals.

South Woodham Ferrers United reports the pitches at both Compass Gardens Recreation Ground and Saltcoats Park are in poor condition due to poor drainage.

Springfield FC report the pitches at Springfield Hall Park are poor quality due to poor drainage. They also suffer issues with dog fouling and vandalism and rabbit holes appear over the field.

Uplands Rangers FC reports its main site located at Beaulieu Park School is currently unavailable due to stony gravel making its way to the surface meaning the lower secondary school sports pitches are currently deemed unsafe for contact sports. Consultation with the school notes remedial works are underway and dependent on the weather in summer 2024, the fields should be useable by the school in Autumn 2024. The upper fields are also being re-done as they were deteriorating in the same way. All pitches are therefore currently out of action and following the same schedule for completion. The pitches will need time to establish before heavy use, beyond that required by the school, so pitches will not be available for external hirers until September 2025. As a result, Uplands Rangers FC has had to find alternative venues and plays matches at Boswells School and Chelmer Valley High School.

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Taking into account the above, the pitches have still been included in the audit and will be subject to scenarios in the proceeding Strategy document to demonstrate the impact of bringing them back into community use and improving them to good quality.

In contrast, good quality pitches can be found at 13 sites such as Andrews Park (Chelmsford), Beaulieu Park Recreation Ground, Broomfield Football Club, Chelmer Park, Melbourne Park and Writtle Sports & Social Club and can be seen in Table 2.24. It is worth noting that Moulsham Athletic FC reports the pitches at Melbourne Park are often under maintained, especially during the winter, despite their good quality.

In addition, Wilvale Rangers also report issues with pitch quality at Chancellor Park due to heavy usage from the club, despite its good quality rating. The site is located on a floodplain and improvement work is being undertaken and as a result the Club has lost access to the mini 5v5 pitches.

Most of the good quality pitches have a rigorous maintenance programme in order to maintain high quality. As an example, Priory Sports FC reports the pitches at Lodge Road Playing Field have improved since last season, due to the Parish Council investing in a new contractor and maintenance includes cutting, reseeding and aeration.

Broomfield FC reports the pitches at Broomfield Football Club state the maintenance regime at the site is regular and frequent resulting in its good condition.

Changes to the previous study

In the previous PPS (2016), there were 123 standard quality pitches (84%), 21 good quality pitches (14%) and three (2%) poor quality pitches. As such, there has been a clear increase in the number of both good quality pitches and poor quality pitches and a reduction in standard quality pitches. This is shown further in Table 2.6.

Generally, the new pitches which have been identified since the previous study, are assessed as good or standard quality pitches. Hence the significant increase in those quality scores since 2016.

Table 2.6: Pitch quality comparison

PPOSS Year	Good	Standard	Poor
2024 (current study)	55	43	53
2016 (previous study)	21	123	3

Pitch improvement

The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower web app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

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The web app is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are also required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of any grant funding application for FF grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (detailed later in this section).

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments within the PPS guidance, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June. Organisations must carry out two assessments a year, with at least one in the November – March window.

As well as the completion of other supporting information such as detail of volunteer training and what maintenance equipment is available, the assessment requires the taking of images and a single soil sample at each assessment site. There are three assessment sites for adult and youth pitches at each goal area and the centre circle, whilst for mini pitches there are two sites at the centre circle and one goal area.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS Guidance. This alignment is shown in Table 2.7 below.

Table 2.7: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

PQS rating	PPOSS quality rating
Poor	Poor
Basic	Standard
Good	Good
Advanced	Good
High	Good

As shown in Table 2.8, 11 sites in the Chelmsford administrative area have received a PitchPower assessment and the ratings of these in comparison to the PPOSS non-technical site assessment ratings are shown in the table below. No adjustments are needed as all assessments align.

Table 2.8: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
1	Admirals Park	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
1	Admirals Park	Mini (7v7)	Poor	Poor
2	Andrews Park (Chelmsford)	Adult	Good	Good
2	Andrews Park (Chelmsford)	Youth (11v11)	Advanced	Good
6	Beaulieu Park Recreation Ground	Adult	Good	Good
6	Beaulieu Park Recreation Ground	Adult	Good	Good
6	Beaulieu Park Recreation Ground	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
15	Broomfield Football Club	Adult	Advanced	Good
15	Broomfield Football Club	Adult	Good	Good
15	Broomfield Football Club	Youth (11v11)	Advanced	Good
15	Broomfield Football Club	Youth (9v9)	Advanced	Good

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
15	Broomfield Football Club	Mini (7v7)	High	Good
15	Broomfield Football Club	Mini (5v5)	Advanced	Good
18	Chancellor Park	Adult	Good	Good
18	Chancellor Park	Youth (9v9)	Basic	Standard
18	Chancellor Park	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
18	Chancellor Park	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Adult	Advanced	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Adult	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Adult	Advanced	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Youth (9v9)	Advanced	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (7v7)	Advanced	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Mini (5v5)	Good	Good
45	Great Baddow High School	Adult	Basic	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	Adult	Basic	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	Youth (11v11)	Basic	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Adult	Basic	Standard
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Advanced	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Good	Good
66	Melbourne Park	Adult	Advanced	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Adult	Good	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Adult	Good	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Adult	Good	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Adult	Poor	Poor
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Youth (11v11)	Good	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Mini (7v7)	Good	Good
90	Sandon Sports Club	Adult	Advanced	Good
90	Sandon Sports Club	Youth (9v9)	Good	Good
90	Sandon Sports Club	Mini (7v7)	Basic	Standard

In addition to PitchPower, the FA has a general pitch improvement strategy, in partnership with the GMA. As part of this, it has a Pitch Advisory Service that can be utilised by clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. This is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise local authority-maintained sites.

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Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund (GPMF)³

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

The GPMF can be accessed by grassroots football clubs, leagues and other eligible organisations with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide members of the programme with advice/practical solutions via a PitchPower site assessment and subsequent Grass Pitch Assessment Report which will also identify the key enhanced maintenance works required along with machinery requirements.

Following a report, clubs can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Once a PitchPower Grass Pitch Assessment Report has been produced for the site, eligible organisations can then apply for grant funding support through the Football Foundation Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, a fund offering six-year tapered grants to help enhance or sustain the quality of their grass pitches. The fund is a key part of the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Improvement Programme - an ambition to deliver 20,000 good quality grass pitches by 2030. If a site is categorised as 'poor' or 'basic' then clubs can apply for funding to enhance pitch quality, whilst clubs with good quality pitches can also apply for a lower level of funding to sustain quality.

All applicants must have landowner permission (or be the free/lease holder) and have received a PitchPower Pitch Assessment Report, with the fund currently open to football clubs (excluding pitches used for National League System play), leagues, County FAs, community organisations and charities. In 2023 the fund was also opened up to education organisations and town/parish councils as eligible applicants. Local authorities are not currently eligible applicants, however, eligible organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have permission of the landowner via service level agreement.

Chelmsford Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The 2023 LFFP for the Chelmsford administrative area identifies key sites considered a priority to improve, with these selected based on the rationale of identifying sites that are the poorest in quality and that are the best utilised, or that have the greatest potential for increased utilisation following quality enhancements. Emphasis is on sites with three or more pitches, although scope exists for the inclusion of smaller sites if they are deemed to be strategically important. The following 10 site specific projects were identified:

- ✦ Beaulieu Park.
- ✦ Broomfield Football Club.
- ✦ Chancellor Park.
- ✦ Chelmer Park (Galleywood FC).
- ✦ Melbourne Park.
- ✦ Priory Fields.
- ✦ Runwell Sports & Social Club.
- ✦ Saltcoats Park/Compass Gardens Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Springfield Hall Park.

³ <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grant/grass-pitch-maintenance-fund>

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In the PPOSS, most pitches at these sites have been assessed as poor or standard quality. Whilst most of these will therefore still require improvement, given that the LFFP is a live document, there will be a need to update this list based on the findings of this study. As such, the validity of the sites and the effect of improving them will be tested as a scenario within the subsequent Strategy document.

Over marked pitches

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

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, but it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time. Table 2.9 highlights all sites containing over marked pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Table 2.9: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
15	Broomfield Football Club	Youth 11v11 pitch overmarked with youth 9v9 pitch
18	Chancellor Park	Adult pitch is overmarked with a mini 7v7 pitch

Despite the over markings, the pitches above are maintained relatively well by the Club for at Broomfield Football Club and by the Council at Chancellor Park. However, capacity issues are evident at both sites, due to the concentrated use of the pitches.

Ancillary facilities

In correlation with the process for pitch assessments, the quality of ancillary facilities servicing football sites across the Chelmsford administrative area has been assessed on the basis of identifying good, standard and poor quality provision. Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking and boundary fencing (see Appendix 2 for the assessment criteria).

With specific reference to clubhouses and changing facilities, the sites listed in Table 2.10 are considered to have poor quality provision.

Table 2.10: List of sites providing poor quality ancillary provision

Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality	Clubs and number of teams accessing
6	Beaulieu Park	Poor	Chelmsford City Women and Girl's FC (five teams)
28	Clarks Field	Poor	Galleywood Youth FC (two teams)
61	Lodge Road Playing Field	Poor	Priory Sports FC (two teams)
66	Melbourne Park	Poor	Anchor Athletic FC (one team) Beret FC (one team) Central Park FC (one team) Chelmsford City FC (12 teams)

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Site ID	Site name	Ancillary provision quality	Clubs and number of teams accessing
			Chelmsford City Women and Girl's FC (one team) City Supporters (one team) Countrywide Walking Football (one team) Draco FC (one team) Dynamo Citra FC (one team) FFB FC (one team) Great Baddow FC (one team) Melbourne United (one team) Moulsham Athletic FC (one team) RCCG FC (one team) Reach Every Generation FC (one team) Uplands Rangers FC (five teams)
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Poor	Writtle University College (three teams) United Chelmsford Churches FC (one team)

These sites are serviced by dated facilities that require improving or replacing and have signs of wear and tear. Each requires a degree of modernisation to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the future.

The clubhouse at Melbourne Park is currently poor quality in part due to a fact that it is used by many football teams. Moulsham Athletic FC reports the facility is in poor condition due to the toilets and changing rooms being old and out-dated.

Similarly, Chelmsford City Women and Girl's FC report the ancillary facilities are in poor condition and not fit for purpose to service women and girls' football. It reports the changing rooms and toilets are in an extremely poor state and need an urgent refurbishment. The Club also notes the facilities at Beaulieu Park are poorly maintained with an inadequate number of toilets and these are not dedicated for women and girls' football.

Priory Sports FC reports the clubhouse at Lodge Road Playing Field is in poor condition, as the changing rooms are outdated and poorly maintained. The facilities include two official changing rooms with toilets and showers shared between the teams as well as a converted container and portacabin for away teams.

Galleywood Youth FC report the clubhouse at Clarks Field is too small and not sufficient to meet the Club's demand. The Club states it has an aspiration to upgrade the clubhouse into a multi-sport facility, as it is a shared site with Galleywood CC.

Wilvale Rangers FC report the clubhouse at Chancellor Park is serviced by numerous changing rooms but does not adhere to the Club's aspirations. As identified in the LFFP, the site would benefit from improvements to ancillary facility quality to support the high levels of usage being experienced - in particular, refurbishment to provide an improved clubroom, storage space and a kitchen to serve spectators.

Through consultation, the changing rooms at Writtle Sports & Social Club have been identified as non-compliant due to leagues identifying them as not sufficient for adult teams. However, Writtle Minor FC does not state an issue with the facility but does note the location of the clubhouse is not ideal and would prefer a cabin with toilets at the bottom of the field.

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The clubhouse at Writtle University College is reported by the University to be in poor condition due to the age of the building. It has been modified and improvement work has been carried out in recent years, but aspirations remain for a new clubhouse to be provided in order to establish good quality facilities. United Chelmsford Churches FC echo the above and report the changing facilities are too small if another match or if a rugby union team are both taking place at the same time, or very close to each other in terms of kick-off time.

Danbury & Bicknacre FC reports there are no ancillary facilities at Priory Fields. This can impact the level of demand received, with leagues often requiring changing rooms in order to participate, especially at adult level and for female football. The Club reports it is working with Danbury Parish Council to provide storage containers on site, with a longer term aspiration to have a permanent pavilion on site.

Great Leigh's Youth FC reports it only has access to one changing room and toilet at Great & Little Leighs Playing Field and is limiting its growth. Furthermore, the Club reports issues with vandalism over the past season with plastic goals damaged and cable ties cut from the nets.

South Woodham Ferrers United FC report it is unable to gain access to the ancillary facilities at Saltcoats Park as it is owned and in use by South Woodham Ferrers RUFC.

Uplands Rangers FC report it has a container full of equipment stored at Beaulieu Park School but is unable to gain access due to issues with the grass surface, as previously mentioned in the pitch quality section.

Good quality ancillary facilities have been identified at Broomfield Football Club and Springfield Hall Park, where the sites are serviced by well-maintained facilities.

The facilities at Broomfield Football Club include four changing rooms and two official changing rooms. The Club state the facility was built in 2017 and received funding from The Football Foundation and Sport England as part of the development.

Away from clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as being a particular issue at the following sites:

- ✦ Broomfield Football Club (Broomfield FC).
- ✦ Great & Little Leighs Playing Field (Great & Little Leighs Youth FC).
- ✦ Chancellor Park (Wilvale Rangers FC).
- ✦ Chelmer Park (Galleywood Youth FC).
- ✦ Priory Fields (Danbury & Bicknacre FC).
- ✦ Sandon Sports & Social Club (Baddow Spartak FC).

Danbury & Bicknacre FC and Great & Little Leighs Youth FC both report they must stagger its kick off times for matches on Saturdays and use the local pub's overflow car park due to the lack of spaces.

Wilvale Rangers FC report it has plans to reconfigure the car parking set up at Chancellor Park to accommodate more cars.

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Local Football Facility Plan

As with grass pitch improvements, the 2023 LFFP for the Chelmsford administrative area identifies sites considered as priority sites for clubhouse and changing facility improvements, although there may again be a need to amend and/or add to this list based on the findings of this study. It recommends that the following nine sites should be a priority for ancillary refurbishment/ replacement:

- ◀ Clarks Field.
- ◀ Chancellor Park.
- ◀ Lodge Road Playing Field.
- ◀ Melbourne Park.
- ◀ Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Runwell Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Warren Farm.
- ◀ Writtle Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Writtle College University Sports Ground.

Furthermore, should the proposed grass pitch site at Warren Farm progress a future 3G pitch project, suitability of ancillary facilities should be assessed to ensure they are sufficient to cater for increased footfall. A potential refurbishment project is therefore listed to enable consideration if deemed necessary.

National League System

The National League System (NLS) is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the Football League (from the National League at Step 1) and comprises of six steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the system than at the top. The NLS has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the steps, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs playing within the NLS must adhere to Stadium Accreditation⁴ requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements, and clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground grading requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Stadium Accreditation assesses grounds from Grade 1 to 7, which aligns with Step 1 clubs down to Step 6 clubs making the transition from regional feeder leagues. Please refer to the FA website⁵ for the full specifications for each.

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

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one club which plays within the football pyramid structure, with Chelmsford FC operating at Step 2, playing in the National League South. In addition, Old Chelmsfordians FC and Springfield FC both play in regional feeder leagues. This is summarised in Table 2.11.

⁴ <https://premierleaguestadiumfund.co.uk/stadium-accreditation-programme>

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

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Table 2.11: Summary of teams playing within the football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Chelmsford City FC	National League South	Step 2
Old Chelmsfordians FC	Essex Olympian Football League Premier Division	Regional feeder league
Springfield FC	Essex Olympian Football League Premier Division	Regional feeder league

It is important to note that the jump from a Regional Feeder League to Step 6 is significant and that as a minimum, sites require a sports-lit pitch with hardstanding areas for fans as well as turnstiles for entry. For clubs within the regional feeder leagues, promotion is not always achievable due to these facility constraints.

Linked to the above, currently at its current site (Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre) does not meet the above requirements in order to rise up the football pyramid system into the National League (Step 1). It would be required to increase its seating capacity to 4,000, which is currently not possible at its current site. This principal reason for the Club wanting to acquire/develop its own site.

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System (WNLS) similar to the adult men's which provides structure to the women's game. This ranges from Tier 1 to Tier 6 with each Tier requiring differing Stadium Accreditation requirements.

Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Tier 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Tier 3 and four of the men's National League System, although not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

There is currently one team in the Chelmsford administrative area which plays within the Women's National League System, as seen in Table 2.12.

Table 2.12: Summary of teams playing within the women's football pyramid structure

Team	League	Level
Chelmsford City Women's FC	Eastern Region Football League D1 South	Tier 6

2.3: Demand

A total of 468 teams from 89 affiliated football clubs are based in the Chelmsford administrative area and playing regular fixtures on grass pitches. Please note this does not include demand relating to walking football and futsal teams (which totals 490 teams). This is discussed in greater detail under additional demand.

Through the audit and assessment, 461 teams from within 82 clubs are identified as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area. This comprises of 105 adult men's, four adult women's, 177 youth boys', 43 youth girls' and 132 mini teams and is further summarised in Table 2.13.

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Table 2.13: Summary of number of competitive teams currently playing in Chelmsford

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
City Centre	27	37	14	14	13
Rural North	2	2	2	2	-
Rural South	25	21	12	9	7
Rural West	1	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	11	20	13	8	15
Urban Areas	43	58	41	37	27
Total	109	138	82	70	62

The Urban Areas Analysis Area has the highest number of teams with 206, whilst the Rural West Analysis Area has the fewest with just one team. There are more youth 11v11 teams (138) when compared to other formats of play, with mini 5v5 teams being the least represented (62 teams).

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Across the clubs playing matches within the Chelmsford administrative area, there are currently 62 more teams affiliated when compared to the 2016 study, based on data collected in the 2015/2016 season. This equates to a growth of 78 youth teams and 19 mini teams, although there has been a reduction in adult teams as shown in Table 2.14. Although this represents an overall growth in demand, a number of teams now actually play outside of the Authority exporting demand to neighbouring authorities.

Table 2.14: Demand comparison

PPOSS Year	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
2024 (current study)	109	138	82	70	62	461
2016 (previous study)	145	92	51	59	54	399
Change	-36	+46	+31	+11	+8	+62

As set out previously, the above generally aligns with changes to pitch numbers over the same time period, with the number of pitches increasing since 2016 (as shown in Table 2.3). For example, there has been a significant increase in youth 11v11 teams, which aligns with the youth 11v11 pitches also seeing the largest increase.

In correlation with the above, eight responding clubs report an increase in the number of their adult teams over the previous three seasons, whilst 11 also report a growth in mini demand and 10 clubs report a growth in youth demand.

In addition, the 2016 study predicted, through population growth projections to 2036, there would be an increase of 11 senior teams, 19 youth teams and six mini teams. Therefore, current demand well exceeds the projected growth.

Total demand has increased by 27% between 2018/19 and assuming that affiliated teams continue to increase at 27%, Table 2.15 below shows the total number of affiliated teams that will exist within the Chelmsford administrative area.

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Table 2.15: Summary of competitive teams if growth was increased by 27% over the next five years

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
City Centre	34	47	18	18	17
Rural North	6	3	3	3	-
Rural South	32	27	15	11	9
Rural West	1	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	14	25	17	10	19
Urban Areas	55	74	52	47	34
Total	142	176	105	89	79

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a likely growth of 130 teams, consisting of 33 adult, 38 youth 11v11, 23 youth 9v9, 19 mini 7v7 and 17 mini 5v5 teams.

Additional demand

In addition to the demand identified above, Anglia Ruskin University fields one senior men's and two futsal teams which compete in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) league structure. The senior men's teams train and play matches on the 3G pitch at Melbourne Park. Whilst the futsal teams train and play matches in the sports hall at Anglia Ruskin University (Mildmay Sports Centre).

Whilst Writtle University College (now merged with Anglia Ruskin University) fields two senior men's and one senior women's football teams who train and play matches on the grass pitches at Writtle University College Sports Ground.

Chelmsford City FC field six walking football teams and Countrywide Walking Football fields one senior men's team which all play on the 3G pitch at Melbourne Park. Whilst Nutoka FC fields one futsal team within the Authority and plays matches on the sand based AGP at Chelmer Park.

Women's and girls' demand

The FA's current four-year strategy, 'Time for Change' has a focus on providing all girls with equal access to football by 2024. This focus will be a key objective of any facility investment to ensure that facilities are suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

As indicated above, there are currently 47 dedicated female teams playing within the Chelmsford administrative area, representing 10% of the total number of teams which is considered to be a high level of demand. There are also additional female participants within mixed mini teams. It is anticipated the % share for female football will increase over the coming years due to the high rate of growth versus the men's game.

Linked to the above, The FA has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation as part of its Inspiring Positive Change Strategy. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities are suitable for female access and attractive to encourage participation, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing provision.

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In addition, Wildcat centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, providing opportunities for girls aged 5-11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment and Squad sessions for 12-16 year olds follow the same format. All organisations delivering Wildcat centres or Squad sessions receive a £900 grant over two years and equipment in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there are currently five Wildcats centres at Broomfield Football Club, Chelmer Park, Springfield Hall Park, South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre and Writtle Sports & Social Club as detailed further in Table 2.16.

Table 2.16: Summary of wildcat centres

Club	Venue	Date & Time
Broomfield FC	Broomfield Football Club	Saturday at 09:00
Galleywood Youth FC	Chelmer Park	Saturday at 10:30
Springfield FC	Springfield Hall Park	Saturday at 09:30
South Woodham Ferrers United FC	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	Saturday at 09:00
Writtle Minors FC	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Saturday at 09:00

Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the Chelmsford administrative area. despite being registered to the local authority. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met.

As discussed above, some clubs otherwise based in the Chelmsford administrative area export match play demand to outside of the Authority. Most state that this is due to a lack of capacity on existing pitches, although some also cite quality issues at sites formerly accessed. These clubs identify their preference as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area as this is where the majority of their players reside.

In total, seven teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the Authority into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of seven adult teams as shown in Table 2.17.

The level of exported demand is relatively low compared to the number of teams that play within the Authority. However, it should be noted that due to the Authority's reduced travel time to access provision in neighbouring authorities such as Basildon and Thurrock, to some extent this is to be expected and not seen as an issue to many clubs.

Table 2.17: Summary of exported match play demand into other local authorities

Club	Exported demand (teams)	Venue	Surface	Local authority
Bethel Christian Fellowship FC	1 x adult	Witham Sports Ground	Grass	Braintree
Essex County FA Representative Women	1 x adult	Aveley Football Club	3G	Thurrock
Essex Royal FC	1 x adult	Wickford Memorial Park	Grass	Basildon
South Cestos FC	1 x adult	Basildon Sport & Leisure	Grass	Basildon
Stock United	2 x adult	Seymour Field	Grass	Brentwood

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Club	Exported demand (teams)	Venue	Surface	Local authority
Wickford & Runwell United Reserves	1 x adult	Wickford Memorial Park	Grass	Basildon

In respect of imported demand, The Rodings FC, which is otherwise based in Uttlesford, export demand into the Authority. Two of its adult teams play at Roxwell Recreation Ground and on the 3G pitch at Melbourne Park.

In addition, Billericay Town Colts imports its youth 11v11 team into the Authority, which is based in Basildon, using the grass pitches at Nursery Playing Fields.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet/latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Of the clubs that responded to consultation, three report levels of latent demand and provide reasoning. This is summarised in Table 2.18 below.

Table 2.18: Summary of latent demand

Club	Comments
South Woodham Ferrers United	The Club reports it would like to grow its women and girls' section but is unable to due to the lack of pitches on site.
Wilvale Rangers FC	Could field additional teams across all its age groups if it had access to more pitches.
Uplands Rangers FC	Could field an adult's section if it had access to more pitches.

In addition to the above, three of the responding clubs indicate that they could field more teams if given access to more or better ancillary provision. These are:

- ✦ Great & Little Leighs Youth FC.
- ✦ South Woodham Ferrers United.
- ✦ Wilvale Rangers.

Given the relatively high level of future demand noted in the section below, it is considered that this latent demand will also be absorbed by participation increases and population growth. As such, the quantifiable figures should be merged rather than being considered separately (all clubs identifying latent demand also have future demand aspirations that captures potential growth).

Some latent and unmet demand is also reported as a consequence of a lack of training capacity. This is further explored within Part 3 of this report.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for football that could from housing development plans across the Authority.

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Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass football pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

It, however, does not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Authority, proposed in the Local Plan, and this will be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan.

For reference, total current population in the Chelmsford administrative area of 183,678 (2022 housing led data) is projected to increase to 218,366 by 2041. Table 2.19 below shows the number of new teams that are forecasted to generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will require.

Table 2.19: Authority wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated by the new population	Number of new teams generated by the new population - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ⁶
Adult Mens (18-45)	1:252	21.1	21	10.5
Adult Womens (18-45)	1:5,376	1.0	1	0.5
Youth Boys (12-17)	1:57	10.6	11	5.5
Youth Girls (12-17)	1:231	2.8	3	1.5
Youth Boys (10-11)	1:35	3.7	4	2
Youth Girls (10-11)	1:136	1.0	1	0.5
Mini Mixed (8-9)	1:64	6.9	7	3.5
Mini Mixed (6-7)	1:71	7.0	7	3.5

As seen, it is anticipated that there will be a likely growth of 55 additional teams, consisting of 22 adult, 14 youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, seven mini 7v7 and seven mini 5v5 teams. This represents significant growth.

When considered across the analysis areas, the growth is outlined in Table 2.20 below. The growth is projected across the City Centre, Rural South, South Woodham Ferrers and the Urban Areas analysis areas.

Table 2.20: Population growth by analysis area in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
City Centre	3	2	0.5	1	1	7.5
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	2	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.5
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	4
Urban Areas	4	3	1	2	1.5	11.5
Total	11	7	2.5	3.5	3.5	27.5

⁶ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that team generation rates do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific development work within certain areas or focused on certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. For example, the current focus on developing women's and girls' football nationally is likely to lead to there being more female teams in the future and, thus, further increased pitch demand.

Participation increases

Based upon consultation respondents, nine clubs report aspirations to increase their number of teams, equating to growth of 62 teams as shown in Table 2.21. Broken down as 16 adult teams, 21 youth 11v11 teams, 14 youth 9v9 teams, seven mini 7v7 teams and four mini 5v5 teams.

Table 2.21: Future demand aspirations reported by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Broomfield FC	Urban Areas	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Broomfield FC	Urban Areas	2 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	1
Broomfield FC	Urban Areas	2 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
Broomfield FC	Urban Areas	1 x Mini	Mini 7v7	0.5
Chelmsford Women and Girls FC	Urban Areas	1 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
Chelmsford Women and Girls FC	Urban Areas	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Danbury & Bicknacre FC	Rural South	1 x Mini	Mini 7v7	0.5
Danbury & Bicknacre FC	Rural South	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	1 x Men's	Adult	0.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	5 x Youth boys	Youth 11v11	2.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	5 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	2.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	2 x Youth boys	Youth 9v9	1
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	2 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	3 x Mini	Mini 7v7	1.5
FC Evolution	Urban Areas	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Galleywood FC	Urban Areas	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Galleywood FC	Urban Areas	2 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	1
Galleywood FC	Urban Areas	2 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
Great Leigh's Youth FC	Rural North	3 x Men's	Adult	1.5
South Woodham Ferrers United	South Woodham Ferrers	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
South Woodham Ferrers United	South Woodham Ferrers	1 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
South Woodham Ferrers United	South Woodham Ferrers	1 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	0.5
Springfield FC	City Centre	1 x Men's	Adult	0.5
Springfield FC	City Centre	2 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	1
Springfield FC	City Centre	2 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	1
Springfield FC	City Centre	1 x Mini	Mini 7v7	0.5

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Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Womens	Adult	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Youth boys	Youth 11v11	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Youth boys	Youth 9v9	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Mini	Mini 7v7	0.5
Wilvale Rangers	Urban Areas	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Writtle FC	Urban Areas	3 x Men's	Adult	1.5
Writtle FC	Urban Areas	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Uplands Rangers FC	Urban Areas	1 x Men's	Adult	0.5
Uplands Rangers FC	Urban Areas	1 x Women's	Adult	0.5
Uplands Rangers FC	Urban Areas	1 x Youth girls	Youth 11v11	0.5
Uplands Rangers FC	Urban Areas	1 x Youth girls	Youth 9v9	0.5

The total future demand reported by clubs amounts to 31 match equivalent sessions per week. This is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in Table 2.22 below.

Table 2.22: Summary of future demand expressed by clubs in match equivalent sessions

Analysis area	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
City Centre	0.5	1	1	0.5	-	3
Rural North	1.5	-	-	-	-	1.5
Rural South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	1
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	1.5
Urban Areas	5.5	9	5.5	2.5	1.5	24
Total	8	10.5	7	3.5	2	31

As noted above, the previous PPS study in 2016 suggested that there would be a potential growth of 36 teams by 2036, which has already been surpassed by a growth of 62 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion. As such, a scenario will be included in the Strategy & Action Plan document portraying the potential impact if these recent growth levels continue.

In addition, it must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational. However, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if club aspirations are also realised.

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To emphasise and reiterate, the Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario exploring the participation trends for football since the previous study was established as 62 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion and what impact this trend will have on demand if it continues locally.

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, the FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its current quality. This is set out in Table 2.23 below.

Table 2.23: FA match capacity guidance

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

Table 2.24 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

One team accessing one pitch is considered to use the pitch for 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is based on them playing home and away fixtures on an alternate basis (therefore only requiring access to their home pitch every two weeks).

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches, the current usage of such sites needs to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP (as this can result in less grass pitch use).

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In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking. As such, where not overplayed as a result of community use, many school sites are considered to have no spare capacity to accommodate further usage based on assumed curricular and extra-curricular activity.

For education sites which are available for community use, current play has been increased on a site-by-site basis following consultation with the providers. Generally, usage is increased by one match equivalent session per pitch; however, in some cases, further use is added when it is known that a particular provider uses a particular pitch heavily.

Informal use

A number of football pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area on open access sites, especially those managed by the Council. This often results in informal use in the form of, for example, unorganised sport (including football) and exercise groups. However, pitches are not formally marked out at these sites and as such use is not recorded and is difficult to quantify.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In the Chelmsford administrative area, peak time is considered to be Sunday AM for all pitch types.

In the table overleaf, please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity or overplayed or more spare capacity is identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because the majority of use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period, therefore the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increase overall capacity.

A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of play. Any pitch not meeting this criterion is therefore not considered to have additional capacity, although it may have capacity outside of peak time.

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

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The way actual spare capacity is represented in Table 2.24 is as follows:

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, this means that the pitch is unavailable at peak time. If it was available, actual spare capacity could exist.
0	If the cell has a 0 in it, this means that the pitch is played to capacity, either overall or during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity in the peak period; however, this is discounted. This is most commonly due to unsecure tenure and/or poor pitch quality.

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Table 2.24: Grass football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance ⁹	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	CM1 2PD	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	CM1 2PD	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
2	Andrews Park	City Centre	CM1 4BX	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	0	3	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
2	Andrews Park	City Centre	CM1 4BX	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	0	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity.
4	Baddow Hall Junior School	Urban Areas	CM2 7QZ	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches unavailable for community use.
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	CM1 6ED	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Good	4.5	6	1.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	CM1 6ED	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
7	Beaulieu Park School	Urban Areas	CM1 6DT	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	0	2	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
7	Beaulieu Park School	Urban Areas	CM1 6DT	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
7	Beaulieu Park School	Urban Areas	CM1 6DT	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
7	Beaulieu Park School	Urban Areas	CM1 6DT	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	CM1 7EY	Yes	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	5	Standard	5	10	5	5	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
10	Bell Playing Field (Rettendon)	Rural South	CM3 8DY	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	CM3 3JD	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
13	Boswells School	City Centre	CM1 6LY	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	2	6	4	3	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
13	Boswells School	City Centre	CM1 6LY	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	CM1 7BQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Good	4	6	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	CM1 7BQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth Youth	(11v11) 9v9	1	Good	6.5	4	2.5	0	Overplayed. This pitch is overmarked with a Youth 9v9.
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	CM1 7BQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity.
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	CM1 7BQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	3.5	6	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	CM1 7BQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Good	1.5	6	4.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
17	Broomfield Village Hall	Urban Areas	CM1 7AH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	CM2 6WS	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult Mini	- 7v7	1	Good	5	3	2	0	Overplayed. This pitch is overmarked with a mini 7v7.

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

⁸ Match equivalent sessions; based on pitch quality - the FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

⁹ Red indicates overplay, green indicates potential spare capacity and amber indicates at capacity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance ⁹	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	CM2 6WS	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	CM2 6WS	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	2.5	12	9.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	CM2 8RL	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	3	Good	9	9	0	0	Played to capacity.
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	CM2 8RL	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	3.5	8	4.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	CM2 8RL	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	5	12	7	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	CM2 8RL	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	3	Good	4	18	14	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	CM1 7ER	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	CM1 7ER	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
26	Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre	City Centre	CM1 2EH	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	1.5	3	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
28	Clarks Field	Urban Areas	CM2 8RW	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity.
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5GU	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Overplayed.
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5GU	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1	0.5	0	Overplayed.
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5GU	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5GU	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
34	Dawsons Field (Danbury)	Rural South	CM3 4NQ	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	2.5	2	0.5	0	Overplayed.
38	Essex Police College	City Centre	CM2 6BT	No	Private	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
41	Ford End Playing Field	Rural North	CM3 1LF	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
43	Good Easter Sports Field	Rural West	CM1 4RR	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	0	2	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	Rural North	CM3 1NH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	Rural North	CM1 1NH	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	2	1	1	0	Overplayed.
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	CM2 9RZ	No	School	Unsecure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	CM2 9RZ	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	CM2 9RZ	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	CM2 9RB	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance ⁹	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
48	Great Leighs Primary School	Rural North	CM3 1RP	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Poor	2	4	2	2	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
49	Great Waltham Recreation Ground	Rural North	CM3 1DF	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
52	Hannas Field	Rural South	CM3 8AE	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
55	Hylands School	Urban Areas	CM1 3ET	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Poor	2	8	6	4	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality.
57	Kings Road Primary School	City Centre	CM1 2BB	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3	2	1	0	Overplayed.
57	Kings Road Primary School	City Centre	CM1 2BB	Yes	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
60	Little Waltham Sports and Social Club	Rural North	CM3 3NY	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
61	Lodge Road Playing Field (Bicknacre)	Rural South	CM3 3HJ	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	0.5	4	3.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
62	Marconi Sports and Social Club	Urban Areas	CM2 8HL	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	3.5	2	1.5	0	Overplayed.
62	Marconi Sports and Social Club	Urban Areas	CM2 8HL	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Standard	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
62	Marconi Sports and Social Club	Urban Areas	CM2 8HL	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	CM4 0FP	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity.
64	Meadgate Primary School	Urban Areas	CM2 7NS	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
66	Melbourne Park	City Centre	CM1 2EH	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	9	Good	15.5	27	11.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	CM2 9ES	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	CM2 9ES	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	CM3 3HS	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Good	6	12	6	6	Pitches are not available for community use.
72	Newlands Spring Primary School	City Centre	CM1 4UU	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
73	Nursery Playing Fields	Rural South	CM11 1PU	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	1	2	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
73	Nursery Playing Fields	Rural South	CM11 1PU	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 2NS	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity.
78	Pleshey Village Hall & Playing Fields	Rural West	CM3 1HE	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
81	Priory Fields (Bicknacre)	Rural South	CM3 4ES	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	7	1	6	0	Overplayed.
83	Rettendon Primary School	Rural South	CM3 8DW	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Rural West	CM1 4NU	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance ⁹	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	3	Good	3.5	9	5.5	2	Actual spare capacity.
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Good	4	4	0	0	Played to capacity.
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	1.5	4	2.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	1	6	5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5WA	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	2	Poor	0	2	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5WA	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	2	2	0	0	Played to capacity.
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5WA	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
90	Sandon Sports Club	Rural South	CM2 7SQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	8	3	5	0	Overplayed.
90	Sandon Sports Club	Rural South	CM2 7SQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
90	Sandon Sports Club	Rural South	CM2 7SQ	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	3	4	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5PL	Yes	Trust	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	4.5	1	3.5	0	Overplayed.
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5PL	Yes	Trust	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	3.5	1	2.5	0	Overplayed.
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5PL	Yes	Trust	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Poor	3	1	2	0	Overplayed.
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	CM1 7QE	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	4	Poor	14.5	4	10.5	0	Overplayed.
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	CM1 7QE	Yes	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Poor	5.5	2	3.5	0	Overplayed.
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	CM1 7QE	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	3	Poor	6	6	0	0	Played to capacity.
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	CM1 7QE	Yes	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	4	Poor	6	8	2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
95	Springfield Primary School	Urban Areas	CM1 6XW	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	CM1 4BS	Yes	School	Secure	Adult	-	2	Standard	2	4	2	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	CM1 4BS	Yes	School	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	CM1 4BS	Yes	School	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	CM1 4BS	Yes	School	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Actual spare capacity.
98	St Pius X Catholic Primary School	City Centre	CM1 4HY	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Available for community use?	Management	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Current play ⁷	Carrying capacity ⁸	Capacity balance ⁹	Spare capacity in peak period	Comments
100	The Apps Field (Stock)	Rural South	CM4 9RY	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
102	The Hooe Playing Field (Bicknacre)	Rural South	CM3 4XW	Yes	Parish Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Poor	0	1	1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
103	The Sandon School	Rural South	CM2 7AQ	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Standard	3	6	3	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
103	The Sandon School	Rural South	CM2 7AQ	Yes-unused	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Poor	1	1	0	0	Played to capacity.
107	William De Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5JU	Yes	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	2	Poor	7.5	2	5.5	0	Overplayed.
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 3HW	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Adult	-	1	Good	2.5	3	0.5	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 3HW	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Good	5	12	7	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 3HW	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Good	7	8	1	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 3HW	Yes	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Good	4	12	8	0	Played to capacity at peak time.
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	CM1 3SS	Yes	University	Unsecure	Adult	-	3	Good	6.5	9	2.5	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	CM1 3SS	Yes	University	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Good	0	4	4	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	CM1 3SS	Yes	University	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Good	0	6	6	1	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
115	Waterhouse Lane Playing Field	City Centre	CM1 2RL	Yes	Council	Secure	Adult	-	1	Standard	0	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity.
116	Boreham Primary School	Urban Areas	CM3 3DX	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
117	Chancellor Park Primary School	Urban Areas	CM2 6PT	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
118	Danbury Park Community Primary School	Rural South	CM3 4AB	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
119	Larkrise Primary School	Urban Areas	CM2 9UB	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Standard	1	4	3	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
120	Maltese Road Primary School	City Centre	CM1 2PA	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
121	Perryfields Junior School	City Centre	CM1 7PP	No	School	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Poor	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
122	The Tyrells Primary School	Urban Areas	CM1 6JN	No	School	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Standard	1	2	1	1	Pitches are unavailable for community use.

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Actual spare capacity

Table 2.25 below identifies actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across the Chelmsford administrative area totalling 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 16 pitches at ten sites.

Overall, there is only a small amount peak time spare capacity available, with the majority of this on adult pitches. This generally reflects that demand for adult pitches has reduced since the 2016 study.

Table 2.25: Actual spare capacity site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	Youth (9v9)	1	1
2	Andrews Park	City Centre	Adult	1	1
2	Andrews Park	City Centre	Youth (11v11)	1	1
26	Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre	City Centre	Adult	1	1
28	Clarks Field	Urban Areas	Adult	1	1
61	Lodge Road Playing Field	Rural South	Adult	2	1.5
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	Adult	1	0.5
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Adult	2	1.5
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Adult	3	2
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	Mini (7v7)	1	1
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	Mini (5v5)	1	1
115	Waterhouse Lane Playing Field	City Centre	Adult	1	1
-	-	-	-	16	13.5

Actual spare capacity is broken down by analysis area and pitch type Table 2.26 below. As seen, most actual spare capacity is located on adult pitches and in the City Centre Analysis Area. The Rural South Analysis Area has 3.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, with this all existing on the adult pitches. The Rural North and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas and the mini pitches do not have any level of actual spare capacity identified.

Table 2.26: Actual spare capacity summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches
City Centre	3	1	1	1	1
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	3.5	-	-	-	-
Rural West	0.5	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	-	-
Urban Areas	2.5	-	-	-	-
Total	9.5	1	1	1	1

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Overlap

Overlap occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (based on its quality rating), which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of pitches. In the Chelmsford administrative area, 22 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 49 match equivalent sessions per week as seen in Table 2.27.

Table 2.27: Overplay site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (MES per week)
15	Broomfield Football Club	Urban Areas	Youth (11v11)	1	2.5
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	Adult	1	2
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	Adult	1	1
30	Compass Gardens Recreation Ground	South Woodham Ferrers	Youth (9v9)	1	0.5
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	Adult	1	0.5
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	Rural North	Youth (9v9)	1	1
57	Kings Road Primary School	City Centre	Youth (11v11)	1	1
62	Marconi Sports and Social Club	Urban Areas	Youth (11v11)	1	1.5
81	Priory Fields	Rural South	Youth (11v11)	1	6
90	Sandon Sports Club	Rural South	Adult	1	5
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	Adult	1	3.5
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	Youth (11v11)	1	2.5
93	South Woodham Playing Field	South Woodham Ferrers	Youth (9v9)	1	2
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	Adult	4	10.5
94	Springfield Hall Park	City Centre	Youth (9v9)	2	3.5
107	William De Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	Youth (11v11)	2	5.5
-	-	-	-	22	49

Overlap is broken down by analysis area and pitch type in Table 2.28. The highest level of overlap is identified on adult pitches (22.5 match equivalent sessions per week) and in the City Centre Analysis Area (15 match equivalent sessions per week).

Most pitches are overplayed due to the impact of being assessed as poor or standard quality. However, the exceptions to this are the adult pitches at Chancellor Park and Sandon Sports Club, the youth 11v11 pitch at Broomfield Football Club and the youth 9v9 pitch at Chancellor Park.

Furthermore, as identified above, most actual spare capacity is identified on adult as well as the most of overplayed pitches. This is due to a large number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.

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Further to the above, as mentioned earlier Runwell Playing Field is also utilised for match play by Sky Athletic FC for adult matches. However, pitches are not formally marked out at these sites and as such use is not recorded and is difficult to quantify as overplay.

Table 2.28: Overplay summary in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Adult pitches	Youth 11v11 pitches	Youth 9v9 pitches	Mini 7v7 pitches	Mini 5v5 pitches
City Centre	10.5	1	3.5	-	-
Rural North	-	-	1	-	-
Rural South	5.5	6	-	-	-
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	4.5	8	2.5	-	-
Urban Areas	2	4	0.5	-	-
Total	22.5	19	7.5	-	-

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

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

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, future demand is considered based on team generation rates which are driven by population increases. This is because any participation increases are considered to be more aspirational and/or theoretical, albeit that is not to say that increased growth is unlikely, particularly if recent trends continue (this will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document).

Adult pitch capacity

The Table 2.28 above shows that there is a current shortfall of adult pitch capacity amounting to 13 match equivalent sessions per week. The shortfalls are evident in the City Centre, Rural South and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas, whilst there is some spare pitch capacity in the Rural West and Urban Areas analysis areas.

When considering future demand from population growth, Table 2.29 below shows the overall shortfall increases to 24 match equivalent sessions per week. Spare capacity in the Urban Areas Analysis Area is eliminated and a shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent session per week is created, whilst shortfalls in the City Centre, Rural South and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas increase.

Table 2.29: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	3	10.5	7.5	3	10.5
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	3.5	5.5	2	2	4
Rural West	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
South Woodham Ferrers	-	4.5	4.5	1	5.5
Urban Areas	2.5	2	0.5	4	3.5
Total	9.5	22.5	13	11	24

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Youth 11v11 pitch capacity

There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 pitch capacity amounting to 18 match equivalent sessions per week. The shortfalls are evident in the Rural South, South Woodham Ferrers and Urban Areas analysis areas, with the City Centre and Rural North analysis areas played to capacity.

When factoring in future demand, Table 2.30 below shows the overall shortfall increases to 25 match equivalent sessions per week. A shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week is created in the City Centre Analysis Area, whilst the shortfalls in the Rural South, South Woodham Ferrers and Urban Areas analysis areas increase.

Table 2.30: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	1	1	-	2	2
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	-	6	6	1	7
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	-	8	8	1	9
Urban Areas	-	4	4	3	7
Total	1	19	18	7	25

Youth 9v9 pitch capacity

Overall, the current picture, as set out in Table 2.31, shows that there is a shortfall of youth 9v9 pitch capacity amounting to 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are evident in most analysis areas, with the exception of Rural South and Rural West which are played to capacity.

When factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to nine match equivalent sessions per week. A shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week is created in the Rural South Analysis Area, whilst the shortfalls in the City Centre, South Woodham Ferrers and Urban Areas analysis areas increase.

Table 2.31: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	1	3.5	2.5	0.5	3
Rural North	-	1	1	-	1
Rural South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	-	2.5	2.5	0.5	3
Urban Areas	-	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Total	1	7.5	6.5	2.5	9

Mini 7v7 pitch capacity

Mini 7v7 pitches across the Chelmsford administrative area are currently operating with actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session.

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Table 2.32 shows that when factoring in future demand, an overall shortfall is created three match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are created in three of the six analysis areas, the highest existing in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (two match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 2.32: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	1	-	1	1	0
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Urban Areas	-	-	-	2	2
Total	-	-	1	4	3

Mini 5v5 pitch capacity

Similar to mini 7v7 pitches, mini 5v5 pitches are currently operating with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity.

When factoring in future demand, Table 2.33 shows an overall shortfall is created to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Shortfalls are created in three of the six analysis areas, the highest existing in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (1.5 match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 2.33: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches in match sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	1	-	1	0.5	0.5
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	1	1
Urban Areas	-	-	-	1.5	1.5
Total	-	-	1	3.5	2.5

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2.6: Conclusion

Using the supply and demand tables above, Table 2.34 below summarises the overall supply and demand balance in the Chelmsford administrative area by pitch type.

Table 2.34: Summary of supply and demand in match sessions per week

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	9.5	22.5	13	11	24
Youth 11v11	1	19	18	7	25
Youth 9v9	1	7.5	6.5	2.5	9
Mini 7v7	-	-	1	4	3
Mini 5v5	-	-	1	3.5	2.5

It is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity, with mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches displaying actual spare capacity. When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on adult and youth 11v11 pitches whilst they are created on the mini pitches.

There is little overall peak time capacity on adult and youth pitches, and this coupled with overplay, results in adult football having the greatest shortfall but also given that demand has reduced for adult football it is important to note the use of adult pitches by youth 11v11 teams. To quantify this, 77 (out of 138) youth 11v11 teams play on adult pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area.

In addition to the above, it must also be recognised that some exported demand is identified, in addition to latent demand expressed by clubs. If the exported demand were to return to the Authority, this would worsen the picture for all pitch types, and create shortfalls in some instances, as would the latent demand if fully realised. The impact of this will be further explored in the subsequent Strategy document.

As noted previously, the Strategy will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if recent growth trends continue to exist as 62 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion have been established.

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Football – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity by site and pitch type across the Chelmsford administrative area totalling 13.5 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 16 pitches at ten sites.
- It is determined that there is currently a shortfall of adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch capacity, with the mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches displaying actual spare capacity.
- When factoring in future demand, shortfalls worsen on adult and youth 11v11 pitches whilst they are created on the mini pitches.

