



**COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN
JUNE 2023**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

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

This report provides the Strategy for Colchester. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2033 (in line with the emerging local plan periods). It has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the 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.

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Colchester which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners, and possible sources of external funding are outlined throughout.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

1.1: Context

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

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

Local context

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

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

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

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

- ◀ Identify current supply and demand issues for sport, recreation and open space facilities in the Councils' areas as a whole, based on an audit and assessment of current facilities' quality, quantity and accessibility.
- ◀ Identify the particular requirements for sport, recreation and open space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility generated by the proposed Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community.
- ◀ Enable the Councils to plan appropriately for the protection and/or enhancement of existing sport, recreation and open space facilities and to identify any sites that may provide surplus provision, could support new provision or facilities that could merit refurbishment within future Local Plan priorities.
- ◀ Enable the Councils to make strategic proposals for local authority-controlled facilities, such as investment in new and enhanced leisure centres or open spaces or rationalisation, including cross-boundary co-ordination of local authority provision, if appropriate.
- ◀ To identify the potential for a strategic approach to the role of the University of Essex in meeting community needs, primarily those of the proposed TCBGC, in addition to recommendations for the University and the Garden Community individually.

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- ◀ To identify the potential for a strategic approach to the role of schools/colleges in meeting community needs with a joint authority approach (notably but not exclusively within the TCBGC area) in addition to recommendations for individual sites.
- ◀ To identify whether existing infrastructure (built facilities, playing pitches and open spaces) is fit for purpose to deliver local priorities, corporate priorities and wider health and wellbeing outcomes in an efficient way, now and in the future over the lifetime of the emerging Local Plans.
- ◀ Help direct expenditure of any future Section 106 monies or other planning contributions (including CIL should this become relevant) and effective for sport, leisure and open space facilities within each local authority area and have regard to each authority's respective Infrastructure Delivery Plans and the ECC Developers Guide to Contributions 2019.
- ◀ As an output, provide a robust, transparent, and effective means of justifying requirements so that they can be successfully defended for the proposed TGBGC Masterplan DPD or at future reviews of the emerging Local Plans. And to make strategic decisions on investment, ensuring that any planning gain monies are focused on the relevant local authority areas in which they are collected.
- ◀ Identify how sport, physical activity, and recreation, including within open space, can contribute to each of the Council's corporate agendas, including the responsibility for public health, to deliver healthier lifestyles and achieve positive health outcomes.
- ◀ Identify possible external capital or revenue funding opportunities for sport, physical activity, and recreation facilities, including open space provision.
- ◀ Identify opportunities for efficiency savings at Council-owned facilities and options for alternative governance via charities, trusts, or community-run organisations, where appropriate.
- ◀ Identify a mechanism for appropriate monitoring and review to insure an up to date and robust strategy.

National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.2: Scope

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

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

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

1.3: Study area

The study area for the Colchester PPOSS is the Colchester City Council administrative area which stretches from the boundary of West Mersea up to Fordham.

Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, Colchester is split into the following four areas:

- ◀ North Analysis Area: Dedham and Langham / Fordham and Stour / West Bergholt and Eight Ash Green / Great Tey
- ◀ West Analysis Area: Stanway / Copford and West Stanway / Marks Tey
- ◀ Central / East Analysis Area: Berechurch / Castle / Christ Church / Old Heath / Highwoods / Lexden / Mile End / Prettygate / Shrub End / St Andrews / St Annes / St Johns / Wivenhoe Cross / Wivenhoe Quay / New Town / East Donyland
- ◀ South Analysis Area: Tiptree / Birch and Winstree / Pyefleet / West Mersea

These are shown in the figure overleaf.

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

Figure 1.1: Map of Colchester (ward boundaries)



1.4: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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 for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPOSS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

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For artificial surfaces, how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, hours in the peak period is used as the comparable unit. For the other non-pitch sports (i.e., tennis, bowls etc) capacity is in accordance with Paragraph B13 of the ANOG guidance.