Football – supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 179 grass football pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area across 68 sites, with 151 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 48 sites.
- Future provision could be established as part of the Chelmsford Garden Communities and in South Woodham Ferrers.
- Most community available pitches across the Chelmsford administrative area are managed by the Council (48 pitches), followed by pitches at education sites (37), 35 pitches at sports club sites, 19 by parish councils and the remaining 12 managed by other entities.
- Of the pitches that are available for community use, 56 are assessed as good quality, 43 as standard quality and 52 as poor quality.
- Beaulieu Park, Clarks Field, Lodge Road Playing Field, Melbourne Park and Writtle University College Sports Ground are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- There is one club which plays within the football pyramid structure, with Chelmsford FC operating at Step 2, playing in the National League South. In addition, Old Chelmsfordians FC and Springfield FC both play in the Essex Olympian Football League; these have to adhere to ground grading requirements. Whilst one team (Chelmsford City Women's FC) compete in the women's national league structure at Tier 6.

Football – demand summary

- There are 468 affiliated teams from within 89 clubs based within the Chelmsford administrative area.
- Only 461 teams from within 82 clubs are identified as playing regular, competitive matches on pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area. This comprises of 105 adult men's, four adult women's, 177 youth boys', 43 youth girls' and 132 mini (mixed) teams.
- There has been a large increase in demand since 2016, with 62 additional teams now identified.
- Seven teams are identified as exporting demand outside of the Authority into neighbouring authorities, with this consisting of seven adult teams.
- A total of three clubs identify latent demand in that they express they could field more teams if they had more capacity and three report that they could field additional demand should ancillary provision improve.
- Future demand from population growth projects an increase of 55 teams, whilst a total of 15 clubs quantify growth aspirations, with this amounting to 62 teams.
- The Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario exploring the participation trends for football since the previous study was established as 55 teams in the 7-8 years that have passed since completion and what impact this trend will have on demand if it continues locally.
- It must be noted that some aims and initiatives are likely to result in participation increasing to a greater level than what is projected through population growth. For example, the FA has a current focus on growing women's and girls' demand that will likely see a greater number of female teams than what is currently predicted.

PART 3: THIRD GENERATION ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (3G PITCHES)

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, in addition to training demand, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality requirements.

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

Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the Rugby Football League (RFL) to meet its Performance Standard. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, meaning World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements, subject to passing an additional RFL performance standard test.

Many test contractors offer reduced rates through efficiency savings to carry out multiple performance tests in the same session, therefore providers seeking 3G pitch compliance for a number of sports would be recommended to consider this opportunity. Other sports that are known to use 3G pitches for training and match play include American football and lacrosse.

EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

3.2: Supply

The Sport England recommended dimensions for a 11v11 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g., the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s.

For rugby union, a 3G pitch must measure 100 x 70 metres for senior match play, with a 5-metre run off around the full perimeter. Smaller sized pitches can, however, be used to support training demand providing that they are installed to the correct specifications.

If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, for the relevant sports, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g., for football, a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch.

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Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPOSS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions for the sports that they will be established to cater for.

Based on the above specification, there are four 11v11 3G pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area across four sites. All the pitches are serviced by sports lighting and available for community use, as summarised in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Summary of 11v11 3G pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)	FA registered?
21	Chelmer Valley High School	CM1 7ER	Urban Areas	Yes	Yes	105 x 70	Yes
66	Melbourne Park	CM1 2EH	City Centre	Yes	Yes	100 x 64	Yes
68	Moulsham High School	CM2 9ES	City Centre	Yes	Yes	100 x 60	Yes
92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	CM3 5JU	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes	Yes	106 x 79	Yes

As shown in Table 3.2, of the pitches, two are located in the City Centre Analysis Area and one each in the Urban Areas and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas.

Table 3.2: Summary of the number of 11v11 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	11v11 3G pitches available for community use
City Centre	2
Rural North	-
Rural South	-
Rural West	-
South Woodham Ferrers	1
Urban Areas	1
Total	4

As well as the 11v11 pitches, there are also 13 smaller size 3G pitches, set out in Table 3.3, across eight sites in the Chelmsford administrative area. Seven of these have sports lighting and are available for community use. Whilst the pitch at Great & Little Leighs Playing Field are available for community use but not serviced by sports lighting, as summarised overleaf.

The pitches at HMP Chelmsford, Moulsham Junior School and Westlands Community Primary School are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting. Whilst the pitch at New Hall School is not available for community use but is serviced by sports lighting.

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Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches (smaller size)

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Size (metres)
6	Beaulieu Park	CM1 6ED	Urban Areas	Yes	Yes	35 x 33
18	Chancellor Park	CM2 6WS	Urban Areas	Yes	Yes	37 x 35
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	CM1 3HN	Rural North	Yes	No	Unknown
45	Great Baddow High School (covered)	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Yes	Yes	45 x 30
53	HMP Chelmsford	CM2 6LQ	City Centre	No	No	60 x 50
68	Moulsham High School	CM2 9ES	City Centre	Yes	Yes	50 x 50
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	No	Yes	50 x 50
103	The Sandon School	CM2 7AQ	Rural South	Yes	Yes	35 x 25
103	The Sandon School	CM2 7AQ	Rural South	Yes	Yes	35 x 25
106	Westlands Community Primary School	CM1 2SB	City Centre	No	No	61 x 45
106	Westlands Community Primary School	CM1 2SB	City Centre	No	No	62 x 42
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	CM1 3HP	Urban Areas	Yes	Yes	31 x 24
115	Moulsham Junior School	CM2 9DG	City Centre	No	No	50 x 50

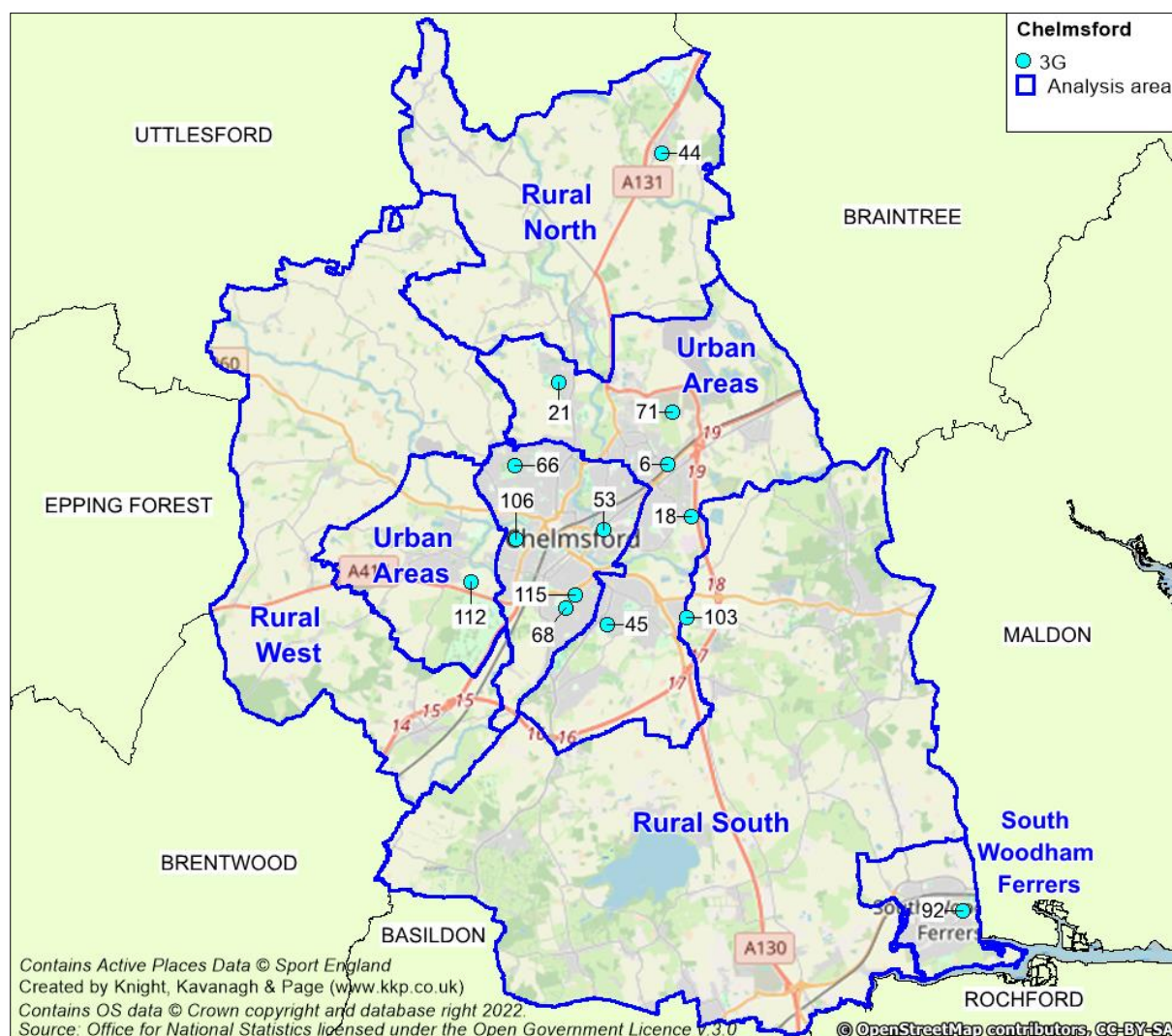
Whilst not large enough to accommodate adult match play, smaller size provision can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches, in addition to training demand, providing that they are on the FA Pitch Register, of an adequate size and with appropriate run-off areas. The FA's recommended pitch size for youth football varies from 91 x 55 metres to 73 x 46 metres depending on age, whilst it is 55 x 37 metres for mini 7v7 play and 37 x 27 metres for mini 5v5 play.

Notwithstanding the above, smaller size pitches are more commonly used to accommodate training and recreational activity. However, for training, they are not always conducive to demand, with many being too small for purposeful activity or too tight if pitch barriers are in place. This is the case at sites such as Beaulieu Park, The Sandon School and Writtle Sports & Social Club.

Figure 3.1 identifies the location of all 3G pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area



Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016, there has been increase of one 11v11 3G pitch and six smaller size 3G pitches. The 11v11 3G pitch increase is attributed due to the creation of one 11v11 3G pitch at Chelmer Valley High School. The smaller size pitches are located at Beaulieu Park, Chancellor Park, HMP Chelmsford, Moulsham High School, Moulsham Junior School and New Hall School.

Future provision

The Chelmsford LFFP (2023) identifies sites considered as priority sites for 3G pitch development, although there will likely be a need to amend and/or add to the LFFP list based on the findings of this study. In summary, the 2023 plan has the following outstanding recommendations for new 3G pitch development:

- ◆ Great Baddow High School - new 11v11 pitch.
- ◆ The Sandon School - new 11v11 pitch.
- ◆ Springfield Hall Park - new 11v11 pitch.
- ◆ Saltcoats Park/ Compass Gardens Recreation Ground - new 11v11 pitch.
- ◆ Warren Farm- potential new 11v11 pitch.
- ◆ Writtle University College Sports Ground - new 11v11 pitch.

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In addition, the LFFP also identifies a 11v11 pitch development across the Authority as a whole, with a site yet to be confirmed. Potential options include Chancellor Park or Chelmer Park.

Linked to the LFFP recommendations above, Writtle University College has an aspiration for the development of an 11v11 3G pitch at Writtle University College Sports Ground to accommodate local clubs such as Writtle Minors FC. Springfield FC and Writtle Minors Youth FC also both report aspirations for 11v11 3G pitches at their home sites, at Springfield Hall Park for the former and at Writtle Sports & Social Club for the latter.

As mentioned previously, Chelmsford City FC has a long standing aspiration to develop its own stadium. This includes an aspiration for its own 11v11 3G pitch, with potential sites yet to be determined.

Chelmsford RUFC is working with the Council to potentially provide a full size WR Reg 22 compliant pitch at Coronation Park in replacement of one of the senior grass rugby union pitches. It is thought this would be able to field all of the Club's training demand.

A planning application has recently been approved (24/00252/FUL) for the development of a 11v11 3G pitch at Great Baddow High School, with pre-construction planning conditions soon to be submitted. It is anticipated that work will commence on the pitch in 2025, but there is not a specific date, as of October 2024, for this work to start. A community use agreement is also in the process of being drawn up.

Planning permission was granted in 2023 for the creation of a smaller size 3G pitch at Runwell Sports & Social Club (23/01222/FUL). The pitch is now fully open to the community and is utilised by local teams including Runwell Sports FC for some mini training demand. The area where the pitch will be located has the potential and space to expand to a full size pitch in the future, if required. It is important it is kept up to date over the course of the PPOSS and into Stage E.

The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of 6,250 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools. As part of this, two Council run sports hubs are proposed together with a co-located sports facility at the school.

FA pitch register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. Table 3.4 shows a summary of pitches on the FA register within the Chelmsford administrative area.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch, with provision commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. The differences between the accreditations are that FIFA quality pitches are designed to accommodate substantial levels of regular usage, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are more for high level performance, with usage levels therefore more limited to protect the standard.

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For pitches used by affiliated grassroots football clubs (below regional feeder level) and clubs in the Women's Football Pyramid (Tier 3), the minimum requirement of testing is the FA Register Test. However, matches played at Step 1 to 6 of the Men's National League System must follow more stringent testing, with this including a minimum pitch size of 100 x 64 metres, a run-off area of between 1.83 metres (Step 2-6) and 2.25 metres (Step 1), a consistent playing surface shade of green and line markings must be in accordance with the Laws of Association Football. In addition, FA testing must take place annually rather than every three years.

As for 3G pitches used in the Women's Football Pyramid; at Tier 1, matches cannot be played on a 3G pitch, whilst existing 3G pitches at Tier 2 must be accredited to the FIFA Recommended Quality performance standard.

Generally, FIFA Quality pitches can be typically used for 60-85 hours per week, whereas FIFA Quality Pro pitches are able to accommodate 20-30 hours. To remain accredited, pitches must be re-assessed every three years to ensure that quality has not deteriorated beyond acceptable levels, although this is required annually for clubs using 3G pitches within the football pyramid (steps 1-6).

In the Chelmsford administrative area, the 11v11 3G pitches at Chelmer Valley High School, Melbourne Park, Moulsham High School and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre (Williams De Ferrers School) are all FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches.

The smaller size pitch at Great Baddow High School is also FA approved. It is large enough for mini 5v5 play. The accreditation is due to expire in 2025 and at this point, re-testing will be required to ensure that this remains the case. No other smaller size pitches are certified.

Table 3.4: Summary of pitches on the FA register within the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Size (metres)	Registered?	Certification expiry
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2025
45	Great Baddow High School (covered)	Urban Areas	1	37 x 27	Yes	31/05/2026
66	Melbourne Park	City Centre	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2027
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	1	100 x 65	Yes	31/05/2027
92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre (Williams De Ferrers School)	South Woodham Ferrers	1	100 x 64	Yes	31/05/2027

World Rugby compliant pitches

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

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

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In the Chelmsford administrative area, there are no World Rugby compliant pitches. The nearest are in nearby authorities such as Colchester at Colchester Sports Park. None of the rugby clubs within the Chelmsford administrative area currently access any artificial pitches for training activity.

However, the smaller size 3G pitch at New Hall School has been constructed to an appropriate grade and is used for training activity by the school. However, outside of curricular demand, no community use is offered.

Management

For the 11v11 provision, the pitches at Chelmer Valley High School and Moulsham High School are managed internally by the schools themselves. The pitches at Melbourne Park and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre are managed by the Council.

Of the smaller size provision, seven are managed by schools, two by the Council (Beaulieu Park and Chancellor Park), one by a sports club (Writtle Sports & Social Club) and the remaining one is privately managed by HMP Chelmsford.

Availability (opening hours)

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). Using this, the opening hours at each site with a 11v11 pitch is summarised in the table below, based on there being a potential of 18 hours of peak time availability during midweek and 16 hours at weekend.

Please note that Table 3.5 below only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically be open throughout the peak period but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

Table 3.5: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch opening hours

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Availability (opening hours)	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	Monday- Friday 18:00 to 22:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	14	16
66	Melbourne Park	City Centre	Monday- Friday 08:00 to 22:00 Saturday- Sunday 09:00 to 22:00	18	16
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	Monday- Friday 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	South Woodham Ferrers	Monday- Friday 18:00 to 21:00 Saturday-Sunday 09:00 to 21:00	14	16

As seen, each pitch has relatively extensive opening hours, with the pitches at Melbourne Park and Moulsham High School fully open throughout the peak periods.

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The availability of smaller size pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area is summarised in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Summary of smaller size 3G pitch opening hours

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Availability (opening hours)	Midweek opening hours in the peak period (hours)	Weekend opening hours in the peak period (hours)
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	Everyday until 22:00	18	16
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	Monday-Friday 08:00 to 22:00	18	0
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	Rural North	Everyday until 22:00	18	16
45	Great Baddow High School (covered)	Urban Areas	Monday-Friday 18:00 to 22:00 Saturday 09:00 to 14:00	14	5
53	HMP Chelmsford	City Centre	Unavailable for community use	0	0
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	Monday- Friday 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday- Sunday 09:00 to 20:00	18	16
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	Unavailable for community use	0	0
103	The Sandon School	Rural South	Monday-Friday 17:00 to 22:00	18	0
106	Westlands Community Primary School	City Centre	Unavailable for community use	0	0
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Every day until 21:00	18	16
115	Moulsham Junior School	City Centre	Unavailable for community use	0	0

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period. Table 3.7 and 3.8 set out summaries of the age of the surface of 3G pitches and their quality.

The pitches at Chelmer Valley High School and Melbourne Park are both assessed as good quality with the former being installed in 2022. However, the pitch at Melbourne Park, despite its age of almost 10 years, is well maintained and therefore remains as good quality. The remaining pitches have been assessed as standard quality. They are all within their recommended lifespans, although the carpets at Moulsham High School and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre are starting to show signs of wear and tear as they approach their lifespan.

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Table 3.7: Age and quality of 11v11 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
21	Chelmer Valley High School	1	2022	Good
66	Melbourne Park	1	2015	Good
68	Moulsham High School	1	2014	Standard
92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	1	2015	Standard

Moulsham High School reports it has plans to resurface the carpet on its 11v11 3G pitch to improve to good quality, with discussions ongoing with the County FA and Football Foundation.

Regarding the smaller size provision, Beaulieu Park and Great & Little Leighs Playing Field are both assessed as good quality, five as standard quality and the remaining six as poor quality.

Table 3.8: Age and quality of small size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
6	Beaulieu Park	1	2022	Good
18	Chancellor Park	1	2016	Standard
44	Great & Little Leighs Playing Field	1	2023	Good
45	Great Baddow High School (covered)	1	2015	Standard
53	HMP Chelmsford	1	2007	Poor
68	Moulsham High School	1	2014	Standard
71	New Hall School	1	2017	Standard
103	The Sandon School	2	2004	Poor
106	Westlands Community Primary School	2	2008	Poor
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	1	2008	Poor
115	Moulsham Junior School	1	2014	Standard

Ancillary facilities

As discussed in the football section of this report, the ancillary provision at Melbourne Park is identified as being in poor condition, due to being outdated and not fit for purpose. Therefore, some form of refurbishment may be required in the near future.

At the remaining 3G provision sites, no significant issues are identified with regard to ancillary facilities, although as many pitches are located at school sites, provision is generally not dedicated to the supply. Nevertheless, this is not considered to be a major issue given that most use is for training and recreational football, with users therefore tending to show up ready to play rather than relying on good access to changing rooms.

3.3: Demand

Despite extensive opening hours, 3G pitches in within the Chelmsford administrative area are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting). This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all three of the 11v11 3G pitches being FIFA/FA approved to host competitive matches.

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Any spare capacity that remains on the provision is often at times deemed unfavourable by clubs such as on midweek evenings between 17:00 and 18:00, which is difficult to arrange logistically, or on Mondays and Fridays, which are deemed too close to competitive fixtures. Also, any capacity remaining at the weekend is generally outside of peak time for match play such as on Sunday afternoons.

Currently, it is considered that most of the community-based activity on 3G pitches is football related, with no usage from other sports identified through consultation. Most of the capacity is being taken up by football clubs for training and match play purposes, although there is also a strong presence of recreational football activity taking place (e.g., via unaffiliated groups).

There are also small-sided commercial leagues operating on the 3G pitches. For example, Leisure Leagues operates at Chelmer Valley High School and Great Baddow High School on Monday and Wednesday evenings, whilst Soccer Sixes run leagues at Writtle Sports & Social Club on Sunday mornings. Powerplay utilises South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre on Monday evenings.

For the smaller size pitches, those at Chancellor Park, Great Baddow High School, Moulsham High School, The Sandon School and Writtle Sports & Social Club are identified as being used for formal football training activity. All remaining usage is via recreational and casual demand.

The pitch at Melbourne Park is fully booked and has no capacity to take on additional users, resulting in it regularly having to turn away demand. Chelmsford City FC and Chelmsford City Youth FC are the anchor clubs attached to the site, with most of the training and competitive demand taken up by them, particularly during the week.

Similarly, Chelmer Valley High School, Moulsham High School and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre both note issues with capacity, although the pitches do have some remaining availability on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for match play. However, weekday evening sessions are fully booked all year round, meaning that sports clubs and other user groups are again having to be turned down on a regular basis.

Demand is further detailed in Table 3.9 overleaf on a site-by-site basis, with current usage compared against peak time availability for each 11v11 pitch. For this, the hours of availability have been multiplied by four for midweek capacity based on most pitches being divided into quarters for training demand, with capacity then considered to exist if at least a quarter of a pitch is currently unused for at least a one-hour slot. Weekend availability is unaltered as full pitch hire is more likely to be required i.e., for adult and youth 11v11 match play.

Table 3.9: Summary of 11v11 3G pitch demand site-by-site

Site ID	Site name	Midweek peak period (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend peak period (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
21	Chelmer Valley High School	56	56	16	14	Used to capacity midweek but two slots remain on weekends.
66	Melbourne Park	72	72	16	16	Used to capacity both midweek and weekends.

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Site ID	Site name	Midweek peak period (hours)	Midweek usage (hours)	Weekend peak period (hours)	Weekend usage (hours)	Comments
68	Moulsham High School	72	72	16	11	Used to capacity midweek but five slots remain on weekends.
92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	56	56	16	9	Used to capacity midweek but seven slots remain on weekends.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet/latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams (or members) that could be accommodated if access to a sufficient number of playing pitch facilities (and ancillary provision) was available.

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many football clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at sports lit facilities, with 3G provision preferred by the FA and most clubs.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, seven clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents some unmet demand. Some of these are already training on 3G pitches but do not have capacity for all of their teams, or do not have access at preferred times. Others are not training on 3G pitches at all and are instead using sand-based or grass pitches either at their home grounds or elsewhere.

Across the seven clubs, 158 teams are represented, which is a significant number, with only one club (Writtle Minor Youth FC) not currently accessing any 3G provision for training. This amounts to 33 teams and it currently trains on its grass pitches at Writtle Sports & Social Club.

The clubs expressing this demand and sites presently used are summarised in Table 3.10.

Table 3.10: Current training facilities of clubs reporting unmet/latent demand

Club name	Site ID	Site used	Surface
Broomfield FC	22	Chelmer Valley High School	3G
Chelmsford City Women's and Girls FC	61	Melbourne Park	3G
Chelmsford Youth FC	61	Melbourne Park	3G
FC Evolution	22	Chelmer Valley High School	3G
Galleywood FC	68	Moulsham High School	3G
Sporting Woodham	92	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	3G
Writtle Minor Youth FC	112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Grass

In addition to the above, Moulsham Athletic FC reports it currently does not access any facilities for training demand due to a lack of availability within Moulsham, where the vast majority of its players are based. It uses the grass pitches at Melbourne Park for match play.

For rugby union, Chelmsford RUFC report that access to a 3G pitch specific for rugby union would help to alleviate grass pitch overuse. This is linked to aspirations to potentially develop

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a full size WR Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch at Coronation Park. No unmet demand for any other sports is identified.

Exported/imported demand

Exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority area of choice. This therefore includes demand from the Chelmsford administrative area that travels outside of the Authority to access provision (exported demand), as well as demand from nearby authorities that travel into the Authority (imported demand).

Danbury & Bicknacre FC and Great Leigh's Youth FC report they currently export some training demand outside of the Chelmsford administrative area primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Authority. The following sites are reportedly accessed:

- ◆ Maldon Plume Academy (in Maldon).
- ◆ Great Notley Discovery Centre (in Braintree).
- ◆ Tabor Academy (in Braintree).

No training demand on 3G pitches is identified as being imported into the Authority.

Future demand

As set out in Part 2 of this report, potential grow from population growth equates to 55 football teams. If this growth was realised, and if all additional teams wanted to train on 3G provision, it will increase the number of 3G pitches required. This is factored into the supply and demand analysis below. However, it should also be noted that the housing led projections do not account for the potential for future demand to be higher, which could be the case particularly if recent growth trends continue. Further increases will therefore be subject to scenarios in Strategy document.

It, also, will not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Authority, proposed in the Local Plan, and this will be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan report.

Further to this, future demand identified via club consultation (62 football teams) which is more aspirational will also be tested for additional need within the Strategy and Action Plan report.

In addition, although no rugby union demand currently accesses 3G pitches (with none, suitable for such activity), access to 3G pitches could provide a solution to the deficits identified in Part 5 of this report.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

Football training

To quantify demand, the FA has established a training model, which suggests that one 11v11 3G pitch can accommodate 38 affiliated teams (with capacity built in for other forms of demand). This is based on peak time access being Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Mondays and Fridays are discounted as it is considered that teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match, and it also allows for other forms of access such as for commercial leagues and recreational play).

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Its aim is that all teams will train at least once per week on a 3G pitch, although it is recognised that nationally some activity may need to be retained on sand-based artificial pitches; grass pitches and smaller sized 3G pitches to ensure their sustainability.

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development, with the pitches considered to be great assets on account of being able to support intensive use and use during inclement weather. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly being used for competition, which the FA wholly supports.

For the model, in addition to full size pitches being included, some smaller sized pitches can also be incorporated as nationally many are suitable for accommodating training demand, especially larger ones. To calculate their contribution, a pitch large enough to cater for youth matches (but not adult) is considered to be the equivalent of half a full size pitch (0.5 pitches), whilst a pitch that is large enough for mini matches (but not youth or adult) is the equivalent of quarter of a full size pitch (0.25 pitches). Any pitch smaller than this is discounted, as are any pitches that are unavailable for community use.

The smaller size pitch at Great Baddow High School (covered) has also been incorporated as it can and does accommodate football training demand. However, due to its size, it is only considered to contribute the equivalent of quarter of a 11v11 3G pitch (0.25 pitches). Factoring in the above, the current pitch equivalents amounts to 4.25 11v11 3G pitches.

Based on 468 teams currently from the Chelmsford administrative area (including exported demand), at least 12.25 11v11 3G pitches are required, meaning there is a potential need for eight additional full size 3G pitches to meet all current training demand as shown in table 3.11 below.

Table 3.11: Current demand for 3G pitches (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G requirement ¹⁰	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
468	12.25	4.25	8

When considering future demand for an additional 55 teams (based on population growth identified in Part 2 of this report), as show in Table 3.12, there is potential demand for 13.5 full size pitches overall, which means a theoretical future shortfall of 9.25 pitches.

Table 3.12: Future demand for 3G pitches (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Future number of teams	11v11 3G requirement ¹¹	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
523	13.5	4.25	9.25

Alternatively, Table 3.13 below considers the number of 3G pitches required on the assumption that every team is to train within the respective analysis area that they play matches in (although it is noted that some teams may play outside of their preferred area due to a lack of pitch availability). This not only identifies where the potential need may exist across the Chelmsford administrative area, but it can also be used to guide which areas should be targeted for new provision.

¹⁰ Rounded to the nearest 0.25

¹¹ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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Table 3.13: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Current demand	Current 3G requirement ¹²	Current number of 11v11 3G pitch equivalents	Current shortfall
City Centre	105	3	2	1
Rural North	8	-	-	-
Rural South	77	2	-	2
Rural West	2	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	70	2	1	1
Urban Areas	206	5	1.25	3.75
Total	468	12	4.25	7.75

Broken down this equates to a shortfall of 3.75 pitches in the Urban Areas Analysis Area, two in the Rural South Analysis Area and one each in the City Centre and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas.

It must be noted that the degree of future demand has the potential to be greater than that identified via population growth (to 2041), especially if participation rates continue to rise on a similar trajectory to what has occurred in the previous eight years. This will be explored in more detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.

When factoring in future demand by population growth to 2041 and by analysis area, as shown in Table 3.14, there is an increased need in the Urban Areas Analysis Area, with the shortfall increasing from 3.75 to 4.75 pitches. Whilst the shortfalls for the remaining analysis areas (City Centre, Rural South and South Woodham Ferrers) remain the same when accounting for future demand.

Table 3.14: Future demand for 3G pitches by analysis area for training demand

Analysis area	Future demand	Future 3G requirement ¹³	Current number of full size 3G pitch equivalents	Future shortfall
City Centre	119	3	2	1
Rural North	8	-	-	-
Rural South	87	2	-	2
Rural West	2	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	78	2	1	1
Urban Areas	229	6	1.25	4.75
Total	523	14	4.25	9.75

Overall, the future number of 3G pitches required within the sub area modelling is lower than the broader analysis of provision across the Chelmsford administrative area. This is due to how the figures are rounded. Despite this, it is known that clubs will travel to neighbouring analysis areas to access provision if required, especially if pitches are strategically located in close proximity, meaning that the wider analysis is a more accurate tool for determining overall need. The analysis area approach is, however, beneficial in determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the shortfalls.

¹² Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹³ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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It must also be noted that the deficits identified relate only to affiliated football training need. As there is expressed demand from other sports for use of 3G pitch provision, there may be a case for additional pitches over and above what is outlined within this section. Notwithstanding the above, it must also be noted that the modelling assumes that all teams will want and can afford to access 3G provision, which in reality may not be the case. The emphasises the need for pitches to be priced fairly to ensure community use can be attracted and maximised.

Of the recommended sites for 3G pitch developments identified in the LFFP, three are identified in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (Great Baddow High School, Warren Farm and Writtle University College Sports Ground) and one each in the City Centre, Rural South and South Woodham Ferrers Analysis Areas. This broadly aligns to where the PPOSS identifies demand, with most future demand existing in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (with 212 teams). The impact of delivering these 3G pitches will be further explored in the Strategy and Action Plan document.

The role of sand/water-based pitches

The above section assumes that all football teams should train on 3G pitches. However, in practice, there is a national need for a proportion of football training demand to be retained on hockey suitable AGPs in order to maintain the financial and commercial sustainability of such provision.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, this is especially the case on full size AGPs at Chelmer Park and Chelmsford County High School for Girls, where football demand is somewhat high. However, in contrast, the full size AGPs at the remaining hockey sites are extremely well used for hockey, and the transfer of supplementary football usage away from these sites to 3G pitches may aid capacity issues.

Table 3.15 below summarises the level of football and hockey use at each full size hockey suitable AGP against peak time availability. This can be used to identify which pitches rely more heavily on hockey activity and therefore could be more likely to become unsustainable without it.

Table 3.15: Summary of usage of full size hockey suitable pitches

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of football usage	Hockey club users
20	Chelmer Park	1	34	60%	40%	Chelmsford HC
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	1	21	10%	90%	Southend HC (imported)
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	1	34	100%	-	Chelmsford HC
71	New Hall School	2	0	-	-	-

The pitches at New Hall School are unavailable for community use due to the open access nature of the site and issues with safeguarding.

For further information, please see Part 7: Hockey.

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Football match play

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. One substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches (with another being the use of hybrid pitches), providing that the pitch is FA/FIFA approved, sports lit and available for community use during the peak period.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, all four 11v11 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches and 78 teams are registered as using the provision to accommodate competitive demand.

Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified in Part 2 of this report, the number of teams utilising 3G pitches could potentially increase moving forward as this will relieve grass pitches of use. As such, whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training (as they would not be sustainable without midweek usage), maximising the pitches that are in place should be fully supported.

The use of 3G pitches for matches also emphasises the importance of maintaining good quality pitches. Should pitches become poor quality, they will likely lose accreditation to accommodate fixtures. This will then result in all teams using the provision needing to transfer to grass pitches, adding to their usage, reducing their capacity and further diminishing their quality.

This will be further explored in the proceeding Strategy document via a range of scenarios for transferring play.

Rugby union

As mentioned previously, there are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area. However, there is evidence to warrant the potential creation of World Rugby compliant 3G provision given the grass rugby union pitch shortfalls evident in Part 5 of this report, both overall and at sites such as at Coronation Park. Rugby compliant provision could offer a means to eradicating the deficits. However, grass pitch improvements may also provide a solution, and this will be tested further in the Strategy and Action Plan report to follow.

Chelmsford RUFC is working with the Council to potentially provide a full size WR Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch at Coronation Park in replacement of one of the senior grass rugby union pitches. It is thought this would be able to field all of the Club's training demand.

The grass pitch rugby union shortfalls evidenced are predominately generated by training demand, amounting to a total of 14.5 match equivalent sessions per week, rather than there being an insufficient level of provision to accommodate match play. As such, the focus of any World Rugby compliant pitches should first and foremost be transferring training activity from match pitches.

Other sports

No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in the Chelmsford administrative area and therefore, at this moment in time, no further consideration is required.

3.5: Conclusion

There is a theoretical shortfall of 3G pitch provision in the Chelmsford administrative area to meet football training demand requirements, as evidenced through the levels of unmet demand identified and minimal amounts of spare capacity on the current supply of pitches. As there are no other means to completely alleviating these shortfalls, as can be the case with grass pitches (e.g., increasing capacity through improving quality), new provision is required. The FA training model and evidence gathered as part of this study should inform areas that should be prioritised before the exploration of potentially suitable sites.

The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will identify areas and sites that should be prioritised for provision moving forward, taking into account existing proposals but recognising that not all aspirations can be supported. A scenario will be run to analyse the impact of the recent 3G proposals identified in the LFFP.

For rugby union, the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G provision may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches as a result of high levels of training activity. Although this needs to be considered against grass pitch solutions to fully determine requirements. This will also be explored in the subsequent Strategy document. This could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if it is adjudged that the provision would receive enough usage and be sustainable without football demand.

3G – supply and demand summary

- ✦ There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision to meet requirements, as evidenced through the unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football.
- ✦ The FA training model suggest a current shortfall of 7.75 11v11 3G pitches, increasing to 9.75 when factoring in future demand (based on population growth).
- ✦ It must be noted that the degree of future demand has the potential to be greater than that identified via population growth (to 2041), especially if participation rates continue to rise on a similar trajectory to what has occurred in the previous eight years. This will be explored in more detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.
- ✦ Future demand ambitions expressed by nine clubs equates to the growth of 62 football teams. If this club ambition growth was to be achieved there would be a total of 530 teams playing within the Authority. This will be explored in more detail in the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document.
- ✦ For rugby union, the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G provision may provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches as a result of high levels of training activity. Willowbrook Sports & Social Club (Billericay RUFC) and at Coronation Park (Chelmsford RUFC) experience the highest level of training demand amounting to 5 match equivalent sessions for the former and 5.5 match equivalent sessions for the latter. There is currently 10.25 match equivalent sessions currently and 12.25 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population growth), the creation of World Rugby compliant provision would be warranted as a means to reducing the shortfalls.
- ✦ No demand for access to 3G provision has been identified from any other sports in the Chelmsford administrative area, suggesting that no other demand currently requires consideration.
- ✦ The situation above does not currently account for the potential for future demand to be higher than the team generation rates suggest if participation rates continue to rise as they done since the previous PPOSS.
- ✦ **3G – supply summary**
- ✦ In total, there are four 11v11 and 11 smaller size 3G pitches identified in the Chelmsford administrative area, all of which are available for community use.
- ✦ All four of the 11v11 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting.
- ✦ The Chelmsford LFFP has six outstanding projects for the creation of new 11v11 3G pitches, whilst aspirations also exist across several other sites.

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- Plans and/or aspirations exist regarding establishing provision at Moulsham High School and Writtle University College Sports Ground.
- All four of the 11v11 3G pitches are either FA or FIFA certified and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Of the smaller sized pitches, only Great Baddow High School is on the FA pitch register.
- No pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area are World Rugby compliant.
- For the 11v11 3G pitches, three are assessed as standard quality (Melbourne Park, Moulsham High School and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre) and the pitch at Chelmer Valley High School as good quality.
- Six of the 13 smaller size pitches have exceeded their recommended lifespans and have been assessed as poor quality.
- The ancillary provision at Melbourne Park is reported as being in poor condition, due to being outdated and not fit for purpose. Therefore, some form of refurbishment may be required in the near future.

3G – demand summary

- The 3G pitches currently servicing the Chelmsford administrative area are reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, especially during winter months.
- This applies not only to midweek capacity but also to weekend capacity on account of all four of the 11v11 3G pitches being FIFA/FA approved to host competitive matches.
- It is considered that all community activity is football related, with no other sporting usage identified outside of some internal rugby union demand at New Hall School.
- Demand is received from football clubs not only for training demand but also for match play, with 78 teams currently using 3G provision for this purpose.
- Small-sided commercial football leagues operate at several venues including Chelmer Valley High School, Great Baddow High School, South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre and Writtle Sports & Social Club.
- Unmet demand for 3G provision is expressed, with seven responding football clubs (158 teams) as well as Chelmsford RUFC identifying that their training requirements are not currently being met.
- Several football clubs also currently export some training demand outside of the Chelmsford administrative area, primarily due to a lack of capacity on the 3G pitches within the Authority.
- If future demand predictions are realised, this will further increase 3G requirements for both football and rugby union. There is a clear shortfall of 3G provision to meet requirements, as evidenced through the unmet demand identified, particularly in respect of football.

PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Essex Cricket Board is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including the Chelmsford administrative area. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs as well as other appropriate agencies. Working closely with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), it is responsible for the management and development of every form of recreational cricket for men, women and children within the area. It is also currently working with the ECB on delivering its Strategy, Inspiring Generations, which is currently in the process of being refreshed.

For senior cricket in the Chelmsford administrative area, there are three main offerings (Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket), whilst the youth league structure tends to be club-based matches which are generally played mid-week, although Sunday activity is also common. In addition, there is also a presence of recreational and unaffiliated cricket taking place. This results in there being demand for cricket across the Authority all-year round (rather than just during summer months).

County Facilities Strategy

Essex Cricket is currently working on an emerging County Facilities Strategy. Facility strategies are currently being produced by individual county cricket boards across the Country, unique to their geographic areas and based upon inputs from diverse representation. They are viewed as long-term plans and involve engagement with key stakeholders, including clubs, leagues, active partnerships, county pitch advisors and Sport England.

The key themes emerging from the Essex County Facilities Strategy (July 2023) are:

- ◆ Demand for Cricket in East London boroughs is very high and increasing.
- ◆ Pitches in East London are very heavily overplayed, and the quality of the pitches are unsatisfactory to players.
- ◆ Poor availability and access to high quality grounds for all pathway cricket in Essex.
- ◆ Clubs are reaching capacity and have limited growth opportunities on their existing sites.
- ◆ There is an urgent need to protect existing sites from being lost.
- ◆ There is a growing challenge of managing and producing high quality grass pitches for all levels of cricket.
- ◆ Quality of existing facility provision is mixed across Essex and the lack of quality doesn't meet the needs of users while also potentially hindering the growth of the game
- ◆ There is a lack of good quality indoor provision for training and matches for the recreational game.
- ◆ Huge opportunity from housing growth to develop the cricket facility stock across Essex
- ◆ Climate Change will have a significant impact on preparation of pitches and cricket across Essex.

Whilst the following recommendations have been drawn:

- ◆ Demand for Cricket in East London boroughs is very high and increasing.
- ◆ Provide more sustainable playing facilities in the London Borough.
- ◆ Increase capacity and quality of club facilities to service growth of the junior and Women & Girls markets.
- ◆ Secure access to more indoor provision to provide playing opportunities all year.
- ◆ Secure access to more sites for performance pathway.

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- ✦ Invest in the grounds management workforce.
- ✦ Protection of existing sites.
- ✦ Promote and increase the usage of NTPs.
- ✦ Develop a long-term plan to minimise the impact of climate change.
- ✦ Accountable Decision Making.

The County Facilities Strategy (CFS) is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment for cricket; it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. It cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for development proposals that need to be judged against the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy.

To inform the strategies, the ECB has set guidelines to ensure that the following facilities are considered in development:

- ✦ Traditional facilities (pitches, outfielders, pavilions, practice areas).
- ✦ Non-traditional facilities (multi-use games areas, tapeball/softball spaces, courts/cages).
- ✦ Indoor facilities (multi use halls, cricket specific halls, match play venues).

The strategies will be used to shape investment priorities, ensuring that decision-making processes are clearly explained before a list of priority projects is produced. To inform this process, each strategy will utilise findings from PPOSS-related work, where in place, as a 'high quality' evidence base.

Consultation

There are 22 affiliated cricket clubs identified as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, 21 responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 95% as detailed in Table 4.1.

Please note that Essex County Cricket Club has been discounted from Table 4.1 as it resembles one of the first class county clubs in England and Wales.

Table 4.1: List of affiliated clubs with analysis area

Club	Analysis area	Responded
Beaulieu Park CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Boreham & Roxwell CC	Rural West	Yes
Boreham Royals CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Broomfield CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Chelmsford CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Chelmsford Superkings CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Chignal CC	Rural West	Yes
Danbury CC	Rural South	Yes
East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	Rural South	Yes
Galleywood CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Great Baddow CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Little Baddow CC	Rural South	Yes
Great Waltham CC	Rural West	Yes
Oakland CC	Rural South	Yes
Old Chelmsfordians CC	Urban Areas	Yes
Rettendon CC	Rural South	No
South Woodham & Burnham CC	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes

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Club	Analysis area	Responded
Springfield CC	City Centre	Yes
St John's Billericay CC	Rural South	Yes
Stock CC	Rural South	Yes
Writtle CC	Urban Areas	Yes

The unresponsive club is Rettendon CC. However, Essex Cricket also supplied its own consultation findings with clubs and leagues from its emerging County Facilities Strategy to provide context for these as well as providing further detail regarding clubs that did respond.

Please note that St John's Billericay Cricket Club lies on the boundary between Chelmsford and Basildon. However, the supply and demand appertaining to the Club is included within this study, as per the previous study.

4.2: Supply

There are 31 grass wicket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area across 23 sites. All squares are available for community use other than the provision at New Hall School which services curricular demand only and Essex County Cricket Ground which is used by Essex County Cricket Club.

Of the community available squares, the Urban Areas Analysis Area accommodates 12 grass wicket squares, the Rural South Analysis Area provides six, the City Centre provides three and one square in the South Woodham Ferrers Analysis Area. There are no grass wicket squares in the Rural North Analysis Area. This is further summarised in the table below.

Table 4.2: Summary of grass wicket squares available for community use in the Chelmsford administrative area

Analysis area	No. of community available grass squares
City Centre	3
Rural North	-
Rural South	6
Rural West	4
South Woodham Ferrers	1
Urban Areas	12
Total	26

Changes from the previous study

The previous study identified a total of 35 grass cricket squares of which 31 were available for community use. Therefore, the total number of grass cricket squares has decreased by three. This is due to sites such as Little Waltham Cricket Club, Marconi Sports Club, Sandon Sports Club and Widford Lodge Preparatory School no longer maintaining grass wicket squares (this is further explored in the disused section).

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Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

NTPs, particularly at club sites, aid with training and practice and can help reduce overplay on grass wickets when used for matches. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play. Additionally, NTPs can be used for junior matches and to accommodate recreational activity, which is particularly important in Chelmsford due to the high presence of this.

In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 12 non-turf pitches (NTPs) across the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, three accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining nine are standalone wickets.

Of the 12 NTPs, four are considered unavailable for community use. All of these are standalone and are all located at educational sites. These are mostly concentrated in the Urban Areas Analysis Area, although the City Centre and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas do have provision as well.

The NTPs are summarised in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Summary of NTPs in the Chelmsford administrative area

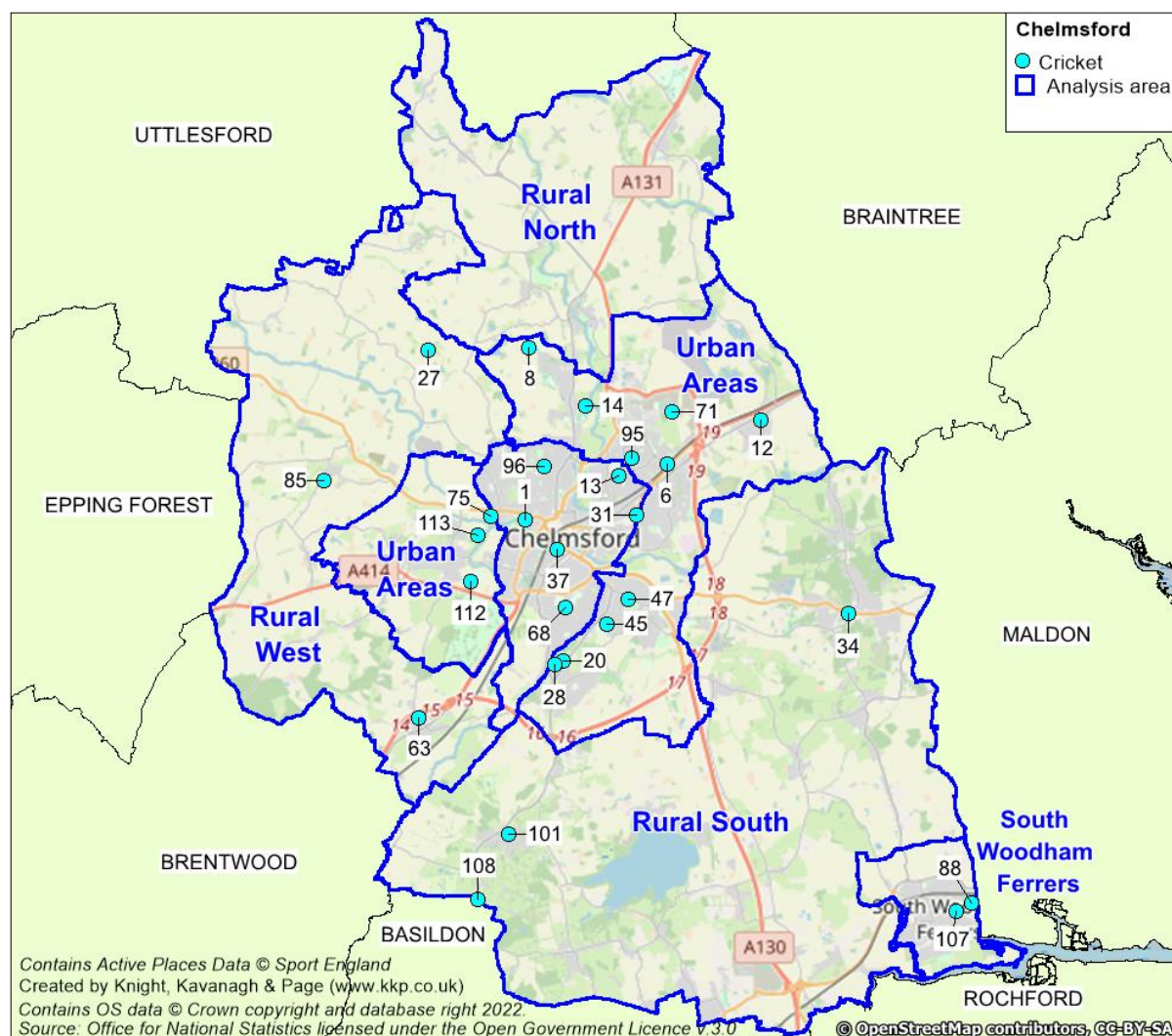
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of NTPs	Position
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Standalone
13	Boswells School	City Centre	Yes-unused	1	Standalone
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Square
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Square
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	1	Standalone
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	Yes-unused	1	Standalone
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	No	1	Standalone
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	Standalone
95	Springfield Primary School	Urban Areas	No	1	Standalone
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	Yes	1	Standalone
107	William de Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes-unused	1	Standalone
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Square

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

For the location of all grass wicket and NTP cricket provision, see Figure 4.1 below. For a key to the map, refer to Table 4.4.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket squares within the Chelmsford administrative area



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Table 4.4: Key to map of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Users?	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	Yes	1	Old Chelmsfordians CC Springfield CC	8	-
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Beaulieu Park CC	4	-
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Old Chelmsfordians CC	8	-
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Old Chelmsfordians CC	-	1
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Old Chelmsfordians CC	-	1
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Boreham Royals CC	8	-
13	Boswells School	City Centre	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Broomfield CC	8	-
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Chelmsford CC	14	1
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Chelmsford CC	14	-
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Chelmsford CC	12	1
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Rural West	Yes	1	Chignal CC	8	-
28	Clarks Field	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Galleywood CC	9	-
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	1	Springfield CC	8	-
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	1	Springfield CC	8	1
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	Yes	1	Danbury CC Oaklands CC	9	-
37	Essex County Cricket Ground	City Centre	No	1	-	14	-
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	Yes-unused	1	-	-	1
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Great Baddow CC	12	-
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	Yes	1	Galleywood CC	8	-
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	No	1	-	-	1
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	8	1
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	4	-
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	6	-

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Users?	No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	6	-
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	-	-
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Old Chelmsfordians CC	8	-
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Rural West	Yes	1	Boreham & Roxwell CC	10	-
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes	1	South Woodham & Burnham CC	7	-
95	Springfield Primary School	Urban Areas	No	1	-	-	1
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	Yes	1	-	-	1
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Rural South	Yes	1	Stock CC	9	1
107	William de Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes-unused	1	-	-	-
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Yes	1	St John's Billericay CC	9	-
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Writtle CC	10	1
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	1	Chelmsford Superkings CC	8	-
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Rural West	Yes	1	Great Waltham CC	8	-
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	Rural South	Yes	1	Little Baddow CC	12	-
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rural South	Yes	1	Rettendon CC	8	-
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	Rural South	Yes	1	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	10	-

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Disused provision

Playing fields which have previously accommodated formal pitch provision are categorised as disused. A disused site is a playing field which is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Comparably an unused site is land that continues to be accessible as open space but no longer has pitches marked.

There are four disused cricket squares identified across the Chelmsford administrative area with these located at Little Waltham Cricket Club, Marconi Sports and Social Club, Sandon Sports Club and Widford Lodge Preparatory School.

Little Waltham Cricket Club previously accommodated an eight wicket grass square; however, upon non-technical assessments, the provision seems not to have been actively maintained or used for an extended period of time. In addition, Little Waltham CC has since folded. This is further explored in the demand section.

Marconi Sports and Social Club previously accommodated a grass wicket square with eight wickets that was last active circa 2017. However, the square is no longer maintained but the site is still used for football.

Sandon Sports Club previously provided an eight grass wicket square but is no longer maintained, although the site is still utilised for football.

Widford Lodge Preparatory School previously accommodated a grass square with eight wickets circa 2018, however, the playing field is still used for other sports by the School.

Current demand indicates that there are deficiencies in provision in terms of the carrying capacity of pitches to meet such demand and demand for pitches at peak times outstripping current supply. Replacement or local off-site pitch and facilities improvements are required to offset the loss, whilst also providing for increased demand as a result of the development.

Future provision

New pitches are being proposed at a new community recreation ground in Beaulieu, located to the East of New Hall School. This is to be created by the City Council relating to a new housing development in Beaulieu, which will provide up to 3,600 homes. The site is set to provide one grass wicket square with an accompanying pavilion and ample car parking. In the Strategy & Action Plan, the new housing development will be run as a scenario to understand what pitches will be needed based on demand from the new population.

The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of 6,250 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools. As part of this, two Council run sports hubs are proposed together with a co-located sports facility at the proposed secondary school. The NECGC is expected to provide two nine wicket grass cricket squares, one provided in each of the two sports hubs (Great Belstead and Duke's Wood). The Strategy & Action Plan will include a scenario to understand what pitches will be needed based on demand from the new population.

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A residential housing development is being developed in South Woodham Ferrers and has planning permission subject to the S106 agreement (planning application references: 21/01961/OUT and 22/00311/OUT). As part of this, South Woodham Ferrers RUFC will be relocated to a new ground. It is anticipated that the relocation of South Woodham Ferrers RUFC could free up space at Saltcoats Park for an additional cricket square. It is not proposed that a cricket square is to be provided in the residential development.

A residential housing scheme is being developed at Warren Farm (planning application reference: 21/01545/OUT) and is also expected to provide future grass pitch provision. This includes a new sports ground that could indicatively accommodate a grass wicket square in addition to a pavilion. In the Strategy & Action Plan, the new housing development will be run as a scenario to understand what pitches will be needed based on demand from the new population.

Management and security of tenure

Most clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area have security of tenure at their primary venue, mainly via long-term arrangements. Table 4.5 below identifies tenure arrangements for all the affiliated clubs.

Where provision is rented from a parish council the tenure agreement is considered secure as it is expected to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Table 4.5: Summary of security of tenure for the Chelmsford administrative area cricket clubs

Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
6	Beaulieu Park	Beaulieu Park CC	Leased from the Council	Secure
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Boreham Royals CC	Leased from the Council on a rolling yearly agreement	Secure
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Broomfield CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
20	Chelmer Park	Chelmsford CC	Rented from the Council	Secure
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Chignal CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
28	Clarks Field	Galleywood CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	Springfield CC	Leases from the Council	Secure
34	Dawsons Field	Danbury CC	Rented from Danbury Parish Council	Secure
34	Dawsons Field	Oaklands CC	Rented from Danbury Parish Council	Secure
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Great Baddow CC	Leases from the Council (20 years remaining)	Secure
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club	Old Chelmsfordians CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Boreham & Roxwell CC	Rented from Roxwell Parish Council	Secure
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham & Burnham CC	Rented from the Council	Secure
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Stock CC	Leased from Ingatestone Hall; one year rolling agreement	Unsecure

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Site ID	Site	Club	Arrangement	Tenure
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	St John's Billericay CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Writtle CC	25-year lease agreement via the wider club	Secure
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Chelmsford Superkings CC	Rented (Writtle University College)	Secure
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Great Waltham CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	Little Baddow CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rettendon CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	Club owns the freehold	Secure

All clubs that have security of tenure on the sites they use is through a long term lease agreement in place or have arrangements with the Council, where future access is deemed to be secure. It should, however, be noted that the agreements for some clubs are relatively close to expiry. This can be problematic particularly if clubs are looking to develop their sites or apply for external funding. Many funding bodies require lease agreements of over 25 years in order for applicants to be successful.

As discussed previously, security of tenure is not often in place at education sites. However, Writtle University College is the exception to this, where a binding community use agreement is in place with the sports clubs which use its facilities at the sites. Therefore, tenure is considered to be secure.

In addition, seven clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area also access secondary venues due to their size and a lack of capacity on their main square/s. These venues are most commonly through short-term rental agreements where tenure is inevitably less secure. That being said, no clubs report an issue with this as they do not always want to be tied into longer term arrangements when their requirements may not always necessitate access to these sites.

Table 4.6 identifies clubs that use secondary venues and the sites accessed. Some use several secondary venues. As an example, Old Chelmsfordians CC accesses up to two additional sites.

Table 4.6: Summary of secondary venues

Club	Site/s accessed
Galleywood CC	Margaretting Village Playing Field
East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	Hannakins Community Centre (Basildon)
Great Baddow CC	Kelvedon & Ferring CC (Colchester)
Great Waltham CC	Chignal Cricket Club
Old Chelmsfordians CC	Admirals Park Bedford Playing Fields
South Woodham & Burnham CC	Millfield Sports Club (in Maldon)
Springfield CC	Admirals Park

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Some of the above sites are outside the Chelmsford administrative area. See exported demand section for further information.

Pitch quality

Cricket pitch quality has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the ECB) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor. For the full assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2.

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

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

The audit of community available grass wicket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area found 12 (46%) to be good quality, 13 (50%) to be standard quality and one (4%) assessed as poor quality as summarised in tables 4.7 and 4.8 below.

Table 4.7: Summary of quality of grass wicket squares

Good	Standard	Poor
12	13	1

This is summarised site-by-site in the following table.

Table 4.8: Quality ratings community available grass wickets (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	1	Standard
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	1	Standard
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	1	Standard
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	1	Poor
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Rural West	1	Standard
28	Clarks Field (Galleywood CC)	Urban Areas	1	Good
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	1	Good
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	1	Good
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	1	Standard
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	1	Standard
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	1	Standard
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	1	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Rural West	1	Standard
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	1	Standard
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Rural South	1	Standard
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	1	Standard
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	1	Good
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	1	Good
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Rural West	1	Good
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	Rural South	1	Good
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rural South	1	Standard
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	Rural South	1	Standard

As illustrated above, the only poor quality square is located at Boreham Recreation Ground. Boreham Royals CC report the square and outfield is in poor condition due to football use on the site as well as unauthorised access. The square could soon be considered unsafe for purposeful cricket demand due to the unevenness of the provision caused the other types of use and a lack of repair.

Notwithstanding the above, the square at Boreham Recreation Ground has now had significant post season work undertaken, which was funded by Essex Cricket. However, at the time of the non-technical assessments being undertaken it has remained as poor quality.

Danbury CC reports the square at Dawsons Field has decreased in quality since the previous season due to the capability of the contractor and the maintenance decreasing in quality.

Similarly, South Woodham & Burnham CC report the square at Saltcoats Park has diminished in quality due to the square preparation team have been allocated less time to prepare the square and outfield than in previous years, which has resulted in poorer quality provision.

Chelmsford CC report the squares at Chelmer Park have increased in quality due to the Club investing its maintenance regime such as carrying out deep spiking in the off season, more frequent rolling and a sprinkler system installed on all three pitches. In addition, through the non-technical site assessments, it was found the NTP accompanying the 12 grass wicket square is unusable and rated as poor quality. Although, the Council report it is in the process of replacing the NTP to improve its quality.

Similarly, Writtle CC reports its square has increased in quality significantly over recent years due to it investing heavily on the square and outfield (Writtle Sports and Social Club). This includes frequently aerating the pitches.

East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC report its square was re-laid in 2022 which significantly improved its quality.

The square at Beaulieu Park is assessed as standard quality, however, Beaulieu Park CC report the square is subject to wider public use and states this impacts on quality. In addition, it would ideally like to install a sight screen to protect the grass wicket square.

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The square at Great Baddow Recreation Ground has improved in quality since the previous season due to the ground now being managed and maintained by Great Baddow CC under advice from the pitch advisor at Essex Cricket. Similarly, through consultation, the Club state it has improved due to good ground care and maintenance.

Despite the square at Great Waltham Cricket Club being assessed as good quality, it reports recently the square has declined in quality due to the continued rain over the season the wicket is often covered and therefore is drier with less pace and bounce.

Please note Pitch Power Assessments are now in place across the Country. In due course, the assessments will be able to replace/update the non-technical assessments, as and when they come on board over the next few years as part of the Stage E process. Please see Pitch Power Assessments section below for further information.

Performance Quality Standards

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment as set out in Table 4.9. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets standards, which are benchmarked by the Ground Maintenance Association (GMA).

Table 4.9: Performance Quality Standard ratings

Quality rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

PitchPower assessments

As mentioned in Part 2: Football, The Premier League, The FA and the Football Foundation are increasing efforts to improve the quality of grass pitches in England with the launch of the PitchPower app. Launched in 2020 for football and re-launched in 2022 with functionality for cricket, rugby league and rugby union pitches, the app is a new digital self-assessment tool to allow reports and recommendations to be made more quickly and easily once submitted for review by GMA regional pitch advisors.

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

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The functionality of the app for cricket was trialled in 2023 and it set to become more commonly used in 2024. It is also unknown how the PitchPower assessments will be implemented into the PPOSS process moving forward, however, it is likely they will supersede non-technical assessments as they are more comprehensive and can provide detailed strategic recommendations on how facilities can be improved.

As a result, quality scores for cricket and recommendations within the PPOSS Strategy & Action Plan should be reviewed and updated as part of the Stage E process to reflect new technical assessments evidence and information when available.

Non-turf wickets

NTP provision is generally of a good or standard quality rating, with very few issues reported. However, as mentioned above, the NTP at Chelmer Park is of poor quality due to it being unusable due to a lack of maintenance.

Changes from the previous study

In the previous PPS (2016), there were five (19%) good quality, 19 (70%) standard quality and three (11%) poor quality grass wicket squares. The number of good quality squares has increased significantly from five to 12. The number of standard quality squares has decreased, but only due to the increase in good quality squares. However, as previously mentioned, there has also been a decrease in a number of squares available including at Little Waltham Cricket Club, Marconi Sports and Social Club and Sandon Sports Club. The former was previously assessed as good quality and the remaining two sites as standard.

Ball strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly where there is a development which may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the affected or at risk clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

Ancillary facilities

The extent of ancillary facilities required differs between times of play. For example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas this is often not required for junior and short format senior matches, where the need is more for access to suitable changing and/or toilet facilities.

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities across the Authority is varied, with clubs playing at privately managed or sports club sites generally better served than those playing at community managed provision.

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type and quality of amenities which are available on a site, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated umpire, spectator facilities and boundary fencing. Provision of high quality ancillary facilities is a key aspect of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, to meet the expectations of the core participation base as well as key growth markets such as women and girls, South Asian and BAME communities and All Stars and Dynamos cricket (detailed later in the section).

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All community available grass wicket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area are serviced by pavilions although quality varies. The provision servicing nine (35%) squares is assessed as standard quality and nine (35%) as good quality whilst the remaining eight (31%) are rated as having poor quality provision. This is summarised site-by-site in Table 4.10 below.

Table 4.10: Quality ratings for ancillary facilities servicing community available squares

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Ancillary facility quality
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	1	Standard
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	1	Poor
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	1	Poor
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	1	Poor
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Good
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Rural West	1	Standard
28	Clarks Field (Galleywood CC)	Urban Areas	1	Standard
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	1	Good
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	1	Good
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	1	Good
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	1	Poor
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	1	Poor
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	1	Standard
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Rural West	1	Poor
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	1	Standard
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Rural South	1	Standard
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	1	Standard
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	1	Poor
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	1	Poor
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Rural West	1	Good
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	Rural South	1	Good
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rural South	1	Standard
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	Rural South	1	Standard

The facilities at Beaulieu Park, Bedford Playing Fields, Boreham Recreation Ground, Clarks Field, Margaretting Village Playing Field, Writtle Sports and Social Club and Writtle University College Sports Ground are assessed as poor quality. At the education sites, the provision is assessed as such due to them not being fit for purpose for cricket activity.

Beaulieu Park CC report the facilities at Beaulieu Park are poorly maintained and do not have an adequate number of toilets.

Boreham Royals CC state the ancillary provision at Boreham Recreation Ground is in poor condition due to being outdated and the clubhouse is in need of a refurbishment.

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Galleywood CC state the clubhouse at Clark's Field is too small and not sufficient to meet its growing demand, particular in the women's and girl's sections. Along the football, Galleywood CC has an aspiration to convert the clubhouse into a multi-sport facility.

St John's Billericay CC has standard quality ancillary provision. The clubhouse includes four changing rooms and accompanying toilets. It also provides a bar area and kitchen and sizeable social area.

Through consultation, Great Baddow CC report it does not have access to a clubhouse at Great Baddow Recreation Ground, although it does have access to two changing rooms and toilets. However, these are in poor condition and are outdated and need refurbishing.

Old Chelmsfordians CC report its clubhouse is in good condition and well maintained but its toilets are in poor condition and the Club has plans to refurbish these. It is in the process of sourcing funding to undertake this work.

Similarly, East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC report its pavilion is well maintained by the club with an ample number of changing rooms and toilets which satisfy its current demand. The Council report that work has been undertaken to the pavilion at Admirals Park with attempting to replicate the same quality displayed at Chelmer Park. This could see the ancillary provision improved to good quality in the near future.

The clubhouse at Writtle University College is reported by the University to be in poor condition due to the age of the building. It has been modified and improvement work has been carried out in recent years, but aspirations remain for a new clubhouse to be provided in order to establish good quality facilities. Chelmsford Superkings CC echo the above and report the changing facilities are too small to accommodate all demand.

The ancillary facilities servicing Writtle CC at Writtle Sports & Social Club include three changing rooms with accompanying toilets. However, the Club reports they are dated and in need of refurbishment.

South Woodham & Burnham CC report it does have access to a pavilion at Saltcoats Park, however, this is through a separate financial arrangement with South Woodham Ferrers RUFC at an additional cost to the cricket club. In addition, the Club states the clubhouse is situated some distance from the cricket square.

The facilities at Coronation Park are assessed as standard quality, although if Springfield CC continues to grow its demand it would not be sufficient to meet all the demand. Through consultation, the Club also reports it has plans to modernise the clubhouse to better cater for its women's and girls' demand.

With numerous sites in need of additional changing rooms, it must be noted that currently, no sites provide dedicated female facilities. This could affect the growth of women's and girl's cricket moving forward if it is not addressed. Therefore, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. For example, no site currently provides dedicated female changing facilities, which will negate any future demand that may exist. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access.

Away from clubhouse provision, car parking is reported as being a particular issue at the following sites:

- ◆ Broomfield Cricket Club (Broomfield CC).
- ◆ Chelmer Park (Galleywood CC).

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Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Clubs access both indoor and outdoor provision before the season commences, whilst during the season, outdoor training provision supplies most of the use. In addition, given the high level of recreational demand taking place in the Chelmsford administrative area, outdoor practice nets can also help to accommodate such activity.

Table 4.11 below summarises the sites that currently contain fixed practice nets in the Chelmsford administrative area. In total, there are 11 sites supplying 26 bays.

Table 4.11: Summary of practice nets

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of nets/bays
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	Yes	2
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	2
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	3
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	3
68	Moulsham High School	Urban Areas	No	3
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	No	3
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	2
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes	3
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Yes	1
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	3
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rural South	Yes	1

Whilst 11 sites providing practice nets represents a relatively large supply, clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities as set out in Table 4.12. These are:

- ♦ Beaulieu Park CC.
- ♦ Boreham Royals CC.
- ♦ Chelmsford Superkings CC.
- ♦ Chignal CC.
- ♦ Danbury CC.
- ♦ Galleywood CC.
- ♦ Great Waltham CC.
- ♦ Old Chelmsfordians CC.
- ♦ St John's Billericay CC.
- ♦ Stock CC.
- ♦ Writtle CC.

Table 4.12: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
6	Beaulieu Park	Beaulieu Park CC	The Club reports that it requires practice nets.
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Boreham Royals CC	The Club reports it would like to install a practice net on site to move demand away from the grass wickets.

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Site ID	Site name	Club	Comments
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Chignal CC	The Club would like more practice nets as it is currently insufficient to meet its demand.
28	Clarks Field	Galleywood CC	The Club wishes to install practice nets.
34	Dawson's Field	Danbury CC	The Club wants more practice nets.
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club	Old Chelmsfordians CC	The Club aspire to have more practice net facilities on site and to install an NTP.
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Stock CC	The Club would like to install nets.
108	Willowbrook Sports and Social Club	St John's Billericay CC	The Club aspires for additional non-tur net facilities as they are currently over 20 years old and unusable for its senior players.
112	Writtle Sports and Social Club	Writtle CC	The Club would like more net facilities.
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Chelmsford Superkings CC	The Club would like to install practice nets on site.
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Great Waltham CC	The Club would like more net facilities.

All remaining responsive clubs report that they are satisfied with their current practice provision, although several report a need for access or improved access to indoor facilities for winter training purposes. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this study, it is something that should be considered moving forward, with many clubs reporting that they do not have access to sports halls or must access them at undesirable times. This is generally due to year-round block bookings being given priority.

Indoor facilities

Whilst the PPOSS regards outdoor playing pitches, the cricket training programme includes accessing indoor net facilities over winter months in preparation for the start of the season. As such indoor training facilities have been discussed in the following section.

In total, 14 responding clubs report accessing indoor provision for winter net pre-season training sessions, with the following sites in the Chelmsford administrative area utilised:

- ◆ Boswells School.
- ◆ Essex County Cricket Ground.
- ◆ King Edward Grammar School.
- ◆ Riverside Leisure Centre.
- ◆ Writtle Cricket Centre.
- ◆ Writtle University College.

Whilst Chignal CC reports it utilises Braintree College and Tabor Academy for indoor winter training (both in Braintree) and South Woodham & Burnham CC utilises Northern Gateway Sports Centre in Colchester and the indoor nets at Billericay CC in Basildon.

In addition, the Riverside Indoor League runs an indoor competition during winter months for senior teams and comprises three divisions. It is hosted at Riverside Leisure Centre in the sports hall.

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4.3: Demand

There are 22 clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area which collectively provide 152 teams. This equates to 71 senior men's, six senior women's and 75 junior teams (including 13 dedicated junior girls' teams).

As seen in Table 4.13 below, most teams are based in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (98 teams) based on several large clubs such as Chelmsford, Galleywood and Great Baddow cricket clubs. There are no affiliated teams in the Rural North Analysis Area.

Table 4.13: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
City Centre	7	1	9	-
Rural North	-	-	-	-
Rural South	15	-	2	2
Rural West	9	1	4	-
South Woodham Ferrers	2	-	2	-
Urban Areas	38	4	45	11
Total	71	6	62	13

Club makeup is mixed. Most, such as Galleywood, Great Baddow, St John's Billericay cricket clubs are large and provide a significant number of teams within several formats. However, some are small and run only one or two teams, including Beaulieu Park cricket clubs. This is summarised club-by-club in Table 4.14.

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Table 4.14: Current summary of teams by club and a comparison to the previous study

Club	Analysis area	No. of senior men's teams	No. of senior women's teams	No. of junior boys' teams	No. of junior girls' teams	Total	Team % change from previous study
Beaulieu Park CC	Urban Areas	2	-	-	-	2	100%
Boreham & Roxwell CC	Rural West	2	-	-	-	2	33%
Boreham Royals CC	Urban Areas	2	-	-	-	2	100%
Broomfield CC	Urban Areas	3	-	5	-	8	33%
Chelmsford CC	Urban Areas	7	1	9	3	20	-
Chelmsford Superkings CC	Urban Areas	5	-	-	-	5	100%
Chignal CC	Rural West	1	-	-	-	1	-
Danbury CC	Rural South	1	-	-	-	1	-
East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	Rural South	3	-	-	-	3	-
Galleywood CC	Urban Areas	5	1	7	8	21	90%
Great Baddow CC	Urban Areas	4	1	17	-	22	144%
Great Waltham CC	Rural West	5	1	4	-	10	43%
Little Baddow CC	Rural South	3	-	-	-	3	66%
Oakland CC	Rural West	1	-	-	-	1	100%
Old Chelmsfordians CC	Urban Areas	7	1	3	-	11	-
Rettendon CC	Rural South	2	-	-	-	2	33%
South Woodham & Burnham CC	South Woodham Ferrers	2	-	2	-	4	20%
Springfield CC	City Centre	7	1	9	-	17	21%
St John's Billericay CC	Rural South	4	-	2	2	8	100%
Stock CC	Rural South	2	-	-	-	2	75%
Writtle CC	Urban Areas	3	-	4	-	7	13%
Total	-	71	6	62	13	152	22%

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Changes from the previous study

As seen in the table above, there has been strong growth at most clubs since the previous study in 2016, including significant increases for clubs such as Galleywood and Great Baddow CC. This equates to an overall increase in demand of 22%, with the number of teams growing from 125 to 152. This includes a particular increase in women and girls' activity.

In addition, the 2016 study predicted, through population growth projections to 2036, there would be an increase of four adult teams and seven junior teams. Therefore, current demand well exceeds the projected growth.

Most clubs attribute their growth to an increase in junior demand, with many stating that this has been driven by the All Stars and Dynamos initiatives.

Notwithstanding the above, since the previous study, Little Waltham CC, Marconi CC, Sandon Sports CC and Wickham CC have folded due to issues accessing facilities within the Chelmsford administrative area. In addition, Chelmsford Titans CC previously fielded demand within the Authority, but now play entirely outside of the Chelmsford administrative area (see exported demand section below).

Conversely, Beaulieu Park CC, Boreham Royals CC, Oaklands CC and St John's Billericay CC have recently been established and add to demand in the Authority.

Similarly, South Woodham & Burnham CC has become a merged club since the previous study with Burnham CC (of which two of its teams play in Maldon). This is further explored in the exported demand section.

As previously mentioned, St John's Billericay CC runs up to the edge of the Chelmsford boundary and also caters for demand from residents in neighbouring Basildon.

Imported demand

Imported demand is demand from neighbouring authorities accessing pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area to play competitive matches.

A significant level of demand is likely being imported into the Chelmsford administrative area, primarily from East London, including London Borough of Havering and Thurrock. This is due to the proximity to Chelmsford and the popularity and significant demand. The level of this is also likely to continue growing over coming years due to future demand aspirations and increasing pressures on the current supply of pitches.

Ipswich and Colchester CC imports a Saturday team to Dawsons Field, despite being predominantly based in Colchester. This is due to the location of the site and available capacity.

East London Titans CC imports some demand into the Authority on a Sunday due to capacity at its home ground in Redbridge at Hainault Recreation Ground.

Grays CC imports some senior demand into the Authority and plays at Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club.

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Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Four clubs otherwise based in the Chelmsford administrative area currently export some demand outside the Authority to be able to field all their teams. These are:

- ✦ Chelmsford Titans CC.
- ✦ East Hanningfield and Great Burstead CC.
- ✦ Great Baddow CC.
- ✦ South Woodham and Burnham CC.

Of these, East Hanningfield & Great Burstead, Great Baddow and South Woodham & Burnham cricket clubs use secondary venues outside of the Chelmsford administrative area, whilst Chelmsford Titans CC exports all its demand and uses Shalford Village Hall Recreation Ground in Braintree.

Women's and girls' cricket

The ECB's strategy called "Inspiring Generations" was announced in January 2019 (currently being refreshed) and it builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position than it is in 2019. The Strategy has six key priorities and activities including to increase the representation of women and girls in every level of cricket by:

- ✦ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ✦ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ✦ Investing in girls' county age group cricket.
- ✦ Delivering a girls' secondary school programme.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, six cricket clubs field dedicated women's and girls' teams. Linked to this, it must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of junior girls' teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in the Chelmsford administrative area. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy.

For female cricket to grow further in the Chelmsford administrative area, it is imperative that existing provision adapts to better accommodate women's and girls' demand. For example, no site currently provides dedicated women and girls' changing facilities, which will negate any future demand that may exist. Many existing clubhouses are dated and provide unsegregated changing areas as well as communal showers that are unsuitable for mixed gender access.

Additional activity

The ECB is currently running a number of initiatives across the Country which results in additional cricket demand and use of cricket facilities. Whilst these do not generally utilise grass wickets, they can impact upon availability when sessions are being held due to use of cricket outfield, making squares unusable for matches during these periods. This can mean no availability on one or two nights a week.

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All Stars cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area can register to become an ECB All Stars cricket centre. Once registered, they 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 has 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/play the game.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, nine clubs currently deliver All Stars activity (see Table 4.15).

Dynamos cricket

Dynamos provides the next step for all those graduating from All Stars cricket, thus developing a pathway to retain juniors who progress, as well as being an introduction for all 8-11 year olds new to the sport. Where All Stars seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified softball format as competitive progression with a view to transition through to hardball cricket.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, six clubs currently take part in the Dynamos initiative (see Table 4.15 for the clubs).

Softball cricket

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket. The aim is enjoyment and participation, without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions are generally played on the outfield of a square and follow a festival format with each running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats.

Six clubs field women's softball demand in the Chelmsford administrative area. Table 4.15 below summarises which clubs host softball, All Stars and Dynamos activity.

Table 4.15: Clubs involved in ECB initiatives

Club name	All Stars	Dynamos	Women/girls
Beaulieu Park CC	No	No	No
Boreham & Roxwell CC	No	No	No
Boreham Royals CC	No	No	No
Broomfield CC	No	No	No
Chelmsford CC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chelmsford Superkings CC	No	No	No
Chignal CC	No	No	No
Danbury CC	No	No	No
East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	No	No	No

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Club name	All Stars	Dynamos	Women/girls
Galleywood CC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Great Baddow CC	Yes	No	Yes
Little Baddow CC	Yes	Yes	No
Great Waltham CC	Yes	No	Yes
Oakland CC	No	No	No
Old Chelmsfordians CC	Yes	Yes	No
Rettendon CC	Yes	No	Yes
South Woodham & Burnham CC	Yes	No	No
Springfield CC	No	Yes	Yes
St John's Billericay CC	Yes	Yes	No
Stock CC	No	No	No
Writtle CC	No	No	No
Total	9/22 (40%)	6/22 (27%)	6/22 (27%)

Across the Authority the following clubs offer all three cricket initiatives: Chelmsford CC and Galleywood CC.

In addition, the following clubs all specifically state aspirations through consultation to develop or further develop both women/girls and junior demand. This could be via new or increased future involvement in the initiatives. They are as follows:

- ✦ Broomfield CC.
- ✦ Chelmsford CC.
- ✦ Chelmsford Superkings CC.
- ✦ East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC.
- ✦ Galleywood CC.
- ✦ Great Baddow CC.
- ✦ Little Baddow CC.
- ✦ Great Waltham CC.
- ✦ Old Chelmsfordians CC.
- ✦ Rettendon CC.
- ✦ South Woodham & Burnham CC.
- ✦ Springfield CC.
- ✦ St John's Billericay CC.
- ✦ Stock CC.
- ✦ Writtle CC.

Last Man Stands

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

LMS is played at Chelmer Park which is used for midweek evening matches. There are two divisions in operation with five teams currently participating in each division.

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Friends Cricket

Friends Cricket is a relatively new group that has been mainly utilising provision at Admirals Park. They compete in a series of T10 matches across the seasons with these taking place on Sunday mornings between 08:30am and 12:30pm from May to September. It has around 60 members regularly participating.

Unaffiliated demand

In addition to the affiliated cricket clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, a number of unaffiliated teams also play in the Authority. These generally take part in friendly or social matches or compete in shorter forms of the game. Those unearthed/recorded as part of this audit are listed below:

- ✦ Chelmsford Tigers CC.
- ✦ Chelmsford Tuskers CC.
- ✦ CV Devils CC.
- ✦ Friends Social Club CC.
- ✦ Greenfield Gladiators CC.
- ✦ KEGS Kings CC.
- ✦ Three Fields CC.
- ✦ Waltham Wanderers CC.

Street cricket

Street cricket is an ECB initiative run through the Chance to Shine Programme. Chance to Shine Street brings cricket to thousands of young people in urban areas. It uses the game to increase aspiration, promote social cohesion and create opportunities in diverse communities. It's a fast-paced version of the game played with a tapeball - a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape - in small, enclosed spaces, often courts or indoor sports halls. With six players per team and 20 balls per innings.

Street cricket sessions currently take place in the Chelmsford administrative area with known sessions at St John Payne School.

Disability cricket

Two cricket hubs (Super 1 Hub and a female only Super 1s Hub) have been set up in Chelmsford to offer free disability cricket sessions, with these taking place with Chelmsford CC at Chelmer Park. Sessions take place at this site on Friday evenings.

University Cricket

University cricket is predominately played competitively in BUCS leagues, with fixtures played midweek.

Angelia Ruskin University (merged with Writtle University College) fields one senior men's team, although it does not play within the Authority. Instead, it uses Fenner's Tennis and Cricket Ground in Cambridge for training and match play. It reports it is happy with this arrangement.

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Informal demand

Although no informal use is recorded on cricket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area it is considered that informal cricket is being heavily played elsewhere, such as on parks, recreation grounds and even on macadam surfaces such as car parks. Informal formats of play are particularly often preferred amongst South Asian communities, which have a large presence within the Chelmsford administrative area. The ECB considers the development of cricket within these communities to be a key focus.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for cricket that could come from housing development plans across the Authority.

Notwithstanding the above, the ECB's five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024 includes a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPOSS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Population forecasts

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

Based on population projections to 2041 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass wicket cricket squares that will arise from forecasted growth. This uses the current population within each relevant age group together with current participation levels to establish team generation rates that are applied to future population projections.

It, however, does not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Authority, proposed in the Local Plan, such as the North East Chelmsford Garden Community, and this will be subject to housing growth scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan.

For reference, total current population in the Chelmsford administrative area of 183,678 (2022 housing led data) is projected to increase to 218,366 by 2041. The table below shows the number of new teams that are forecasted to be generated by the new population and the requisite match equivalent sessions that this will require.

Using the above, it is predicted that there will be a growth of 12 senior men's, one senior women's, six boys and one girls' teams to 2041 – the date selected to align the PPOSS with the Council's emerging Local Plan. This is shown in Table 4.16.

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Table 4.16: Future demand via population growth (2041)

Age group	Current population per sport age group	Team generation rate	No. of new teams generated by the new population	No. of new teams generated by the new population ¹⁴	Peak time	Average games for age group	Match equivalent session per season ¹⁵
Men (18-55yrs)	43,593	1:614	12.0	12	Saturday	12	144
Women (18-55yrs)	45,082	1:7,514	1.0	1	Sunday	12	12
Boys (7-18yrs)	13,188	1:213	5.9	6	Midweek	6	36
Girls (7-18yrs)	12,501	1:962	1.4	1	Midweek	6	6

Notwithstanding the above, it is important to acknowledge that there are plans and strategies in place to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends and population changes would suggest. For example, consultation with the ECB suggests that further development of women and girl's participation in cricket in the Chelmsford administrative area is likely as it is currently a national priority. This also applies to potential increased growth in junior cricket, linked to the abovementioned All Stars and Dynamos initiatives as well as the growth in recreational demand.

Linked to the above, it must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of junior girls' teams across the Country by 2026, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Furthermore, the demand identified is based solely upon current levels of formal demand from community-based cricket clubs and does not capture informal or recreational activity.

Participation increases

Of the clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, 11 indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation in the future. As shown in table 4.17, this amounts to a total predicted growth of 14 teams; four senior men's, three senior women's and seven junior teams. Essex Cricket Board is anticipating an increase in women's and girls' demand across the Authority, as well as a general increase in men's and boys' demand following the rising South East Asian community within the Chelmsford administrative area.

Table 4.17: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Beaulieu Park CC	Urban Areas	1	-	-
Boreham & Roxwell CC	Rural West	-	-	1
Boreham Royals CC	Urban Areas	2	-	2
Broomfield CC	Urban Areas	-	-	1
Chelmsford CC	Urban Areas	-	1	-
Chelmsford Superkings CC	Urban Areas	-	1	-
Chignal CC	Rural South	1	-	-
Danbury CC	Rural South	-	-	-
East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	Urban Areas	-	-	-

¹⁴ Rounded to the nearest whole number

¹⁵ 2 teams require 1 pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 1 team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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Club	Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
Galleywood CC	Urban Areas	-	-	1
Great Baddow CC	Rural South	-	1	-
Little Baddow CC	Rural West	-	-	-
Great Waltham CC	Rural West	-	-	-
Oakland CC	Urban Areas	-	-	-
Old Chelmsfordians CC	Rural South	-	-	-
Rettendon CC	South Woodham Ferrers	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
South Woodham & Burnham CC	City Centre	-	-	-
Springfield CC	Rural South	-	-	-
St John's Billericay CC	Rural South	-	-	1
Stock CC	Urban Areas	-	-	-
Writtle CC	Urban Areas	-	-	1
-	Total	4	3	7

This is summarised by analysis area in Table 4.18 below. The largest proportion of future demand is expressed in the Urban Areas Analysis Area with this equating to 10 teams.

Table 4.18: Summary of future demand aspirations by analysis area

Analysis area	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior
City Centre	-	-	-
Rural North	-	-	-
Rural South	1	1	1
Rural West	-	-	1
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-
Urban Areas	3	2	5
Total	4	3	7

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more theoretical and aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will also contain a scenario that will consider the impact if clubs aspirations are realised.

4.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

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

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

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where the level of play was not made clear through the consultation process, an assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

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

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

However, this is not considered to be actual spare capacity for senior weekend cricket due to league requirements generally not allowing usage.

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for senior cricket in the Chelmsford administrative area is Saturday, although a good proportion of teams are also fielded on a Sunday, including senior women's teams, as well as midweek in shorter formats of the game. In addition, peak time is midweek for junior cricket, albeit that some Sunday cricket is also recorded.

Based on the above, capacity across Saturday's, Sunday's and midweek requires consideration, which the following analysis looks to provide. This involves factoring in the overall capacity level at each site and current usage levels across each relevant period.

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Education usage

Whilst only few available squares based at schools currently have any recorded community use, it must be recognised that the majority do cater for curricular and extra-curricular, especially at those with a relatively strong cricket programme, such as at King Edward VI Grammar School (Bedford Playing Fields) and Writtle University College (Writtle University College Sports Ground) where internal usage leaves little capacity remaining for any external access, with this demand therefore built into the below analysis.

Spare capacity

Table 4.19 below explains the difference between the potential spare capacity referenced in Table 4.20 and the actual spare capacity identified in the final three columns (Saturday, Sunday and midweek).

Table 4.19: Spare capacity examples

Potential spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
No	If the cell has a “no” it means that the pitch is played to capacity within this period and therefore cannot accommodate any further demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” that is not highlighted it means there is spare capacity to accommodate further demand within this designated peak period; however, this is discounted due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed so it cannot accommodate any additional demand.
Yes	If the cell has a “yes” and is also highlighted in green it means there is actual available spare capacity within this peak period which can be utilised.

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Table 4.20: Capacity analysis of cricket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Formal users	No. of squares	Square quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Saturday)	Potential spare capacity for senior cricket? (Sunday)	Potential spare capacity for junior cricket? (Midweek)
1	Admirals Park	City Centre	Yes	Secure	Old Chelmsfordians CC Springfield CC	1	Standard	8	32	24	8	No	No	Yes
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Beaulieu CC	1	Standard	4	16	24	8	No	No	No
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	Yes	Unsecure	Old Chelmsfordians CC	1	Standard	8	32	32	0	No	Yes	Yes
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Boreham Royals CC	1	Poor	8	0	24	24	No	No	No
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Broomfield CC	1	Good	8	40	52	12	No	No	No
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Chelmsford CC	1	Good	14	70	44	26	No	No	Yes
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Chelmsford CC	1	Good	14	70	55	15	No	No	Yes
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Chelmsford CC	1	Good	12	60	44	16	No	No	Yes
27	Chignal Cricket Club	Rural West	Yes	Secure	Chignal CC	1	Standard	8	32	22	10	No	Yes	Yes
28	Clarks Field	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Galleywood CC	1	Good	9	45	73	28	No	No	No
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	Secure	Springfield CC	1	Good	8	40	41	1	No	No	No
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes	Secure	Springfield CC	1	Good	8	40	44	4	No	No	No
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	Yes	Secure	Danbury CC Oaklands CC	1	Standard	9	36	36	0	No	Yes	Yes
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Great Baddow CC	1	Standard	12	48	68	20	No	No	No
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	Rural West	Yes	Secure	Galleywood CC	1	Standard	8	32	17	15	No	Yes	Yes
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Old Chelmsfordians CC	1	Good	8	40	53	13	No	No	No
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	Rural West	Yes	Secure	Boreham & Roxwell CC	1	Standard	10	40	24	16	No	Yes	Yes
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes	Secure	South Woodham & Burnham CC	1	Standard	7	28	26	2	No	No	No
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	Rural South	Yes	Secure	Stock CC	1	Standard	9	36	18	18	No	Yes	Yes
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Yes	Secure	St John's Billericay CC	1	Standard	9	36	47	11	No	No	No
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Writtle CC	1	Good	10	50	37	13	No	No	Yes
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	Yes	Secure	Chelmsford Superkings CC	1	Good	8	40	60	20	No	No	No
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Rural West	Yes	Secure	Great Waltham CC	1	Good	8	40	58	18	No	No	No
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	Rural South	Yes	Secure	Little Baddow CC	1	Good	12	60	29	31	No	Yes	Yes
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	Rural South	Yes	Secure	Rettendon CC	1	Standard	8	32	18	14	No	Yes	Yes
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	Rural South	Yes	Secure	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead CC	1	Standard	10	40	30	10	No	No	Yes

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Actual spare capacity

A square is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is available for further usage during a particular peak period. Using the capacity analysis, this section considers the level of actual spare capacity available for each playing format.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that the actual spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and during midweek should not be viewed collectively as utilising it across different days may result in overplay. For example, a site with 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per season theoretically has capacity for one additional senior team and two additional junior teams; however, it does not have capacity for both. As such, this needs to be taken into consideration on a site-by-site basis as and when demand grows.

Saturday cricket spare capacity

For senior men's cricket, peak time is Saturday as this is when most demand exists. As only one match can be played on each square per day, only two Saturday teams can be assigned to play home matches on one square (based on matches being played on an alternate home and away basis). As such, if a square has two Saturday teams already playing home fixtures on it, no actual spare capacity is perceived to exist for additional senior usage. If one or no teams are playing on a square on a Saturday, and it has overall capacity, actual spare capacity for senior demand is generally identified.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as actual spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site. As such, no sites that are over, at, or close to capacity are considered to have actual spare capacity (at least 12 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are required for an additional senior team to be accommodated) and neither are sites with unsecure tenure as future usage cannot be guaranteed.

In Chelmsford, although some spare capacity is identified at some sites, no provision is considered to have actual spare capacity for an increase in Saturday cricket. This is because all squares are used to capacity at this time, either because two teams are already assigned to them as a home venue or because the level of spare capacity is insufficient to accommodate an additional team without overplay being created.

Sunday cricket spare capacity

Similar to Saturday cricket, a square on a Sunday is only considered to have actual spare capacity if it is not already used by two teams at this time, has secure tenure and is not over, at, or close to capacity. Taking this into consideration, there are six squares across the same number of sites in the Chelmsford administrative area that have potential capacity to accommodate further demand, as shown in Table 4.21.

Table 4.21: Summary of actual spare capacity for Sunday cricket

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
27	Chignal Cricket Club	10	Unused on a Sunday
63	Margaretting Village Playing Field	15	Unused on a Sunday
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	16	Unused on a Sunday
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	18	Unused on a Sunday

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Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	31	Unused on a Sunday
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	14	Unused on a Sunday

As set out in Table 4.22, actual spare capacity equates to 104 match equivalent sessions per season. This is predominantly found in the Rural South Analysis Area with 63 match equivalent sessions identified. The Rural West Analysis Area has 41 match equivalent sessions identified, whilst the remaining analysis areas do not have any actual spare capacity.

Table 4.22: Actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Sunday) by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
City Centre	-
Rural North	-
Rural South	63
Rural West	41
South Woodham Ferrers	-
Urban Areas	-
Total	104

Midweek cricket spare capacity

For midweek cricket, most squares with spare capacity have actual spare capacity for an increase in demand. This is because matches can be spread across numerous days, meaning capacity is not limited to two teams. Moreover, the presence of junior wickets at certain sites, as well as NTPs, provide further capacity that is generally not available to senior demand.

For a square to have actual spare capacity for midweek cricket, it must have secure tenure, not be overplayed and have more than four match equivalent sessions of spare capacity as this is the average number of matches an additional junior team would play. However, a square is not considered to have capacity for an increase in demand if it is already used by six midweek teams or more as availability is then assumed to be limited (on average, clubs are able to play fixtures on three nights per week, with other nights reserved for other activity such as All Stars and Dynamos).

Taking this into consideration, there are 12 squares across 11 sites in the Chelmsford administrative area which have potential capacity to accommodate further demand during midweek, as shown in Table 4.23.

Table 4.23: Summary of actual spare capacity for midweek (junior) cricket

Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
1	Admirals Park	8	Unused midweek
20	Chelmer Park	57	Used by one midweek team; spare capacity exists for an additional five teams
27	Chignal Cricket Club	10	Unused midweek
63	Margaretting Village Hall Playing Field	15	Unused midweek

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Site ID	Site name	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Comments
85	Roxwell Recreation Ground	16	Unused midweek
101	The Common (Stock Cricket Club)	18	Unused midweek
112	Writtle Sports and Social Club	13	Unused midweek
124	Little Baddow Sports Ground	31	Unused midweek
125	Rettendon Cricket Club	14	Unused midweek
126	East Hanningfield & Great Burstead Cricket Club	10	Unused midweek

As set out in table 4.24, a total of 192 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity is identified for midweek cricket, with most existing in the Rural South Analysis Area (73 match equivalent sessions). In comparison, the Rural North and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas have no actual spare capacity for midweek cricket.

Table 4.24: Actual spare capacity for midweek cricket by analysis area

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)
City Centre	8
Rural North	-
Rural South	73
Rural West	41
South Woodham Ferrers	-
Urban Areas	70
Total	192

Overplay

Overplay translates to a site accommodating more demand than it can sustain based on the number of wickets provided and the quality of the square. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a reduction in play is recommended on overplayed squares to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, 10 sites are overplayed by a total of 159 match equivalent sessions per season, as summarised in Table 4.25 below.

Table 4.25: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
6	Beaulieu Park	Urban Areas	8
12	Boreham Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	24
14	Broomfield Cricket Club	Urban Areas	12
28	Clarks Field	Rural South	28
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	1
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	4
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	20
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	13
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	11
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	20

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Overplay (matches per season)
123	Great Waltham Cricket Club	Rural West	18
-	-	Total	159

As seen in Table 4.25 above, Clarks Field (Galleywood CC) has the highest amount of overplay, with this amounting to 28 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to the amount of demand that Gallywood CC which use Clarks Field, albeit the square is assessed as good quality so there is no current capacity to increase.

Other sites which have a considerable amount of overplay (i.e. 20 match equivalent sessions and over) include Great Baddow Recreation Ground (20 MES) and Writtle University College Sports Ground (20 MES). This is also predominately due to the quantity of demand being accommodated on the squares. However, the overplay identified at Boreham Recreation Ground (24 MES) is due to the site having a poor quality square, meaning all demand taking place is contributing towards the overplay.

As shown in Table 4.26, overplay is predominately found in the Urban Areas Analysis Area, with this amounting to 97 match equivalent sessions per season, followed by the Rural South Analysis Area with 39 match equivalent sessions per season. There is no overplay evident in the Rural North and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas.

Table 4.26: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions a season)
City Centre	5
Rural North	-
Rural South	39
Rural West	18
South Woodham Ferrers	-
Urban Areas	97
Total	159

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Saturday)

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

In order to give an accurate representation of future demand, future demand is considered based on team generation rates which are driven by population increases. This is because any participation increases are considered to be more aspirational and/or theoretical, albeit that is not to say that increased growth is unlikely, particularly if recent trends continue.

Table 4.27 below looks at the supply and demand balance during the peak period for senior men's cricket (Saturday).

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Table 4.27: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Saturday)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	-	5	5	-	0
Rural North	-	-	-	-	0
Rural South	-	39	39	-	0
Rural West	-	18	18	-	0
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	-	0
Urban Areas	-	97	97	-	0
Total	0	159	159	144	303

There is a current shortfall for Saturday cricket in the Chelmsford administrative area, amounting to 159 match equivalent sessions per season. When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall increases by 144 match equivalent sessions per season (12 senior men's teams) to total 303 match equivalent sessions per season.

Senior cricket supply and demand analysis (Sunday)

Table 4.28 looks at the supply and demand balance for Sunday cricket, which is peak time for senior women's demand but also relevant to some senior men's and junior teams.

For actual spare capacity, please note that this is converted from the number of match equivalent sessions identified above to the number of match equivalent sessions that could feasibly be utilised by a growth in demand. This is calculated by using the average number of matches played per season by Sunday teams (six) multiplied by the number of additional teams that can be fielded at peak time (two teams per square that is available). The entirety of the spare capacity at each site is not used as this number of matches may not be able to be accommodated at peak time.