The table below shows the current supply and demand balance from the proceeding Assessment Report. It also identifies the future supply and demand balance which takes into consideration future population growth. It should be noted that future demand is not in addition to the current balance, however, supersedes it.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	Central/ East	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 16
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 10
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
	North	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	South	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	West	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
Youth 11v11		Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5	
Youth 9v9		At capacity	At capacity	
Mini 7v7		At capacity	At capacity	
Mini 5v5		At capacity	At capacity	
Football (3G pitches) ^[2]	Central/ East	Full size	Shortfall of 4.25	Shortfall of 4.75
	North		Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	South		Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.75
	West		At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Central/ East	Saturday	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 19	Spare capacity of 19
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 43	Spare capacity of 43
	North	Saturday	Shortfall of 39	Shortfall of 39
		Sunday	Shortfall of 15	Shortfall of 15
		Midweek	Shortfall of 21	Shortfall of 21
	South	Saturday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
		Sunday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
		Midweek	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
	West	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	At capacity	At capacity
		Midweek	At capacity	At capacity

^[2] Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Rugby union	Central/ East	Senior	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
	North		At capacity	At capacity
	South		Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
	West		At capacity	At capacity
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Colchester	Full size	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Colchester is serviced by sufficient provision to accommodate club demand. There are, however, shortfalls present at Dedham TC. There is a requirement to focus on informal activity at non-club courts and improving the recreational tennis offer (e.g., at local authority sites such as Lorkin Daniell Playing Field and Earls Colne Recreation Ground).	Future demand shall result in shortfalls at Langham TC, Dedham TC and West Mersea TC, if realised.
Netball	All demand is accommodated for in the Colchester Netball League hosted at The Gilbert School. Demand exists for greater use of community accessible provision for England Netball initiatives.	No specific future demand is identified, however, there will be a continued need to ensure good quality provision is provided.
Bowls	Four sites are operating above the recommended capacity threshold, with no clubs currently operating below the capacity guidelines. Overuse at each site is marginal and manageable.	If future demand through club ambitions is achieved a further two sites (Tiptree Jobserve BC and West Mersea BC) shall also be operating above Bowls England capacity guidelines, whilst existing overplayed sites shall see capacity issues exacerbated.
Athletics	The existing 400m track at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium effectively services the existing running clubs such as Colchester and Tendring AC and Colchester Harriers AC, as well as the wider surrounding regions.	With future demand ambitions of 120 members at Team2gether, considerations should be made towards how the access to the Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium is balanced.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Cycling	Northern Gateway Sports Park cycle track sufficiently meets demand for cycling identified within Colchester, although some latent demand exists.	No specific future demand is identified, however, there will be a continued need to ensure good quality provision is provided. Demand exists to continue to grow initiatives by British Cycling, such as Go-Ride and Breeze.
Golf	With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied. With a range in low and high price point offerings it can be determined that all types of golfers can be catered for.	Clubs should look to further increase in membership figures in reflection of the increasing population rates and England Golf's goal of increasing in members.
Other sports	Supply of American football pitches are present in the Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium and University of Essex Sports Centre. The two clubs within the City are Colchester Gladiators and Essex Blades American Football Club. Both clubs are currently catered for across the two accessible pitches within Colchester. Rugby League demand takes place through Eastern Rhinos Rugby League Club, which access the WR22 3G at Northern Gateway Sports Park. like a lease for its access to the site. Installation of additional MUGAs in the North, South and West analysis areas should be considered.	Although no specific demand is identified for other sports, there will be a continued need to ensure good quality provision is provided.

Conclusion

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for some outdoor sport types and in some areas where demand is currently being met, as well as the exacerbation of existing shortfalls. This statement does not apply to hockey, where supply is adequately catering for demand across the two good quality AGPs. Some level of shortfall is identified for all football pitch types, 3G pitches, cricket squares and tennis courts.

It should be noted that ONS forecasts (2018 MYE) do not account for planned housing growth across the Local Plan Period to 2033. Consequently, future growth estimates are likely to underestimate expected pressures on pitch and non-pitch provision types. It is recommended that the PPOSS is regularly monitored and evaluated through the Stage – E process to understand future population trends and increases.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. However, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches that can likely only be met through increased provision.

With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, particularly at sites managed by the Council, an increase in such provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements.

PART 2: VISION

2.1: Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy in order to ensure that it reflects the Council's wider ambitions.

"To work with partners to create high quality, sustainable sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle health and crime issues and provide accessible and inclusive activities for all Colchester residents as part of an active lifestyle."

- ◀ 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.

PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

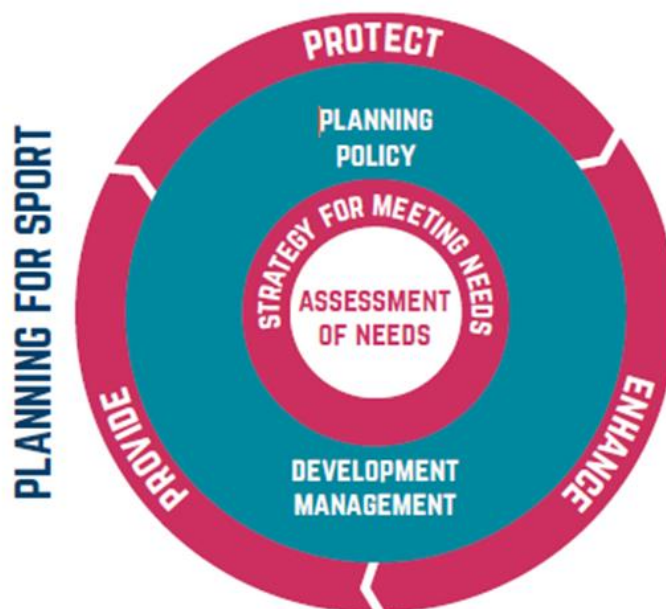
AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport, resulting in sport specific recommendations.

4.1: Football – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **There are existing shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision in Colchester.**
- ◀ **When accommodating for future demand through team generation rates, no new pitch scales begin to experience shortfalls. However, shortfalls for adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision is exacerbated.**
- ◀ **Mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches contain both current and future spare capacity, although some localise shortfalls are evident.**
- ◀ **17 pitches across 12 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 15 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **Actual spare capacity equates to 14 match equivalent sessions per week and is identified across 19 pitches at nine sites.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 196 grass football pitches across 75 sites, with 139 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 41 sites.
- ◀ As a breakdown, there are 59 adult, 27 youth 11v11, 29 youth 9v9, 30 mini 7v7 and 51 mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- ◀ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at Fingringhoe Recreation Ground.
- ◀ The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- ◀ Stanway Pegasus FC is in the process of agreeing a 10-year formal use agreement with Stanway School for access to the sites 3G pitch as to reach Step 6 compliancy. Feering Falcons FC has a 25-year lease for the provision at Elm Farm, signed in 2002. The Club hopes to gain freehold ownership or renew its agreement. Finally, Brooklands FC is interested in bringing the former pitches at Old Heath Recreation Ground back into use. The Club state it would undertake maintenance responsibility if granted access and a formal lease agreement in return.
- ◀ The majority of community available pitches are considered to be standard quality which resembled 69 pitches, with 35 pitches assessed as good quality and 35 as poor.
- ◀ Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as five community sites, whereas an additional three sites community sites have no supporting ancillary provision for users.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 408 teams currently play within Colchester, consisting of 147 adult men's, seven adult women's, 154 youth boys', 22 youth girls' and 78 mini football teams.
- ◀ There has been a general trend of growth in demand in recent years, particularly at adult and youth level.
- ◀ Exported demand is expressed; with eight teams from five clubs accessing provision from outside the City. No imported demand has been identified.
- ◀ 26 clubs express latent demand, with 22 clubs stressing the need for more and better training facilities.
- ◀ Based on population growth (2033) an increase of 34 teams is forecast, whereas 16 clubs express future demand aspirations equating to a potential increase in demand of 37 teams.

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Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

In total there are 17 pitches overplayed in Colchester across 12 sites, with overplay equating to 15 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating ¹	Good quality capacity rating ²
13	Colchester Academy	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
26	Elm Farm	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5
39	King George Playing Field (Boxted)	Adult	1	Standard	3	2
55	Mile End Sports Ground	Adult	1	Good	1	1
			1	Poor		
66	Philip Morant School	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
67	Poors Land	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	1	3
76	Spring Lane Playing Field	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
		Youth 9v9	1		2.5	0.5
88	Stanway Rovers Football Club	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5
90	Stanway Village Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	1	Good	0.5	0.5
92	The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)	Adult	2	Standard	1	-
103	Warriors Rest	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5
129	Wivenhoe Town FC	Adult	1	Good	1	1

As seen, several overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good. Sites that would no longer be showing overplay following quality improvements are Colchester Academy, Elm Farm, Mile End Sports Ground, Philip Morant School and Poors Land.