Table 4.28: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket (Sunday)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	-	5	5	-	0
Rural North	-	-	-	-	0
Rural South	36	39	3	-	0
Rural West	36	18	18	-	0
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	-	0
Urban Areas	-	97	97	-	0
Total	72	159	87	12	99

There is an overall shortfall amounting to 87 match equivalent sessions per season for Sunday cricket, with three of the six analysis areas showing a deficit. Whilst the Rural West Analysis Area is displaying actual spare capacity, this is very minimal equating to 18 match equivalent sessions per season.

When future demand is accounted for, the overall shortfall increases by 12 match equivalent sessions per season (one senior women's team) to total 99 match equivalent sessions per season.

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Junior cricket supply and demand analysis (midweek)

For the junior supply and demand analysis, actual spare capacity equates to the total spare capacity at each available site or, if it is lower, the total number of additional junior teams that could be fielded on each available square (on the assumption that one square can accommodate six midweek teams), multiplied by four (the average number of matches a junior team plays). This is because junior demand at peak time is not limited to one day, although some capacity should be reserved for activity such as All Stars and Dynamos cricket.

Table 4.29: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
City Centre	8	5	3	-	0
Rural North	-	-	-	-	0
Rural South	66	39	27	-	0
Rural West	41	28	13	-	0
South Woodham Ferrers	-	-	-	-	0
Urban Areas	44	97	53	-	0
Total	159	159	0	42	42

As set out in Table 4.29, midweek cricket is operating at capacity, although some actual spare capacity is identified in the City Centre, Rural South and Rural West analysis areas. When accommodating future demand, the growth of six junior boys' and one junior girls' team by 2041 creates an overall shortfall equating to 42 match equivalent sessions per season.

4.5: Conclusion

As shown in table 4.30, overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area to cater for Saturday and Sunday cricket. This is a consequence of 159 match equivalent sessions per season of overplay identified across 11 sites. When considering future demand, the deficits worsen for Saturday and Sunday cricket, whilst a shortfall is created for midweek cricket.

As previously stated, Clarks Field has the highest amount of overplay, with this amounting to 28 match equivalent sessions per season. This is due to the sheer demand of teams that Gallywood CC fields.

The overplay identified at Boreham Recreation Ground is due to the site having a poor quality square, meaning any demand taking place is immediately contributing towards overplay.

Other sites which have over 20 match equivalent sessions of overplay include Great Baddow Recreation Ground, Writtle University College Sports Ground. This is due to the quantity of demand being accommodated on the squares, such as Great Baddow CC having high levels of demand to accommodate.

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Table 4.30: Capacity balance of grass cricket squares across the Chelmsford administrative area

Peak time period	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Saturday	0	159	159	144	303
Sunday	72	159	87	12	99
Midweek	159	159	0	42	42

The Strategy will further consider the need for new pitches to be provided to meet the high level of overplay/shortfalls and the role in which disused provision could potentially play in accommodating demand and alleviating current/future shortfalls.

A scenario exploring how future demand, through club aspirations of four senior men's, three senior women's and seven junior teams will affect the future capacity analysis will be included in the proceeding Strategy document.

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity is identified at peak time for senior men's cricket (Sunday) and midweek cricket. This amounts to 72 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday and 159 match equivalent sessions exist midweek.
- In total, 11 sites are overplayed by a total of 159 match equivalent sessions a season, which is significant. Of these, six are overplayed by 20 or more match equivalent sessions, predominately due to the amount of play on the squares but also on some sites this is coupled with poor/standard quality.
- The shortfall for Saturday cricket equates to 159 match equivalent sessions and 87 match equivalent sessions for Sunday cricket.
- Overall, there is currently an insufficient supply of cricket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area to cater for Saturday and Sunday cricket.

Cricket – supply summary

- In total, there are 31 grass wicket squares across 23 sites. All squares are available for community use other than the provision at New Hall School which services curricular demand only and Essex County Cricket Ground which is used by Essex County Cricket Club.
- In addition to the grass wicket supply, there are 12 NTPs across the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, three accompany grass wicket squares and the remaining nine are standalone wickets.
- Marconi Sports and Social Club previously accommodated a grass wicket square with eight wickets that was last active circa 2017. The square is no longer maintained but the site is still used for football.
- Similarly, Sandon Sports Club previously provided an eight grass wicket square but is no longer maintained by the club, although the site is still utilised for football.
- Little Waltham Cricket Club previously accommodated an eight wicket grass square; however, upon non-technical assessments, the provision seems not to have been actively maintained or used for an extended period of time.
- Widford Lodge Preparatory School previously accommodated a grass square with eight wickets circa 2018.
- Future provision could be established as part of the North East Chelmsford Garden Community and in South Woodham Ferrers.
- The audit of community available grass wicket squares found 12 (46%) to be good quality, 13 (50%) to be standard and one (4%) as poor quality.
- Most community available grass wicket squares in the Chelmsford administrative area are serviced by pavilions although quality varies. The provision servicing nine (35%) squares is assessed as standard quality and nine (35%) as good quality whilst the remaining eight (31%) are rated as having poor quality provision.

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- There are 11 sites supplying 26 net bays, whilst 10 clubs report demand for new, improved and/or additional training facilities.

Cricket- demand summary

- There are 22 clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area which collectively provide 152 teams. This equates to 71 senior men's, six senior women's and 75 junior teams (including 13 dedicated junior girls' teams).
- There has been a large increase in demand over recent years with some clubs seeing significant participation increases.
- It must be noted that the ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of girls' teams across the Country by 2026/2027, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand in the Chelmsford administrative area. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy.
- A total of nine clubs undertake All Stars cricket, whilst six undertake Dynamo's and six have women's softball demand.
- Two cricket hubs (Super 1 Hub and a female only Super 1s Hub) have been set up in the Chelmsford administrative area to offer free disability cricket sessions, with these taking place with Chelmsford CC at Chelmer Park. Sessions take place at this site on Friday evenings.
- Future demand from population forecasts equates to the predicted growth of 12 senior men's, one senior women's, six junior boys' and one junior girls' teams (up to 2041), whereas 11 clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation amounting to a total predicted growth of 14 teams.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is split into four areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions for clubs across the Chelmsford administrative area.

The RFU governs a variety of formats and programmes, including 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side and Tag rugby as well as T1 Rugby¹⁶. Its aim is to increase and retain participation within the game, with facilities needing to be appropriate, affordable and accessible in order to enable this.

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

Consultation

There are five rugby union clubs identified as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area, all of which, responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 100% as shown in table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Summary of rugby club consultation

Club	Responded?
Billericay RUFC	Yes
Chelmsford RUFC	Yes
Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Yes
South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	Yes
Writtle Wanderers RUFC	Yes

Please note that Billericay RUFC lies on the boundary between Chelmsford and Basildon. However, it is included within this study, as per the previous study.

5.2: Supply

Within the Chelmsford administrative area, there are 31 grass rugby union pitches identified across 15 unique sites, with 27 pitches available for community use across 13 sites. The remaining four pitches are unavailable for community use, all of which are located at New Hall School.

As set out in Table 5.2, of the pitches available for community use, 26 are senior pitches and one is a smaller age grade pitch. Most are identified in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (10 pitches), whilst the fewest are located in the Rural South Analysis Area (four pitches). Whilst the Rural North and Rural West Analysis Areas do not have any community available pitches.

¹⁶<https://www.englandrugby.com/play/ways-to-play/t1-rugby>

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Table 5.2: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of age grade pitches	Total
City Centre	6	-	6
Rural North	-	-	-
Rural South	4	-	4
Rural West	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	6	1	7
Urban Areas	10	-	10
Total	26	1	27

The audit generally only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches that are serviced by goalposts. However, there are some additional marked spaces that are used, without goalposts, particularly for age grade rugby. It is also common nationally for age grade matches to be played on senior pitches via the use of cones, particularly at sites used by clubs. This is the case at club sites in the Chelmsford administrative area, even at sites with standalone age grade pitches.

For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see Table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3: Rugby union pitch dimensions

Age	Playing format	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ¹⁷
U7	Age grade mixed	20 x 12
U8	Age grade mixed	45 x 22
U9	Age grade mixed	60 x 30
U10	Age grade mixed	60 x 35
U11	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U12	Age grade mixed	60 x 43
U13	Age grade boys/girls	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U15	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U16	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U17	Age grade boys/girls	100 x 70
U18	Colts	100 x 70
Senior	Senior	100 x 70

Changes from the previous study

There is an increase of one senior pitch identified compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016. However, the number of age grade pitches has reduced from four to one pitch. However, this is mostly a consequence of many smaller size pitches no longer being included as formal pitches, with only those being serviced by goalposts now accounted for.

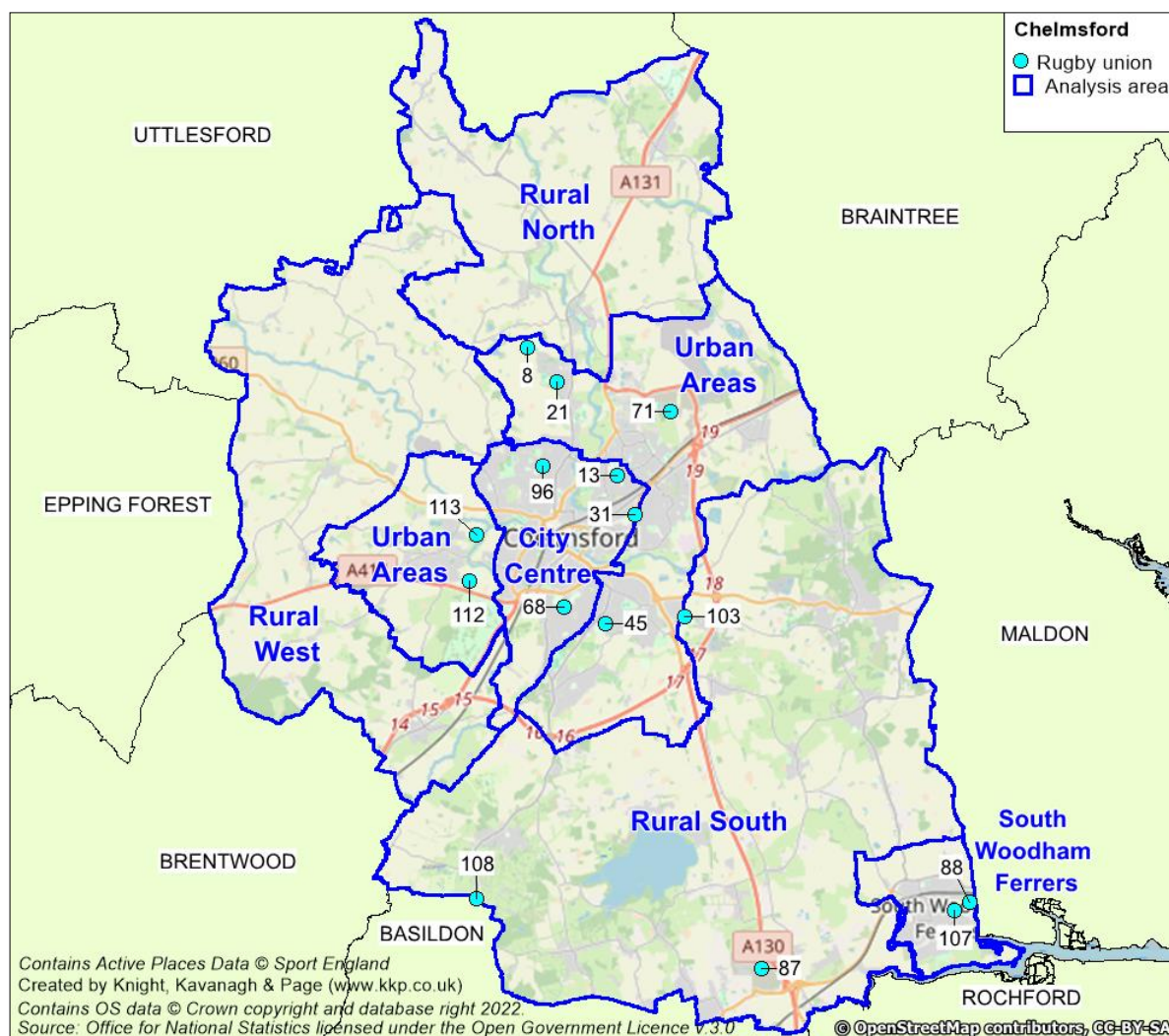
As an example, Boswells School previously provided three senior and two age grade pitches on its playing field and now only provides one senior pitch, with the remaining pitches now marked out and used for football. Similarly, Great Baddow High School previously marked out three senior pitches and now only marks out one senior pitch.

¹⁷ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

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Figure 5.1 below identifies all grass rugby union pitches currently servicing the Chelmsford administrative area. For a key to the map, see Table 5.9.

Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within the Chelmsford administrative area



Future provision

Chelmsford RUFC reports an aspiration to obtain the land currently owned by Essex Police College and utilise the land as an overspill venue to provide additional pitch space and expand the level of car parking on site. An adult football pitch is currently marked out on the Essex Police site but is unused and they have aspirations to sell the land, despite the Club demonstrating it has demand/ need for the playing field.

Chelmsford RUFC is working with the Council to potentially provide a full size WR Reg 22 compliant 3G pitch at Coronation Park in replacement of or in addition to one of the senior grass rugby union pitches. It is thought this would be able to field all of the Club's training demand. The preferred option would be to locate a 11v11 3G pitch suitable for rugby activity on the land currently owned by Essex Police.

If this is not possible, longer-term alternatives would need to be explored and could include relocation to a new site/sports ground with capacity to provide the equivalent of four adult rugby pitches and ancillary facilities.

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The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of up to 10,000 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools. As part of this, two sports hubs are proposed together with a co-located sports facility at the school.

A residential housing development is progressing in South Woodham Ferrers that is expected to provide future grass pitch provision. As part of this, South Woodham Ferrers RUFC will be relocated to a new ground. However, the anticipated delivery timeframe for the new pitches is not yet confirmed.

Management and security of tenure

Of the 31 pitches provided, 20 are operated by education providers, with 16 of these available to the community. The remaining pitches are all available to the community, with seven supplied at Council sites and four at club sites. This is summarised in Table 5.4 below.

Table 5.4: Rugby union pitches by management type

Community use	Council	Education	Sports club
Available	7	16	4
Unavailable	-	4	-
Total	7	20	4

In relation to clubs, tenure of the sites they use is generally secure. A site is thought to have secure tenure if a club has either freehold or a long-term lease agreement in place, whilst council sites are also considered to be secure as part of a long-term commitment to provide leisure facilities.

Billericay RUFC's home ground at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club is owned by St John's Sports Club and is considered to have secure tenure. Its current lease agreement has 99 years remaining and is not due to expire until 2122.

Chelmsford RUFC's home ground is owned by the Council. Its current lease agreement has 80 years remaining.

Similarly, South Woodham Ferrers RUFC home ground is owned by the Council and is considered to have secure tenure (as all Council facilities are deemed to be safeguarded for future sporting use). However, it only has 12 years remaining on its current lease agreement which is inhibiting the Club from applying for funding.

Both Runwell Wyverns and Writtle Wanderers rugby clubs home grounds are owned by Runwell Sports & Social Club for the former and Writtle Sports & Social Club for the latter. Both sites encompass several sports including football, cricket, snooker and archery. Both clubs currently pay annual rent for the use and maintenance of the pitches and ancillary facilities. The tenure of clubs is set out in table 5.5 below.

Table 5.5: Summary of tenure for rugby union clubs

Club	Site/s used	Agreement	Tenure
Billericay RUFC	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Leased	Secure
Chelmsford RUFC	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	Leased	Secure
Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Freehold	Secure

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Club	Site/s used	Agreement	Tenure
South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	Saltcoats Park	Leased	Secure
Writtle Wanderers RUFC	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Freehold	Secure

Away from clubs, the majority of the unused school sites do not provide security of tenure for access to their rugby provision, even where community availability is offered.

Pitch quality

The quality of rugby pitches across the Chelmsford administrative area have been assessed via a combination of site visits undertaken in 2024 (using non-technical assessments as determined by the RFU), PitchPower (PP) reports and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating on a scale of good, standard and poor.

The assessment of rugby union pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. For maintenance, each pitch is given a maintenance rating of M0, M1 or M2, based on the regime that is usually undertaken, with the definitions of these shown in Table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Minimal or no maintenance is undertaken
M1	Regular maintenance is undertaken that extends beyond a basic regime
M2	A sophisticated, regular and dedicated maintenance regime is undertaken

For drainage, a rating of D0, D1, D2 or D3 is assigned to each pitch, as set out in Table 5.7 below. This is based on whether or not drainage is adequate and considers the presence of an operational system. The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Table 5.7: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Drainage is natural but inadequate
D1	Drainage is natural and adequate
D2	A pipe drainage system is installed (at 5-metre centres and within the last eight years)
D3	A pipe and slit drainage system is installed (at 1-metre centres in the last five years)

An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated on a scale of good, standard and poor as shown below in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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The above was calculated for each pitch within the Chelmsford administrative area following site assessments, with findings then checked and challenged against user consultation and NGB assessments/ knowledge. This has then allowed an 'agreed quality rating' to be established.

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Of pitches that are available for community use, six are assessed as good quality, 16 as standard and five as poor quality. The unavailable pitches at New Hall School have two assessed as good quality and two as standard quality.

A pitch-by-pitch breakdown can be seen in Table 5.9 overleaf.

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Table 5.9: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Tenure	Management	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Posted?	Sports lit?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating
-	Club pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	CM2 6AG	City Centre	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	CM2 6AG	City Centre	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	CM2 6AG	City Centre	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	SS11 7QA	Rural South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
88	Saltcoats Park	CM3 5WA	South Woodham Ferrers	Secure	Council	Yes	3	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
88	Saltcoats Park	CM3 5WA	South Woodham Ferrers	Secure	Council	Yes	1	Junior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	CM4 9PQ	Rural South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Yes	M2/D1	Good
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	CM4 9PQ	Rural South	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	No	M2/D1	Good
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	CM1 3HW	Urban Areas	Secure	Sports Club	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	Yes	M1/D1	Standard
-	School pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Bedford Playing Fields	CM1 7EY	Urban Areas	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	5	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
13	Boswells School	CM1 6LY	City Centre	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
21	Chelmer Valley High School	CM1 7ER	Urban Areas	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D1	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D1	Poor
68	Moulsham High School	CM2 9ES	City Centre	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D1	Standard
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	Unsecure	School	No	2	Senior	Yes	Yes	M2/D2	Good
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	Unsecure	School	No	2	Senior	Yes	Yes	M2/D1	Good
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D2	Standard
103	The Sandon School	CM2 7AQ	Rural South	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	1	Senior	Yes	No	M0/D1	Poor
107	William de Ferrers School	CM3 5JU	South Woodham Ferrers	Unsecure	School	Yes-unused	3	Senior	Yes	No	M1/D0	Poor
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	CM1 3SS	Urban Areas	Unsecure	University	Yes	2	Senior	Yes	Yes	M2/D2	Good

Poor quality pitches are found at the following sites:

- Great Baddow High School.
- The Sandon School.
- William De Ferrers School.

At Coronation Park (Chelmsford RUFC), the pitch with sports lighting (training pitch) is assessed as standard quality due to recent investment into the maintenance of the pitch. Although it is heavily used for training demand by Chelmsford RUFC. The Club report drainage improvements are required and has an aspiration install a pipe drainage system to increase its quality rating. As below, the remaining two pitches are assessed as good quality this is due to frequent and sophisticated maintenance regime jointly with the Council.

Conversely, the good quality pitches are provided at:

- Coronation Park (Chelmsford RUFC).
- New Hall School.
- Willowbrook Sports & Social Club (Billericay RUFC).
- Writtle University College Sports Ground.

The two senior pitches located at Writtle University College Sports Ground have been assessed as good quality due to the presence of a drainage system and a rigorous maintenance regime that is in place.

Similarly, the senior pitches at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club have been assessed as good quality due to the sophisticated maintenance regime that takes place, as reported by Billericay RUFC. Despite this, the club reports the pitches suffer from drainage issues, with only a natural system in place.

Runwell Wyverns RUFC reports its pitches have diminished in quality since last season due to a lower level of maintenance by the Club. Its pitch at Runwell Sports & Social Club is assessed as standard quality (M1/D1).

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Multisport Pitch Improvement Fund

Funded by Sport England and in partnership with RFU, RFL and ECB, the Multisport Pitch Improvement Fund aims to improve the quality of cricket and rugby pitches for the people and communities that need it most, creating new and better opportunities to play and grow the game.

The fund aims to tackle inequalities in physical activity levels by creating opportunities to play sport for lower socio-economic groups, culturally diverse communities, disabled people, women & girls and those with long-term health conditions.

The fund is open to clubs and local authorities who have been approached by the ECB, RFU or RFL. If pitches have been identified as requiring major capital and/or renovation works, the responsible organisations will be invited to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI), followed by a full application.

Following a successful application, clubs can utilise the services of the FF's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

PitchPower is less restricted by the seasonal window of in-season play than the non-technical assessments, instead being able to be undertaken within a 10-month period, with assessments completed and submitted within one of three windows: September - October, November – March or April – June.

The PitchPower assessments use a new five step Performance Quality Standard (PQS) rating system developed by the GMA, with the FF and Sport England agreeing alignment with the capacity guidance within the existing PPS guidance. This alignment is shown in Table 5.10 below.

Table 5.10: Agreed equivalent PPOSS quality rating for PQS ratings

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

In the Chelmsford administrative area, three rugby pitches have received a PitchPower assessment. The findings of these in comparison to the PPOSS findings are shown in Table 5.11 below.

Table 5.11: Summary of PitchPower findings compared to PPOSS quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Club users	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	Chelmsford RUFC	Basic	Standard (M1/D1)

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Site ID	Site name	Club users	PitchPower rating	PPOSS rating
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	Chelmsford RUFC	Good	Good (M2/D1)
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	Chelmsford RUFC	Good	Good (M2/D1)

For reference the PitchPower quality scores will be the ones used in the pitch capacity analysis to follow. This confirms with the findings of this report, with two assessed as good and one assessed as standard.

Changes since the previous study

There are more good quality pitches identified in the Chelmsford administrative area compared to the previous study, with improvements made at most of club sites. The exception is at Coronation Park (Chelmsford RUFC) due to heavy use on its first team pitch and an increase in use since the previous study.

Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facility ratings are primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities. Good quality ancillary facilities are particularly important for rugby clubs as they can assist with income generation. Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important for the provision to be inclusive, particularly due to growing women's and girls' demand.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, all clubs have access to some form of ancillary provision at their respective home grounds, but their quality varies. Table 5.12 below identifies the findings for the sites that are actively utilised by clubs across the Authority, with one serviced by good quality, two serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities and two by poor quality ancillary facilities.

Table 5.12: Summary of ancillary provision quality

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Club user	Ancillary facility quality
31	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Chelmsford RUFC	Standard
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Poor
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	Good
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	Billericay RUFC	Standard
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	Writtle Wanderers RUFC	Poor

The poor quality facilities are identified at Runwell Sports & Social Club and Writtle Sports & Social Club.

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The ancillary facilities servicing Writtle Wanderers RUFC at Writtle Sports & Social Club include three changing rooms with accompanying toilets. However, the Club reports they are dated and is in need of a refurbishment. The Club is in the process of securing funding to improve the facilities and has recently been awarded a grant through the RWC Impact programme for an upgrade in the toilet provision.

The clubhouse servicing Runwell Sports & Social Club is shared between the football, bowls, snooker, archery and rugby union clubs. The facilities include four changing rooms, a bar area, kitchen and social space.

Billericay RUFC has standard quality ancillary provision. The clubhouse includes four changing rooms and accompanying toilets. It also provides a bar area and kitchen and sizeable social area. The provision satisfies the club's demand and has the correct number of changing rooms (relative to the number of teams it has), however, there can be issues with capacity if multiple teams are playing at the same time, particularly on Sunday mornings.

Chelmsford RUFC report that its ancillary facilities are standard quality. The facilities include five sets of changing rooms with accompanying toilets, a bar area, kitchen and social space. The Club report two of its changing rooms cater for its women and girls' demand and states this is currently sufficient to meet its demand.

South Woodham Ferrers RUFC owns the clubhouse at Saltcoats Park and was built in 2005. It provides a kitchen, social area, small function room and toilets and continually carries out maintenance in order to maintain its condition. It has four changing rooms located in a separate facility, away from the main clubhouse. However, it has an aspiration to add dedicated women and girl's changing facilities to realise its future growth ambitions to increase women and girl's participation. In addition, the Club reports there is a lack of car parking at Saltcoats Park which can be a particular issue on match days.

Similarly, Chelmsford RUFC report the parking provision at Coronation Park is insufficient to accommodate all its peak demand. Parking constraints are limited particularly on match days and have previously used the land as part of Essex Police College as an overflow car park. The lack of car parking is a real issue, and if the Club could take on the additional pitch space, more provision could be created on site, and lead to additional parking and changing rooms also being provided.

5.3: Demand

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

For competitive play, demand is split between adult rugby, age grade boys/girls' rugby (previously junior) and age grade mixed rugby (previously mini). Age grade runs from U13 to U18 level, whilst age grade mixed is for U7 to U12 level. In addition, new girls' age bands have been established, with the new age bands being at U12, U14, U16 and U18 level.

Competitive play

There are five rugby clubs considered to be based in the Chelmsford administrative area, collectively providing a total of 48 teams. As a breakdown, this consists of 11 senior men's, one senior women's, 12 age grade boys', one age grade girls' and 21 age grade mixed teams.

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Most clubs are relatively large and provide several senior, age grade and mixed teams, although Runwell Wyverns and Writtle Wanderers rugby clubs only field senior men's teams. Demand for each club is summarised in Table 5.13.

Table 5.13: Summary of demand

Club	Analysis area	Senior men (19+)	Senior women (19+)	Age grade boys (13-18)	Age grade girls (13-18)	Age grade mixed (6-12)
Billericay RUFC	Rural South	2	-	4	-	6
Chelmsford RUFC	City Centre	4	1	5	1	7
Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Rural South	1	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	South Woodham Ferrers	2	-	3	-	8
Writtle Wanderers RUFC	Urban Areas	2	-	-	-	-
Total	-	11	1	12	1	21

As seen in Table 5.13, senior women's teams are only provided at Chelmsford RUFC, it also fields one age grade girls team.

As shown in Table 5.14, of the club-based demand, the City Centre Analysis Area caters for the largest number of teams (18), whereas there are no teams in the Rural North and Rural West analysis areas.

Table 5.14: Summary of number of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
City Centre	4	1	5	1	7
Rural North	-	-	-	-	-
Rural South	3	-	4	-	6
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	2	-	3	-	8
Urban Areas	2	-	-	-	-
Total	11	1	12	1	21

University demand

As set out in Table 5.15, two universities also field several teams in the Chelmsford administrative area, with these also requiring consideration. They predominately play in BUCS leagues, with two senior men's and two senior women's teams identified within this structure, as summarised in the table below. However, it must also be noted that there will be additional inter-mural demand that can vary week-by-week.

Table 5.15: Summary of university demand

University	No. of men's teams	No. of women's teams
Anglia Ruskin University	1	1
Writtle University College	1	1
Total	2	2

Anglia Ruskin University play matches at Coronation Park, whilst Writtle University College play matches at Writtle University College Sports Ground.

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Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

Since the 2016 study, Billericay RUFC are now included in the study as the club is based at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club. It should be noted that the club runs up to the edge of the Chelmsford administrative area boundary and caters for demand from residents in Basildon. Between the other four other clubs, 10 additional teams are now registered, with a particular increase at youth and mini level. There are four additional age grade boys' and one age grade girls' teams and seven additional age grade mixed teams.

Notwithstanding the above, Billericay, Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers rugby clubs all report a decrease in the number of their senior teams.

Training demand

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

In the Chelmsford administrative area, one sports lit pitch is provided at Coronation Park, Willowbrook Sports & Social Club and Writtle Sports & Social Club. These pitches are used to accommodate all training demand from Billericay, Chelmsford and Writtle Wanderers rugby clubs.

The remaining two clubs do not generally use match pitches for training. Runwell Wyverns RUFC uses a separate training area via portable lighting for its training activity to pursue the quality on its match pitch and the club would like a permanent sports-lit solution. Whilst South Woodham Ferrers RUFC uses portable lighting on its match pitches, although it reports this is not ideal.

This is summarised in Table 5.16 below.

Table 5.16: Summary of rugby union club facility use for evening training

Club	Site	Training demand	Match equivalent sessions on match pitches
Billericay RUFC	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to five match equivalent sessions per week.	5 match equivalent sessions per week
Chelmsford RUFC	Coronation Park (Chelmsford)	One sports lit senior pitch is used for training, amounting to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	5.5 match equivalent sessions per week
Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Separate sports lit training pitch amounting to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	0.5 equivalent sessions per week
South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	Saltcoats Park	Portable sports lighting on a senior pitch amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	2.5 match equivalent sessions per week
Writtle Wanderers RUFC	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Portable sports lighting on a senior pitch, amounting to one match equivalent session per week	1 match equivalent session

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Use of artificial pitches

The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match and training demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality.

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area. The nearest is located in Colchester at Colchester Sports Park. None of the rugby clubs within the Chelmsford administrative area currently access any artificial pitches for training activity.

However, the smaller size 3G pitch at New Hall School has been constructed to an appropriate grade and is used for training activity by the school. Outside of curricular demand, no community use is offered.

See Part 3 of this report for further information.

Touch demand

Touch (also known as Touch Football or Touch Rugby) is a variant of rugby organised and administered globally by the Federation of International Touch and nationally by the England Touch Association, which affiliates to the RFU and in some areas assists in the delivery of the T1 Rugby Programme.

Touch is essentially a variation of rugby league with the tackling of opposing players replaced by a touch. It is able to be played on natural turf and 3G pitches, with the field of play measuring 70 metres in length from score line to score line (excluding touchdown areas of an additional 5 metres at each end) and 50 metres in width (excluding the interchange areas). On field teams are made up of six players each, with up to eight substitutes permitted per team. Touch also allows for mixed sex participation at all levels and offers mixed, men's or women's playing formats, with on field male/female ratios applicable to teams in mixed competitions. Matches are generally made up of two 20-minute halves.

Both Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers rugby clubs field Touch rugby teams which compete in friendly tournaments and matches on an ad-hoc basis.

Education demand

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools as is the case in the Chelmsford administrative area where it is particularly prominent at New Hall School. Through consultation, the school state it does not allow community use due to prioritising curricular use and preserving quality of the pitches.

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In addition, other state schools have extensive rugby union activity that is highlighted by many having access to on-site pitches. The following schools are known to involve rugby union within their sporting curriculum:

- ◆ Great Baddow High School.
- ◆ The Sandon School.
- ◆ William de Ferrers School.

Many of these schools also work closely with the RFU to develop the sport and, as part of that, RFU community coaches enter the schools to deliver regular sessions.

Exported/imported demand

Billericay RUFC reports it exports some training demand to the grass pitches at Basildon Sporting Village. The Club states this happens occasionally to preserve the pitches at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club.

Conversely, no imported demand into the Chelmsford administrative area is identified.

Unmet/latent demand

Writtle Wanderers RUFC reports latent demand in that they could field more teams if it had access to increased pitch provision.

Chelmsford RUFC also reports latent demand, expressing that it has an aspiration to obtain the land at Essex Police College as well as using the space to expand its car parking and is exploring the feasibility of this. The latter links this to its need for a 3G pitch for training activity.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in several ways, such as through participation increases and by using population forecasts. In addition, the Strategy & Action Plan document that follows this report will contain housing growth scenarios that will estimate additional demand for rugby union that could come from housing development plans across the Authority.

Population growth

Based on population projections to 2041, (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can estimate the likely additional demand for grass rugby union pitches that will arise from any growth. This is by using the current and future populations in each of the relevant age groups together with the current team numbers, with team generation rates then established to understand how much growth is required to establish one new team.

It however shall not account for the scale or distribution of housing growth in the Authority proposed in the Local Plan, and that this shall be subject to scenarios in the Strategy and Action Plan report.

Table 5.17 below predicts future growth from population increases amounts to two senior men's, one age grade boys and two age grade mixed teams. This equates to two match equivalent session per week of demand on full size senior pitches.

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Table 5.17: Authority-wide team generation rates

Age group	Team generation rate	Number of new teams generated	Number of new teams generated - rounded figure	Match equivalent sessions ¹⁸
Men (19-45yrs)	1:2729	1.9	2	1
Women (19-45yrs)	1:31,341	0.2	0	0
Boys (13-18yrs)	1:535	1.4	1	0.5
Girls (13-18yrs)	1:6,085	0.1	0	0
Mixed (7-12yrs)	1:628	1.6	2	1

As these figures cannot be accredited to any one analysis area, they are added to the overall supply and demand total within the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section.

In addition, team generation rates do not account for specific development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives. As such, future growth could exceed what is otherwise predicted, especially in regard to the growth in women and girls' rugby given current RFU aspirations. A more general growth is also expected, linked to the upcoming 2025 Rugby World Cup and its likely impact and related development work.

The RFU is also focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late age grade years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's).

Participation growth

Four clubs that responded to consultation report future demand aspirations. As set out in table 5.18, this equates to the growth of three senior men's, three senior women's, one age grade boys, two age grade girls and one age grade mixed teams.

Table 5.18: Summary of future club aspirational demand for the Chelmsford administrative area

Club	Analysis area	Future team aspirations	Match equivalent sessions on a senior pitch
Billericay RUFC	Rural South	1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys	1.5
Chelmsford RUFC	City Centre	1 x senior men's 1 x senior women's	1
Runwell Wyverns RUFC	Rural South	1 x senior men's	0.5
South Woodham Ferrers RUFC	South Woodham Ferrers	1 x senior women's 1 x age grade boys 2 x age grade girls 1 x age grade mixed	2.25

Writtle Wanderers RUFC does not report any future demand, stating that its priority is on sustaining current participation levels.

¹⁸ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, one team accounts to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on their relevant pitch type.

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It should be noted that the future demand identified by the clubs and the RFU will not be brought through to the overall supply and demand analysis at the end of this report as this is deemed to be aspirational than what is projected through population growth (and also ensures that increases are not double counted). It will instead be run as a scenario in the proceeding Strategy document.

Future demand summary

In the supply and demand analysis at the end of this section of the report, it is considered unfeasible for all future demand to be factored in. This is because it is likely that club aspirations will absorb the future demand identified through population growth, rather than them being judged separately and therefore double counted. As such, only demand identified through population growth is taken forward, with club demand considered to be more aspirational.

Notwithstanding the above, the proceeding Strategy & Action Plan document will contain a scenario that will consider the impact if clubs aspirations are realised.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams in the Chelmsford administrative area, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time, whereas the peak time for age grade rugby is Sunday AM.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

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

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby union pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site-by-site and pitch-by-pitch analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches, unless it is known that dedicated smaller pitches are instead used.
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch, whilst age grade mixed teams use half a senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and age grade boys/girls' teams, the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis.
- ◀ For age grade teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams playing across only half of one senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mixed age grade rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on marked pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels (one training session is one match equivalent session)

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- Internal use of school pitches is added to current play where community usage is also received, as determined on a site-by-site basis depending on levels of activity.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate, based on quality, as set out in Table 5.19.

Table 5.19: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

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

There may also be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. Furthermore, any pitches with unsecured tenure are not considered to have actual spare capacity as no further play should be encouraged on such sites given that future access cannot be guaranteed.

Capacity for rugby pitches is set out in Table 5.20 and the way the above is represented in Table 5.20 is as follows:

Spare capacity in peak period (examples)	Explanation of spare capacity
1	If the cell is highlighted in green with a number, it means that the pitch/es has actual spare capacity at peak time.
-	If the cell has a dash in it, it means the pitch is played to capacity during the peak period.
1	If the cell has a number in it but is not highlighted, it means the pitch has spare capacity at peak period; however, this is discounted. This could be due to unsecure tenure, poor pitch quality, the pitch not being available for community use, or the pitch already being played to capacity or being overplayed (outside of peak time).

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Table 5.20: Capacity table for rugby pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Site capacity (MES per week)	Current play (MES per week)	Training (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES)	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Comments
8	Bedford Playing Fields	Urban Areas	CM1 7EY	Yes-unused	5	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	10	10	-	0	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
13	Boswells School	City Centre	CM1 6LY	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	CM1 7ER	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	-	1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
31	Coronation Park	City Centre	CM2 6AG	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M1/D1	Standard	2	0.5	5.5	4	0	Used by Chelmsford RUFC for match play and training activity.
31	Coronation Park	City Centre	CM2 6AG	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good	3	2.5	-	0.5	0	Used by Chelmsford RUFC for match play and training activity.
31	Coronation Park	City Centre	CM2 6AG	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good	3	4.25	-	1.25	0	Used by Chelmsford RUFC for match play and training activity.
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	CM2 9RZ	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	CM2 9ES	Yes	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	CM3 3HS	No	2	Senior	Yes	M2/D2	Good	3.25	3.25	-	0	0	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	CM3 3HS	No	2	Senior	Yes	M2/D1	Good	3	3	-	0	0	Pitches are unavailable for community use.
87	Runwell Sports & Social Club	Rural South	SS11 7QA	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	Used by Runwell Wyverns RUFC for match play and training activity, with spare capacity remaining.
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5WA	Yes	3	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	6	3	1	2	2	Used by South Woodham Ferrers RUFC for match play and training activity.
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5WA	Yes	1	Age grade	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1.5	1.5	1	0	Used by South Woodham Ferrers RUFC for match play and training activity.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Postcode	Community use?	No. of pitches	Pitch type	Sports lighting?	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Site capacity (MES per week)	Current play (MES per week)	Training (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES)	Actual spare capacity (MES)	Comments
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	CM1 4BS	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M1/D2	Standard	2.5	1.5	-	1	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
103	The Sandon School	Rural South	CM2 7AQ	Yes-unused	1	Senior	No	M0/D1	Poor	1.5	1	-	0.5	0	Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure and poor quality, with school usage also likely to limit capacity.
107	William De Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	CM3 5JU	Yes-unused	3	Senior	No	M1/D0	Poor	4.5	5	-	1.5	0	Overplayed due to poor quality and heavy internal usage.
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	CM4 9PQ	Yes	1	Senior	Yes	M2/D1	Good	3	1	5	3	0	Used by Billericay RUFC for match play and training demand
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	CM4 9PQ	Yes	1	Senior	No	M2/D1	Good	3	3.5	-	0.5	0	Used by Billericay RUFC for match play and training demand
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Urban Areas	CM1 3HW	Yes	1	Senior	No	M1/D1	Standard	2	1	1	0	0	Used by Writtle Wanderers RUFC for match play and training demand.
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	Urban Areas	CM1 3SS	Yes	2	Senior	No	M2/D2	Good	6.5	1.5	1.5	3.5	2	Used by Writtle University College for match play and training demand.

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Actual spare capacity

Of all the community available pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area, only two are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby. This is due to other pitches either being used to capacity at peak time, not having secure tenure, not being community available, or being poor quality (or because of a combination of these factors).

The actual spare capacity identified is at Runwell Sports & Social Club and Saltcoats Park and relates to the senior pitches located at the sites. The total amount of spare capacity amounts to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with two identified in the South Woodham Ferrers Analysis Area and the remaining 0.5 in the Urban Areas Analysis Area.

Overplay

There are eight senior pitches across four sites in the Chelmsford administrative area that are overplayed by a total of 11.25 match equivalent sessions per week. This is summarised by site in Table 5.21 below.

Table 5.21: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of overplayed pitches	Overplay (match sessions per week)
31	Coronation Park	City Centre	2	5.25
88	Saltcoats Park	South Woodham Ferrers	1	1
107	William De Ferrers School	South Woodham Ferrers	3	1.5
108	Willowbrook Sports & Social Club	Rural South	2	3.5
-	Total	-	8	11.25

At Coronation Park (Chelmsford RUFC) and Willowbrook Sports & Social Club, the overplay is identified on the pitches that are used to accommodate training demand. As shown in Table 5.22, most overplay is evident in the City Centre Analysis Area (5.25 match equivalent sessions per week).

Table 5.22: Summary of overplay by analysis area

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)
City Centre	5.25
Rural North	-
Rural South	3.5
Rural West	-
South Woodham Ferrers	2.5
Urban Areas	-
Total	11.25

5.5: Conclusion

Having considered supply and demand, Table 5.23 below, identifies the overall supply and demand balance (actual spare capacity against overplay) in each of the analysis areas based on match equivalent sessions per week. Future demand is based on anticipated growth from population increases.

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However, please note that this currently only quantifies future demand in terms of match demand and not training activity. It is likely that additional single gender age grade teams or senior teams will require additional training capacity which may exacerbate demonstrated shortfalls.

Table 5.23: Summary of supply and demand analysis on rugby union pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Overplay (match equivalent sessions)	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
City Centre	-	5.25	5.25
Rural North	-	-	0
Rural South	-	6.5	6.5
Rural West	-	-	0
South Woodham Ferrers	2	2.5	0.5
Urban Areas	0.5	-	0.5
Total	2.5	11.25	8.75

There is a current shortfall of 8.75 match equivalent sessions per week to meet rugby union demand in Chelmsford, despite minimal levels of spare capacity being identified in the Urban Areas Analysis Area. There are shortfalls in the City Centre, Rural South and South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas.

The shortfalls are further exacerbated when factoring in future demand, resulting in a future shortfall of 10.75 match equivalent sessions per week, as set out in Table 5.24.

Table 5.24: Future supply and demand balance of rugby union pitches in match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Total	8.75	2	10.75

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Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- ▶ Only two pitches are considered to have actual spare capacity at peak time for an increase in senior rugby, with this totalling 2.5 match equivalent session per week.
- ▶ There are eight senior pitches across four sites that are overplayed by a total of 11.25 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ▶ There is a current shortfall of 10.25 match equivalent sessions currently and 12.25 match equivalent sessions when factoring in future demand from population growth), therefore the creation of World Rugby compliant provision would be warranted as a means to reducing the shortfalls.

Rugby union - supply summary

- ▶ There are 31 grass rugby union pitches identified across 14 sites, with 27 pitches available for community use across 13 sites.
- ▶ There are no disused sites that previously accommodated rugby union pitches, although several sites that are still active previously provided provision.
- ▶ Of the 31 pitches provided, 20 are operated by education providers, seven are operated by the Council and the remaining four are operated by sports clubs.
- ▶ All five clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area have secure site tenure either via direct ownership or being part of a wider entity that has ownership or a long-term lease agreement.
- ▶ Of pitches that are available for community use in the Chelmsford administrative area, there are six assessed as good quality, 16 as standard and five as poor.
- ▶ Poor quality pitches are provided at Great Baddow High School, The Sandon School and William De Ferrers School.
- ▶ The poor quality ancillary facilities are identified at Runwell Sports & Social Club and Writtle Sports & Social Club.
- ▶ Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers and Writtle Wanderers rugby clubs all report development plans or issues with their changing and/or wider ancillary facilities.

Rugby union - demand summary

- ▶ There are five rugby clubs considered to be based in the Chelmsford administrative area, collectively providing a total of 48 teams (11 senior men's, one senior women's, 12 age grade boys', one age grade girls' and 21 age grade mixed teams).
- ▶ Since the 2016 study, Billericay RUFC are now included in the study as the club is based at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club. Between the other four other clubs, 10 additional teams are now registered, with a particular increase at youth and mini level. There are four additional age grade boys' and one age grade girls' teams and seven additional age grade mixed teams.
- ▶ All five clubs currently use match pitches to accommodate training demand.
- ▶ Writtle Wanderers RUFC reports latent demand in that they could field more teams if it had access to increased pitch provision. Chelmsford RUFC also reports latent demand, expressing that it has an aspiration to obtain the land at Essex Police College as well as using the space to expand its car parking and is exploring the feasibility of this. The latter links this to its need for a 3G pitch for training activity.
- ▶ Four clubs (Billericay, Chelmsford, Runwell Wyverns and South Woodham Ferrers rugby clubs) report future aspirations for additional teams, whilst population projections predict a growth of one senior men's, one age grade boys' and two age grade mixed teams.

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PART 6: NETBALL

6.1: Introduction

England Netball is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport.

Whilst often played indoors, there are far more outdoor courts provided and in use by the netball community than there are indoor. Nationally, England Netball reports that the challenge is that the supply of outdoor netball courts is generally not of a good enough standard for use by the community, whilst accessibility and a lack of floodlighting can also be problematic.

Outdoor netball within the Chelmsford administrative area is played both in the winter and the summer via the Chelmsford & District Netball League (CDNL) and the Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League (CDJNL).

Consultation

As set out in Table 6.1, seven netball clubs have been identified as playing netball within the Chelmsford administrative area. Three have responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 43% as seen below. Information to inform this section of the report was primarily obtained through discussions with England Netball.

Table 6.1: Summary of netball club consultation

Clubs	Responded?
Brookshaw Stuart NC	Yes
Conquerors NC	Yes
Chelmsford Black Magic NC	No
Chelmsford NC	No
Chelmsford Junior NC	No
Dolphins NC	Yes
Forme NC	No

6.2: Supply

A total of 80 netball courts have been identified in the Chelmsford administrative area across 17 sites. Of the courts, 56 at 13 sites are available for community use, with 24 courts at four sites unavailable (all provided at education sites).

The largest number of courts are located in the Urban Areas Analysis Area (41 courts) of which 27 (67%) are available for community use. In contrast, the fewest number of courts are located in the Rural South Analysis Area with just four courts, and they are available for community use. No courts are evident in the Rural North or Rural West Analysis Areas.

This is summarised in Table 6.2.

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Table 6.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

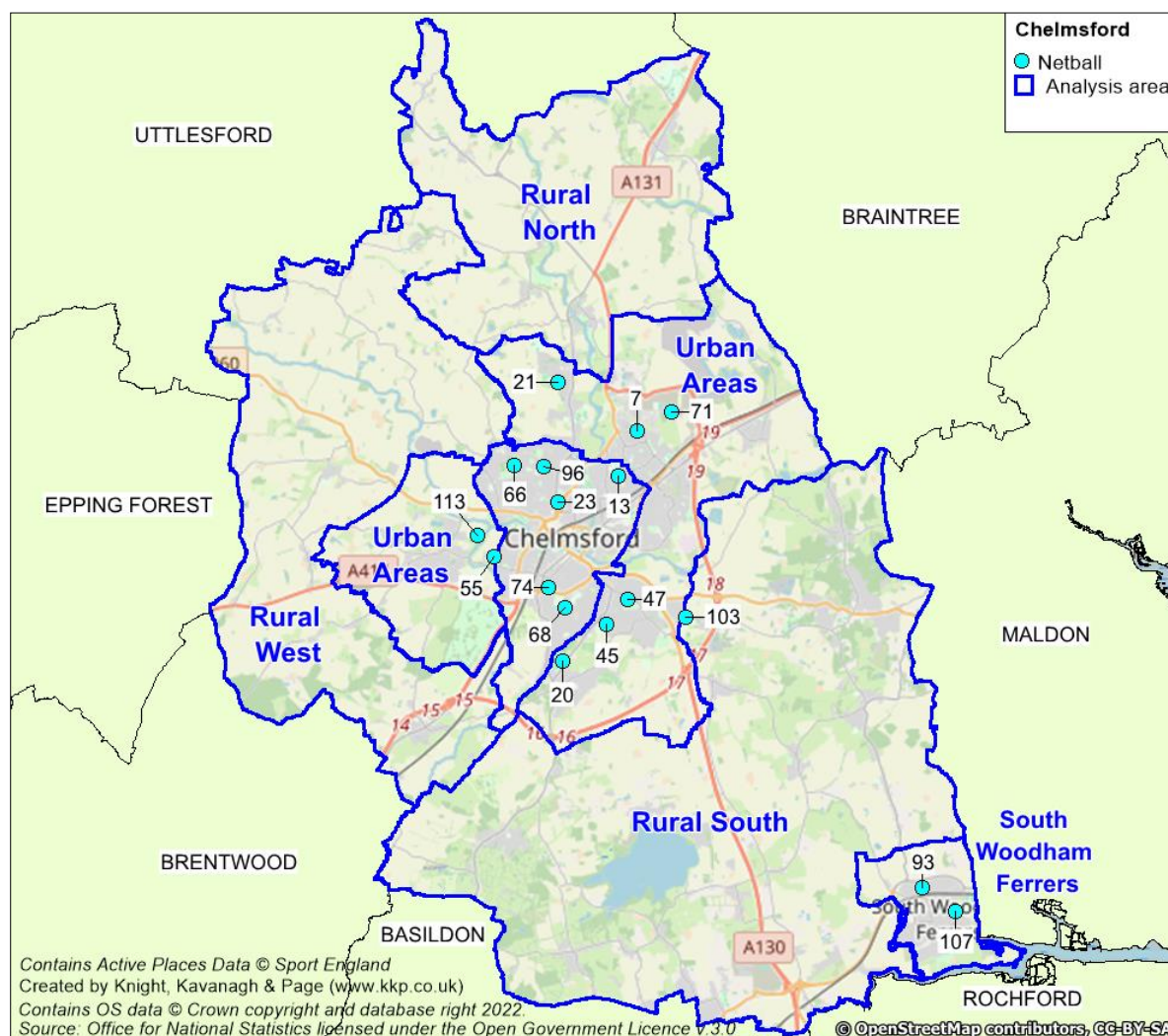
Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use	Total
City Centre	24	6	30
Rural North	-	-	-
Rural South	-	4	4
Rural West	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	5	-	5
Urban Areas	27	14	41
Total	56	24	80

A traditional netball court is 30.5 metres long and 15.25 metres wide. As such, please note that some additional courts are not included in the above figures due to them being undersized, especially those located at primary schools. Such courts are generally marked out on generic playgrounds and are not considered to be permanent or conducive for formal play. It is, however, recognised that the provision can meet a curricular and extra-curricular needs.