¹ Match equivalent sessions

² Match equivalent sessions

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Given the above, some play at sites which are already good quality i.e. King George Playing Field (Boxted), Stanway Rovers Football Club, Stanway Village Playing Fields, Warriors Rest and Wivenhoe Town FC should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity in the vicinity or to an existing or additional 3G pitches. Alternatively, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration at the site could also be considered.

Overall, only 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week of overplay would remain across Colchester, compared to 15 match equivalent sessions currently, and this would also only exist on five adult, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch. The impact this would have on the supply and demand balance across the City is shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential overplay	Potential total
Adult	0.5	9	8.5	4.5	4
Youth 11v11	1.5	2.5	1	0.5	0.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	2.5	1	0.5	0.5
Mini 7v7	3	-	3	-	3
Mini 5v5	7.5	1	6.5	-	5

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use. However, for sustainability, there also needs to be a sufficient level of midweek training demand taking place on the pitches.

Loss of sites without secure tenure

The table below identifies the total amount of demand that would need to be replaced if access was to be lost at all existing sites with unsecure tenure. This amounts to 47 match equivalent sessions of demand per week.

Table 4.3: Summary of demand at unsecure sites

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week				
			Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5
13	Colchester Academy	Central/East	2.5	2	0.5	1	-
15	Colchester County High School For Girls	Central/East	-	-	-	-	2
66	Philip Morant School	Central/East	-	2.5	-	-	-
82	St Lukes C of E Primary School	South			0.5		
92	The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)	Central/East	5	-	3.5	-	0.5
97	The Thomas Lord Audley School	Central/East		4.5			
102	University of Essex Sports Centre	Central/East	15	3.5	1	1.5	1.5
Total			22.5	12.5	5.5	2.5	4

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If access to these sites was lost, it would have a significant impact on the overall supply and demand analysis of football pitches across Colchester, as indicated in the table below. Shortfalls would be considerably increased on adult and youth 11v11 pitches and marginally increased on youth 9v9 pitches. Mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches would continue to show a total of three match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity.

Table 4.4: Summary of supply and demand comparison without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Current supply and demand					
Adult	0.5	9	8.5	16	24.5
Youth 11v11	1.5	2.5	1	12.5	13.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	2.5	1	0.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	-	3	-	3
Mini 5v5	7.5	1	6.5	-	6.5
Supply and demand excluding sites with unsecure tenure					
Adult	0.5	31.5	31	16	47
Youth 11v11	1.5	15	13.5	12.5	26
Youth 9v9	1.5	8	9.5	0.5	10
Mini 7v7	3	2.5	0.5	-	0.5
Mini 5v5	7.5	5	2.5	-	2.5

Based on this information it is clearly important to secure tenure at as many of these sites as possible (when opportunities exist) in order ensure current and future pitch shortfalls are minimised.

Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Furthermore, external investment would likely be dependent on security of tenure being provided, with a lack of security of tenure a barrier to securing such funding.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies five sites for grass pitch improvements that are in need of investment and that are key for football across Colchester.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches at these sites if quality was improved to good.

Table 4.5: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
6	Broad Lane Sports Ground	Adult	3	Good	3	3
		Youth 9v9	2		5.5	5.5
		Mini 7v7	2		9.5	9.5
		Mini 5v5	2		11.5	11.5

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
40	King George Playing Field (Lexden)	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2.5
		Youth 9v9	2		2	6
		Mini 7v7	2		5	9
		Mini 5v5	1		3	5
55	Mile End Sports Ground	Adult	1	Good	1	1
			1	Poor		
		Youth 11v11	1		2	5
		Youth 9v9	1		0.5	3.5
		Mini 7v7	1		0.5	4.5
75	Shrub End Sports Ground	Adult	7	Standard	1	8
92	The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)	Adult	2	Standard	1	1
		Youth 9v9	2		0.5	4.5
		Mini 5v5	2		7.5	11.5

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 40 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity per week. In addition, each site identified as being overplayed (from the LFFP project list) would see overplay alleviated.

The impact the improvements would have on the overall supply and demand balance is shown in the following table. Note the table below is presented on a peak time model, and therefore, improving sites in the table above, may not generate capacity within the peak periods, albeit it will create an improved match day experience for users.

Based on improvements, capacity for adult pitches would be increased, whilst the small shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches and youth 9v9 would be present and actual spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches would remain unchanged.

Table 4.6: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week	
	Current capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	8.5	6.5
Youth 11v11	1	1
Youth 9v9	1	1
Mini 7v7	3	3
Mini 5v5	5	5

The impact is similar when factoring in future demand as can be seen in the table below. The only difference is that future demand.

Table 4.7: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week	
	Future capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	24.5	22.5
Youth 11v11	13.5	13.5
Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	3
Mini 5v5	5	5

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As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. To help guide this process, the table below comments on whether the PPOSS provides evidence to support the inclusion of the sites currently featured.

As seen, it is recommended that each site is retained within the LFFP due to the impact the projects could achieve.

Table 4.8: Assessing LFFP priority list (grass pitch improvements)

Site ID	Site name	Comments	LFFP update recommendation
6	Broad Lane Sports Ground	Key site with good quality provision that accommodates a lot of demand.	Retain for improvement
40	King George Playing Field (Lexden)	Key site that is standard quality and frequently accessed.	Retain for improvement
55	Mile End Sports Ground	Key site that is poor quality and overplayed.	Retain for improvement
75	Shrub End Sports Ground	Key site that is standard quality.	Retain for improvement
92	The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)	Key site that is standard quality, frequently accessed and showing overplay.	Retain for improvement

In addition to the above, the following sites should be considered for adding given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ◀ Colchester Academy
- ◀ Elm Farm
- ◀ King George Playing Field (Boxted)
- ◀ Poors Land
- ◀ The Glebe (West Mersea)

Table 4.9: Impact on current supply and demand if quality also improved at the five additional sites

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week	
	Current capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	8.5	7.5
Youth 11v11	1	4.5
Youth 9v9	1	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	3
Mini 5v5	5	10

Table 4.10: Impact on future supply and demand if quality also improved at the five additional sites

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week	
	Future capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	24.5	23.5
Youth 11v11	13.5	8
Youth 9v9	1.5	1.5
Mini 7v7	3	3
Mini 5v5	5	10

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As can be seen, if work were to be undertaken to improve the five additional sites alongside those already on the priority list in the LFFP there would be positive capacity benefits for adult, youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches. In particular, overplay on youth 11v11 pitches would be alleviated, this is due large a reduction of overplay at Colchester Academy and Elm Farm.

Reintroducing disused sites

There are two disused football pitch sites identified in Colchester, Fingringhoe Recreation Ground and Oxley Parker School Playing Fields. Fingringhoe Recreation Ground previously accommodated one adult pitch and one youth 11v11, whilst Oxley Parker School Playing Fields hosted one adult pitch and has been disused since 1998 and was denied for development in 2022 due to the loss of open space. The scenario below examines the impact reintroducing these pitches would have on current and future supply.

Table 4.11: Disused provision

Site name	Lapsed/disused	Pitch type	Number of pitches
Fingringhoe Recreation Ground	Lapsed	Adult	1
		Youth 11v11	1
Oxley Parker School Playing Fields	Disused	Adult	1

As seen in the table below, bringing back Fingringhoe Recreation Ground and Oxley Parker School Playing Fields into use for the sole benefit of adult football would add an additional two match session per week of peak time capacity to the overall supply and demand balance. The same benefit would take place if the one youth 11v11 pitch was also re-instated at Fingringhoe Recreation Ground. The impact of bringing back the provision would slightly lessen the overplay on adult pitches, whilst youth 11v11 overplay would be alleviated.

As neither site has any supporting ancillary provision, further feasibility should be considered to judge the value in re-instating the pitches at both sites as ultimately each resembles a poor-quality sporting offer in their existing states. Sport England confirm the pitch at Oxley Parker School Playing Fields is unlikely to be reinstated. Colchester City Council is developing a community centre near the site could enable off site contributions to support the development.