Figure 6.1 shows the location of the netball courts included within the study. Please see Table 6.3 for a key to the map.

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Figure 6.1: Location of netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area



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Table 6.3: Netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over-marked?	Court quality
7	Beaulieu Park School	CM1 6DT	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	8	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
13	Boswells School	CM1 6LY	City Centre	Education	Yes	6	Yes	Polymeric	Yes	Standard
20	Chelmer Park	CM2 8RL	Urban Areas	Council	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
21	Chelmer Valley High School	CM1 7ER	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	CM1 1RW	City Centre	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Good
45	Great Baddow High School	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	CM2 9RB	Urban Areas	Parish Council	Yes	1	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
55	Hylands School	CM1 3ET	Urban Areas	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
55	Hylands School	CM1 3ET	Urban Areas	Education	No	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
56	King Edward VI Grammar School	CM1 3SX	City Centre	Education	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Good
66	Melbourne Park	CM1 2EH	Urban Areas	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam	Yes	Standard
66	Melbourne Park	CM1 2EH	Urban Areas	Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
68	Moulsham High School	CM2 9ES	City Centre	Education	No	6	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	Education	No	8	Yes	Polymeric	Yes	Good
92	South Woodham Leisure Centre	CM3 5JU	South Woodham Leisure Centre	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
93	South Woodham Playing Field	CM3 5PL	South Woodham Ferrers	Parish Council	Yes	1	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Ownership	Community use?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Over-marked?	Court quality
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Standard
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Education	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam	Yes	Poor
103	The Sandon School	CM2 7AQ	Rural South	Education	No	4	No	Macadam	Yes	Poor
113	Writtle University College Sports Ground	CM1 3SS	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	2	No	Polymeric	Yes	Good

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Future provision

The North East Chelmsford Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of up to 10,000 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools. As part of the development of the new secondary school, a shared use floodlit MUGA with netball court markings is expected to be provided.

Indoor provision

This report only considers the supply of outdoor netball courts; however, it is recognised that netball activity also takes place indoors via the use of courts that are marked out in sports halls, especially during winter months. Further information is included in the Indoor Needs Assessment that is being carried out in conjunction with the PPOSS.

Changes from the previous study

Since the previous study in 2016, there has been an increase in availability of 53 netball courts from 27 previously available compared to 80 courts currently available.

Management and security of tenure

As set out in Table 6.4, most outdoor netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area are operated by education providers, with 67 courts falling under this management type, 43 courts (64%) of these are available to the community.

Of the remaining courts, 11 are managed by the Council (at Chelmer Park, Melbourne Park and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre) and two by parish councils (at Great Baddow Recreation Ground and South Woodham Playing Field). All of these are available to the community.

Table 6.4: Courts by management type

Community use	No. of Council courts	No. of parish council courts	No. of education courts
Available	11	2	43
Unavailable	-	-	24
Total	11	2	67

The courts at the following sites are currently used by the community for netball:

- ◆ Beaulieu Park School.
- ◆ Chelmer Park.
- ◆ Great Baddow High School.
- ◆ South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre.

However, from the responsive clubs, none have a long-term lease agreement in place for access the provision, with annual hire agreements instead in place. This means that only a limited security of tenure is provided across the Authority. This is particularly important for Beaulieu Park School as it is used as a central venue for both leagues and could potentially cause an issue without a secure community use agreement is in place.

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Court type

All but 16 of the outdoor netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area have a macadam surface, with 64 being of this type and 44 (69%) of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels.

The remaining 16 courts has a polymeric surface, located at Boswells School, New Hall School and Writtle University College Sports Ground. Eight of the courts are available for community use, with no community use offered at New Hall School.

Sports lighting

Of the 80 outdoor netball courts being provided in the Chelmsford administrative area, 44 (55%) are serviced by sports lighting across nine sites located at:

- ◆ Beaulieu Park School.
- ◆ Boswells School.
- ◆ Chelmer Park.
- ◆ Chelmer Valley High School.
- ◆ Chelmsford County High School for Girls.
- ◆ Great and Little Leighs Playing Field.
- ◆ Great Baddow High School.
- ◆ Great Baddow Recreation Ground.
- ◆ New Hall School.
- ◆ St John Payne School.

Of these, 37 are available to the community, with eight of the courts at New Hall School unavailable, despite the presence of sports lighting.

The Council note plans to upgrade the sports lighting at Chelmer Park, in conjunction with the refurbishment and remarking of the courts (see quality section below for more information on this).

An absence of sports lighting on courts is an issue nationwide, with England Netball's national database (updated in 2020) identifying that only 1,941 of 5,108 outdoor netball courts are with sports lighting throughout the Country (38%). In Chelmsford, the percentage is comparatively high with just over half (53%) of the provision accompanied by sports lighting, suggesting this is not an issue as such for the Authority.

A lack of sports lighting presents a key reason as to why many courts are unavailable for community use. Many providers of non-sports lit courts state that making them available would not be financially viable as usage would be significantly limited.

Over markings

Netball courts, particularly at school sites, are often overmarked, predominately by tennis courts but also on occasion by basketball and/or football courts. Provision such as this tends to receive higher levels of use which can be detrimental to quality over time, as well as potentially causing capacity issues when there is external netball demand.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, all netball courts are overmarked with no dedicated netball courts evident in the Authority. This can be attributed to most of the provision being located at secondary schools where tennis markings are also often provided.

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Quality

The quality of netball courts has been informed through non-technical site assessments and consultation with providers to assign each court a rating of good, standard or poor. Key aspects informing the findings include surface quality, grip underfoot, line marking quality, evenness and evidence of inappropriate use (e.g., vandalism and/or littering). For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

As set out in Table 6.5, of all courts in the Chelmsford administrative area, 26 (32.5%) are assessed as good quality, 22 (27.5%) as standard quality and 32 (40%) as poor quality. Of those available to the community, 18 (32%) courts are assessed as good quality, 18 (32%) are standard quality and 20 (36%) as poor quality.

Table 6.5: Quality of all courts in the Chelmsford administrative area

Community use	No. of good quality courts	No of standard quality courts	No. of poor quality courts
Available	18	18	20
Unavailable	8	4	12
Total	26	22	32

The above shows a direct correlation between quality and community access, with 69% of the good quality courts and 81% of the standard quality courts available to the community. In comparison, only 31% of the good quality courts and 18% of the standard quality courts are unavailable to the community.

The poor quality courts available for community use are found at:

- ✦ Chelmer Park.
- ✦ Great and Little Leighs Playing Field.
- ✦ Great Baddow High School.
- ✦ Great Baddow Recreation Ground.
- ✦ Melbourne Park.
- ✦ South Woodham Ferrers Playing Field.
- ✦ St John Payne Catholic School.
- ✦ South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre.

Issues surrounding the poor quality courts include poor grip underfoot, evidence of moss and worn line markings.

As previously mentioned, Beaulieu Park School, Chelmer Park and South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre are currently used for community activity, with only the courts at Beaulieu Park School assessed as good quality. The remaining sites have poor quality courts.

The courts at Chelmer Park are to be resurfaced and remarked in May/June 2024 with the courts also being gated, which is thought to help and prevent any unofficial use occurring in the future. The Council is working in partnership with the LTA to deliver this project with funding in place from both parties.

All remaining courts are assessed as standard quality.

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Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision is generally considered to be problematic for community netball. Whilst most sites provide changing facilities and/or toilets, they are not specific for netball and are generally too far away from the courts to be realistically used. Moreover, given that most courts are located at schools, the facilities predominately service sports halls or grass pitches and are therefore not readily available or suited to netball court users. Access can then also be limited, even at sites that allow for community use as this may entail opening the main school buildings.

Some clubs which participate in the Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League report that carparking provision is an issue at Beaulieu Park School at peak times.

6.3: Demand

Demand for outdoor netball tends to come in league and club-based netball that consists of matches and training. As such, there is significant activity across the Authority, as summarised via the following sub sections.

Chelmsford & District Netball League (CDNL)

The Chelmsford & District Netball League is the largest netball league in the country and the most heavily participated in netball competition in the Chelmsford administrative area, with both winter and summer leagues in operation. All activity is via a central venue format (rather than clubs and teams organising home venues and playing on a home and away basis).

The League runs from September to April and currently caters for 74 clubs and 122 teams across 13 divisions and over 1000 members registered. Whilst not all this demand is generated from within the Chelmsford administrative area, a significant proportion is as the central venue at Beaulieu Park School is utilised for matches. Matches take place between four nights a week from Monday to Thursday.

Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League (CDJNL)

The Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League is also one of the largest netball leagues in the Country and consists of 10 divisions with a total of 11 clubs and 101 teams playing competitive matches. Matches are held at a central venue (as opposed to teams playing home and away and arranging their own venue) at Beaulieu Park School. All summer fixtures (April to July) are played outdoors, whilst winter activity (September to April) is played indoors.

Club demand

There are six netball clubs based in the Chelmsford administrative area. Across these, there are currently 1,495 playing members where membership is known (demand at Chelmsford Black Magic NC is unknown). Table 6.6 below provides a summary of this by club.

Table 6.6: Summary of club membership

Clubs	Current membership
Brookshaw Stuart NC	200
Conquerors NC	400
Chelmsford Black Magic NC	Unknown
Chelmsford NC	650
Chelmsford Junior NC	110

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Clubs	Current membership
Dolphins NC	75
Forme NC	60
Total	1,495

Where known, the largest membership base is found at Chelmsford NC which has 650 members. At the other end of the scale, Dolphins NC is a comparably small club with 75 members.

Chelmsford NC travel outside of the Authority into Uttlesford for its training demand utilising Felstead School (exported demand).

Club training

In addition to clubs based within the Chelmsford administrative area playing within the league formats referenced above and using the associated courts, many also access sites for their training requirements. Table 6.7 below identifies what has been uncovered from consultation.

Table 6.7: Summary of known club training demand

Club name	Site/s used for training	Comments
Brookshaw Stuart NC	Beaulieu Park School	8 senior teams and 11 junior teams using the outdoor courts.
Conquerors NC	Chelmer Park	Junior club, running 16 teams using the outdoor provision.
Chelmsford Black Magic NC	Chelmer Park	One senior team using the outdoors courts.
Chelmsford NC	Felstead School (in Uttlesford)	26 senior teams, with indoor provision used.
Chelmsford Junior NC	Beaulieu Park School	Junior club, running 11 teams using the outdoor courts.
Dolphins NC	South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre	One senior team and five junior teams using the outdoor provision.
Forme NC	Writtle University College Sports Ground	One senior team using the outdoor provision.

University demand

Anglia Ruskin University and Writtle University College both provide netball-based activity. For the former, it provides its own Campus League as well as a student club that supports over 100 players from recreational level to elite. It also offers a social netball programme.

Anglia Ruskin University its activity takes place in the sports hall at Mildmay Sports Centre and for Writtle University College on the outdoor netball courts at Writtle University College Sports Ground.

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Commercial leagues

In addition to the club-based demand identified above, there is one commercial netball league operating in the Chelmsford administrative area with this catering for teams outside of the normal club environment on more of a casual/recreational basis. The leagues generally run all-year round (a new season begins as soon as the previous one ends) and, in addition to welcoming already established teams, individual players are also encouraged to sign up before being within a team that suits their ability.

Play Netball operates a league at Chelmer Valley High School, with matches played on Monday and Tuesday evenings between 19:00 and 21:00 and with a total of 24 teams across five divisions currently catered for. This activity all takes place on the outdoor courts, which are serviced by sports lighting.

Back to Netball

Back to Netball is a scheme put into place by England Netball in 2010, with participation increasing ever since. Sessions are running weekly by qualified coaches across England with the aim of re-introducing female players over the age of 16 to the sport.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, no Back to Netball sessions are currently running. However, desk research evidences some sessions have been delivered at Writtle University College Sports Ground previously.

Walking netball

Walking netball is a lower version of the sport, designed so that anyone can play regardless of age or fitness level. It can give those who are isolated an outlet, provide an activity for those who do not deem themselves fit enough and offer a stepping-stone for those looking for a pathway back into traditional netball.

Walking netball sessions are hosted in the Chelmsford administrative area, predominantly at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre. This demand takes place via indoor provision.

Netball Now

Netball Now is a simple, straight forward way to play netball. It is not a competition led by rules or scores but rather a simple session where players can play a variety of positions and even have a go at umpiring.

No Netball Now sessions are in operation in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Bee Netball

A new initiative by England Netball, Bee Netball is a programme for children all about friendship, inclusion, fair play and teamwork.

No Bee Netball sessions are in operation in the Chelmsford administrative area.

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Exported/imported demand

In addition to playing within leagues based in the Chelmsford administrative area, many clubs otherwise located within the Authority export some demand to play within other league formats in neighbouring authorities. This includes the Basildon & District Netball League (which uses Basildon Sporting Village) in Basildon, Harlow Netball League in Harlow and Southend & District Netball League in Southend.

As previously mentioned, some exported demand is also expressed by Chelmsford NC, although this is for indoor provision. During the winter, the Club trains using the indoor sports hall at Felstead School due to a lack of similar provision and capacity in the Chelmsford administrative area. The site is located in Uttlesford.

Due to the presence of the Chelmsford & District Netball League and the Chelmsford Junior Netball League, there is considered to be much higher levels of imported demand than there is exported. This is due to the popularity of the formats and the use of central venues within the Authority.

Clubs identified as importing demand into the Chelmsford administrative area from neighbouring authorities such as Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Maldon and Uttlesford include the following:

- ✦ Braintree Youth NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ Brentwood NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Eastwood NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ Flames NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ Infinity NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ Kats NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ Lightning Ladies (CDNL).
- ✦ Maldon NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Maldon Vikings NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Mayland NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Ongar NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Royals NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Swan NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ SW Allsorts NC (CDNL).
- ✦ T&M NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Tegate NC (CDJNL).
- ✦ The Wine Cellar NC (CDNL).
- ✦ Wildcats NC (CDNL).

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 526 people within the Chelmsford administrative area, which represents approximately 0.29% of the Authority's population compared to a national average of just over 0.2%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally higher in the Chelmsford administrative area than what would otherwise be expected.

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England Netball identifies that there is unmet demand in the Chelmsford administrative area to accommodate its recreational and participation programmes which it to the detriment to the residents of the region whom may want to participate in easier and more introductive sessions of the sport. The greatest frustration raised is regard to a lack of accessible facilities within the region, resulting in people not taking on the sport.

In addition to the above, the Chelmsford & District Netball League identifies that capacity may become an issue if it continues to grow. With most clubs in the City participating within the League, this means that any club specific future growth plans are also likely to be impacted upon.

Outside of the Sport England segmentation tool, there is no other applicable way to quantify perceived latent demand by clubs or England Netball.

Future demand

Several clubs report aspirations to grow in the future. However, as indicated above, this may be negated through the capacity pressures being felt by the Chelmsford & District Netball League which could lead to plans not being realised or an increase in the level of exported demand being experienced.

In addition to club-based activity, it is hoped by England Netball that there will an increase in the number of its initiatives held in the Chelmsford administrative area and the demand for them. However, this is reliant on volunteers running and organising the sessions.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

With the presence of the Chelmsford & District Netball League and the Chelmsford & District Junior League and Play Netball in the Chelmsford administrative area, as the several large clubs, there is a high level of demand for netball identified across the Authority. In this regard, the current supply of provision is likely to be sufficient in quantitative terms due to the large number of courts in place; however, improvements are needed to better meet demand and to ensure that the sport can continue to grow. This can be achieved through improving quality, securing tenure, increasing the number of courts that are sports-lit and increasing the number of courts that are community accessible.

In general, England Netball suggests that for a site to be used a central venue for a large league, at least six good quality courts with sports lighting are needed (with smaller sites then used to supplement activity through accommodating training demand and any initiatives).

In the Chelmsford administrative area, only Beaulieu Park School meets these requirements. All remaining sites with a sufficient number of courts are poor quality (e.g. Chelmer Park). However, as mentioned above, the courts at Chelmer Park are due to be refurbished and remarked in May/June 2024 and could potentially an additional venue to the south of the Authority. This would help to cater for the increased demand, particularly for the Chelmsford & District Netball League, due to the significant number of teams competing in the League and the imported demand.

Notwithstanding the above, security of tenure at Beaulieu Park School does not necessarily include netball. Given the school provides a central venue for both CDNL and CDJNL, establishing a secure community use agreement is important to ensure access can be guaranteed.

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6.5: Conclusion

The current supply of provision is likely to be sufficient in quantitative terms due to the large number of courts in place; however, improvements are needed to better meet demand and to ensure that the sport can continue to grow.

The current stock of netball courts requires targeted investment and need to be better utilised in order to adequately accommodate the demand that exists. This can be achieved via securing tenure at key, well used sites, gaining access to a greater number of sites, especially where multiple courts are provided, improving quality, and through installing sports lighting where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand.

In addition, potential latent/unmet demand is identified by the Chelmsford & District Netball League due to capacity issues, with this likely to also impact on club specific growth plans.

Netball – supply and demand summary

- Although the current supply of provision is generally sufficient in quantitative terms due to the large number of courts in place, improvements are needed to better meet demand and to ensure that the sport can continue to grow. Netball participation is extremely high in the area with one of the biggest leagues in County playing at sites in the Chelmsford administrative area.
- Investment into courts and better utilisation is required to adequately accommodate the demand that exists; this can be achieved via securing tenure at key sites, gaining access to a greater number of sites, improving quality and through installing sports lighting.

Netball – supply summary

- There are 82 netball courts have been identified in the Chelmsford administrative area across 18 sites. Of the courts, 56 at 14 sites are available for community use.
- Most outdoor netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area are operated by education providers, with 71 courts falling under this management type. Of the remaining courts, nine are managed by the Council (at Chelmer Park, Oaklands Park, Melbourne Park). The remaining are managed by Parish Councils at Great Baddow Recreation Ground and South Woodham Playing Field.
- A total of three sites (Beaulieu Park School, Chelmer Park, William de Ferrers School) are reported as being in use for netball activity across the Authority.
- All but 16 of the outdoor netball courts in the Chelmsford administrative area have a macadam surface, with 66 being of this type and 45 (68%) being available for community use (the remaining 16 courts have a polymeric surface).
- 45 (52%) are serviced by sports lighting across nine sites.
- All 82 courts are overmarked with no dedicated netball courts evident in the Authority.
- Of the courts in the Chelmsford administrative area, 26 are assessed as good quality, 24 as standard quality and 32 as poor quality. Of those available to the community, 18 courts are assessed as good quality, 20 are standard quality and 20 are poor quality.

Netball – demand summary

- The Chelmsford & District Netball League is a heavily participated in league structure in Chelmsford administrative area, with both winter and summer leagues in operation. All activity is via a central venue format (rather than clubs and teams organising home venues and playing on a home and away basis).
- The League runs from September to April and currently caters for over 100 teams across 11 divisions, with fixtures arranged between Monday and Thursday evenings. All matches are played at Beaulieu Park School.
- Chelmsford & District Junior Netball League consists of 11 divisions, with a total of 101 teams playing competitive matches. Matches are held at central venue (as opposed to teams playing home and away and arranging their own venue) at Beaulieu Park School. All summer fixtures (April to July) are played outdoors, whilst winter activity (September to April) is played indoors. Several clubs also hire out provision for training demand.
- There is one commercial netball league operating in the Chelmsford administrative area. Play Netball operates a league at Chelmer Valley High School on the outdoor courts on Monday

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and Tuesday evenings between 19:00 and 21:00 and with a total of 24 teams across five divisions currently catered for.

- ◀ Several clubs also hire out provision for training demand and whilst indoor provision is predominately used, this is likely to be in part due to a lack of outdoor courts with sports lighting.
- ◀ England Netball initiatives such as Walking Netball are being operated at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre.
- ◀ Whilst some exported demand is identified due to the use of central venues in Basildon by leagues operating outside of the Chelmsford administrative area, more imported demand is considered likely due to the popularity of leagues such as the Chelmsford & District Netball League.
- ◀ Potential latent/unmet demand is identified by the Chelmsford & District Netball League due to capacity issues, with this likely to also impact on club specific growth plans.

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PART 7: HOCKEY

7.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). EH is launching a new five-year Facilities Strategy, known as 'Creating A Future for Our Game Together', which aims to make the sport more visible, relevant and accessible.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable at introductory level, such as school curriculum low level hockey. England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as seen in Table 7.1 below.

Table 7.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

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

In addition to the above pitch types, England Hockey reports it is currently trialling a different multi-sport surface in order to better accommodate lower levels of hockey demand and other sports such as netball and tennis. The surface type, known as Gen 2¹⁹, is a versatile sand-dress synthetic surface with a compatible shock pad that ensures that sports do not need to compromise on the playing experience. The concept is designed to provide facilities, including schools, with a dynamic surface which reduces the amount of space required and can be utilised to full potential.

¹⁹ <http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2596§ionTitle=Gen+2+Playing+Surface>

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For senior teams, a full size pitch for matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides and three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres.

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided the pitch has sports lighting. Training is generally midweek and also requires access to a pitch with lights. The playing season runs from September-May.

Consultation

Chelmsford HC is the only hockey club identified as playing within the Authority. The Club was consulted via a face-to-face meeting and as such resulted in a response rate of 100%.

In the previous study, County Wanderers HC were identified as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area, but the Club has since folded.

7.2: Supply

There are five full-size suitable AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area located across four sites (two are provided at New Hall School). Of these, three are available for community use and are all serviced by sports lighting. The provision at New Hall School is no longer available for community use. Prior to the Pandemic, the School did offer community use access but reviewed this and took the decision to not re-open to clubs, due to prioritising curricular use and preserving quality of the pitches.

Table 7.2: Full size hockey suitable pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Size (metres)
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	Yes	Yes	Sand-filled	106 x 60
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	City Centre	1	Yes	Yes	Sand-dressed	98 x 60
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	Urban Areas	1	Yes	Yes	Sand-dressed	100 x 62
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	1	No	Yes	Water-based	100 x 60
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	1	No	Yes	Water-based	100 x 60

Table 7.2 above set out the full size hockey pitches available within the Chelmsford administrative area. Four pitches are provided in the Urban Areas Analysis Area and one in the City Centre Analysis Area. None are provided in the Rural North, Rural South or Rural West analysis areas.

Smaller size provision

In addition to the full size AGPs, there are also two smaller size hockey suitable pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area, as summarised in Table 7.3 below. Both pitches are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.

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Table 7.3: Smaller size AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Sports lighting?	Surface type	Size (metres)
17	Broomfield Village Hall	Urban Areas	1	Yes	Yes	Sand-filled	44 x 20
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	1	Yes	Yes	Sand-filled	37 x 35

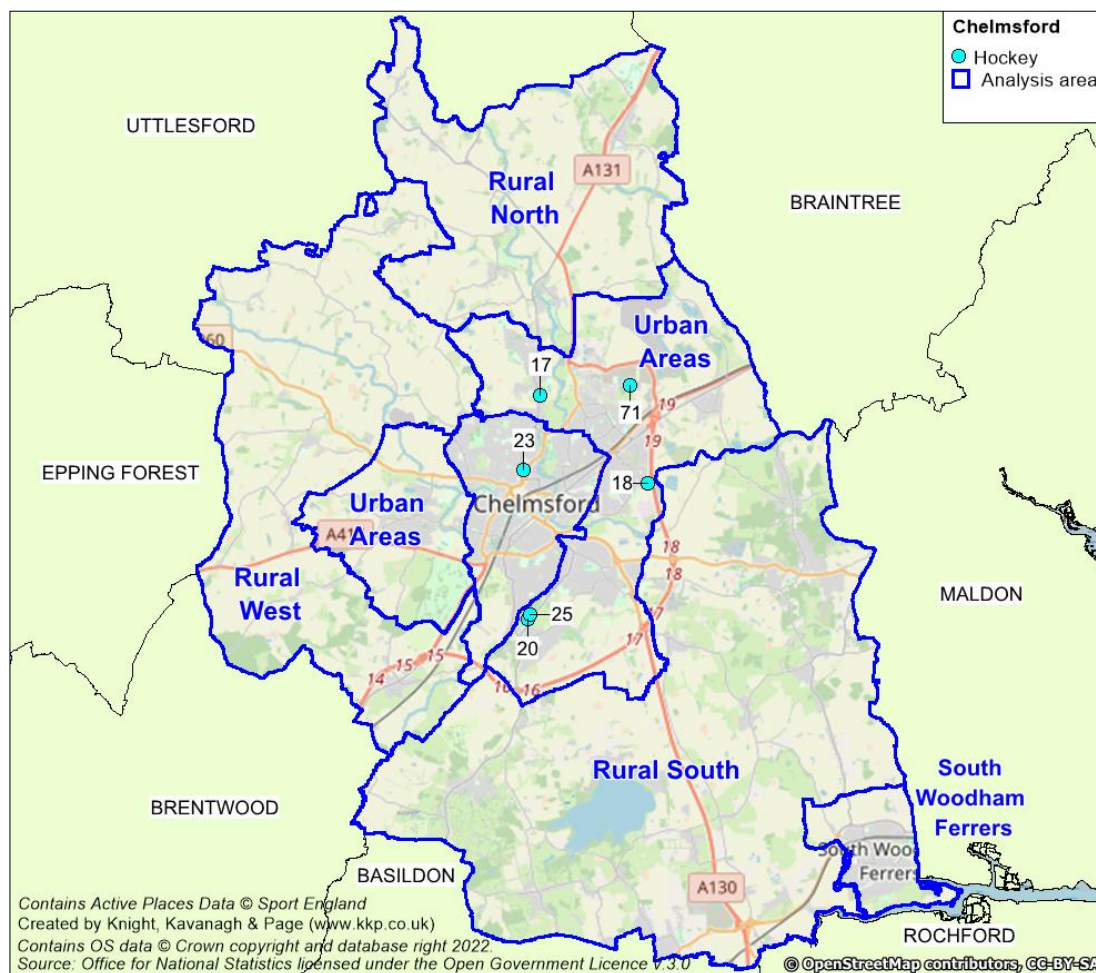
Nationally, most smaller size pitches are considered too small to accommodate any purposeful hockey demand, although some larger ones are utilised for training demand and junior play. However, in the Authority, none of the smaller size pitches are considered suitable as they are either too small, unavailable for community use, or without sports lighting. Based on this, the stock is discounted from this point forward as the pitches are not relevant from a hockey perspective.

Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the smaller size pitches can be valuable assets for accommodating curricular and extra-curricular hockey demand as well as recreational community activity where availability is offered. An example of this is at Chancellor Park, where there is a high level of football demand despite the surface being suitable for hockey albeit it has no hockey goals in place.

For the location of the full size AGPs, please see Figure 7.1 overleaf.

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Figure 7.1: Location of hockey suitable AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area



Changes since the previous study

Compared to the previous study, which was last updated in 2016, there has been increase of one water based AGP at New Hall School and was installed in 2021. Although, a water-based AGP was previously provided at Chelmsford Hockey Club, the Club report this was resurfaced to a sand-based surface in 2017 as it is easier to maintain but still has the water systems in place.

Regarding the smaller size provision, the two sand-based AGPs at The Sandon School have been converted to 3G surface.

Future developments

Chelmsford HC has a long term aspiration for the creation of a third full size AGP, as the pitches at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park are both operating at full capacity.

In addition, Chelmsford HC reports it has an aspiration to upgrade its lighting to LED, however, it requires funding in order to do this. There are also plans to improve the sports lighting on the pitch at Chelmer Park by replacing the existing lights with a LED alternative.

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Management and security of tenure

Three of the full size pitches (those at Chelmsford County High School for Girls and New Hall School) are managed internally. The pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club is managed by the Club itself, whereas the remaining pitch at Chelmer Park is managed by the Council.

Chelmsford HC owns the freehold of the pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club and therefore has security of tenure. It also uses Chelmer Park as a secondary/overspill venue as part of a long-term lease agreement with the Council.

Generally, school sites do not provide long term security of tenure for access to their AGPs. However, at Chelmsford County High School for Girls a community use agreement was established as part of the development of the site. Southend HC imports demand to this pitch as an overspill venue. The Club accesses the provision on a seasonal basis, whilst any additional hockey usage is accommodated via ad hoc bookings as and when required. Although the community use agreement is not specific to a club it will protect community use so although Southend HC access the pitch via ad hoc bookings, this is classed as being secure under the community use agreement.

Table 7.4 below summarises the Chelmsford administrative area based pitches and whether security of tenure is provided to the clubs that use them.

Table 7.4: Summary of venues used by hockey clubs

Club	Site/s used	Comments	Tenure
Chelmsford HC	Chelmsford Hockey Club	Primary venue	Secure
Chelmsford HC	Chelmer Park	Secondary/overspill venue	Secure
Southend HC (imported)	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	Overspill venue	Secure

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00). In the Chelmsford administrative area, most of the full size pitches have relatively good availability during the peak period, with the pitches at New Hall School unavailable for community use.

Using the peak time modelling, the availability at each site providing a full size pitch in the Chelmsford administrative area is summarised in Table 7.5 overleaf. However, please note that this only refers to overall availability and opening hours, rather than considering current capacity, which is instead accounted for within the demand part of this section. A pitch may theoretically have good availability but may currently be operating at capacity, especially during peak times, based on existing usage levels.

In further summary, the pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club is fully available throughout the peak periods, as is the pitch at Chelmer Park. At Chelmsford County High School for Girls, availability exists for 13 peak time hours during midweek (it is not available from 17:00-18:00) and 14 peak time hours at weekends (it is not available 16:00-17:00).

The pitches at New Hall School are, as stated earlier, unavailable for community use.

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Table 7.5: Availability of full-size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Hockey club users	Availability	Midweek availability in the peak period	Weekend availability in the peak period
20	Chelmer Park	1	Chelmsford HC	Every day until 22:00	18/18	16/16
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	1	Southend HC (imported)	Monday- Thursday 18:00 to 21:00 Friday 18:00 to 20:00 Saturday to Sunday 09:00 to 16:00	13/18	14/16
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	1	Chelmsford HC	Every day until 22:00	18/18	16/16
71	New Hall School	2	-	Unavailable for community use	0	0

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Quality

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

For the PPOSS, each AGP has been assigned a quality rating of good, standard or poor following site assessments (between December 2023 and January 2024) and provider/user consultation. This rating is linked to the condition and age of the playing surface, as well as surrounding hard areas and the maintenance that is undertaken. For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

Table 7.6 indicates when each of the full-size pitches were installed or last resurfaced within the Authority, together with an agreed quality rating.

Table 7.6: Age and quality of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site	Surface type	No. of pitches	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
20	Chelmer Park	Sand-filled	1	2017	Standard
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	Sand dressed	1	2003	Poor
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	Sand-filled	1	2017	Standard
71	New Hall School	Water-based	1	2017	Standard
71	New Hall School	Water-based	1	2021	Good

One of the two water-based pitches at New Hall School is the England Hockey Category 1 water-based pitch and is rated as good quality. The pitch was resurfaced in 2021. Consultation with the School confirms the pitch is in good condition, however, it is only accessed internally with no community use as detailed earlier.

The pitches at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park are assessed as standard quality as they were both resurfaced in 2017. Chelmsford HC report its pitch used to be a water-based pitch but resurfaced to a sand-based surface as it is easier to maintain but still has the water systems in place.

The pitch at Chelmsford County High School for Girls is assessed as poor quality as it has reached the end of its recommended lifespan; signs of wear and tear, worn line markings and poor grip underfoot are reported. Therefore, it needs imminent resurfacing to ensure that it can remain useable for hockey.

Where pitches are assessed as good or standard quality, sinking funds should still be put into place (where not already provided) to ensure that refurbishment can go ahead if and when required.

Ancillary provision

Chelmsford HC report its clubhouse, located at Chelmer Park, is of good quality and includes numerous changing rooms with showers and toilets, a pitch side café, physio room and kit room. The Club maintains the facility but lease it from Chelmsford Sports Club and it shares the facilities with Chelmsford CC.

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7.3: Demand

Chelmsford HC is the only hockey club currently playing in the Authority. The Club consists of 37 teams, which equates to 10 senior men's, seven senior women's, 16 junior teams and two veterans' team. This is broken down further into participation figures for each age group in Table 7.7 below.

Table 7.7: Summary of participation figures

Name of club	Senior men (17-55)	Senior women (17-55)	Junior boys (14-16)	Junior girls (14-16)	Junior boys (11-13)	Junior girls (11-13)	Mini mixed (5-10)	Total
Chelmsford HC	169	118	49	58	29	45	98	566

The Club utilises two pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area to accommodate its training demand at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park. The Club's senior men's train at Chelmsford Hockey Club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, whilst its senior women's train on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Its junior boys (11-13) and junior girls (11-13) train on Sunday mornings at Chelmer Park. Its older junior boys' (14-16) train on Sunday mornings at Chelmsford Hockey Club and its older youth girls' train on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Finally, at the Club's entry level, its mini teams train on Sunday mornings at Chelmer Park.

University demand

Angelia Ruskin University (based in the Chelmsford administrative area) fields a senior men's and women's team, although it does not play within the Authority. Instead, it uses Cambridge City Hockey Club, in Cambridge for training and match play. It reports it is happy with this arrangement.

Writtle University College (now merged with Anglia Ruskin University) field one senior women's team and plays in the BUCS league structure. Training takes place at Chelmsford County High School for Girls on Monday evenings, whilst matches take place outside of the Authority at University of Essex (Colchester Campus) on Wednesday afternoons.

Participation trends (changes since the previous study)

As previously mentioned, since the 2016 study, County Wanderers HC has since folded. However, Chelmsford HC has seen an increase in its number of teams equating to two senior men's and eight junior teams, some of which is likely to be due to absorbing demand from County Wanderers HC.

Additional demand

In addition to club-based hockey activity, there are also various initiatives for hockey which are promoted by EH, as detailed below. These can add to the demand in a local authority and also necessitate the need for further pitch capacity.

Back to Hockey

Back to Hockey sessions are fun, social, and informal and are aimed at people who either have not played for a number of years or that are looking to play for the first time. They are generally hosted by clubs, with EH providing guidance on how to deliver the programme.

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Benefits of clubs being involved in Back to Hockey include:

- ◆ More members.
- ◆ More casual players.
- ◆ Additional income.
- ◆ Extra publicity.
- ◆ New volunteers.

Back to Hockey sessions take place at Chelmsford Hockey Club on Saturday mornings.

Flyerz Hockey

Flyerz is the name widely associated with grassroots disability hockey in Great Britain. There are now more than 50 Flyerz sections across England, Wales, and Scotland, providing inclusive hockey for disabled people.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there are currently no Flyerz Hockey sessions.

Hockey Heroes

Hockey Heroes is a six-week hockey programme aimed at beginners (children aged five to eight) that not only focuses on helping children develop some physical hockey skills such as dribbling, passing and goal scoring, but also places as much emphasis on character development including teamwork, communication, perseverance, and respect.

There are currently no Hockey Heroes courses operating in the Chelmsford administrative area.

In2Hockey

In2Hockey is England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old and is played as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers, or as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers.

Chelmsford HC offers In2Hockey sessions at its main venue, Chelmsford Hockey Club.

Quicksticks

Quicksticks is designed to introduce young people (aged 7-11) to the game of hockey. It is 4-a-side, can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball. It is a fun, fast, safe and exciting game that has been designed so that anyone can deliver the game, regardless of previous hockey experience.

Currently no clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area offer dedicated Quicksticks delivery.

Rush hockey

Rush hockey is a new way to play hockey, designed as a small-sided hockey game for adults. It can be played by men and women in mixed or single gender teams, indoors or outdoors and on pitches of varying sizes. Teams are four or five aside and it is played with a standard hockey stick but with unique goals and balls.

No Rush hockey activity is identified in the Chelmsford administrative area.

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Walking hockey

Increasing in popularity, walking hockey is perfect for players looking for a less physically demanding version of the game but still enjoy showing their skills and being involved in the team and social aspect.

There are currently no walking hockey sessions operating in the Chelmsford administrative area. The nearest offering is provided by Maldon HC.

Imported/exported demand

Southend HC imports some senior match play demand into the Authority, due to a lack of capacity within its home authority, which is in neighbouring Southend-on-Sea. The Club has three senior men's, four senior women's and two junior teams, with matches taking place at various venues across Essex including at Chelmsford County High School for Girls on Saturday afternoons. It has an aspiration to return this demand to Southend in the future. England Hockey confirm there are plans for a new pitch to be provided at Garon Park in Southend-on-Sea which would satisfy its demand.

In terms of exported demand, Chelmsford HC do not report any demand into neighbouring authority areas and accommodates all of its demand within the Authority. As stated above, Anglia Ruskin University (based in Chelmsford) fields a senior men's and women's team, although it does not play within the Authority. Instead, it uses Cambridge City Hockey Club, in Cambridge for training and match play. It reports it is happy with this arrangement. Whilst Writtle University College plays matches outside of the Authority at the University of Essex (Colchester Campus) on Wednesday afternoons.

Future demand

Growing participation is a key aim within EH's Strategic Plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities, schools and regional and local leagues as well as developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Overall, it has an aim to double participation over the next ten years, meaning it does not consider team generation rates to provide an accurate representation of potential growth.

In relation to club aspirations, Chelmsford HC reports future demand as summarised in Table 7.8 below for one senior men's and one senior women's team.

Table 7.8: Summary of future demand

Club	Future senior men's demand (teams)	Future senior women's demand (teams)	Future junior demand (teams)
Chelmsford HC	1	1	-

The Club states that it would need more hours at Chelmer Park to accommodate this level of future demand as there is a lack of capacity on the pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club.

Latent/unmet demand

As referenced above, Chelmsford HC has future demand aspirations, but the Club states that this cannot be accommodated without increased pitch capacity at Chelmer Park, with some capacity taken up by football groups, or through the creation of another full size pitch.

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Peak time demand

For matches, most senior hockey activity in the Chelmsford administrative area takes place on a Saturday, whereas most junior activity occurs on a Sunday. For training, peak time is midweek evenings, although preference is generally given for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays due to clubs wanting to avoid training in close proximity to weekend matches.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

When assessing the capacity of hockey pitches, all usage needs to be taken into account. This is because, in addition to hockey activity, there is often heavy football usage of the provision and occasionally other sporting use which can take capacity away from hockey-based demand. An example of this is at Chelmsford County High School for Girls, where the pitch is primarily used for football training demand.

Similarly, the pitch at Chelmer Park is heavily used for football training demand on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings which takes capacity away from Chelmsford HC.

Table 7.9 below details the usage at all sites providing full size hockey suitable pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area. It compares availability during peak time against hockey use and other activity as well as taking into consideration any remaining spare capacity.

Spare capacity is considered to exist for matches if there are currently less than eight teams assigned to a pitch on a Saturday or Sunday (and if the remaining capacity is not being utilised for other purposes). It exists for training if at least a section of a pitch is available for at least an hour during midweek evenings (Tuesday-Thursday).

Table 7.9: Usage of full size hockey suitable AGPs

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Availability in the peak period (hours)	% of hockey usage	% of other usage (e.g., football)	Hockey club users	Training capacity comments (mid-week)	Match capacity comments (weekend)	Capacity summary
20	Chelmer Park	1	34	60%	40%	Chelmsford HC	Accommodates some training demand as an overspill venue by Chelmsford HC. Some football activity is also received.	Used as a secondary/overspill venue by Chelmsford HC, with an average of five teams using the venue on a weekly basis for matches. This generally consists of two men's and three women's.	No spare capacity for midweek training or for additional match play on Saturdays. Spare capacity does exist for match play on Sundays.
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	1	27	10%	90%	Southend HC (imported)	Used for some midweek training by Writtle University College HC on Monday evenings but the majority of activity is taken up by football and is used to capacity.	Used for match play by Southend HC (imported) on Saturday afternoons. Spare capacity exists on Sunday afternoons.	No spare capacity other than minimal levels on a Sunday.
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	1	34	100%	0%	Chelmsford HC	Accommodates most of the training demand by Chelmsford HC.	Used to capacity on Saturdays by Chelmsford HC (eight teams). All of this is recorded on Saturdays.	No spare capacity for midweek training but does exist for Sunday afternoon match play.
71	New Hall School	2	-	-	-	-	Unavailable for community use	Unavailable for community use	No capacity due to being unavailable for community use.

In summary, all community available full size pitches have a minimal level of spare capacity to accommodate additional hockey usage. However, the pitches at Chelmer Park and Chelmsford Hockey Club are generally used to capacity on Saturdays which will prevent Chelmsford HC growing its club without access to another pitch.

The AGPs located at Chelmer Park and Chelmsford County High School for Girls are well used midweek by football demand; however, only spare capacity remains on Sundays for match play. That being said, the spare capacity at Chelmsford County High School for Girls should not currently be utilised due to the pitch being poor quality.

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Match play analysis

It is suggested that a full size hockey suitable, sports lit AGP is able to accommodate four match equivalent sessions on one day. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (one team requires 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week on its 'home' AGP).

Using the above calculations, on the basis that there are currently five full size hockey suitable pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 40 senior teams at peak time across the Authority. However, the provision at New Hall School is discounted from this given the pitches are unavailable for community use and limited availability at Chelmsford County High School for Girls reduces the overall capacity further due to its poor quality.

Table 7.10 below therefore further explores the level of capacity actually provided, firstly for senior hockey (i.e., on a Saturday).

Table 7.10: Summary of hockey pitch capacity for peak time match play (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Potential capacity in teams	Actual capacity in teams	Comments
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	1	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	City Centre	1	8	4	Availability is slightly reduced due to poor quality and existing football usage.
25	Chelmsford Hockey Club	Urban Areas	1	8	8	Full peak time availability at weekends
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	2	16	0	Unavailable to the community
-	-	Total	5	40	20	-

As seen, it is determined that current provision can potentially accommodate up to 20 senior teams on a Saturday, with this equating to 10 match equivalent sessions per week (where teams play on a home and away basis). With 20 senior teams (including Southend HC) currently provided (equating to 10 match equivalent sessions per week) and requiring access, the provision on Saturdays is used to capacity for match play demand. When factoring in future demand expressed by Chelmsford HC and the Club noting this cannot be accommodated on the pitches it currently accesses, this would suggest there is a future shortfall.

For junior hockey matches, the need for pitches is generally less than it is for senior hockey. This is because younger age groups can play on half a pitch (meaning two fixtures can take place at one time) and because there are fewer junior teams in the Chelmsford administrative area than there are senior teams. As such, provision adequate to accommodate senior demand is also likely to be adequate to accommodate junior demand, although the same capacity pressures are likely to apply where existing usage is significant.

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Training analysis

In terms of capacity for training, most AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area have high levels of existing usage, with spare capacity for growth minimal. This is exacerbated by additional usage from other sports, most predominately football, which further reduces availability for hockey clubs at desired times. Table 7.11 below summarises the existing position for clubs at the sites they currently access.

Table 7.11: Hockey pitch training capacity by club

Club	Site/s used	Capacity summary
Chelmsford HC	Chelmsford Hockey Club	No remaining spare capacity
Chelmsford HC	Chelmer Park	No remaining spare capacity

Capacity issues are present for Chelmsford HC, despite it having access to two pitches (which are both operating at capacity).

This means that alternative venues may be required, either via utilising pitches not currently accessed (at which point quality improvements may be necessary), or through new provision.

7.5: Conclusion

Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are significant issues to be resolved to adequately cater for existing demand. In addition, Chelmsford HC aspires to grow its demand by one senior male and one senior female team. However, it would need more hours at Chelmer Park to accommodate this level of future demand as there is a lack of capacity on the pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club.

In addition, Southend HC currently imports some senior match play demand into the Authority to Chelmsford County High School for Girls, due to a lack of capacity within its home authority, which is in neighbouring Southend-on-Sea. As mentioned above, it has an aspiration to return this demand to Southend-on-Sea in the future. This could eventually free up some potential capacity for Chelmsford HC at Chelmsford County High School for Girls.

Therefore, it is imperative that all pitches in use for hockey are protected (Chelmer Park, Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmsford County High School for Girls) should be protected for future access as without these pitches, Chelmsford HC report would suffer even greater capacity issues and may potentially mean the Club has to export some demand outside of the Authority.

To ensure that current and future match demand for Chelmsford HC can continue to be catered for, opportunities to increase capacity for hockey should be sought. This could be achieved by establishing community use at New Hall School. Alternatively, improving the quality of the pitch at Chelmsford County High School for Girls combined with relocating the current football usage to new 3G provision may offer a better solution given there is a limited prospect of community use being established at New Hall School. However, if neither of these are possible, due to restrictions, then new provision may need to be provided. This would further support the plans by Chelmsford HC.

For training demand, primarily, this could be achieved via increasing the stock of 3G pitches in the Authority to transfer some football training demand away from Chelmer Park.

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However, as set out in Part 3 of this report, this cannot be accommodated at present due to a lack of availability at peak time as well as the unmet/latent demand for 3G pitch availability.

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- Although there appears to be a sufficient current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area, some capacity pressures coupled with quality issues means there are significant issues to be resolved to adequately cater from existing demand.
- When factoring in future demand, a shortfall of provision will be established.
- In terms of training, capacity issues are identified for Chelmsford HC.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are five full size suitable AGPs in the Chelmsford administrative area across four sites (two are provided at New Hall School). Three of the pitches are available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- In addition to the full size AGPs, there are two smaller size hockey suitable pitches at Broomfield Village Hall and Chancellor Park. However, the pitches are not suitable for purposeful hockey demand.
- Three of the full size AGPs (those at Chelmsford County High School for Girls and New Hall School) are owned and managed by schools. The pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club is managed by the club itself, whereas the remaining pitch at Chelmer Park is managed by the Council.
- Chelmsford HC is thought to have secure tenure on both of the pitches it accesses, with it owning the freehold on the pitch at Chelmsford Hockey Club and has a long term lease agreement in place on the pitch at Chelmer Park.
- Most pitches offer full availability during the peak period, however the pitches at New Hall School are not available for community use.
- Of the full size pitches, three are assessed as standard quality, one as poor quality (Chelmsford County High School for Girls) and the remaining pitch at New Hall School is assessed as good quality.
- Chelmsford HC reports it has an aspiration to upgrade its lighting to LED, however it requires funding in order to do this. In addition, aspirations exists for the creation of a third full size pitch on site as between the pitches at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park, as they are operating at full capacity.

Hockey – demand summary

- Chelmsford HC is the only hockey club currently playing in the Authority. The Club consists of 37 teams, which equates to 10 senior men's, seven senior women's, 16 junior teams and two veterans' team.
- Since the 2016 study, County Wanderers HC have since folded. However, Chelmsford HC has seen an increase in its number of teams equating to two senior men's and eight junior teams.
- Chelmsford HC report plans to grow their demand in the future.
- Chelmsford HC reports latent/unmet demand in that current pitch capacity at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park is impacting on demand and potential growth.
- Based on current demand, pitches at Chelmsford Hockey Club and Chelmer Park do not have the capacity for an increase in demand, although the pitch at Chelmsford County High School for Girls does.

PART 8: TENNIS

8.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and padel which administers the sport locally across the Chelmsford administrative area. It has recently restructured its strategic approach to target several national focus areas, with a priority on developing the sport at park sites.

The LTA provides recommended and minimum dimensions per tennis court and depending on how many courts are provided. The recommended court size for one court is 36.57m x 18.29m and the minimum court size is 34.75m x 17.07m. More sizes can be found on the LTA website²⁰.

LTA Vision and Mission

The LTA has recently launched a new vision: 'Tennis Opened Up'. These three words are at the heart of our work and shape everything we do. Tennis is an amazing sport. Anyone can play; whatever their motivation or ability, from all communities and backgrounds. At any age and for a whole lifetime, tennis provides physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. The LTA want tennis and these fantastic benefits it provides to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

The LTA's mission is to:

- ♦ Grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone.
- ♦ Our mission is to grow tennis by making it welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring to everyone. We have the focus and determination that, coupled with the support of everyone in tennis, will really make a difference.
- ♦ Volunteers, coaches, officials and tennis venues all play an essential role in the future of our sport; without them, tennis can't exist. We're committed to supporting them and working with a whole range of other organisations and individuals connected to our sport, so that together we can grow tennis and open it up to many more people.

Participation

Making tennis a sport for anyone to play, through increasing participation and access – for instance, through LTA Youth, our innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis; through Open Court, our successful disability tennis programme which is one of the largest of its kind across any sport and has helped a record number of disabled people enjoy the benefits of tennis; through SERVES, our ground-breaking programme that takes tennis right in to the heart of new communities across Britain; or through the range of national, regional and local tennis competitions that we deliver and support for hundreds of thousands of players throughout the year

Performance

Becoming one of the most respected nations in the world for player development – for example, through our Player Pathway that is supporting and nurturing the next generation of elite British players with programmes such as our Pro Scholarship Programme that's helped the likes of Emma Raducanu and Cam Norrie break into the world's top 100; though our ITF

²⁰<https://www.lta.org.uk/support-centre/venue-support/facilities-and-funding/facilities-support/what-are-the-lta-recommended-court-dimensions/>

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Gold Standard National Tennis Centre which has been equipped with world class courts and facilities, and provides a base for Britain's top tennis and wheelchair tennis players to train; or through the increased number of international tournaments we are staging across Britain throughout the year as part of the LTA Performance Competitions Calendar as well as our summer major events, providing more opportunities for professional British players to compete and win on home soil.

Transformation

Transforming tennis in Britain by working with everyone in the sport – for instance, through our Inclusion Strategy for tennis in Britain that aims to see tennis to lead the way for inclusion and diversity in sport; through our award-winning safeguarding work that has put tennis at the forefront of safeguarding in sport, ensuring it remains safe for all; by working with Government and local authorities to deliver a multi-million pound investment programme in parks tennis facilities for local communities across the country; or through the development of padel as an exciting new form of tennis that's easy to play, fun for all ages and abilities and extremely sociable, and will help to engage new audiences.

Consultation

As set out in Table 8.1, there are nine tennis clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, five responded to consultation requests, resulting in a response rate of 55%, as summarised in the table below. The unresponsive clubs are Chelmsfordians TC, Great Baddow LTC, Pleshey TC and South Hanningfield LTC.

Information from non-responsive clubs is gathered through non-technical site visits, information from the LTA and online research.

Table 8.1: Summary of consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Responded?
Chelmsfordians TC	Urban Areas	No
Danbury TC	Rural South	Yes
Great Baddow LTC	Rural South	No
Grove (Chelmsford) LTC	City Centre	Yes
Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC	Urban Areas	Yes
Pleshey TC	Rural West	No
South Hanningfield LTC	Rural South	No
Stock TC	Rural South	Yes
Writtle TC	Urban Areas	Yes

8.2: Supply

As set out in Table 8.2, there are 142 traditional tennis courts identified in the Chelmsford administrative area across 30 sites. Of these courts, 121 are categorised as being available for community access across 26 sites compared to 21 courts that are unavailable at four sites (all provided at education sites).

The largest number of courts is located in the City Centre Analysis Area (54 courts) of which 47 (87%) are available for community use. In contrast, there are no courts provided in the Rural North Analysis Area.

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Table 8.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of courts available for community use	No. of courts unavailable for community use
City Centre	47	7
Rural North	-	-
Rural South	22	-
Rural West	2	-
South Woodham Ferrers	6	-
Urban Areas	44	14
Total	121	21

Please note that courts are classified as being available for community use provided that they are deemed to be easily accessible to the general population, either via pay and play or through a membership at a club (or a mixture of both). Having said this, not all courts will be in use by the community, especially those at school sites.

The unavailable courts are all located at education sites in the Chelmsford administrative area and are located at:

- ✦ Moulsham High School.
- ✦ New Hall School.
- ✦ Hylands School.
- ✦ Widford Lodge School.

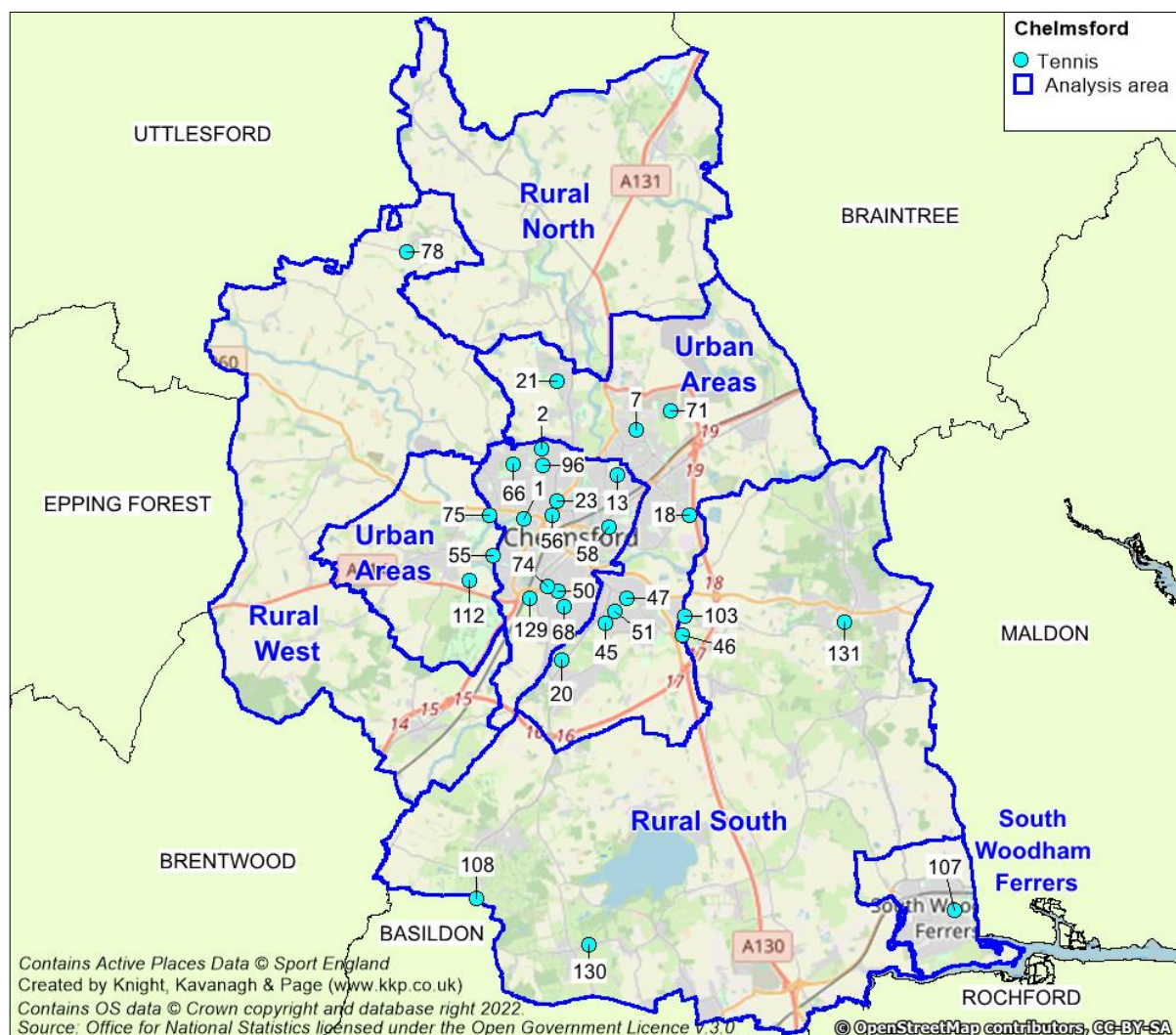
Changes from the previous study

Overall, there has been an increase in the number of community available tennis courts within the Chelmsford administrative area since the 2016 study, with this equating to a 59% increase from 76 to 121 courts in 2024. Only the community available courts were included in the previous study with no reference to those courts unavailable for use, as such a comparison is unable to be made.

Figure 8.1 shows the location of courts servicing the Chelmsford administrative area that are included within the study. For a key to the map, see Table 8.4.

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Figure 8.1: Location of tennis courts in the Chelmsford administrative area



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Table 8.4: Summary of outdoor tennis courts in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site Name	Postcode	Analysis Area	Ownership	Community use?	Club user?	No. of courts	Sports lighting?	Court type	Court quality
1	Admirals Park	CM1 2PD	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
1	Admirals Park	CM1 2PD	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
2	Andrews Park (Chelmsford)	CM1 4BX	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
7	Beaulieu Park School	CM1 6DT	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	-	8	Yes	Macadam	Good
13	Boswells School	CM1 6LY	City Centre	Education	Yes	-	8	Yes	Macadam	Standard
18	Chancellor Park	CM2 6WS	Urban Areas	Council	Yes	-	2	Yes	Artificial	Good
20	Chelmer Park	CM2 8RL	Urban Areas	Council	Yes	-	4	Yes	Macadam	Standard
21	Chelmer Valley High School	CM1 7ER	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	-	6	Yes	Macadam	Good
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	CM1 1RW	City Centre	Education	Yes	-	5	Yes	Macadam	Good
45	Great Baddow High School	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	-	3	Yes	Macadam	Standard
45	Great Baddow High School	CM2 9RZ	Urban Areas	Education	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
46	Great Baddow Tennis Club	CM2 7AE	Rural South	Club	Yes	Great Baddow TC	6	Yes	Artificial	Good
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	CM2 9RL	Urban Areas	Parish Council	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Poor
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	CM2 9RL	Urban Areas	Parish Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
50	Grove Lawn Tennis Club	CM2 9QA	City Centre	Club	Yes	Grove LTC (Chelmsford)	6	Yes	Artificial	Good
51	Hamptons Sports & Leisure Ltd	CM2 9FH	Urban Areas	Club	Yes	Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC	6	Yes	Artificial	Good
55	Hylands School	CM1 3ET	Urban Areas	Education	No	-	4	No	Macadam	Poor
56	King Edward VI Grammar School	CM1 3SX	City Centre	Education	Yes	-	4	No	Macadam	Standard
58	Lionmede Park	CM2 6DQ	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
58	Lionmede Park	CM2 6DQ	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Poor
66	Melbourne Park	CM1 2EH	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
68	Moulsham High School	CM2 9ES	City Centre	Education	No	-	6	No	Macadam	Poor
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	Education	No	-	10	Yes	Macadam	Good
74	Oaklands Park	CM2 9AQ	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	3	No	Macadam	Good
74	Oaklands Park	CM2 9AQ	City Centre	Council	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Good
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club	CM1 2NS	Urban Areas	Club	Yes	Old Chelmsfordians TC	3	Yes	Artificial	Good
78	Pleshey Village Hall and Playing Field	CM3 1HE	Rural West	Parish Council	Yes	Pleshey TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Education	Yes	-	2	No	Macadam	Standard
96	St John Payne Catholic School	CM1 4BS	City Centre	Education	Yes	-	5	No	Macadam	Poor
103	The Sandon School	CM2 7AQ	Rural South	Education	Yes	-	6	No	Macadam	Poor
107	William de Ferrers School	CM3 5JU	South Woodham Ferrers	Education	Yes	-	6	No	Macadam	Poor
108	Willowbrook Sports and Social Club	CM4 9PQ	Rural South	Club	Yes	Stock TC	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	CM1 3HP	Urban Areas	Club	Yes	Writtle TC	4	Yes	Macadam	Good
129	Widford Lodge Prep School	CM2 9AN	City Centre	Education	No	-	1	No	Macadam	Good
130	South Hanningfield Tennis Club	CM11 1PZ	Rural South	Club	Yes	South Hanningfield TC	2	Yes	Macadam	Good
131	Danbury Tennis Club	CM3 4NJ	Rural South	Club	Yes	Danbury TC	3	Yes	Macadam	Good
131	Danbury Tennis Club	CM3 4NJ	Rural South	Club	Yes	Danbury TC	2	Yes	Artificial clay	Good

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LTA youth provision

LTA Youth provides children with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of tennis at an early age. It utilises smaller courts, nets and rackets as well as lower-bouncing tennis balls to develop vital tennis skills and techniques. This has five levels, with the LTA stating that each stage has key aims and goals as follows:

- ◀ Blue: Learn the Basics – tennis lessons for ages 4-6.
- ◀ Red: Serve, Rally and Score – tennis lessons for ages 6-8.
- ◀ Orange: Develop a Rounded Game - tennis lessons for ages 8-9.
- ◀ Green: Test your Skills - tennis lessons for ages 9-10.
- ◀ Yellow: Take your Skills Further – tennis lessons for ages 10+.

No dedicated mini tennis courts have been identified in the Chelmsford administrative area; however, full size courts can be utilised via the use of cones or other forms of temporary line markings. Although having dedicated mini courts is desirable and can facilitate and increase independent junior play, it is not essential to cater for such demand.

Padel

Padel tennis is relatively new to Great Britain and is growing in popularity, particularly since its recognition as a sport and integration within the LTA. In 2022, 90,000 people reportedly played padel more than once in England, representing a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

In order to grow the sport, the LTA is focused on improving the infrastructure and the coach education pathway. At the end of 2020, there were 87 courts, 350 in 2023 with 500 courts are now in 2024. There is a projected growth of 1,000 courts in 2026. It is therefore envisaged that the infrastructure and participation in padel will increase significantly in the next five years.

Since 2021, the LTA has invested £6 million to grow padel infrastructure and in 2023 129,000 players were reportedly playing padel. Building on from this, LTA has outlined a Padel Strategy (2024-2029). The key objectives are to:

- ◀ Grow the visibility of padel to increase awareness from 20% to 40% of the population, interest in playing from 7.5% to 15% and boost participation.
- ◀ Increase the number of annual padel players from 129,000 to 400,000, and monthly players from 65,000 to 200,000.
- ◀ Increase the number of padel courts from 350 to 1,000.
- ◀ Grow the padel coach and activator workforce from 40 to 700.
- ◀ Enable 10 players to break into the top 200 and two players into the top 100 and inspire the padel audience.

There are two padel courts within the Chelmsford administrative area, both located at Great Baddow Recreation Ground. These have all been provided since the previous study. Consultation with the LTA and Active Essex state potential options for developing more padel courts, however this is still at an early stage.

In terms of future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (tennis clubs, parks, indoor tennis centres). In addition, padel court development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and rugby/football sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model.

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Notwithstanding the above, the LTA also states that it is not encouraging providers to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional tennis courts remains sufficient.

Future provision

The North East Garden Community (NECGC) is a large scale mixed residential comprising of up to 10,000 new dwellings, new rail infrastructure and the Chelmsford Northeast Bypass. Specific community infrastructure will include new neighbourhood centres with community spaces, a secondary school and two primary schools.

As part of the development of the new secondary school, a shared use floodlit MUGA with tennis court markings is expected to be provided. In addition, the NECGC is currently expected to provide a second floodlit MUGA in one of the proposed sports hubs as well as at the new secondary school.

Ownership/management

Table 8.5 below highlights the management/ownership of tennis courts within the Chelmsford administrative area.

In total, 35 (25%) courts are provided at club sites, 23 (16%) are provided at local authority sites and seven (4%) at parish council sites, with all these available for community use. There are 77 (54%) provided at education sites, although only 56 (72%) of these are community available.

Table 8.5: Outdoor tennis courts by management type

Community use	Sports Club	Council	Parish council	Education
Available	35	23	7	56
Unavailable	-	-	-	21
Total	35	23	7	77

Security of tenure

Security of tenure is provided to all tennis clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, with all clubs either owning their sites or leasing them on a long-term basis. As such, no clubs report any issues in this regard.

Venues used by each club and the tenure arrangements in place are summarised in the following Table 8.6.

Table 8.6: Summary of club venues and tenure

Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
Chelmsfordians TC	Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club	Freehold
Danbury TC	Danbury Tennis Club	Lease
Great Baddow LTC	Great Baddow Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold
Grove (Chelmsford) LTC	Grove Lawn Tennis Club	Freehold
Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC	Hamptons Sports & Leisure Ltd	Freehold
Pleshey TC	Pleshey Village and Playing Field	Lease
South Hanningfield LTC	South Hanningfield Tennis Club	Freehold

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Club name	Site used	Type of tenure
Stock TC	Willowbrook Sports and Social Club	Freehold
Writtle TC	Writtle Sports and Social Club	Freehold

In terms of padel provision, the courts at Great Baddow Recreation Ground are managed by the Parish Council and therefore is considered secure as it is expected to be provided over the lifespan of the PPOSS.

Court type

As set out in Table 8.7, most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface, with 123 of the 142 courts being of this type and 102 of these being available for community use. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment.

The remaining provision is either artificial (17 courts) and artificial clay (2 courts). Whilst artificial courts have a similar lifespan to macadam courts, clay courts are generally much harder and more expensive to maintain, especially during bad weather spells.

The artificial clay courts in the Chelmsford administrative area are found at Danbury Tennis Club.

Table 8.7: Summary of tennis court types across the Chelmsford administrative area

Court type	Available for community use	Unavailable for community use	Total number of courts
Artificial turf	17	-	17
Artificial clay	2	-	2
Macadam	102	21	123
Total	121	21	142

Sports lighting

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

In the Chelmsford administrative area, 83 out of the 142 tennis courts are serviced by sports lighting, representing 58% of the provision. Of these, 73 are available for community use across the following sites:

- ✦ Beaulieu Park School.
- ✦ Boswells School.
- ✦ Chancellor Park.
- ✦ Chelmer Park.
- ✦ Chelmer Valley High School.
- ✦ Chelmsford County High School for Girls.
- ✦ Great Baddow Tennis Club.
- ✦ Grove Lawn Tennis Club.
- ✦ Hamptons Sports & Leisure Ltd.
- ✦ Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club.
- ✦ Pleshey Village Hall and Playing Field.
- ✦ Willowbrook Sports and Social Club.

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- ◀ Writtle Sports and Social Club.
- ◀ South Hanningfield Tennis Club.
- ◀ Danbury Tennis Club.

The sports lit courts unavailable for community use are located at New Hall School.

A lack of sports lighting at other school sites presents a key reason as to why many of the courts are unavailable for community use. Many of the providers state that making them available for lettings would not be financially viable as usage would be limited, although the LTA does offer solutions to help overcome this including initiatives such as Clubspark and Gate Access (detailed further on).

Access to courts with sports lighting is considered particularly key for clubs as it allows for greater use of provision, which in turn can help accommodate more members. To that end, it must be noted that in the Chelmsford administrative area, all clubs have access to some courts that are sports lit.

The Council note plans to upgrade the sports lighting at Chelmer Park, in conjunction with the refurbishment and remarking of the courts (see quality section below for more information on this).

In terms of padel provision, the courts at Great Baddow Recreation Ground are serviced by sports lighting which allows for greater use of the courts and in turn to accommodate more demand.

Away from clubs and schools, increasing the number of local authority courts with sports lighting is also a strategic aim for the LTA due to the additional recreational demand and tennis programmes such provision can help accommodate. Of the local authority courts in the Chelmsford administrative area, only 10 (out of 21) courts are currently serviced by sports lighting, located at Chelmer Park and Chancellor Park.

LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme²¹

The LTA's mission is to grow tennis and padel by making them accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.

The objectives of the fund are to:

- ◀ Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
- ◀ Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
- ◀ Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
- ◀ Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
- ◀ Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#).

²¹ [Quick Access Loan Scheme for tennis facilities \(lta.org.uk\)](#)

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As part of the fund, the LTA will fund:

- ♦ Lighting upgrades to LED (outdoor and indoor).
- ♦ New sports lights.
- ♦ New court provision.
- ♦ Outdoor padel courts.
- ♦ Covered padel (courts and cover).
- ♦ Covered tennis courts.

Overmarking of courts

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

In the Chelmsford administrative area, some or all of the courts at the sites featured in the following Table 8.8 are overmarked.

Table 8.8: Summary of tennis court overmarking

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Tennis courts	Overmarked with
7	Beaulieu Park School	Urban Areas	8	Eight netball courts
13	Boswells School	City Centre	8	Six netball courts
20	Chelmer Park	Urban Areas	4	Four netball courts
21	Chelmer Valley High School	Urban Areas	4	Four netball courts
23	Chelmsford County High School for Girls	City Centre	4	Four netball courts
45	Great Baddow High School	Urban Areas	4	Four netball courts
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	1	One netball court
55	Hylands School	Urban Areas	2	Two netball courts
55	Hylands School	Urban Areas	2	Two netball courts
56	King Edward VI Grammar School	City Centre	4	Four netball courts
66	Melbourne Park	Urban Areas	2	Two netball courts
68	Moulsham High School	City Centre	6	Six netball courts
71	New Hall School	Urban Areas	10	10 netball courts
96	St John Payne Catholic School	City Centre	7	Six netball courts
103	The Sandon School	Rural South	6	Six netball courts

The majority are overmarked by netball courts which are identified in greater detail in Part 6: Netball.

Quality

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

For the full assessment criteria, please refer to Appendix 2.

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Maintaining high court quality is an important aspect of tennis and therefore the non-technical assessment assesses several factors are used to determine court quality. The criterion for the non-technical assessment include assessing grip underfoot, damage to the surface, line markings, evidence of moss/lichen, slope of courts, disability access, fencing and courts being of an appropriate size for competitive tennis.

As set out in Table 8.9, of the courts in the Chelmsford administrative area, 78 are assessed as good quality (of which 67 are available for community use), with 21 assessed as standard quality (all available for community use) and 43 assessed as poor quality (33 are available for community use).

Table 8.9: Quality of tennis courts across the Chelmsford administrative area

Community use	Good	Standard	Poor
Available	67	21	33
Unavailable	11	-	10

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

- Admirals Park.
- Andrews Park (Chelmsford).
- Great Baddow High School.
- Great Baddow Recreation Ground.
- Lionmede Park.
- St John Payne Catholic School.
- The Sandon School.
- William de Ferrers School.
- Danbury Tennis Club.

Issues recorded at these sites include poor grip underfoot, the presence of moss, worn line markings and loose gravel. Moreover, maintenance is also considered to be basic and infrequent at most of the poor quality sites, which can lead to further deterioration.

Five sites with poor quality courts are operated by the Council/Parish council (at Admirals Park, Andrews Park, Great Baddow Recreation Ground and Lionmede Park).

Notwithstanding the above, the courts at Lionmede Park have now been refurbished (December 2024).

Two of the courts at Admirals Park are assessed as poor quality. The Council reports it currently does not have the funding in place to resurface the courts and therefore will need to take them out of use due to being unsafe to play on.

It should be noted that William de Ferrers School has recently acquired some funding to re-line their courts, which will see the courts improved to good quality. It is awaiting a date for the works to be carried out.

The courts at Chelmer Park have recently been resurfaced and gated, which is thought to help create a sustainable facility and prevent any unofficial use occurring in the future. The Council worked in partnership with the LTA to deliver this project with funding in place from both parties. This has resulted in its good quality rating.

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All of the clubs in the Authority have access to either good or standard quality courts. Through consultation, Danbury TC reports it has plans to resurface its clay courts to improve their quality.

In addition, Stock TC report there are investigations ongoing to resurface its courts. The Club states it has the funds available to resurface but grants may be sought to preserve the contingency funds.

In terms of padel provision, the courts at Great Baddow Recreation Ground are assessed as good quality having been installed in February 2022.

Improving local authority courts is currently a national priority for the LTA, with a focus on suitable sites that cater for high levels of recreational demand or that have the potential to do so. This is especially if the provision is serviced (or could be serviced) by toilet provision and/or storage and sports lighting.

Renovation fund²²

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

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

At present, Chelmer Park (four courts), Lionmede Park (four courts) and Oaklands Park (five courts) have been identified for investment.

Of the above, Chelmer Park and Oaklands Park have recently been renovated resulting in their good quality ratings. For Lionmede Park, the courts have now been refurbished and are fully operational (December 2024).

In addition, LTA reported that Admirals Park and Andrews Park were previously identified for investment, however due to funding issues these could not be carried out.

Due to the high demand for tennis across the Chelmsford administrative area, there is desire and need to floodlight park tennis courts to facilitate year round play both informally and within formalised coaching programmes.

Ancillary provision

Consultation evidence suggests that most clubs are serviced by good or standard quality ancillary facilities.

Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC aspires to refurbish its clubhouse. Its current provision is rated as standard quality.

²²<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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In terms of padel provision, the courts at Great Baddow Recreation Ground are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities and built alongside the courts in 2022. The facilities include changing rooms and toilets.

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

Insight from the LTA indicates good quality ancillary facilities such as toilets, cafes and storage units are key factors in encouraging players to visit community available provision and stay for extended periods of time. One potential way to increase usage of such provision is, thus, to invest in suitable ancillary amenities, which can then also provide a source of income.

8.3: Demand

Competitive tennis

There are nine clubs across the Chelmsford administrative area. Across the clubs, there is an overall membership of 1,829 which broken down amounts to 923 senior members and 906 junior members. The average club membership is 203, which represents substantial demand.

A club-by-club breakdown can be seen in Table 8.10 below.

Table 8.10: Summary of tennis club membership

Club	Sites used	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Chelmsfordians TC	Old Chelmsfordians Sports & Social Club	95	114	209
Danbury TC	Danbury Tennis Club	205	126	331
Great Baddow LTC	Great Baddow Lawn Tennis Club	120	130	250
Grove (Chelmsford) LTC	Grove Lawn Tennis Club	110	120	230
Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC	Hamptons Sport and Leisure LTD	70	100	170
Pleshey TC	Pleshey Village Hall and Playing Field	40	20	60
South Hanningfield LTC	South Hanningfield Lawn Tennis Club	48	15	63
Stock TC	Willowbrook Sports and Social Club	75	121	196
Writtle TC	Writtle Sports and Social Club	160	160	320
-	Totals	923	906	1,829

Many of the clubs are large such as Danbury TC which has 331 members. At the other end of the scale is Pleshey TC which has the smallest membership with 60 members.

Changes from the previous study

Across most clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area there has been a strong growth since the previous study in 2016, including significant increases for Grove and Stock tennis clubs as identified through consultation. In total, three responding clubs report that membership levels have increased over recent years.

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These are:

- ◆ Old Chelmsfordians Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◆ Grove Tennis Club.
- ◆ Stock Tennis Club.

Notwithstanding the above, Springfield TC has folded due to declining membership figures.

South Hanningfield TC also reports a decrease, with this relating to junior participation. The Club gives a variety of reasons for the decrease such as members playing for other clubs or moving away from the area or the increase in membership rates. Its senior membership has remained static.

With three responding clubs reporting demand increases and one (South Hanningfield TC) reporting a decrease in membership, this generally correlates to a national picture of growing demand. The LTA reports that demand has increased significantly in recent years, especially since Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

Nationally, the LTA has announced participation figures for 2022 showing sustained success in getting more people playing tennis more often, with growth across all demographics, regions and nations of Great Britain. This is particularly amongst 16-34 year-olds and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

The number of adults reporting that they had played tennis during 2022 increased 43% compared to the previous year (2021), rising from 3.3 million to 4.7 million from January through to December. This is the highest total recorded since 2017 and has continued the growth seen across 2018 and 2019, before being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, more than two million adults play monthly, and this is the highest level recorded since the LTA started tracking this measure seven years ago. This means that the LTA has achieved the targets set out in its five-year 2018-23 strategy for adult annual and monthly participation, one year ahead of schedule.

Finally, children's weekly participation in tennis has seen positive growth in the past year with over three and a half million children playing tennis and with an extra 328,000 children playing tennis in schools.

The LTA has provided key participation statistics (August 2024). These are:

- ◆ In the past year 5.6m adults played tennis with, 2.6m playing monthly and 1,056,711 playing weekly.
- ◆ Over 2m adults played their tennis in parks.
- ◆ Almost 4m children played tennis in the last year with 1,398,837 playing monthly and 619,000 playing weekly.

Informal and parks tennis

Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access with is currently the case at the majority of local authority sites in the Chelmsford administrative area (see Free Parks Tennis section). Although, the exception to this is at Oaklands Park which offers a pay and play model to support a sustainable operational model. The same model has been introduced at Lionmede Park and Chelmer Park as part of the improvements to the court quality at these sites.

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Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.

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

The LTA has developed a support package for local authorities to grow and track the use of tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation, with products known as ClubSpark, Play (previously Rally) and Gate Access established. These represent what the LTA calls a major improvement to the customer journey and provide a clear revenue stream to reinvest into court provision.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, the following sites are known to utilise some or all of the products:

- ✦ Chelmsfordians Tennis Club.
- ✦ Danbury Tennis Club.
- ✦ Great Baddow LTC.
- ✦ Grove (Chelmsford) Lawn Tennis Club.
- ✦ Oaklands Park.
- ✦ Pleshey Tennis Club.
- ✦ Writtle Tennis Club.

The LTA products are further summarised below.

ClubSpark – Improving the booking process

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

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

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LTA Play

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

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

Gate Access

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

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

Additional demand

The LTA operates various tennis initiatives across the Country which result in some courts receiving additional demand. Furthermore, there are other formats away from traditional tennis that can result in increased usage. These are all detailed below.

Local tennis leagues

Recreational tennis leagues are less formal than established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for people of all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. They are available to all aged 18 years and above and are run by an organisation called Local Tennis Leagues, which affiliates to the LTA. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible.

LTA Youth Programme

The LTA coordinate courses for children aged 4-18, consisting of fun games and dynamic training. Specialist coaches make sure every child has the best start to their tennis journey in a safe and inclusive environment. Sessions cater to all abilities and split into the following:

- ◆ Blue Stage (Age 4-6).
- ◆ Red Stage (Age 6-8).
- ◆ Orange Stage (Age 8-9).
- ◆ Green Stage (Age 9-10).
- ◆ Yellow Stage (Age 10+).

Key points:

- ◆ There are assigned ages to each stage, but this only serves as a guide.

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- ✦ Young people want to play in groups and with their friends, and so whatever stage they start at, all kids will see progression.
- ✦ In every LTA Youth stage, young people will be active, having fun and developing skills.

LTA Youth Schools

Designed specifically for schools to support the curriculum and wider school outcomes, the LTA's tennis for schools programme brings together inclusive PE lesson plans, personal development resources and teacher training.

The following can be expected from primary schools joining the programme:

- ✦ Detailed PE lesson plans.
- ✦ Developing fundamental movement skills.
- ✦ Accompanying videos for further training.
- ✦ Personal development challenges.
- ✦ Cross-curricular STEM resources.
- ✦ Intra & inter school competitions.

And for secondary schools:

- ✦ Detailed PE lesson plans.
- ✦ GCSE assessment drills & accompanying videos.
- ✦ Modified formats of the game.
- ✦ Fun games within the sports hall.
- ✦ Employability materials, including Tennis Leaders Award.
- ✦ Mental health and wellbeing resources.
- ✦ Intra & inter school competitions.

LTA Big Tennis Weekend

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

Free Parks Tennis

The LTA has launched the LTA Free Parks Tennis offer. It states that this is due to the following needs:

- ✦ Player Trends:
 - ✦ 35% of people who play tennis once per year or more do so in a park.
 - ✦ The most common type of play for park players is socially with friends or family.
- ✦ Barriers:
 - ✦ 25% of players cite not having anyone to play with as a barrier to playing more tennis.
 - ✦ 24% of players cite having nowhere to play or difficulty in accessing local courts as reasons why they do not play tennis more often.
 - ✦ 32% of these players say local courts are not affordable.
 - ✦ 75% of parks players consider themselves to be of beginner (41%) or improver (36%) standard, which is significantly lower than club players.
 - ✦ 22% of players state that a lack of equipment prevents them from playing tennis.

The key points of a free park tennis session are:

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- ◆ Free for all players to book and attend.
- ◆ Run by a minimum of two trained and DBS checked Activators.
- ◆ Sessions should run all year round (weather depending).
- ◆ Run on a Saturday or Sunday morning at 10.00-11.00am.

Court requirements are for three courts minimum in parks that have this many, or two courts at two court sites (a three court site can have up to 34 players attending). The sessions are designed for those aged eight and over, but under eights can attend when accompanied by a parent.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, the majority of local authority courts are free to access, with the Council joining in partnership with the LTA to increase access and opportunities for all to play. Although this is not the case at Oaklands Park as mentioned above. While Chelmer Park and Lionmede Park have now also introduced a pay and play model linked to gate access and ClubSpark.

Padel

Padel is a form of tennis that is easy to play, fun and sociable. It is played mainly in a doubles format on an enclosed court about a third of the size of a tennis court and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities as it is not power dominant. The rules are broadly the same as tennis, although players serve underhand and the walls are used as part of the game, with the ball allowed to bounce off them. A padel court is 20m long and 10m wide with a combination of glass and weld mesh rebound wall and fence panels supported of steel posts fixed to a concrete foundation with a synthetic turf playing surface.

Currently 129,000 people reportedly play Padel more than once a year in England - a 493% year on year increase compared to 2021 (15,000). This exemplifies the continued growth of the sport and the need to ensure that such demand is being adequately catered for.

As previously identified, Great Baddow Recreation Ground provides Padel tennis courts and reports aspirations to develop more provision. Given the growing popularity of the format, it is likely that there will be further demand moving forward as it is thought that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established.

LTA report 8% of total tennis demand across the Chelmsford administrative area potentially would like to play padel, with this equating to 2,800 people. This works on the basis of 200 players being accommodated per court with a minimum of 14 courts could be sustained across the Authority.

LTA state this is a good ballpark figure for strategic planning but is conservative and based on padel being an emerging sport, and all likelihood is that further court provision could be sustained. The above figure is based on the current population in the Chelmsford administrative area and the current data that the LTA holds rather than a future projection.

University demand

Tennis demand at Anglia Ruskin University (recently merged with Writtle University College) is considered to be relatively high. However, it should be noted this demand takes place outside of the Authority, in Cambridge in partnership with the Cambridge Tennis Academy, which supports in running some of the performance programme at the University.

It runs a men's and women's team, with the former competing in the BUCS National League and the latter in the BUCS South A. It reports it is happy with this arrangement.

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Imported/exported demand

Whilst exact figures are unknown, any demand for tennis within a club environment will currently need to be met outside of the Authority, with this therefore likely to lead to levels of exported demand. Alternatively, such demand will not be being catered for at all, thus resulting in unmet demand, as further detailed below.

Latent/unmet demand

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

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is currently no latent demand which was highlighted through consultation.

Latent demand for tennis nationally is reported to be high by the LTA, which has an insight tool that suggests that 18% of the five million players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'offline') and low quality facilities were addressed. As such, there is a potential opportunity for local authorities and other providers to address such barriers, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage, although an element of this has already taken place in the Chelmsford administrative area following recent park court improvements and implementation of LTA products (e.g., Clubspark). Furthermore, the LTA conducted some research to understand how the public feels about tennis and the main barriers to accessing the sport. The research was split into club, community and education sectors, the headline findings of which are below:

- ◆ Around five million people play once per year with the majority of this in parks.
- ◆ 46% of tennis played by those 14 years is on park courts.
- ◆ 80% of those that do not play tennis but would like to see parks as their first option.
- ◆ Barriers preventing use of courts located in parks include the quality of the courts, ease of booking and the number of courts available to play.
- ◆ Demand for tennis amongst those who stopped playing in the last five years is from 14 upwards.
- ◆ Although there is demand for tennis amongst working class individuals, the highest latent demand is from upper middle, middle and lower middle classes.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly local authority courts. Its assertion is that better promotion would increase demand.

In relation to clubs, all responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them and that no potential members are being turned away due to capacity issues. As such, these clubs do not report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This suggests that the latent demand identified through other methods is for non-club activity, or that other barriers aside from facilities are preventing activity.

In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 3,383 within the Chelmsford administrative area, which represents approximately 1.9% of the Authority's population compared to a national average

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of 1.7%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is marginally higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Future demand

Three of the responsive clubs' report plans to increase their membership numbers; Danbury TC, Grove LTC and Hamptons Sports & Leisure TC. The total future demand expressed by these equates to 140 members, as shown in Table 8.12 below.

Table 8.12: Summary of future tennis club demand (responsive clubs)

Club	Senior	Junior
Danbury TC	20	20
Grove LTC	25	25
Hamptons Sports & Leisure TC	30	20
Total	75	65

In addition, the LTA also expects future growth as identified in its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club environment, which is therefore very relevant in the Chelmsford administrative area. To that extent, it is key that the local authority and park sites in the Chelmsford administrative area continue to be part of the ClubSpark initiative as this will allow growth in demand that occurs to be monitored.

Sports Facilities Calculator

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)²³. The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension. Table 8.13 sets out how many tennis courts the sports facilities calculator suggests would be required to serve the additional population growth to 2041.

Table 8.13: Sports facilities calculator

Factor	Population 2022:	Population estimate: 2041
ONS population projections	183,678	218,366
Population increase	-	34,688
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	4.56 courts

*based on Q3 2022 build costs

Calculations assume that the current tennis court stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. The projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for tennis courts. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.56 courts, up to 2041.

²³<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/sports-facility-calculator>

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Club tennis

The LTA suggests that a hard court with no sports lighting can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. However, it must be noted that this should only be used as a guide as capacity can, in reality, vary from site to site depending on how the demand operates and the programmes of use in place. Some clubs can comfortably operate over capacity guidance, whilst others may have pressures without theoretically being over capacity.

Using this guide, Table 8.14 overleaf identifies the capacity balance at all sites currently used by clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, taking into account both current and future demand.

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Table 8.14: Capacity analysis (club courts)

Site ID	Site	Club users	Current demand (members)	Future demand (members)	No of courts	Sports lighting?	Capacity (members)	Current capacity balance	Future capacity balance
46	Great Baddow Tennis Club	Great Baddow TC	250	-	6	Yes	360	110	110
50	Grove Lawn Tennis Club	Grove LTC	230	280	6	Yes	360	130	80
51	Hamptons Sports & Leisure Ltd	Hamptons Sport & Leisure TC	170	220	6	Yes	360	190	140
75	Old Chelmsfordians Sports and Social Club	Old Chelmsfordians TC	209	-	3	Yes	180	29	29
78	Pleshey Village Hall and Playing Field	Pleshey TC	60	-	2	Yes	120	60	60
108	Willowbrook Sports and Social Club	Stock TC	196	-	3	Yes	180	16	16
112	Writtle Sports & Social Club	Writtle TC	320	-	4	Yes	240	80	80
130	South Hanningfield Tennis Club	South Hanningfield TC	63	-	2	Yes	120	57	57
131	Danbury Tennis Club	Danbury TC	331	371	5	Yes	300	31	71

As evidenced in Table 8.14 above, there is a theoretical shortfall of provision for club-based tennis in the Chelmsford administrative area, with four clubs currently operating over the capacity guide. These are:

- ❖ Danbury TC (at Danbury Tennis Club).
- ❖ Old Chelmsfordians TC (at Chelmsford Sports & Social Club).
- ❖ Stock TC (at Willowbrook Sports & Social Club).
- ❖ Writtle TC (at Writtle Sports & Social Club).

The total current shortfall across the sites adds up to 156 members, whilst the future shortfall equates to 196 members. This represents a slight deficit, with the above clubs only marginally oversubscribed, and none of the four clubs report any capacity issues.

All remaining clubs have overall spare capacity, with this collectively amounting to 547 members currently and 447 members when accounting for future demand.

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Non-club tennis

For non-club courts, analysing supply and demand is difficult in the Chelmsford administrative area as full usage figures are not known. With ClubSpark only in place at Chelmer Park, Oaklands Park and Lionmede Park and the majority of club sites. Therefore, there would be a clear benefit to other local authority sites adopting ClubSpark. That being said, capacity is likely to be limited, particularly outside of summer months, with only four courts operated by the Council currently serviced by sports lighting.

It is then being further impacted upon by a lack of sports lighting (or covered/indoor courts) at many sites, the multi-sport nature of most provision, and the fact that a high quantity of courts are located at schools, all of which will be further reducing availability. Quality improvements may also assist, with this linked to existing investment plans.

Based on the above, whilst no capacity issues have been identified and no requirement for additional courts has been uncovered, increased recreational demand could be sought through improving the existing stock of courts. As well as increased sports lighting, quality improvements at additional sites (e.g. Admirals Park, Andrews Park (Chelmsford), Great Baddow Recreation Ground and Lionmede Park) could also be pursued.

Covered tennis

- ◀ Improving access to covered tennis is a priority for the LTA, there continues to be too many locations where there is no access to covered tennis to facilitate year round participation.
- ◀ To establish target locations for community indoor tennis centres, the LTA and Sport England modelled data from existing successful CITC's. This helped to identify the demographic type, volume and catchment size of a successful CITC. This modelling was applied across England, Scotland and Wales to establish the areas of potential demand.
- ◀ The key metrics established are:
 - A target location must demonstrate a minimum threshold population of 70,000 within a 20 minute drive time of a target location. Of this population, at least 12,500 must identify as having an interest in playing tennis. Please note this drive time extends to 30 minutes for rural areas.
 - Filtered for competition within the catchment in order to prioritise the addressing of indoor tennis provision gaps.
 - This methodology has enabled us to identify 72 target locations for new indoor tennis venues in England, with Chelmsford being one of these locations.

8.5: Conclusion

For club-based tennis, there is a perceived shortfall of provision in the Chelmsford administrative area. However, no clubs report any capacity issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space. Therefore, the importance of retaining existing provision is important despite no immediate obvious need for more provision. This should, however, be closely monitored, and improvements to the existing stock should be sought to ensure it remains the case. In addition, the potential installation of covered courts could also be considered to allow year-round play.

For non-club activity, the Chelmsford administrative area is seemingly well placed given recent improvements to park courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this to ensure a greater range of people can be accommodated and to improve the quality at more sites and ensure future sustainability of those park venues.

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In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.

In terms of padel provision, Great Baddow Recreation Ground provides two padel courts and reports aspirations to develop more provision. Given the growing popularity of the format, it is likely that there will be further demand moving forward as it is thought that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established.

LTA report 8% of total tennis demand across the Chelmsford administrative area potentially would like to play padel, with this equating to 2,800 people. This works on the basis of 200 players being accommodated per court with a minimum of 14 courts could be sustained across the Authority.

LTA state this is a good ballpark figure for strategic planning but is conservative and based on padel being an emerging sport, and all likelihood is that further court provision could be sustained. The above figure is based on the current population in the Chelmsford administrative area and the current data that the LTA holds rather than a future projection.

Tennis – supply and demand summary

- ▶ For club-based tennis, there is a perceived shortfall of provision in the Chelmsford administrative area. However, no clubs report any capacity issues, suggesting that there is no requirement for additional court space. Therefore, the importance of retaining existing provision is important despite no immediate obvious need for more provision. This should, however, be closely monitored, and improvements to the existing stock should be sought to ensure it remains the case. In addition, the potential installation of covered courts could be also be considered to allow year-round play.
- ▶ For non-club activity, the Chelmsford administrative area is seemingly well placed given recent improvements to park courts and the supporting infrastructure and technology that is in place. However, there is scope to incorporate more sites into this. In addition, a lack of sports lighting and covered courts at venues presents a clear problem as this will be limiting demand, especially outside of summer months.
- ▶ In terms of padel provision, Great Baddow Recreation Ground provides two padel courts and reports aspirations to develop more provision. Given the growing popularity of the format, it is likely that there will be further demand moving forward as it is thought that take-up would be considerable were additional provision to be established.
- ▶ LTA report 8% of total tennis demand across the Chelmsford administrative area potentially would like to play padel, with this equating to 2,800 people and therefore a minimum of 14 courts. LTA state this is a good ballpark figure for strategic planning but is conservative and based on padel being an emerging sport, and all likelihood is that further court provision could be sustained. The above figure is based on the current population in Chelmsford administrative area and the current data that the LTA holds rather than a future projection.

Tennis – supply summary

- ▶ A total of 142 traditional tennis courts are identified in the Chelmsford administrative area across 30 sites.
- ▶ Of the courts, 121 are categorised as being available for community use at 26 sites compared to 21 that are unavailable at four sites.
- ▶ Of the courts, 35 are operated by sports clubs, 23 by the Council, 77 by education providers and four are ran by Parish councils.
- ▶ All clubs have security of tenure, either via freehold for their sites or long term lease agreements.
- ▶ Most outdoor tennis courts have a macadam surface; there are 123 of this type compared to 17 artificial courts and two artificial clay courts.
- ▶ 83 courts are serviced by sports lighting, with 76 of these are available for community use.
- ▶ 78 are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and 43 as poor quality and included within the good quality stock are courts at Chelmer Park following recent improvements.

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- ◀ The Parks Investment Project has currently taken place in the Chelmsford administrative area, with courts at Chelmer Park, Lionmede Park and Oaklands Park having been recently refurbished.

Tennis – demand summary

- ◀ There are nine tennis clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, with membership equating to 1,829, where known through consultation.
- ◀ Club-based demand has seemingly increased in recent years, aligned to national trends.
- ◀ Informal and recreational tennis demand is relatively high and participation is aided through the implementation of LTA products (e.g., ClubSpark) at most local authority and park sites.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by three clubs amounting to 140 potential additional members (75 senior and 65 junior).
- ◀ SFC indicates a requirement for an additional 4.56 courts, up to 2041.
- ◀ The LTA also predicts future growth via its insight tools, with much of this demand likely to include participation outside of the club-environment.

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PART 9: BOWLS

9.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in the Chelmsford administrative area are flat green bowls (as opposed to crown greens). Bowls England is the NGB responsible for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls across the Country. Bowls England has recently released a new strategy known as Fit for the Future (2021-26).

Consultation

As set out in Table 9.1, there are 14 bowling clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, 11 have responded to consultation requests; a response rate of 79%.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation responses

Club name	Analysis area	Responded?
Boreham BC	Urban Areas	Yes
Chelmsford BC	City Centre	Yes
Danbury BC	Rural South	Yes
Falcon BC	Urban Areas	Yes
Great Baddow BC	Urban Areas	No
Hall Street Methodist BC	Urban Areas	Yes
Lionmede BC	City Centre	No
Princess Marie Louise BC	City Centre	Yes
R.H.P (Chelmsford)	City Centre	Yes
Runwell Hospital BC	Rural South	Yes
South Woodham Ferrers BC	South Woodham Ferrers	Yes
Stock and Buttsbury BC	Rural South	Yes
Trinity Methodist BC	Urban Areas	No
Writtle BC	Urban Areas	Yes

9.2: Supply

As set out in Table 9.2, there are 15 flat bowling greens in the Chelmsford administrative area located across 14 sites. All are available for community use.