Table 4.12: Impact on current supply and demand through reinstating disused pitches

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week	
	Current capacity	Potential capacity with improvements
Adult	8.5	6.5
Youth 11v11	1	-

Future demand

In the preceding Assessment Report, future demand derived from population growth has been considered to determine the future supply and demand of pitches. However, this scenario instead considers the impact if future growth from Club ambitions was to be realised.

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Table 4.13: Incorporating future demand expressed by clubs into supply and demand analysis

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week		
	Current future supply/demand balance	Future demand through club aspirations	Potential future supply/demand balance
Adult	8.5	3.5	12
Youth 11v11	1	3.5	4.5
Youth 9v9	1	4	5
Mini 7v7	3	2	1
Mini 5v5	5	5.5	0.5

In total, the impact of club aspirations is less than population growth. All pitch sizes are impacted, with mini 5v5 pitches showing the greatest growth in demand. Assessing future demand through club ambitions results in overplay for adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches, including lapsed and disused provision, until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment and update the priority projects within it following this study.
- ◀ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower to provide the evidence report to be produced to identify pitch conditions and recommendations to maintain or enhance pitch quality.
- ◀ Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another, and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity such as Rowhedge Recreation Ground (or 3G provision).
- ◀ Work to accommodate latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, such as King George V Playing Field, or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Secure tenure for those clubs accessing unsecure sites.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantities of pitches are provided, such as Littlegarth School.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis and utilise the findings of the PPS to determine needs.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Protect existing lapsed and disused sites.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites with community use that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.³

³ See Part 7 of this report for further information

4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.**
- ◀ **Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established.**
- ◀ **In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.**
- ◀ There are seven full size 3G pitches in Colchester, six of which all are sports lit and available for community use.
- ◀ There are also 13 smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, 11 of which are available for community use and 10 of which are sports lit. Of this provision, however, only three pitches across two sites are overly suitable for any formal demand (i.e. match play and midweek training, as they accommodate for a largely recreational market). The small sided pitch at Lakelands Primary School is open to community use but does not have floodlights.
- ◀ The Central/ East region is a priority Analysis Area for 3G development by football partners and Colchester City Council.
- ◀ Five of the seven full size pitches are on the FA Pitch register for match play; one of the pitches at Northern Gateway Sports Park and the provision at Paxman Academy are not certified.
- ◀ There is one World Rugby Compliant pitch provided in Colchester; this is located at Northern Gateway Sports Park and was developed in 2020.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are good or standard quality, with the oldest surface for a full sized pitch provided at Shrub End Sports Ground which was last replaced in 2015.
- ◀ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times with all current community activity being football-based, with the exception of Northern Gateway Sports Park which is discounted from the supply and demand analysis for football due to being heavily used for football.
- ◀ With 408 football teams currently playing in Colchester, there is a broad calculated overall need of 10.75 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs. Therefore, with five full sized 3G pitches there is a theoretical shortfall of 5.75 pitches.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand for an additional 31 teams (team generation rates through population increases), the shortfall increases 6.5 pitches.
- ◀ When assessing 3G pitch need by analysis area there is a current and future shortfall in the Central/ East (4.25 full sized pitches), North (1 full sized pitch) and South analysis areas (0.5 full sized pitches).
- ◀ There are currently 74 football teams using the 3G pitch stock for matches; whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- ◀ The WR22 compliant pitch at Northern Gateway Sports Park is heavily used by Colchester RFC, so much so that it has been determined that the pitch does not service football demand and has therefore been discounted from the supply and demand analysis for football training.
- ◀ No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

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Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 10.75 full size 3G pitches to accommodate training demand and as such, a shortfall of 5.75 full size pitches.

Table 4.14: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Full size 3G requirement ⁴	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Central/East	274	7.25	3	4.25
North	43	1	0	1
South	62	1.5	1	0.5
West	29	1	1	-
Total	408	10.75	5	5.75

After factoring in future demand, the overall shortfall increases to 6.5, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.15: Future demand for 3G pitches in Colchester for affiliated football team training

Analysis area	Future number of teams ⁵	Full size 3G requirement ⁶	Current number of 3G pitches	Theoretical shortfall
Central/East	297	7.75	3	4.75
North	45	1	0	1
South	66	1.75	1	0.75
West	31	1	1	-
Total	439	11.5	5	6.5

The table below identifies sites which could, in theory, be suitable for future development to meet known shortfalls for 3G pitches. Each of these sites will require a full feasibility to be undertaken to determine if they are suitable in meeting known need. Note this list is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage – E process.