Table 9.2: Summary of available greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of flat greens
City Centre	4
Rural North	-
Rural South	3
Rural West	-
South Woodham Ferrers	1
Urban Areas	7
Total	15

As shown above, the Urban Areas Analysis Area provides seven greens, whilst there are four greens in the City Centre, three in the Rural South and one in the South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas. There are no flat bowling greens in the Rural North or Rural West analysis areas.

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Table 9.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Users	Management
11	Boreham BC	CM3 3AR	Urban Areas	Boreham BC	Sports Club
18	Chancellor Park	CM2 6WS	Urban Areas	Hall Street Methodist BC Trinity Methodist BC	Council
22	Chelmsford BC	CM1 2PP	City Centre	Chelmsford BC	Sports Club
34	Dawsons Field	CM3 4NQ	Rural South	Danbury BC	Parish Council
40	Falcon Bowling Club	CM3 3FB	Urban Areas	Falcon BC	Sports Club
40	Falcon Bowling Club	CM3 3FB	Urban Areas	Falcon BC	Sports Club
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	CM2 9RB	Urban Areas	Great Baddow BC	Parish Council
58	Lionmede Park	CM2 6DQ	City Centre	Lionmede BC	Council
80	Princess Marie Louise Bowling Club	CM2 0BQ	City Centre	Princess Marie Louise BC	Sports Club
84	RHP Bowls Club	CM1 2XW	City Centre	R.H.P (Chelmsford) BC	Sports Club
87	Runwell Sports and Social Club	SS11 7QA	Rural South	Runwell Hospital BC	Sports Club
91	South Woodham Ferrers BC	CM3 5JL	South Woodham Ferrers	South Woodham Ferrers BC	Sports Club
99	Stock & Buttsbury BC	CM4 9NF	Rural South	Stock & Buttsbury BC	Sports Club
110	Writtle BC	CM1 3JD	Urban Areas	Writtle BC	Sports Club

Ownership/management

Details around the ownership and management arrangements for clubs which responded to consultation requests are provided in Table 9.4 below.

Table 9.4: Ownership/management arrangements for bowling clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area

Name of club	Ownership/management details
Boreham BC	Owns the freehold at Boreham Bowls Club
Chelmsford BC	Leases the green at Admirals Park from the Council.
Danbury BC	Rents the green on a rolling annual basis from Danbury Parish Council
Falcon BC	Owns the freehold to the green at Falcon Bowls Club
Great Baddow BC	Leases the green at Great Baddow Recreation Ground from Great Baddow Parish Council
Hall Street Methodist BC	Leases the green at Chancellor Park from the Council
Lionmede BC	Leases the green at Lionmede Park from the Council
Princess Marie Louise BC	Owns the freehold at Boreham Bowls Club
R.H.P (Chelmsford)	Owns the freehold at Boreham Bowls Club.
Runwell Hospital BC	Owns the freehold at Runwell Sports and Social Club.

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Name of club	Ownership/management details
South Woodham Ferrers BC	Owns the freehold at South Woodham Ferrers BC.
Stock and Buttsbury BC	Owns the freehold at Stock and Buttsbury BC.
Trinity Methodist BC	Leases the green at Chancellor Park from the Council
Writtle BC	Owns the freehold at Writtle BC

Generally, any clubs with lease agreements with fewer than 25 years remaining (unless recently entered into) are considered to have unsecure tenure as this can, amongst other things, prevent site development and limit their capacity to make external funding applications.

Six bowls clubs all have freehold of their sites. As such, none of these clubs have any security of tenure concerns.

Surface type

One of the flat greens at Falcon Bowling Club have an artificial grass playing surface. This increases the capacity of the provision and makes it less vulnerable to general wear and tear. In addition, it also means that it can receive greater usage during inclement weather spells.

All remaining greens across the Chelmsford administrative area have a grass surface.

Quality

The quality of bowling greens across the Chelmsford administrative area has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◆ Good.
- ◆ Standard.
- ◆ Poor.

For bowling greens, the non-technical assessment considers, but are not limited to, several attributes of the site including evenness of playing surface, condition of ditches/boarding, quality of surrounding hard areas, disability access, evidence of litter/leaf fall/fouling/inappropriate use and quality of ancillary provision (clubhouse/pavilion/car parking/floodlights/fencing). For further detail regarding the criteria, please see Appendix 2.

Across the Chelmsford administrative area, all 15 greens are assessed as good quality, with none assessed as standard or poor. This is summarised site-by-site in Table 9.5 below.

Table 9.5: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
11	Boreham BC	Urban Areas	Good
18	Chancellor Park	Urban Areas	Good
22	Chelmsford BC	City Centre	Good
34	Dawsons Field	Rural South	Good
40	Falcon Bowling Club	Urban Areas	Good
47	Great Baddow Recreation Ground	Urban Areas	Good
58	Lionmede Park	City Centre	Good
80	Princess Marie Louise Bowling Club	City Centre	Good

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Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Quality
84	RHP Bowls Club	City Centre	Good
87	Runwell Sports and Social Club	Rural South	Good
91	South Woodham Ferrers BC	South Woodham Ferrers	Good
99	Stock & Buttsbury BC	Rural South	Good
110	Writtle BC	Urban Areas	Good

In correlation with no greens being assessed as standard or poor quality, of responding clubs, five report that quality has improved over the last 12 months, with these stating that this is generally due to improved and/or increased maintenance. The clubs are as follows:

- ✦ Boreham BC.
- ✦ Chelmsford BC.
- ✦ Danbury BC.
- ✦ Falcon BC.
- ✦ Great Baddow BC.
- ✦ Princess Marie Louise BC.
- ✦ Runwell Hospital BC.
- ✦ Writtle BC.

Ancillary provision

Most clubs have access to some form of clubhouse/pavilion on site or through an adjoining public house, although the quality of these ranges from purpose-built, good quality brick pavilions to basic wooden huts and shelters. It is therefore important to recognise the importance of ancillary provision to bowling clubs as, if the facilities onsite are of suitable quantity/quality and meet players' needs, this can help sustain and grow membership levels. This is also acknowledged by the governing bodies as both offer potential grants for clubs looking to make ancillary facility improvements.

Across the Chelmsford administrative area, most clubs report that they are satisfied with their current provision, although some have improvement plans/aspirations, including, Danbury BC. The Club report plans to renovate its pavilion in the near future and has secured funding to undertake this.

Sports lighting

Bowling greens that are serviced by sports lighting can enable increased usage, especially during evenings outside of summer months. However, in Chelmsford, no greens are currently serviced. That being said bowling greens with sports lighting are somewhat rare across the Country and this is therefore comparable with the national picture. The indoor provision at Falcon Bowls Club provides a suitable alternative especially during the winter.

9.3: Demand

Current demand

There are 14 clubs using bowling greens in the Chelmsford administrative area. Membership, where known (11 clubs), equates to 994 members, made up of 657 senior men and 337 senior women. This is summarised club-by-club in Table 9.6 below.

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Table 9.6: Membership for bowls clubs across the Chelmsford administrative area

Club	Analysis area	Senior males	Senior females	Juniors	Total
Boreham BC	Urban Areas	20	20	-	40
Chelmsford BC	City Centre	75	50	-	125
Danbury BC	Rural South	63	36	-	99
Falcon BC	Urban Areas	150	50	-	200
Great Baddow BC	Urban Areas	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Hall Street Methodist BC	Urban Areas	18	2	-	20
Lionmede BC	City Centre	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Princess Marie Louise BC	City Centre	30	33	-	63
R.H.P (Chelmsford)	City Centre	43	21	-	64
Runwell Hospital BC	Rural South	47	18	-	65
South Woodham Ferrers BC	South Woodham Ferrers	50	30	-	80
Stock and Buttsbury BC	Rural South	90	40	-	130
Trinity Methodist BC	Urban Areas	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Writtle BC	Urban Areas	71	37	-	108
Total	-	657	337	-	994

The largest club by far is Falcon BC, with 200 members. However, it must be noted that this is in part due to it also having access to an indoor facility. Because of this, many of its members will also be members of the other clubs.

The largest club without an indoor facility is Stock & Buttsbury BC with 130 members, whilst the smallest is Hall Street Methodist BC with only 20 members. Average club membership is 91 members if Falcon BC is included in the calculation and 63 members when it is discounted.

By analysis area, Table 9.7 shows the Urban Areas Analysis Area provides for the most demand for both formats, which aligns to it containing the largest number of greens. The Rural North and Rural West analysis areas do not have any participation figures due to no clubs existing in these areas.

Table 9.7: Summary of membership by analysis area

Analysis area	Men's	Women's	Juniors	Total
City Centre	148	104	-	252
Rural North	-	-	-	-
Rural South	200	76	-	276
Rural West	-	-	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers	50	30	-	80
Urban Areas	259	109	-	368
Total	657	337	-	994

Participation trends

In line with the national trend of declining membership, Princess Marie Louise BC reports that it has experienced a decrease in its membership numbers over recent years.

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The remaining responsive clubs report that demand has generally remained static. That being said, due to the nature of the sport, even clubs with static membership need to continuously attract new members to mitigate against the loss of existing users.

Additional demand

Five clubs report that their greens are available for pay and play, in addition for use by members. The clubs are Chelmsford BC, Danbury BC, Falcon BC, Princess Marie Louise BC, R.H.P (Chelmsford) and Runwell Hospital BC.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the clubs report significant uptake and the most state that any pay and play users are generally accompanied by members.

For the remaining clubs, the most prominent reason for pay and play not being offered is that there is no one on site at required times to manage the process. There is also a perceived lack of demand to make it financially viable.

Play Bowls

Play Bowls is a new product designed to assist clubs in attracting more casual, pay and play participants. Clubs are now able to sign up to the scheme, with booking slots for access then able to be secured and paid for via the Play Bowls website. The aim is for this to help the sport become much more accessible whilst making it easy for clubs to evolve and manage the demand from the casual audience.

Every affiliated flat green bowls club is now on the Play-Bowls website (pay-as-you-play).

Bowls Big Weekend

Bowls' Big Weekend gives people across the country the opportunity to play the sport for free in a relaxed, informal setting.

Bowls' Big Weekend takes place on the second bank holiday in May annually (from Friday to Monday). The aim of the weekend allows clubs across the country will open their doors to enable new participants to discover everything that is great about our sociable, accessible sport.

Bowls Bash

To increase participation, Bowls England has recently launched a product known as Bowls Bash. This is an exciting, new form of lawn bowls that is easy to play, shortened and fun for all ages and abilities. The aim is to roll the ball at the Jack; the closer you get, the more points you earn for your team, and bonus points are given for kissing the target. It is normally played in teams of two, with players delivering 30 bowls each per match, and generally lasts an hour.

None of the clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area have signed up for Bowls Bash.

Latent/unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of greens for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example where a club operates a waiting list.

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Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

All responding clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision available to them, and none report having a waiting list in place. As such, no clubs report any latent or unmet demand, with the majority actively trying to recruit new members. This means that it is likely that other barriers are preventing increased participation, rather than a lack of provision or capacity.

Future demand

Bowls England is actively working to negate the stereotype that bowls is a sport is for the older generation. As such, it is taking active steps at county and national level to encourage younger players to participate. The future growth for the sport is therefore in a state of flux due to the growing professionalism of the NGB.

Furthermore, using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2041. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for greens could increase, although exactly to what extent is unclear.

Of responding clubs, three report future demand aspirations, with this equating to an overall growth of 79 members (60 senior and 19 junior). This summarised by club in the following Table 9.8.

Table 9.8: Summary of future demand

Club	Analysis area	Seniors	Junior
Boreham BC	Urban Areas	-	-
Chelmsford BC	City Centre	-	-
Danbury BC	Rural South	10	4
Falcon BC	Urban Areas	20	15
Hall Street Methodist BC	Urban Areas	5	-
Princess Marie Louise BC	City Centre	-	-
R.H.P (Chelmsford)	City Centre	10	-
Runwell Hospital BC	Rural South	-	-
South Woodham Ferrers BC	South Woodham Ferrers	-	-
Stock and Buttsbury BC	Rural South	-	-
Writtle BC	Urban Areas	15	-
Total	-	60	19

9.4: Supply and demand analysis

The capacity of a bowling green is very much dependent on the leagues and the day that they operate. A green may have no spare capacity on an afternoon or evening when a popular league operates but may be unused for the rest of the week. However, in many cases, greens are used during morning and afternoons by club members who bowl socially, with access a potential issue during peak times if membership is particularly high.

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Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green used by at least 20 members is generally considered to be sustainable, whilst any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. It is also agreed that capacity should be assessed on a site-by-site and club-by-club basis as the club-orientated nature of the sport means that demand cannot and does not easily transfer.

Based on the above, capacity ratings for bowling greens in the Chelmsford administrative area are classified as follows:

Within capacity range	Membership ensures green is sustainable without capacity issues
At capacity range	Membership is at the capacity limit of the green
Outside capacity range	Membership is below or above the recommended capacity range

Following this, Table 9.9 below highlights the level of usage, from responding clubs, (in members), each green in the Chelmsford administrative area receives. Where no membership information is known, further communication is required with clubs to fully understand their needs and any potential capacity or sustainability issues.

Table 9.9: Supply and demand balance of bowling greens in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site	Club user	Current members	Future demand
11	Boreham BC	Boreham BC	40	40
18	Chancellor Park	Hall Street Methodist BC Trinity Methodist BC	20	25
22	Chelmsford BC	Chelmsford BC	125	125
34	Dawsons Field	Danbury BC	99	113
40	Falcon Bowling Club	Falcon BC	200	225
80	Princess Marie Louise Bowling Club	Princess Marie Louise BC	63	63
84	RHP Bowls Club	R.H.P (Chelmsford)	64	74
87	Runwell Sports and Social Club	Runwell Hospital BC	65	65
91	South Woodham Ferrers BC	South Woodham Ferrers BC	80	80
99	Stock & Buttsbury BC	Stock & Buttsbury BC	130	130
110	Writtle BC	Writtle BC	108	123

Table 9.9 above shows that only two clubs (Boreham BC and Hall Street Methodist BC) are currently operating within a 'sustainable' capacity range. The remaining nine clubs, where membership is known, are potentially operating above the recommended capacity limit. As seen above, there are eight clubs where this applies. However, these clubs didn't highlight a need for an additional bowling green to accommodate existing or further demand.

It is also worth highlighting that total membership numbers are generally quite high and may be reflective of total club membership (including social members) and not just playing members.

Clubs with high memberships play both competitive matches and recreational matches throughout a full week to offer something for everyone within their respective membership bases, and to that end, peak time pressures are reduced for this reason.

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Those clubs which have a substantial level of playing demand need to be monitored to ensure they have the appropriate quantity and quality of provision. Bowls England identifies that clubs operating with a membership of over 60 members per green could have capacity issues. Emphasis in this regard should therefore be on supporting clubs with aspirations to improve their sites as this will likely improve the capacity for the provision to accommodate increased levels of demand.

9.5: Conclusion

In summary, all current demand is being adequately accommodated. However, membership levels recorded at eight sites may be operating at or above recommended capacity guidelines and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.

In terms of future demand, five clubs highlight aspirations to increase membership totalling 79 members. However, these clubs also all suggest that future demand can adequately be accommodated on their existing greens.

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- ◆ Nine clubs are operating at or above recommended capacity levels and therefore need to be monitored to ensure that supply remains adequate.
- ◆ Future demand expressed can be accommodated on existing greens. However, where future demand is expressed at sites which are already over capacity, these will need to be monitored as part of Stage E to ensure this position remains the same.

Bowls – supply summary

- ◆ There are 15 flat greens provided across 14 sites in the Chelmsford administrative area, all of which, are available for community use. The Urban Areas Analysis Area provides seven greens, whilst there is four greens in the City Centre, three in the Rural South and one in the South Woodham Ferrers analysis areas. There are no flat bowling greens in the Rural North or Rural West analysis areas.
- ◆ Most bowling greens are owned and managed by the Local Authority, parish council or respective sports club.
- ◆ Across the Chelmsford administrative area, all 15 greens are assessed as good quality, with none assessed as standard or poor.

Bowls – demand summary

- ◆ There are 14 bowling clubs identified as playing within the Chelmsford administrative area although only 11 have responded to consultation requests to date and given membership figures. Membership of the responsive clubs where known totals 994, resulting in an average membership of 91.
- ◆ The largest club by far is Falcon BC, with 200 members. However, it must be noted that this is in part due to it also having access to an indoor facility. Because of this, many of its members will also be members of the other clubs.
- ◆ The largest club without an indoor facility is Stock & Buttsbury BC with 150 members, whilst the smallest is Hall Street Methodist BC with only 20 members. Average club membership is 91 members if Falcon BC is included in the calculation and 63 members when it is discounted.
- ◆ Five greens are available for pay and play usage, although take-up is reportedly minimal.
- ◆ Of responding clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, five clubs highlight plans to increase membership. These aspirations total 79 additional members.

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PART 10: ATHLETICS

10.1: Introduction

England Athletics (EA) is the not-for-profit membership and development body responsible for grassroots athletics and running in England.

EA supports 1,750 affiliated clubs and organisations (covering track and field, road running, fell, hill, trail and cross-country clubs), 147,000 registered athletes, 18,700 licensed coaches and leaders, 3,800 officials and 6.2m regular running participants.

EA's Athletics purpose is to inspire more athletes and runners of all abilities and backgrounds to fulfil their potential and to have a lifelong love for the sport. Their vision is for athletics and running to become an inclusive sport where everyone belongs and can flourish.

Consultation

As shown in table 10.1, in total, two of the two clubs have responded to consultation requests, representing a 100% response rate.

Table 10.1: Summary of athletics response rate

Name of Club	Responded?
Chelmsford AC	Yes
Springfield Striders AC	Yes

10.2: Supply

As set out in Table 10.2, there are two full-size purpose-built outdoor athletics track in the Chelmsford administrative area, located at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre and New Hall School. Both sites provide an 8-lane synthetic 400-metre track each with both tracks serviced by sports lighting. They also provide for the full complement of field events (e.g., throwing cages and jumping pits).

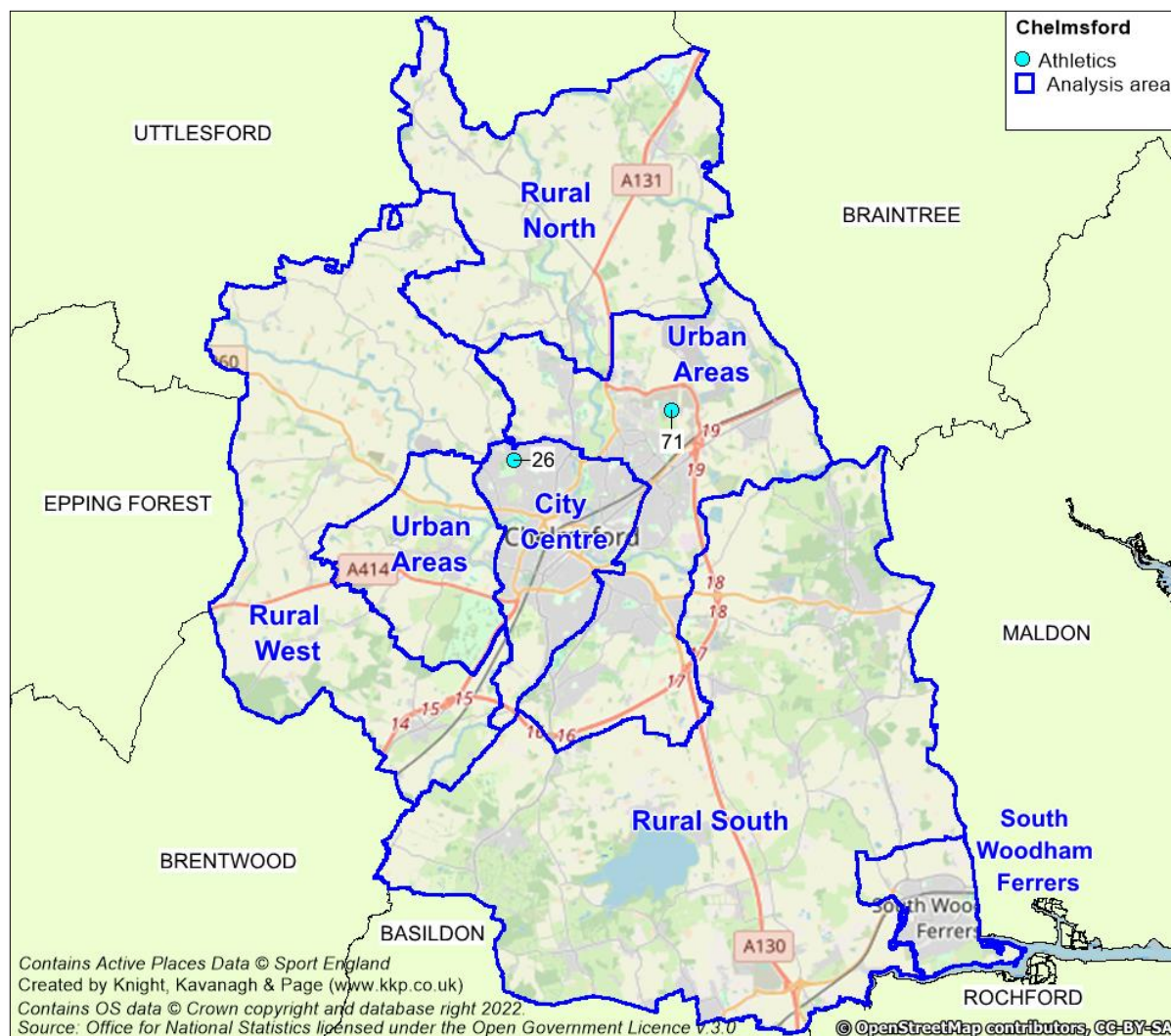
Table 10.2: Summary of outdoor athletics tracks in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Length	Surface type	No. of lanes	Sports lighting ?
26	Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre	CM1 2EH	City Centre	400m	Synthetic	8	Yes
71	New Hall School	CM3 3HS	Urban Areas	400m	Synthetic	8	Yes

As seen in the table above, Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is in the City Centre Analysis Area and New Hall School in the Urban Areas Analysis Area. For specific locations of the facilities, please see Figure 10.1 below.

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Figure 10.1: Location of athletics tracks in the Chelmsford administrative area



Future provision

England Athletics strategic position is that in most areas of the country there is a sufficient supply of traditional synthetic outdoor 400m tracks to meet club and competition needs and that there should focus on protecting and maintaining this provision.

In addition to traditional facilities, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside the catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand. An example could be an integral part of the Garden Communities (North East Chelmsford Garden Community, Hammonds Farm or Warren Farm).

NewGen facility concepts

Track and field (run/jump/throw)

- ▶ **Play Track:** The simple animation of dated playground surfaces using colourful painted lines and markings to (KS1 & KS2) – encouraging participation in run/jump/throw activities by creating challenging and inspiring environments.

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- ✦ **CompactTrack:** A sports-lit, multiple lane, synthetic sprint straight with optional jumps and throws provision.
- ✦ **MiniTrack:** A sports-lit synthetic “mini” running oval, with sprint straight, multi-sport “infield” and optional jumps and throws provision.

Recreational running/endurance running/multi sport

- ✦ **Active Track:** A free to access, macadam running / cycling circuit designed to be sympathetic to the local environment and support the recreational needs of local communities.
- ✦ Ideally lit by low level lighting / solar columns, ActiveTracks can be introduced to existing parks, open spaces and playing fields or integrated into the masterplanning of new housing developments.
- ✦ Sport England Active Design ActiveTrack Case Study: [Sowerby Sports Village](#)

Management

The indoor and outdoor athletics facilities at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre are owned and managed by the Council. As such, it is fully available for community use.

The Track at New Hall School is managed internally but is currently unavailable for community use.

Quality

The quality of the athletics facilities at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre and New Hall School have been assessed via a combination of site visits using non-technical assessments and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed quality rating. Key factors which impact on the quality rating include the condition and age of the track surface, prominence of line markings and any signs of wear and tear or unofficial use (for the full site assessment criteria, please see Appendix 2).

The provision at New Hall School is assessed as standard quality, primarily due to the age of the surface and some signs of wear and tear evident as well as faded line markings noted. Consultation with the School state it has plans to resurface the track in the near future to improve quality for school competitions.

Conversely, the track at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is assessed as good quality following recent renovation. The track was refurbished in summer 2023 as well as the new LED lighting installed in 2022.

Indoor provision

This report only considers the supply of outdoor track and field facilities; however, it is recognised that athletics activity does take place indoors via the indoor track at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre, especially during the winter months. Further information is included in the Indoor Needs Assessment that is being carried out in conjunction with the PPOSS.

TrackMark

TrackMark is UK Athletics’ quality assurance scheme for outdoor track and field athletics facilities. A venue that achieves TrackMark is recognised by UK Athletics as having well managed, compliant facilities that are accessible to participants of all abilities.

Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is TrackMark accredited until September 2026.

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New Hall School is not accredited and conversations are ongoing between the School and England Athletics to obtain the accreditation. However, it should be noted New Hall School is not available for community use and has no plans to enable use in the near future.

Ancillary provision

There are no issues specifically raised regarding the quality or accessibility of ancillary provision through consultation or non-technical site assessments at either Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre and New Hall School.

10.3: Demand

For the purposes of this study, athletics demand is considered to come in various forms, rather than just the traditional track and field activity. As such, running clubs are considered, as are organised running events and various running initiatives, some of which are governed by England Athletics. It is also acknowledged that recreational running forms a large part of demand, although this is difficult to measure.

The facility at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is a key competition venue for the Essex and East region. It holds an average of 10 events each year, making it the most used site in the area. It also able to accommodate National League fixtures given that it has a separate throwing area.

Club demand

Chelmsford Athletics Club

Chelmsford Athletics Club is a large athletics club based at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre. It reports it currently caters for men, women, boys and girls of all ages within amateur athletics and has a membership totalling 276 people. Broken down, this equates to 48 senior male, 56 senior female and 172 junior members. It states that it is always open to taking on new members, particularly senior members, and that there is not a waiting list in place.

The Club accesses Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for training sessions via a rental agreement which is secured on an annual basis. In addition, it competes in a range of competitions and leagues meaning it also has requirements to utilise the facility on weekends. In addition, the Club accesses the indoor facility on site during the winter months, further information is included in the Indoor Needs Assessment that is being carried out in conjunction with the PPOSS.

Members compete in track and field leagues such as the Southern Athletics League and the UK Youth Development League. In addition, various cross-country and road running leagues are accessed as well as county, area and national championships. Springfield Striders

Springfield Striders Running Club is a road running club. It currently has 284 members which accommodates both men and women and juniors of all ages and abilities.

The Club runs sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Coronation Park (Chelmsford) as well as on Sunday mornings from Little Baddow Cricket Club with both sites used as the starting point and local paths and roads utilised. It also accommodates some triathlon activity.

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Chelmsford Tri Club

As a triathlon club, Chelmsford Tri Club participates in significant running activity and holds numerous running sessions similar to those held by the running clubs in the Authority. It currently has 60 members. As part of its running activity, it trains from Writtle University College on Thursday evenings using the local road network.

Additional demand

Run Together

Run Together is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. Its aim is to provide fun, friendly, supportive, and inclusive running opportunities for everyone, regardless of ability and availability. It believes that running is more fun and easier to become part of a lifestyle when shared with others.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one Run Together group, known as South Woodham Runners.

A key focus for England Athletics is increasing demand for participation programmes such as Run Together, meaning this could be targeted moving forward, especially given the large number of clubs in Chelmsford that could be involved.

Park Run

Parkrun is a series of 5k runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK, with 1,063 events now operating across the Country. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Runners must first register online to access a printed barcode which gives them access to all Parkrun events.

There is currently one Parkrun event held weekly in the Chelmsford administrative area. This is held at Central Park. There have been 539 events.

Other events

Other running events are held in the Chelmsford administrative area across the year, normally on an annual basis. This includes the Chelmsford Marathon and Half Marathon and the Trifarm 10K which are organised by a running community known as RunThrough. It hosts several social and competitive events across Essex.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise.

The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

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Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect of leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in the Chelmsford administrative area, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity. It is also championed by clubs in the Authority.

Exported/imported demand

None of the clubs identify any exported or imported demand, although it is likely that some members of the Chelmsford administrative area based clubs will come from outside of the Authority just as nearby clubs from outside of the Authority will likely attract some members from the Chelmsford administrative area. Similarly, many events in the region will likely accommodate significant levels of cross-border demand.

Latent/unmet demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 3,860 people in Chelmsford, which works out at around 2.1% of the population compared to a national average of 1.9%.

Notwithstanding the above, no clubs currently based in the Chelmsford administrative area express latent or unmet demand, with no waiting lists in place and each club open to new members. This suggests that anyone wanting to participate can do so via the clubs and facilities that are in place. It is therefore likely that other barriers are preventing participation, rather than provision or a lack of capacity.

Future demand

Clubs consulted expressed an aspiration to grow membership, although the majority state that this is difficult to quantify as they will do their utmost not turn demand away.

Chelmsford Athletics Club in particular report an aspiration to grow its adults section which it reports that it has previously struggled to increase. It states that this is because running clubs in the area have larger adult sections, meaning that demand tends to gravitate towards them.

England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Park Run is likely to continue to increase in the future, although again to what extent is difficult to quantify.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is considerable demand for athletics and in particular running in the Chelmsford administrative area, as evidenced by the clubs in existence and the variety of events held across the Authority. However, with only one club currently requiring regular access to purpose a built facility (Chelmsford Athletics Club), the current supply of provision is considered to be sufficient to meet the demand in quantitative terms.

10.5: Conclusion

To ensure that demand can continue to be met, it is imperative that activity can continue to be accommodated at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre. There may be an opportunity to explore England Athletics' current focus on developing innovative facilities as part of this.

Away from track and field activity, emphasis should also be placed on supporting the other activities identified in the Chelmsford administrative area, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

With several housing developments in the Chelmsford administrative area, EA is keen to support the development of a new generation of innovative athletics & running facilities (NewGen), as well as a country-wide network of indoor athletics facilities developed as part of future indoor multisport projects.

Priority for both NewGen and indoor developments will be given to those areas that sit outside the catchment of existing facilities or where there is additional, demonstrable demand. An example could be an integral part of the Garden Communities (North East Chelmsford Garden Community, Hammonds Farm or Warren Farm).

As there are substantial levels of future population growth proposed from the various Local Plan allocations proposed in the Chelmsford administrative area, it is anticipated there will be a requirement for some form of athletics provision.

Partial amounts of demand from the garden communities will be catered for by the 400m track at Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre, which means it is likely that there will only be a need for a compact facility within the development such as a compact track, mini track or active track.

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Athletics – supply and demand summary

- There is considerable demand for athletics and running within the Chelmsford administrative area, although this is being met by the good quality facility at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre.
- To ensure that demand can continue to be met, priority should be placed on protecting and improving provision.
- Away from track and field activity, emphasis should be placed on supporting the other activities identified (e.g., Parkrun), with a focus on retaining and increasing participation and growing the various initiatives that are in place.

Athletics – supply summary

- In the Chelmsford administrative area, there are two full size purpose built outdoor athletics tracks provided, located at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre and New Hall School.
- The track at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is owned and managed by the Council. As such, it is fully available for community use. Whereas the pitch at New Hall School is managed internally but is currently unavailable for community use.
- The provision at New Hall School is assessed as standard quality, primarily due to the age of the surface and some signs of wear and tear evident as well as faded line markings noted. Consultation with the School state it has plans to resurface the track in the near future to improve quality for school competitions.
- Conversely, the track at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre is assessed as good quality following recent renovation. The track was refurbished in summer 2023 as well as the new LED lighting installed in 2022.
- Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre has UKA TrackMark accreditation; New Hall School does not.

Athletics – demand summary

- There are two clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area affiliated to England Athletics.
- Chelmsford Athletics Club is a large athletics club with around 276 members based at Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre.
- Springfield Striders is a road running club that utilises the road network for all activity and therefore do not have demand for access to a purpose-built facility.
- In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one Run Together group, known as South Woodham Runners.
- There is currently one Parkrun event held weekly in Chelmsford. This is held at Central Park. There have been 539 events.
- Other running events are held annually. This includes the Chelmsford Marathon and Half Marathon and the Trifarm 10K.
- No clubs express latent or unmet demand, suggesting that any latent or unmet demand that does exist is due to other barriers preventing participation, rather than a lack of club capacity.
- All clubs have aspirations to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand for initiatives such as Parkrun is likely to increase.

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PART 11: GOLF

11.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 730,000 members belonging to 1,750 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. There are an estimated 3,000 golf courses across the Country, with approximately 90 designated as sites of special scientific interest because apart from the intensively managed trees and greens they have other habitats with high wildlife value. Many other courses also exist within designated heritage coast sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty, or listed historic parklands.

Nationally, the sport is governed by England Golf. Its role includes providing competitions for players of all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules, and introducing new golfers via its initiatives such as 'Get into Golf'.

Consultation

This section has been informed via consultation with England Golf, which provided information relating to all facilities and clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area.

11.2: Supply

The three different types of golf facilities recognised by Sport England and governed by England Golf are defined in Table 11.1 below. Pitch and putt courses (such as that provided at West Park) and miniature/crazy golf courses are not included as these are not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.

Table 11.1: Definitions of golf facilities

Facility type	Description
Standard	A standard par course, with a minimum of 9 holes but normally associated with 18-hole courses; many 9-hole courses have different tee boxes which allow the provision to be played as an 18-hole course. Some courses provide 27 holes, with any two loops of 9-holes played to make up an 18-hole round.
Par 3	Shorter length of holes than a standard course, with no hole longer than Par 3. Most likely to be a 9-hole course although 18-hole offerings do exist. Does not include pitch and putt courses, which are even shorter offerings and are not considered to be a traditional version of the sport.
Driving Range	Includes covered and uncovered driving range bays but not practice areas within golf courses; ranges are based on the hiring of balls, with users not required to retrieve, whereas practice areas are generally for members to use with their own balls (although a growing number have dispensers). Does not include 'entertainment' ranges or virtual offerings, although some driving ranges have expanded to also provide these features.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, three golf sites provide facilities conforming with the above definitions. These are identified in Table 11.2 and Figure 11.1 below. One each in the City Centre, Rural North and Rural South analysis areas.

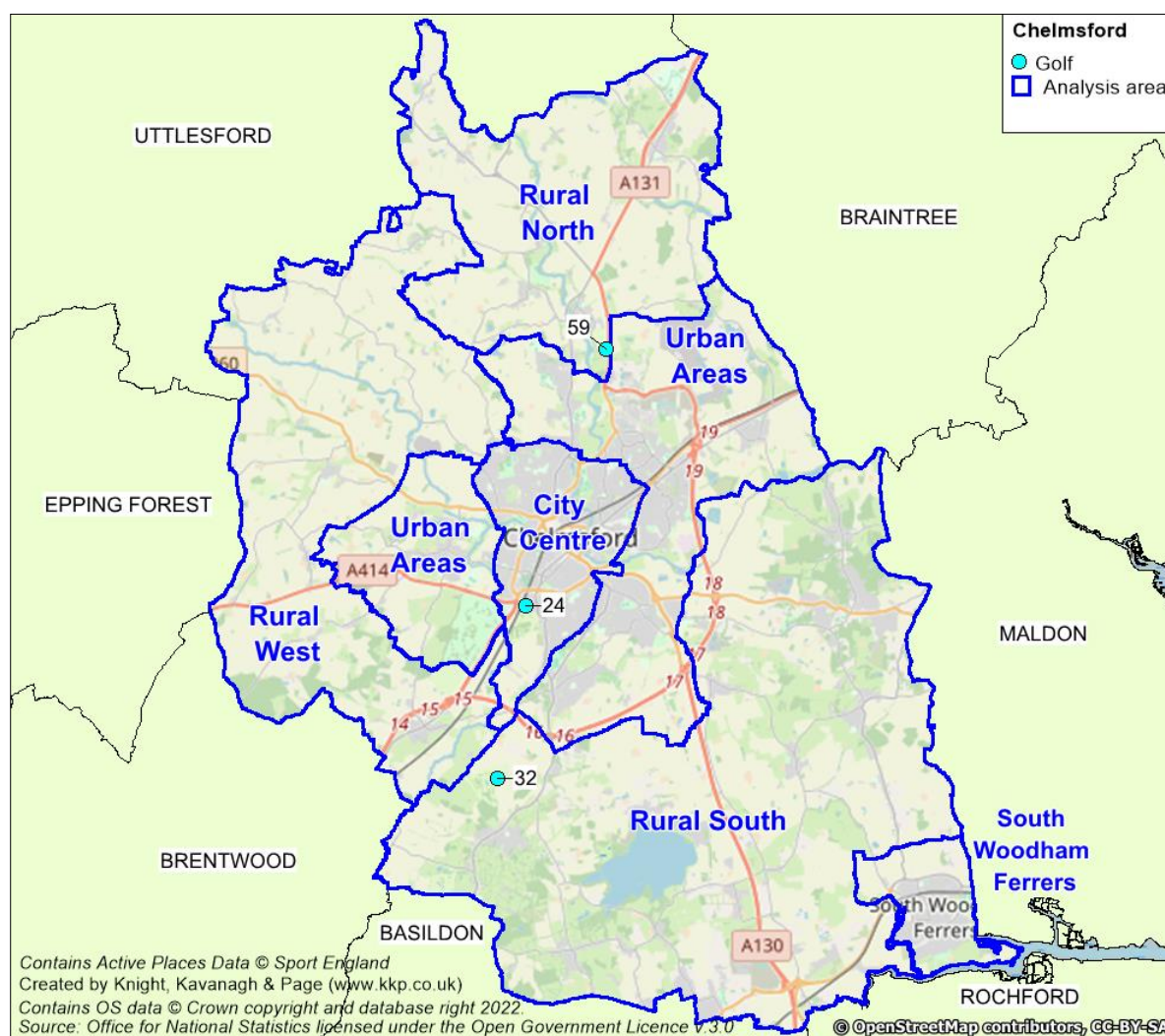
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Table 11.2: Golf facilities within the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area
24	Chelmsford Golf Club	CM2 9AP	City Centre
32	Crondon Park Golf & Country Club	CM4 9DP	Rural South
59	Little Channels Golf	CM3 3PR	Rural North

Please note there is a 9-hole course at Hylands Golf Complex but it closed in July 2024. Therefore, it has been discounted from the supply and demand analysis.

Figure 11.1: Location of golf courses in the Chelmsford administrative area



Standard hole golf courses

Two of the three golf sites (Chelmsford Golf Club and Crondon Park Golf & Country Club) provide one standard hole course. Nationally, some 9-hole standard courses are provided, whilst some sites can provide 27 or 36 holes. Little Channels Golf provides one 9-hole course. These are summarised by site in Table 11.3.

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Table 11.3: Summary of standard hole provision

Site ID	Site name	Holes	Par	Yardage ²⁴			Slope rating
24	Chelmsford Golf Club	18	72	2939	2894	2753	121-132
32	Crondon Park Golf & Country Club	18	72	6604	6198	5836	70-113
59	Little Channels Golf	9	32	4402	4246	4089	-

Most of the 18-hole courses are relatively similar in length and are within the range of what you would expect from traditional provision. The longest course is found at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club (6,198 yards), whilst the shortest is Chelmsford Golf Club (2,894 yards).

Nationally, many 9-hole courses are shorter than the front or back nine of an 18-hole course, primarily to attract and cater for a different userbase. In the Chelmsford administrative area, this is the case at Little Channels Golf.

Slope ratings

Slope ratings are new to golf across the World. The intention is for them to allow the handicap system to reflect course difficulty and the difference in difficulty for all players compared to scratch golfers. In effect, this enables each player to have a handicap that will vary from course-to-course, depending on difficulty, as well as a general handicap.

The maximum slope rating is 155, whereas the minimum is 55. The standard difficulty is considered to be 113, which means that the courses in the Chelmsford administrative area are generally considered to be more difficult than the mean, with them collectively ranging from 70-132 (the slope rating varies depending on which tee is used).

Par 3 golf holes

Most commonly, Par 3 provision is used by beginner and casual players, although they are also frequented by more traditional golfers wanting to practice their short game, particularly when accompanying a standard hole course.

There is one dedicated Par 3 course in the Chelmsford administrative area, located at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club and provides nine holes, which is common.

Driving range bays

Two of the three golf sites in the Chelmsford administrative area supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 30 bays provided at Little Channels Golf and 13 bays provided at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club. As set out in Table 11.4, both sites are serviced by sports lighting and available for pay and play usage.

²⁴ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

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Table 11.4: Summary of driving range bays within the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	No. of bays	Sports lighting?	Pay and play?
32	Crondon Park Golf & Country Club	13	Yes	Yes
59	Little Channels Golf	30	Yes	Yes

With only 43 driving range bays provided in the Chelmsford administrative area to the wider public, this represents a low amount for the size and population base of the Authority.

Nationally, many driving range providers are updating their facilities with such provision in a bid to increase demand. Others also seek the installation of automatic tees or entertainment systems such as TopTracer and FlightScope. Such provision allows for users to simulate playing on courses across the world and provides ball tracking and statistical feedback. Such technology is offered at Little Channels Golf.

Management and ownership

There are three main types of ownership and management models of golf facilities in England; members clubs, proprietary clubs, and municipal facilities, as summarised in Table 11.5 below.

Table 11.5: Types of ownership and management of golf facilities

Management type	Description
Members	Traditionally owned by members and run by committees. They are likely to hire caterers and green staff. Most members' clubs offer some level of pay and play and encourage golf societies but are mostly focused on membership numbers.
Proprietary	Owned or managed by businesses or individuals, these can include country club type facilities at the high end of the golfing market alongside more localised facilities. Many have clubs operating within them but can also take a much more relaxed attitude to dress and traditions of golf. Pay and play opportunities tend to be a key feature of the business plan.
Municipal	These are generally owned by a local authority, although in a growing number of instances, management has been contracted and externalised to private companies. Due to a lack of financial viability, many have closed across the Country in recent years and many that remain are under threat.

It is recognised that members clubs and visitors to such clubs are normally expected to dress appropriately, have a registered handicap certificate (a certificate issued by the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU)) and be familiar with the rules and etiquette of the game. This is not uncommon at some proprietary clubs, but municipal courses tend to be more relaxed and do not require people to have handicaps, making golf much more accessible.

Consequently, municipal courses are, in many instances, seen as entry level facilities, with players using them before having the confidence to move on to a members' or high-end proprietary club (although many people can and do stay attached to a particular course). They also tend to offer a more affordable golfing experience.

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The business model for members clubs tends to rely heavily on income through membership subscriptions and use of ancillary facilities, rather than from pay and play usage, although attention has somewhat switched at many sites in recent years due to demand falling. The same can be said for some proprietary clubs, although, in general, more emphasis is placed on supplementing regular activity with green fee sales. Conversely, municipal sites have always been heavily reliant on visitors even though membership packages are normally available (often in the shape of season tickets). On occasion, these can be linked to access to other local authority operated sports facilities, such as leisure centres and swimming pools.

Despite the above generalisations, each golf facility, regardless of management type, will have its own processes in terms of how much focus is placed on membership and pay and play usage, or whether it equally encourages both. There is no correct way to run a site. A club that focuses on members has guaranteed income, but this can often deter more casual players or nomadic golfers through, for example, a lack of peak time availability. In contrast, a site that depends on visitors can struggle to be viable if there are spells of inclement weather during summer months and can discourage people that want to be part of a club environment. On the other hand, more income can be brought in through regular users compared to what would be the case had they been part of a membership scheme.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one members club, with this provided at Chelmsford Golf Club and two proprietary venues.

The management for each venue is summarised in Table 11.6 below.

Table 11.6: Summary of management in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Management type
24	Chelmsford Golf Club	Members
32	Crondon Park Golf & Country Club	Proprietary
59	Little Channels Golf	Proprietary

Pricing

A key issue for the wider golf population is whether golf courses are available to the general population at a price point which is accessible to the majority of residents. Better quality courses tend to cost more to use, whilst 18-hole provision is generally more expensive to access than 9-hole provision.

Nationally, over the past decade, many facilities have altered their pricing structure to allow for discounts following a previous decline in golf membership. England Golf positively encouraged this and continues to do so as its view is that clubs are more likely to experience growth when flexible packages are available. For instance, five and/or six day memberships are now common (whereby members can access a course on specific days but not on one or both weekend days), whilst discounts are regularly in place that are no longer limited solely to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21 and 21-30 or for those aged 65 and over).

In the past, it was very common for many clubs to have waiting lists in place for membership, but this has become rarer in the present day. That being said, a rise in demand following the Covid-19 pandemic has tested this and resulted in capacity pressures, with a third of clubs now thought to have waiting times before new members can join.

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England Golf reports that the average cost of a full adult membership across the Country is currently £901.00 per year. In the Chelmsford administrative area, average membership fees, where known, operate significantly above this. In particular, Chelmsford Golf Club has a yearly fee of £1,845. In comparison, the cost at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club equates to £1,550, whilst it is £790 at Little Channels Golf.

The green fees at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club and Little Channels Golf range from £20 to £50 for single players whilst weekday access at Chelmsford Golf Club totals £80. Weekend green fees are not available at this site as all capacity is reserved for members as well as any arranged competitions. Table 11.7 sets out the pricing structure for the three golf facilities.

Table 11.7: Pricing structures at golf facilities in the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Joining fee	Full membership (per year)	Weekday green fee	Weekend green fee
24	Chelmsford Golf Club	-	£1845	£80*	N/A
32	Crondon Park Golf & Country Club	-	£1550	£50	£60
59	Little Channels Golf	-	£792	£20	£20

In general, costs at all three sites are high, evidencing that all three are considered to be high end facilities, with such provision generally able to charge a premium for access. However, this means that there are no low cost golf courses provided in the Authority.

Quality

There are no official national or county golf facility rankings. Generally, the better course quality and supporting infrastructure is, the higher the joining/membership and green fees are likely to be. Some sites gain status through hosting county, national and international golf events and some tend to feature in ranking articles put together by golf magazines.

In terms of quality of the golf courses within the Chelmsford administrative area, it is good across the Authority with no significant issues identified through site assessments and with all sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round. These programmes are frequent and sophisticated, which links to the high-end price point of the venues.

Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good across the Chelmsford administrative area, with all three courses being serviced by all-encompassing facilities that feature bars, kitchens and function rooms. Golf clubs generally need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a good quality, well equipped clubhouse is a key opportunity to provide a secondary income stream. This emanates from a variety of sources including bar and catering income from members and visitors as well as venue hire for special occasions including weddings, christenings and funerals. From a golfing perspective, given the current emphasis on increasing levels of female and junior golf membership across the Country, it is also imperative that ancillary provision can adequately cater for all types of members e.g., by providing gender specific changing facilities.

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11.3: Demand

Golf participation considerably increased across the Country following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, both initially in 2020 and again following the later lockdown period in 2021. As one of the first sports to be allowed on both occasions, people were able to play whilst maintaining social distancing and England Golf provided very clear guidance as to how this should manifest itself (e.g., by not allowing the flag to be taken out or rakes to be used). Some courses have reported a near doubling of demand, highlighting that a significant opportunity now exists to increase participation in the long-term.

The following section examines current demand for golf in the Chelmsford administrative area as well as recent trends and potential future demand.

Membership

England Golf reports that the average membership of a golf club nationally is 407, with this being based on its central national handicap platform. In the Chelmsford administrative area, the current average membership across the sites is 725, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates.

Membership trends

As shown in table 11.8, in line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across the Chelmsford administrative area has increased significantly since 2015, despite a reduction in 2018 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).

Data by club is not available as this is considered to be commercially sensitive information.

Table 11.8: Changes in demand since 2015

2015	2016	2017	2018	2022	2023	2024
480	490	538	371	690	698	725

It should be noted that whilst some clubs will operate below the national average, this does not necessarily indicate insufficient levels demand. In fact, this could simply mean there is a particular emphasis on pay and play use, or it will take account of 9-hole courses having less capacity than 18-hole courses. At the members clubs with 18-hole courses, it is expected that most if not all will have a membership that is higher than average.

Where demand is especially low, England Golf can assist in this regard, primarily through a variety of tools that can be used to better understand the local market. There may also be opportunities for some clubs across the area to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate to collectively cater for all types of players.

Pay and play

Whilst pay and play usage has generally increased across England in recent years, usage figures at the sites within the Chelmsford administrative area is not known as it is not something that is tracked by England Golf or disclosed by operators due to commercial sensitivity. However, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the propriety courses (Crondon Park Golf & Country Club and Little Channels Golf. In contrast, it will be lower at Chelmsford Golf Club given that is more exclusive and predominately focused on members.

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If facilities with low membership numbers do not have high green fee demand, long-term viability is questionable. Attracting pay and play usage is key to the business model and sustainability of such sites.

Exported/imported demand

Cross-boundary demand for golf is common nationally due to the nature of the sport. Golfers do not necessarily recognise local authority borders, and many will choose a facility for a whole range of reasons other than where it is located, with factors including quality, availability, cost and where friends/family play. This can be especially pronounced at venues located close to neighbouring authorities and if there is a comparative lack of provision within those authorities.

For the Chelmsford administrative area, exported demand out of the Authority is expected to be higher than what would ordinarily be considered given that only three golf courses are provided and given that all three sites provide a similar offer within the same area. With no low-cost sites, any demand for such provision will be travelling to other local authorities in order to access appropriate facilities (or would be unmet demand). This will also be especially pronounced to the north the Authority given the location of the existing facilities.

Conversely, there will be some imported demand from golfers in neighbouring authorities looking for a high end, good quality facility to access with a focus on membership. In particular, it is known that Chelmsford Golf Club reaches a wide catchment given the status of the provision.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to golf facilities. This could be reflected via a waiting list at a club, although it is likely that people on a waiting list are still playing golf elsewhere due to quantity of facilities in the area, either via membership of another club or through pay and play access. As a result, such unmet demand in the Chelmsford administrative area is considered to be relatively minimal.

Notwithstanding the above, Chelmsford Golf Club reports that it is not currently accepting new members and that it is turning down any interest from potential members that would not be full adult members (over 35s). Moreover, even for full adult members looking to join, a waiting list is in place which is currently considered to be two to three years long. As such, there is clear unmet demand for this particular site.

Unmet demand could also be expressed if there is a lack of provision to meet a particular golfing market. This is also likely to be the case in the Chelmsford administrative area with most sites currently providing relatively lengthy standard hole courses and at a high price point. This may be leaving those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access without anywhere to play (although some may leave the Authority to do so).

Latent demand

Latent demand is demand for golf that is not currently being realised. This could be for numerous reasons, such as time constraints, financial reasons and a lack of suitable, available provision. To that end, Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in golf but 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 2,143 in the Chelmsford administrative area.

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In addition, England Golf also has a mapping tool that enables an assessment of potential demand within a 20-minute drive time of each golf facility (which is considered to be a reasonable travel distance). This is based on research undertaken that identifies that 24% of adults in England are potential players, amounting to circa 9.6 million people and equating to 9% current players, 8% lapsed (former) players and 7% latent players. It can be used by providers to identify what demand may exist for their facilities, thus helping inform marketing, development and investment decisions.

Using the tool across the Chelmsford administrative area, Chelmsford Golf Club is identified as having the largest potential demand, with 55,346 potential players falling within the segments within a 20-minute drive time. In comparison, Crondon Park Golf & Country Club is identified as having the smallest potential demand, equating to 31,642 people. This, however, is still substantial.

The tool also breaks the potential playing population down into nine golfing segments, with these defined to help provide an indication as to what type of golfing offer each would be most likely to access. They are:

- ◀ Relaxed members.
- ◀ Older traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger traditionalists.
- ◀ Younger fanatics.
- ◀ Younger actives.
- ◀ Late enthusiasts.
- ◀ Occasional time pressed.
- ◀ Social couples.
- ◀ Casual fun.

The demand for each of the sites is relatively evenly split across the nine segments; the highest demand is from "casual fun" (6,225 people), whilst the lowest is from "older traditionalists" (5,351 people).

Whilst the reasoning for the latent demand is unknown and is likely to be varied, the data does show relatively high demand which would significantly increase membership and/or pay and play usage across facilities if realised. England Golf is supportive of clubs that proactively target new audiences in an attempt to tap into such demand i.e., through developing a variety of golfing offers, coaching programmes and a range of membership options.

Future demand

England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally; however, after reaching its previous target, it no longer has a fixed goal in terms of growth. Nationally, many clubs, especially the most established ones, will be happy to retain current demand levels, whilst others will be open to growing and some considerably so. In that regard, England Golf reports that many providers are proactively targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wider range of membership and playing options.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, each facility will have different aspirations in terms of future levels of demand. Nevertheless, with membership across the Authority already significantly higher than the national average, capacity to accommodate significant growth could be questionable, as is reported to be the case at Chelmsford Golf Club.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

With only three golf courses currently provided in the Chelmsford administrative area, there is a low level of supply servicing the Authority. This is illustrated by all three sites having a particularly high membership, well in excess of average levels. Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that two of the three courses currently provide standard hole provision at a relatively high price point, with no cheaper offerings available that would appeal more so to less affluent residents, and no shorter or less traditional offerings that would appeal more so to, for example, beginners, casual golfers and high handicappers.

The identified facility gaps mean that demand will likely be travelling outside of the Chelmsford administrative area for suitable access to golf provision, or they will be unable to play. This is especially going to be the case to the north of the Authority, with all existing provision located to the centre and south.

11.5: Conclusion

Given a low supply levels of golf courses and high levels of demand, no existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements as it is clear that any loss could not be sustained, meaning all provision requires protection. Furthermore, avenues to further improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Authority have somewhere suitable to play.

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Golf – supply and demand summary

- With only three golf courses provided, there is a low level of supply servicing the Authority, as illustrated by each site having particularly high demand.
- Furthermore, there is also a distinct lack of variety in that every course currently provides standard hole provision at a relatively high price point and in the same area, with no affordable or shorter, less traditional offerings and with no provision to the south.
- No existing sites can be deemed surplus to requirements and avenues to improve the variety and spatial distribution of facilities should be explored in order to ensure that all types of golfers from across the Authority have somewhere suitable to play.

Golf – supply summary

- There are currently three golf sites in operation.
- Please note there is a 18-hole pitch and putt course at West Park but is not included as it is not considered to be traditional formats of the game and are not comparable offerings.
- Chelmsford Golf Club and Crondon Park Golf & Country Club provide one 18-hole course and Little Channels Golf provides one 9-hole course.
- There is one dedicated Par 3 course in the Chelmsford administrative area, located at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club and provides nine holes, which is common.
- Two of the three golf sites in the Chelmsford administrative area supply a traditional driving range, in addition to their standard hole courses, with 30 bays provided at Little Channels Golf and 13 bays provided at Crondon Park Golf & Country Club. Both sites are serviced by sports lighting and available for pay and play usage.
- In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one members club, with this provided at Chelmsford Golf Club and two proprietary venues (Crondon Park Golf & Country Club and Little Channels Golf).
- Membership costs at Chelmsford Golf Club and Crondon Park Golf & Country Club are currently operating above the national average, with membership costing £1,845 for the former and £1,550 for the latter.
- Quality across the sites is good, with no issues reported.

Golf – demand summary

- The current average membership across the sites is 725, suggesting that demand is substantially higher than national rates (the average is 386).
- In line with a national trend of increasing membership, demand across the Chelmsford administrative area has increased significantly since 2015, despite a reduction in 2018 (no data was collected by England Golf from 2018 until 2022).
- Whilst pay and play usage is not known, it would be expected that demand would be higher at the municipal and propriety courses due to other on-site amenities and the operational structures in place.
- Cross-boundary demand is likely to be high given the location of some sites both in and out of the Chelmsford administrative area, whilst the lack of variety of the sites within the Authority is also likely to lead to higher than normal levels of exported demand.
- Unmet demand could also be high given the lack of variety in what is provided, particularly from those wanting or needing shorter provision or cheaper access.
- Unmet demand is also expressed by Chelmsford Golf Club, which has a waiting list in place.
- An England Golf mapping tool identifies significant potential demand for access to golf provision in the Borough.

PART 12: CYCLING

12.1: Introduction

This section primarily focuses on cycling as a sport, where facilities are more likely to be required, rather than as a travel, recreational or fitness activity, where demand is more likely to be accommodated via infrastructure that is already in place (e.g., via gyms, roads and paths).

British Cycling is the NGB for all forms of cycling. It oversees six sporting disciplines, with each having a dedicated facility type:

- ◆ Track cycling – velodromes.
- ◆ Road cycling – closed road circuits.
- ◆ Mountain biking – trails.
- ◆ BMX racing – race/pump tracks.
- ◆ Cycle speedway – cycle speedway tracks.
- ◆ Cyclocross – non-dedicated, non-permanent venues.

The NGB aids in the development of all six formats, helping to safeguard those that wish to participate in a competitive and compelling environment. The popularity of cycling has increased since recent, elite sporting success in the Olympics and Paralympics as well as in other major championships.

Consultation

Information for cycling was gathered via discussions with British Cycling and through consultation with the six clubs in the Authority.

12.2: Supply

As set out in Table 12.2, in the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one purpose built outdoor cycling facility (Baddow Pump Track) which is located in the Urban Areas Analysis Area.

Table 12.1: Cycling facilities within the Chelmsford administrative area

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Type of provision	Year built
128	Baddow Pump Track	CM2 7DA	Urban Areas	Pump Track	2011

The existing cycling routes are able to be used for recreational cycling as well as club activity, and some of them are in close proximity to each other and can therefore be combined to provide longer distances. Many are located within and outside of the Authority crossing boundaries with multiple authorities such as Basildon, Braintree, Uttlesford and Maldon.

Quality

The Baddow Pump Track is of adequate quality. The track primarily provides for recreational use only (i.e., non-club/group activity).

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12.3: Demand

There are six prominent cycling clubs based in the Chelmsford administrative area. The name of the clubs, membership levels and relevant types of cycling activity that they provide are outlined in Table 12.2 below.

Table 12.2: Summary of cycling demand within the Chelmsford administrative area

Club name	Members ²⁵	Types
Chelmer Cycling Club	250	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing
Athlon Cycling Club	170	Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Road racing / Track racing
API-Angliasport	16	Club training rides / Recreational Rides / Road racing / Track racing
Danbury Cycling Club	28	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing / Track racing
GS Vecchi	65	Charity rides / Coaching / Recreational rides / Road racing / Sportives
Maillot Noir Cycling Club	52	Charity rides / Club training rides / Competitive Time Trials / Recreational Rides / Road racing / Sportives
Chelmsford Tri Club	60	Club training rides/Recreational rides/ Road racing

As seen, Chelmer Cycling Club is the largest club, catering for 250 members.

In addition, there is one triathlon club (Chelmsford Tri Club) which, due to the nature of the sport, also takes part in significant cycling activity.

Each club is further summarised via the sections below.

Chelmer Cycling Club

Chelmer CC caters for all abilities and offers a variety of rides such as time-trials and training rides. Club rides take place on a Saturday and Sunday, with these catering for a wide variety of riders including juniors, disability cyclists, novice riders and racing cyclists. The Club meets at its clubhouse in Waterhouse Lane Playing Field and utilises the local road network in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Athlon Cycling Club

Athlon CC welcomes cyclists of all disciplines and abilities and is prominently a social road cycling club. Rides take place on Saturday mornings with the meeting point being at Navigation Road car park.

API-Angliasport

API- Angliasport is a relatively new cycling club, having formed in the last few years. It caters for cyclists of all abilities. Its meeting point is on Main Road in Great Leighs. It then utilises the local road network.

²⁵ Information gathered from British Cycling data.

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Danbury Cycling Club

Danbury Cycling Club is an amateur cycling club based in Danbury and meets on a Sunday morning at 8am at Danbury Sports and Social Club.

GS Vecchi

GS Vecchi offers road cycling and racing sessions. The Club generally consists of over 40 year men and women. The Club's main riding session is on Saturday mornings and utilises the road network in the Chelmsford administrative area and into neighbouring boroughs such as Maldon and Uttlesford.

Maillot Noir Cycling Club

Maillot Noir Cycling Club is an off-road cycling club but offers cyclo-cross racing as well. It has access to and uses road facilities in the Chelmsford administrative area. It meets on Saturday mornings.

Chelmsford Tri Club

As a triathlon club, Chelmsford Tri Club participates in significant cycling activity in the Authority. It holds one cycling session a week; with this taking place on Thursday evenings. For this, it meets at Writtle University College at 7pm.

Additional demand

HSBC UK Go-Ride

HSBC UK Go-Ride is a British Cycling's development programme for young people. It offers a fun and safe way to introduce young people to the sport and provides a platform to improve cycling skills. People can get involved through holiday coaching programmes or through their local accredited club which allows them to sample the various disciplines of the sport. Progression is obtainable with Go-Ride Racing, offering competition for riders to transition from school or club coaching to inter club and open regional competitions.

Chelmer Cycling Club is an accredited Go-Ride Cycling Club based in the Chelmsford administrative area.

Breeze

Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories easy going, steady and challenging to allow women of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people.

In the Chelmsford administrative area, there are currently no Breeze sessions taking place, with the nearest identified at Lesnes Abbey Woods in Bexley.

HSBC UK Ready, Set, Ride

HSBC UK Ready, Set, Ride is a British Cycling's campaign to start children learning how to ride a bike through free, quick games. This can start at any age with British Cycling providing helpful information through online activities and tutorials.

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No evidence of the initiative being implemented in the Chelmsford administrative area has been identified.

HSBC UK Breeze

HSBC UK Breeze is a British Cycling's development programme for women. It offers three categories known as easy going, steady and challenging, with these allowing females of all abilities to get involved. The programme offers exercise whilst also creating a comfortable environment to meet new people.

Future/latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cycling but that 'are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 7,743 people within the Chelmsford administrative area, which represents approximately 4.2% of the Authority's population compared to a national average of 3.4%. This therefore suggests that unmet demand is higher than what would otherwise be expected.

Most clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area express an aspiration to increase membership, with most actively looking for growth. In addition, there is a focus by British Cycling to develop youth and female participation through the HSBC UK Go-Ride, HSBC UK Ready Set Ride and HSBC UK Breeze schemes, which may lead to further increases in demand.

Notwithstanding the above, the nature of cycling likely means that most latent and future demand will not require space with a club or at a dedicated facility. Instead, most new participants will likely take up cycling by themselves (or with friends) on a recreational basis and will utilise the local road network to fulfil this. As such, potential growth within clubs is not necessarily linked to the growth of cycling in general and cannot be used as an indicator in terms of participation levels.

12.4: Supply and demand analysis

Relatively high demand for cycling is identified within the Chelmsford administrative area, especially when taking into account latent demand. Whilst most of this will fall outside of the club environment and will not require dedicated provision, protecting and sustaining what is provided at Baddow Pump Track should be seen as significantly key in the Authority given the off-road facilities offered. The provision at Baddow Pump Track should be seen as a destination venue for BMX cyclists in the area.

Continued implementation of initiatives promoted by British Cycling should also be explored in order to encourage more people to get into cycling. This therefore includes Go-Ride and Breeze.

12.5: Conclusion

The protection of provision at Baddow Pump Track should be seen as a priority. Whilst most cycling need can be met via the existing infrastructure and without dedicated provision, improved cycling access to sites such as parks would be beneficial for accommodating demand. In addition, the creation of bespoke cycling spaces/areas could be sought.

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Cycling – supply and demand summary

- ◆ The protection of provision at Baddow Pump Track requires protection to ensure demand can continue to be met.

Cycling – supply summary

- ◆ In the Chelmsford administrative area, there is one purpose built outdoor cycling facility at Baddow Pump Track and is assessed as standard quality.

Cycling – demand summary

- ◆ There are six prominent cycling clubs based in the Chelmsford administrative area.
- ◆ Chelmer Cycling Club is the largest club, catering for 250 members.
- ◆ Despite a BMX track in the Chelmsford administrative area, none of the clubs access the dedicated provision nor do they have demand to.
- ◆ Chelmer Cycling Club is an accredited Go-Ride Cycling Club
- ◆ Whilst levels of future and latent demand are identified, the nature of cycling means that most of this will not require space at a dedicated facility or within a club.

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PART 13: OUTDOOR WATER SPORTS

13.1: Introduction

Water sports in England are governed by various bodies, including:

- ◆ British Canoe Union.
- ◆ British Kite Surfing Association.
- ◆ British Rowing.
- ◆ British Sub-Aqua Club.
- ◆ British Swimming.
- ◆ British Water Ski & Wakeboard.
- ◆ Royal Yachting Association.
- ◆ Surfing Great Britain.

The three rivers within Chelmsford (River Chelmer, Can and Wid) and the River Crouch in South Woodham Ferrers offer numerous opportunities to participate in water sports in Chelmsford the Chelmsford administrative area.

Consultation

Consultation attempts were made to the above governing bodies; however, none were responsive. Therefore, information for water sports has been gathered through consultation with the clubs in the Authority as well as through desk based research.

As seen in Table 13.1, there are five outdoor water sports clubs identified as being based in the Chelmsford administrative area. Of these, three have responded to consultation requests, equating to a response rate of 60%. This is summarised in the table below.

Table 13.1: Summary of club response rate for outdoor water sports

Name of club/centre	Responded?
Essex Slalom	No
Chelmsford Canoe Club	Yes
South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club	Yes
Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club	No
Up River Yacht Club	Yes

13.2: Supply

The rivers Chelmer, Can, Wid and Crouch are key features in the Chelmsford administrative area which provide a large area for a wide range of water sports. Canoeing, motor-boating and sailing all have at least one club that utilise the rivers for activity and some are represented by multiple providers offering competitive, recreational and learning opportunities. The activities offered by each club is summarised in the Table 13.2.

Table 13.2: Summary of club activities utilising the rivers in the Chelmsford administrative area

Club	Sports/activities offered
Essex Slalom	Canoeing
Chelmsford Canoe Club	Canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding

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Club	Sports/activities offered
South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club	Paddle boarding, motor boating, sailing, gig rowing, kayaking.
Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club	Water skiing
Up River Yacht Club	Paddle boarding, motor boating, sailing

Quality

The quality of the provision for water sports cannot be assessed in the same way that it can be for other sports as natural spaces and features are generally used for activity where little can be done for enhancement. Instead, it is considered that the ancillary provision available to providers is of more importance in terms of the facilities offered, the quality of the facilities and the size of the space available.

Chelmsford Canoe Club is serviced by a standard quality clubhouse; however, its boathouse is in very poor condition due to being dated, with the Club reporting that it plans on obtaining permission to refurbish the storage space and expand the area. It is the process of acquiring grants and donations from numerous sources to enable this. In addition, it has plans to invest in its changing facilities to make them more appropriate, especially for its junior members.

South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club is serviced by a good quality clubhouse that includes changing facilities and a kitchen/bar area, whilst its storage areas are adequate albeit slightly dated. It reports no major issues.

Up River Yacht Club reports it has a good quality clubhouse on site and caters for the site's needs. The clubhouse encompasses a wide range of facilities including changing rooms, toilets, social areas and a gym.

Security of tenure

All clubs/centres report that they have security of tenure of their facilities, either through freehold or a long-term agreement.

Chelmsford Canoe Club has a rental arrangement in place with the Council but reports that it ideally wants a lease agreement to provide additional security. It suggests that this will also enable it to carry out site upgrades.

13.3: Demand

There are currently five clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area providing for outdoor water sport activity. As previously referenced, these are:

- ◆ Essex Slalom.
- ◆ Chelmsford Canoe Club.
- ◆ South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club.
- ◆ Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club.
- ◆ Up River Yacht Club.

Membership and usage across the clubs/centres varies, with details summarised in Table 13.3 below. Where costs are included, this equates to the price of a full adult membership, although it is recognised that discounts are usually in place for younger and older participants.

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Table 13.3: Summary of membership for outdoor water sport clubs

Club/centre	Summary of membership
Essex Slalom	50 members
Chelmsford Canoe Club	150 members aged between 10 and 80. Adult membership is £50 per year.
South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club	300 members, made up of approximately 50 adult male and 50 adult female members and the remaining 200 members forming a junior section. Membership is available for £138 annually.
Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club	200 members, made up of approximately 125 juniors and 75 adult members. Membership pricing is undisclosed.
Up River Yacht Club	100 members aged between 15 and 75. Adult membership is £245 annually.

As seen, across the five clubs, there are 800 members reportedly attached. There is also a good mix of adult male, adult female and junior members, showing that outdoor water sports are accessible to and attract a broad spectrum of users.

Unmet/latent demand

The majority of clubs report that they are open to new members and have the capacity to accommodate any increases in demand. However, this does not apply to Chelmsford Canoe Club which states that it does not currently have the capacity to expand.

Exported/imported demand

The location of the rivers in the Chelmsford administrative area likely means that an element of imported demand is received at some clubs, particularly from neighbouring authorities such as Maldon and Rochford.

Conversely, some exported demand is also likely due to the close proximity of other clubs and centres.

Future demand

The majority of clubs/centres express an aspiration to increase their membership and usage in the future, although most state that this is difficult to quantify. This is because many are always looking to recruit, primarily to replace members that are leaving or that become of an age whereby they can no longer participate. As such, new members do not always equate to an overall growth in membership, but rather contribute to the status quo being maintained.

As an example of the above, South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club notes that it will soon need to replace its committee members who are ageing. As such, it wants to focus on attracting younger by promoting and marketing the Club through the correct channels and via re-designing its website and social media pages.

Importantly, most clubs with future demand suggest that they can accommodate their aspirations within the provision that is currently available to them, with the only exceptions being Chelmsford Canoe Club. This is linked to their current capacity issues and the unmet/latent demand identified previously.

Chelmsford Tri Club

As a triathlon club, Chelmsford Tri Club undertakes significant swimming activity that could necessitate the need for outdoor water access in the Authority. The majority of its demand takes place either via an indoor facility at Moulsham High School on Tuesday evenings and at Chelmsford County High School for Girls on Wednesday evenings. During the summer months, it trains at Trifarm in Boreham, which is located just outside of the Chelmsford administrative area for outdoor activity.

13.4: Supply/demand analysis and conclusion

The Chelmsford administrative area is well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location, enabling the Borough to cater for a range of activities, which it does so via the four clubs and centres identified.

Notwithstanding the above, whilst most usage is seemingly being catered for, some of the clubs/centres report capacity issues, most commonly relating to storage, whereas others have problems with other ancillary facilities and/or security of tenure. These should be overcome to ensure that all providers remain sustainable and to enable all demand to be adequately accommodated.

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Outdoor water sports – supply and demand summary

- ▶ The Chelmsford administrative area is well provided for when it comes to outdoor water sport facilities given its location, enabling the Authority to cater for a range of activities, which it does so via the four clubs and centres identified.
- ▶ To ensure that demand can continue to be met, some clubs report issues with ancillary facility quality which should be overcome.

Outdoor water sports – supply summary

- ▶ The Rivers Chelmer, Can, Wid, and Crouch are key features within the Chelmsford administrative area and as such provide a large area for a wide range of water sports.
- ▶ Activities offered in the Authority includes bell boating, canoeing, dragon boating, kayaking, motor boating, rowing, sailing and stand-up paddle boarding.
- ▶ Chelmsford Canoe Club is serviced by a standard quality clubhouse; however, its boathouse is in very poor condition due to being dated, with the Club reporting that it plans on obtaining permission to refurbish the storage space and expand the area. It is the process of acquiring grants and donations from numerous sources to enable this. In addition, it has plans to invest in its changing facilities to make them more appropriate, especially for its junior members.
- ▶ South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club is serviced by a good quality clubhouse that includes changing facilities and a kitchen/bar area, whilst its storage areas are adequate albeit slightly dated. It reports no major issues.
- ▶ Up River Yacht Club reports it has a good quality clubhouse on site and caters for the site's needs. The clubhouse encompasses a wide range of facilities including changing rooms, toilets, social areas and a gym.
- ▶ All clubs/centres have security of tenure of their facilities, either through freehold or a long-term agreement.

Outdoor water sports – demand summary

- ▶ There are currently five water sport clubs in the Chelmsford administrative area, which use the Rivers Chelmer, Can, Wid and Crouch (Essex Slalom, Chelmsford Canoe Club, South Woodham Ferrers Yacht Club, Woodham Ferrers Water Ski Club and Up River Yacht Club).
- ▶ Across the five clubs, there are 800 members reportedly attached. There is also a good mix of adult male, adult female and junior members, showing that outdoor water sports are accessible to and attract a broad spectrum of users.
- ▶ Chelmsford Canoe Club which states that it does not currently have the capacity to expand.
- ▶ The remaining clubs report no capacity issues and state that they are all looking to grow demand in the future.
- ▶ The location of Chelmsford along the Rivers Chelmer, Can and Wid, and the River Crouch in South Woodham Ferrers likely means that an element of imported demand is received at some clubs, particularly from neighbouring authorities such as Maldon and Rochford.
- ▶ Conversely, some exported demand is also likely due to the close proximity of other clubs and centres.

PART 14: OTHER GRASS PITCH SPORTS

14.1: Baseball and Softball

Introduction

Both baseball and softball are governed by Baseball and Softball UK (BSUK). BSUK has aligned its strategic goals to Sport England's Uniting the Movement, an initiative concentrated on increasing the sporting activity levels across under-represented communities, in the hope of securing investment for 2022-2027.

Baseball, the more commonly known of the two sports, is played between two teams of nine players, both of which, alternate between batting and fielding across nine innings. In contrast, two forms of softball exist: slow pitch and fast pitch. Both sports in England operate from April until September.

Consultation

Essex Redback Baseball Club is the one affiliated baseball club in the Chelmsford administrative area. It has been contacted on several occasions but has not responded to consultation requests. In addition, Baseball Softball UK (BSUK) was contact on numerous occasions, however it was unresponsive. The information included in this section has been obtained from desk based research.

Supply

The one dedicated baseball pitch in the Authority is at Melbourne Park. It is used by Essex Redback Baseball Club. The pitch is utilised for training and match demand from the Club and is well maintained by the Council and therefore in good condition. The clubhouse on site includes changing and shower facilities, although it is rated as poor quality due to it being outdated and in need of a refurbishment. There is also ample car parking on site.

Demand

Essex Redback Baseball Club fields one senior men's team. It plays in the British Baseball Federation league structure and runs youth camps during the summer holidays. Through desk research, the Club state it is keen to expand and field another team with junior and senior women players joining recently.

Supply and demand analysis

With dedicated provision meeting demand from Essex Redbacks Baseball Club, supply is considered to be sufficient to meet demand. However, quality improvements are required, particularly in respect of the ancillary facilities at Melbourne Park.

14.2: American football

Introduction

American football in the UK is governed and administered by the British American Football Association (BAFA). This covers both contact and flag activity. Adult contact teams play within the BAFA National League or the BAFA Women's National League and play home and away fixtures per the regular season with a playoff system to follow for those which qualify.

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Junior contact football is played as a full 11v11 format league season for U19s, whilst U16s contact football is played as a 5v5 format with full equipment and tackling based across a series of day tournaments as part of a festival structure.

Flag football is the fastest growing format of the game not only in Great Britain, but also across the world, with professional leagues such as the American Flag Football League and the newly established NFL Flag starting to spring up. It is a high-octane, non-contact version of American football, where tackles are made by pulling off flags which all players wear on their hips. There are multiple formats and variations globally, but in Great Britain the predominant format is 5v5 aligning with the current International Federation of American Football competition format.

Consultation

BAFA was contacted on numerous occasions, however, it was unresponsive. Therefore, the information included in this section has been obtained from desk based research.

Supply

No dedicated American football pitches have been identified within the Chelmsford administrative area. The nearest is located in Colchester at Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium and at The University of Essex Sports Centre.

Demand

No demand for American football is identified in the Chelmsford administrative area. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Colchester Gladiators'.

However, it should be noted that Anglia Ruskin University (based in Chelmsford) fields a men's team, although it does not play within the Authority. The team plays within the BUCS structure at Coldhams Common and uses the 3G pitch at Cambourne Sport and Fitness Centre for training. It reports it is happy with this arrangement.

Notwithstanding the above, through consultation it was highlighted that an informal group is looking to bring an American football team into the Chelmsford administrative area. Several training venues have been identified in the Authority to cement the team's place; however, it is struggling to find a suitable venue to host home games.

Supply and demand analysis

Given the potential future demand for an American football team in the Chelmsford administrative area, the creation of a dedicated American football pitch should be considered a priority in order to provide a dedicated space for activity and to ensure that the potential demand can be met. The focus of this should be on a multi-sport site such as Melbourne Park in order to accommodate formal play.

14.3: Rugby league

Introduction

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the governing body for rugby league in England. It administers the England national rugby league team, the Challenge Cup, Super League and the championships which form the professional and semi-professional structure of the game in the UK.

Most community club rugby league is played during the RFL summer season (from February to October). However, rugby league is still considered to be a winter season sport in schools, colleges and universities and therefore pitch provision for matches and training is also required throughout winter months.

Consultation

Consultation with the RFL confirms the Chelmsford administrative area is not currently a target area for the creation of supply. However, if interest was to be generated then it would be supportive.

Supply

There is no rugby league pitch in the Chelmsford administrative area. The nearest is located in Colchester at Northern Gateway Sports Park.

Demand

No demand for rugby league is identified in the Chelmsford administrative area. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient for a club to be created, with individuals instead likely to travel to play for 'Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club' in Colchester.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, rugby league should not be considered a priority for the Council. Any demand that does exist should be directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities such as Colchester to ensure that it is catered for (e.g., Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club).

Consultation with the RFL agrees with the above position, with it noting that the Chelmsford administrative area is not a target area for the creation of supply.

14.4: Lacrosse

Introduction

English Lacrosse is responsible for the governance and administration of lacrosse nationwide, with men's lacrosse governed locally by the South of England Men's Lacrosse Association and women's lacrosse governed by the Southwest Women's Lacrosse Association. The playing season runs from September to March.

Match play is permitted to take place on grass, sand based and 3G pitches, though most club play across the region tends to take place on grass pitches. However, it should be noted that men's and women's lacrosse are played on different pitches with different field dimensions.

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Consultation

England Lacrosse was contacted on numerous occasions; however, it was unresponsive. Therefore, the information included in this section has been obtained from desk based research.

Supply

There are no dedicated lacrosse pitches in the Chelmsford administrative area. The nearest, which is home to a club known as Buckhurst Hill Lacrosse Club in Epping Forest.

Demand

No demand for lacrosse is identified in the Authority, with no clubs in existence either currently or historically. In effect, any residual need is unlikely to be sufficient to create a club. Individuals are, instead likely to travel to play for 'Buckhurst Hill Lacrosse Club'.

Supply and demand analysis

With no dedicated facilities or substantial demand for the sport identified, lacrosse should not be considered a priority for the Council. However, any demand should be directed to clubs in neighbouring authorities to ensure it is catered for (e.g., Buckhurst Hill Lacrosse Club).

Other grass pitch sports – supply and demand summary

- Supply for the remaining sports is adequate to meet current – or there is no identifiable local demand.
- Where sports are not currently catered for, it is imperative that any localised demand is signposted to neighbouring authorities to ensure that it can be accommodated.

Other grass pitch sports - supply summary

- There is one dedicated baseball pitch at Melbourne Park.
- There are no American football, rugby league or lacrosse pitches in the Authority. Provision for these sports is made in neighbouring authorities.

Other grass pitch sports - demand summary

- Essex Redback Baseball Club fields one senior men's team. It plays in the British Baseball Federation league structure and runs youth camps during the summer holidays. Through desk research, the Club state it is keen to expand and field another team with junior and senior women players joining recently.
- Through consultation it was highlighted that an informal group is looking to bring an American football team into the Chelmsford administrative area. Several training venues have been identified in the Authority to cement the team's place; however, it is struggling to find a suitable venue to host home games.
- There is no rugby league or lacrosse taking place in the Authority. Some residents are likely to be being accommodated in neighbouring authorities where clubs are present.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Get Active: A Strategy for the Future of Sport and Physical Activity (2023)

The Government published its new strategy for sport in August 2023. The 2015 government sport strategy, Sporting Future: A New Strategy for a More Active Nation, was a fundamental re-framing of sport and physical activity in the UK. It set out five outcomes delivered by sport and physical activity:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Sustainable economic development

This new strategy builds on the foundations of Sporting Future and retains these five outcomes at its core. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of three core priorities, with seven indicators to achieve these priorities as follows:

- ◀ **Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active**
 - ◀ Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030.
 - ◀ Focusing on evidence, data and metrics.
 - ◀ Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active.
- ◀ **Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport**
 - ◀ Helping the sector to be welcoming to all.
 - ◀ Improving how issues and concerns are dealt within the sector.
- ◀ **Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust**
 - ◀ Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment.
 - ◀ Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector.

Delivering against these priorities will help create a more active nation and a more sustainable sport sector. These aims are complementary; greater participation, stronger governance and confidence in the sector will help to drive investment, which in turn helps to attract new audiences. The vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

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Sport England Uniting the Movement: Our 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport (2021-2031)

Sport and physical activity makes people happier and healthier, and movement is the lens through which we can make that happen. It does the same thing for our communities, with life-changing, sustainable benefits that have huge economic and social value. That's why Sport England wants sport and physical activity to be recognised as essential to help overcome these national challenges.

The Strategy recognises the need to invest in sport and physical activity through NGBs, other sports bodies and local sports clubs, organisations and community groups to increase engagement for different groups as part of our core purpose. It states that there is now a need to go further in promoting movement in general as the means to unlock sport and activity for some people.

Tackling inequalities

There are deep-rooted inequalities in sport and physical activity, which means that there are people who feel excluded from being active because the right options and opportunities aren't there. These inequalities are at the very core of the Uniting the Movement.

Sport England plans on having a laser focus on tackling inequalities in all that it does, because providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity is vitally important.

National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

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In order for planning policies to be ‘sound’ local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association’s (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: “Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed”

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government’s shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ✦ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ✦ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP ‘equivalents’** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ✦ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ✦ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ✦ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ✦ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

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Local Football Facility plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

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

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: Time for Change Strategy (2020-24)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in January 2021 which aims to 'unite the game and inspire the nation'. It will do this in two ways, by 'changing the game to maximise its impact' and by 'serving the game to deliver football for all'.

To achieve this, the strategy will focus on six Game Changer objectives, to change the fabric of the game and tackle long-term issues, to make the largest possible impact in the years ahead:

- ✦ Win a major tournament
- ✦ Service > two million through a transformed media platform
- ✦ Ensure equal opportunities for every girl
- ✦ Delivery of 5,000 quality pitches
- ✦ A game free of discrimination
- ✦ Maximise the appeal and revenue of the FA cups and BFAWSL

These are underpinned by eight Serve objectives, ensuring maintenance of brilliant business-as-usual services to support the growing and evolving needs of the game:

- ✦ Trusted, progressive regulation and administration
- ✦ Safe and inclusive football pathways and environment
- ✦ Personalised and connected learning experiences
- ✦ Maximum investment into the game
- ✦ Diverse, high-performing workforce and inclusive culture
- ✦ World class venues and events
- ✦ Strong reputation and clear brand identity
- ✦ Technology enabled and insight driven

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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ **Grow and nurture the core**
 - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
 - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
 - ◀ Invest in club facilities
 - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
 - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ **Inspire through elite teams**
 - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
 - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
 - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
 - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ **Make cricket accessible**
 - ◀ Broaden cricket's appeal through the New Competition
 - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
 - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
 - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
 - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
 - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
 - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
 - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
 - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
 - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
 - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
 - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
 - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
 - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
 - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
 - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2021)

The RFU strategic vision is to achieve 'a successful and thriving game across England'.

It identifies four 'Game Objectives' and four 'Driving Objectives', to form priority focuses for the strategy. It believes that these objectives will make the greatest substantive improvements to the game and investment will be aligned to these areas.

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Game objectives

- ▶ **Enjoyment** – Enable positive player experiences on and off the field.
- ▶ **Winning England** – Create the best possible high-performance system for England Rugby.
- ▶ **Welfare** – Enhance players welfare to protect and support the wellbeing of players.
- ▶ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Support clubs to sustain and grow themselves and to reflect society.

Driving objectives

- ▶ **Diversity & inclusion** – Drive rugby union in England to reflect the diversity of society.
- ▶ **Understand** – Build a deep understanding of players, volunteers and fans to shape the future of the game.
- ▶ **Connect** – Connect with and grow the rugby community and create exceptional experiences.
- ▶ **Commercial & operational excellence** – Ensure a sustainable and efficient business model delivered by an inspired workforce.

A number of aims, identified as key to the achievement of these main objectives, are particularly relevant to facilities. The provision of good quality and suitable rugby union facilities will help to achieve these aims and in turn objectives:

- ▶ **Enjoyment** – Improve accessibility for women and girls across the game.
- ▶ **Enjoyment** – Make the game inclusive and attractive for 14 to 18 year olds.
- ▶ **Flourishing rugby communities** – Provide support to help clubs maximise the benefit from their facilities and assets.
- ▶ **Diversity & Inclusion** – Improve the diversity of all facets of our game and continue to create an inclusive environment for all.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

Rugby Football League – National Community Facilities Strategy (2024 – 2030)

The RFL has developed a new National Facilities Strategy which will guide investment into the game from 2024 through to 2030. The proposed investment package aligned to the Strategy will not only transform facilities, but also bolster the sport's social impact, reinforcing its position as a vital part of the nation's sporting and social fabric.

The four focus areas of the Strategy are:

- ◀ **Security of Tenure** – allowing clubs to plan for the long-term
- ◀ **Accessible and Inclusive Facilities** – providing suitable facilities for all and creating safe spaces for the wider community
- ◀ **Adequate and Appropriate Pitch Provision**– investment both in playing surfaces, and in upskilling a volunteer workforce to maintain them
- ◀ **Sustainability**– both environmental and financial

The Strategy will deliver on the four focus areas by delivering against a set of five recommendations which are set within the Strategy and are detailed below. These recommendations reflect the wider strategic aspirations across the sport and are for the RFL to work to deliver.

- ◀ **Focus Community Clubs**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL has sufficient capacity and resource to deliver the recommendations identified within this Strategy to support its community clubs.
 - ◀ Ensure all community clubs have the knowledge and resource to provide good quality grass pitches.
 - ◀ Supporting clubs to have good quality changing and social facilities which can support the scale of need at each club. These must be inclusive for all participants and benefit target user groups such as women and girls' participants.
 - ◀ Ensure clubs can accommodate a sustainable operational programme for clubhouses to ensure the longevity of provision.
 - ◀ Work with clubs and key partners to increase the number of clubs with secured tenure of their club facilities.
 - ◀ Develop a dedicated funding programme which is specifically aimed at supporting clubs to gain security of tenure at their respective site.
 - ◀ Highlight success stories and best practices from community clubs to inspire others and showcase the positive impact of these efforts.
- ◀ **Deliver positive social and environmental impact**
 - ◀ Support clubs through training and advice on how to promote facilities for non-rugby league purposes.
 - ◀ Work with Active Partnerships across England to enable higher usage and activation of rugby league assets for non-rugby league activity.
 - ◀ Prioritise clubs for wellbeing hubs which may offer the widest social benefit (relative to local need) – particularly those in high deprivation areas.

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- ◀ Use the activation of club facilities as a prerequisite to capital funding for club house improvements / new development.
- ◀ Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies
- ◀ **Collaborative working with sports partners and key agencies**
 - ◀ Ensure continued working with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of other sports to capitalise on shared investment opportunities.
 - ◀ Work with the Football Foundation to maximise Multi-Sport funding opportunities – utilising the framework provided in this Strategy as the baseline of shared investment.
 - ◀ Work closely with Active Partnerships in areas with high club densities to establish opportunities for pitch access via the Open School Facilities programme.
- ◀ **Technological solutions**
 - ◀ Ensure the RFL gathers greater levels of information from clubs via affiliation. To include (e.g.) security of tenure information and an integrated self-assessment audit of community facilities.
 - ◀ Continue expanding the use and application of PitchPower so all clubs can self-assess provision and support clubs to make positive contributions to improving the quality of grass pitches.
 - ◀ Promote technological solutions which progress clubs into being more sustainable, energy efficient and ensure their long-term viability as community assets.
 - ◀ Create a platform or resource hub where clubs can access information on funding opportunities, facility management, and sustainable operational practices.
- ◀ **Working with Charitable Community Organisations and Wheelchair Rugby League**
 - ◀ Develop an investment package to support the operational delivery of professional club foundation led wheelchair activity focusing on storage and logistical solutions.
 - ◀ Prioritise capital investment into community club sites which also accommodate professional club foundations as tenants for community Rugby League activity.
 - ◀ Begin work on the feasibility of developing a national wheelchair centre which includes exploring partnership opportunities with other sports to maximise multisport value and return on investment.
 - ◀ Consult with professional club foundations, where possible, to understand the need for 3G access and work to ascertain sufficient access hours during peak times of need.

Rugby League World Cup ‘Inspired by 2021’ Legacy Programme

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021’s ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

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Tennis in Britain - LTA Strategy

The LTA's vision for 2019 – 2023, Tennis Opened Up includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around its mission 'to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable'.

Objectives:

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month 2.5% 1,311,800 to 1.9% 1,500,000 by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis once a week from 550,000 to 700,000 (7.9% to 10% of the population) by 2023.
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies:

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;
- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

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England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- **Pride** – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- **Integrity** – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- **Inclusivity** – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

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This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims “To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”.

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ✦ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ✦ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ✦ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ✦ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ✦ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ✦ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ✦ Being customer focussed
- ✦ Stronger counties and club
- ✦ Excellent governance
- ✦ Improve image
- ✦ More members and players
- ✦ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ✦ Winning golfers

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APPENDIX 2: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Grass football pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference:				Site Name:					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID(s):					
Number of football pitches on site:				Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)				
Availability				Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
				If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on a adult pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Weather at time of visit & date of visit									
Pitch Issues:									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)	Rating						Guidance notes	Comments	
Playing surface									
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%		Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch		
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No		See size chart below for recommended dimensions		
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe				
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short		Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less		
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage				
Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)								Section total	
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No				
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No				
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No				
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No				
								Section total	
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.									
PITCH SCORE				0.0%	RATING		Poor		

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Cricket pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Cricket									
Please complete one form per pitch									
Site reference		Site Name							
6 figure grid reference		No of Pitches:							
Pitch ID		No of wickets:	Natural		Non turf				
Weather at time of visit:									
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
General comments/observations									
*You will need a cricket ball and ruler to assess wicket quality as indicated									
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer).									
Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)			
About the cricket outfield									
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard				
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm				
Evenness	Even		Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp				
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager				
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site				
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey				
					section total				
Artificial Wickets									
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No		There should be no trip points				
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven		There should be no contours in surface levels				
Stump holes	Yes		No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball				
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No		There should be none				
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No		If "yes" contact site manager				
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No		If "yes" contact site manager				
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No						
					section total				
Grass Wickets									
Presence of line markings	Yes		No		i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform				
Evidence of rolling	Yes		No		3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square				
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No						
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No						
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No		Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80% = No				
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes		No		Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard				
					section total				
Changing/ Pavilion									
Umpires provision	Yes		No						
Toilets	Yes		No						
Hot/cold water	Yes		No						
Heating	Yes		No						
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention						
					section total				
Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets									
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No						
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven						
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No						
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No						
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No						
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No						
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No						
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes		No		Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.				
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No						
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No						
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No						
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes		No						
					section total				
Maximum score	180	Scoring	Score	Percentage Score	Facility Present?	Potential Rating:	Poor		
		Outfield	0	0%	No				
		Artificial Wickets	0	0%	No				
		Grass Wickets	0	0%	No				
		Changing/Pavilion	0	0%	No				
		Non Turf Practice	0	0%	No				
		Overall score	0	0%					

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Grass rugby union pitch non-technical assessment sheet

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Rugby Union										
Please complete one form per pitch										
Site reference					Site Name					
6 figure grid reference					Pitch ID(s)					
Date of assessment					Pitch size	(Senior, Mini/Midi)				
Number of pitches on site					Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?					
Availability					If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one mini/ midi pitch is overmarked on a senior pitch) in Pitch Issues					
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused										
Weather at time of visit										
General comments/observations										
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)										
Qualitative information (gathered on site)	Rating					Guidance notes	Comments			
Grass Coverage	Good		Adequate		Poor		>90% = good. <80% = poor			
Size of pitch	Acceptable (between recommended minimum and maximum sizes)		Flag for further investigation (below recommended minimum size)		Unacceptable (above maximum size)		Maximum size = width 70m, goal line to goal line 100m, in goal area 22m, run offs 5m where practical. Recommended minimum size = width 68m, goal line to goal line 94m, in goal area 6m, run offs 5m where practical.			
Length of grass	Too Long		Good		Too short		Too long = >75mm. Too short = <50mm			
Problem Areas: Evidence of glass/litter/vehicle tracks/dog fouling	None		Yes - some		Yes lots					
GOALPOSTS										
Are goalposts installed?	Yes		No							
Is there any obvious danger on posts?	Yes		No							
Are the posts stable in the ground?	Yes		No							
Is the crossbar fixed securely?	Yes		No							
Is there evidence of rust on the posts?	Yes		No							
ANCILLARY										
Is the pitch floodlit?	Yes		No							
Is there changing accommodation for the pitch?	Yes		No							
Is an appropriate level of car parking available?	Yes		No							
Pitch maintenance (information gathered via club survey/ pitch provider consultation) - refer to the guidance notes below										
Aerated (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Sand dressed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Fertilised (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Weed killed (per year)	three or more times		twice		once		never			
Chain harrowed	every week		fortnightly		monthly		never			
Pitch Maintenance Score										
Drainage	Natural (inadequate) SCORE D0		Natural (adequate) SCORE D1		Pipe drained SCORE D2		Pipe and slit drained SCORE D3		Unknown SCORE D0	Natural (adequate) = 3 or less training/match cancellations per season Natural (inadequate) = 4 or more training match cancellations per season *Based on a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the previous eight years **Based on a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the previous five years.

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Artificial grass pitches non-technical assessment (including third generation turf pitches)

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Artificial grass pitches									
Site reference			Site Name						
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID						
Number of AGPs on site			Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)			
Availability									
Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused									
Type of pitch	{	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)		Short Pile 3G (40mm)			
		Sand Dressed		Sand Filled		Water based			
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots		
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some				Yes - lots	If no evidence, assume none.	
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate				Poor		
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate				No - not adequate		
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes						No		
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes						No		
Are there dug outs?	Yes						No		
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes						No		
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes						No		
Maximum score	93	Scoring:		Poor	<=50	Total Score		0	
				Standard	51-79				
				Good	80+	Potential Rating		Poor	

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Bowling green non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green									
KKPref									
Site name:									
Number of greens									
Flat/crown		Community Use?							
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Comments		
About the greens									
Grass cover	Over 70%		40-69%		less than 40%				
Evenness of surface	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Signs of wear and tear	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Condition of ditches/boardings	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surface of surrounding hard areas	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Is the green and surrounding area fenced?	Yes			No					
Fencing around the green and ancillaries	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Ancillary facilities									
Changing Accomodation	Yes			No					
Toilets	Yes			No					
Car parking	Yes			No					
General comments about the site:									

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PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORT ASSESSMENT

Tennis and netball court non-technical assessment

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Courts											
KKPref											
Site name:											
Number of courts -		Tennis		Netball		Basketball		Five-a-side			
General Playground or specific sports court area?											
Court surface				Management				Community Use?			
	Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale				Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)											
Element	Rating						Comments				
About the courts											
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Size of courts	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Adequate safety margins	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate						
Slope of courts	Flat		Slight		Gentle		Moderate				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots						
Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Changing Accomodation											
Changing Accomodation	Yes		No								
About the equipment											
Posts and net	Good		Adequate		Poor						
Are the courts locked when not in use?	Yes		No								
Practice wall	Yes		No								