For the development of any 3G pitch at the sites below (and any other suggested sites in the future) there is a need to ensure that Sport England's Playing Field Policy is adhered to.

Table 4.16: Site options for new 3G pitch developments to alleviate training shortfalls

Analysis area	Future shortfall	Site ID	Site name
Central/East	4.75	6	Broad Lane Sports Ground
		75	Shrub End Sports Ground
		77	St Benedict's Catholic College
		92	The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)
		97	The Thomas Lord Audley School
		102	University of Essex Sports Centre
		141	Trinity Secondary School (new site)

⁴ Figure rounded up to the nearest 0.25 number.

⁵ Future demand based on participation increases and TGRs as per the football section of the report.

⁶ Figure rounded up to the nearest 0.25 number.

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Analysis area	Future shortfall	Site ID	Site name
North	1	26	Elm Farm
		39	King George V Playing Field (Boxted)
		51	Littlegarth School
South	0.75	4	Birch Park
		93	The Glebe (West Mersea)

As seen, three analysis areas (Central/ East, North and South) have a current and future shortfall. These should therefore be the focus for providing new provision.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Colchester identifies the following potential 3G projects:

- ◀ Broad Lane Sports Ground (Central/ East) – One full size 3G pitch
- ◀ Shrub End Sports Ground (Central/ East) – One full size 3G pitch
- ◀ The Glebe (West Mersea) (South) – One small sided 3G pitch

In addition, a further project for a 3G pitch conversion of the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World (Central/ East) is outlined to take place in 2023.

Since the plan was developed, the University of Essex has expressed an interest the developing a full size 3G pitch at Broad Lane Sports Ground, in partnership with Wivenhoe Town FC and Wivenhoe Tempest FC.

It is further noted that no progress has been made with developing a project at Shrub End Sports Ground, with the one 3G pitch already provided at the site.

Lastly, a small sided pitch project was identified for The Glebe (West Mersea) where a shortfall of 0.75 full size pitches is identified. It is noted that any development on this site could also theoretically draw in demand from outside of the analysis area and this requires consideration when the LFFP is updated.

The table below shows LFFP projects against the identified shortfalls from the PPOSS. This table accounts for the original 3G pitch project list in the LFFP. It highlights that a shortfall would remain in Central/East Analysis Area. Based on the original project list, a theoretical oversupply of 0.5 pitches would emerge in the South Analysis Area.

Table 4.17: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects (based on original LFFP projects)

Analysis area	Potential 3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall	No. of proposed pitches	Shortfall if delivered
Central/East	7.25	3	4.25	2	2.25
North	1	0	1	-	1
South	1.5	1	0.5	1	0.5
West	1	1	-	-	-
Total	10.75	5	5.75	3	2.75

Based on the above, it is recommended that a project within the Central/ East Analysis Area is sought, as to address the shortfall of 4.25 pitches, and that the project for The Glebe (West Mersea) remains as a small sided pitch (unless a case for meeting demand for other analysis areas can be made).

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Moving council match play demand to 3G pitches

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size sports lit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in Colchester for each pitch type.

Table 4.18: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Saturday PM	85
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	36
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	27
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	20
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	21
Total			189

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table overleaf.

Table 4.19: 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No. of teams at peak time	No. of matches at peak time	3G units required per match	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	85	42.5	32	1360	21.25
11v11	36	18	32	576	9.00
9v9	27	13.5	10	135	2.11
7v7	20	10	8	80	1.25
5v5	21	11	4	44	0.69

A total of 22 (rounded up from 21.25) 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council pitches. In Colchester, there are currently seven full-size 3G pitches provided and a shortfall of 5.5 pitches identified to meet training requirements, due to the non-community use agreement at Paxman Academy and the quantity of rugby demand at the WR 3G pitch at Northern Gateway Sports Park. As such, the required increase of provision in the future could, in theory, support most, if not all, Council demand if adequate programming was established.

Moving mini demand to 3G pitches

The FA is particularly keen on enabling 3G match usage for mini teams given the high volume of matches that can be played at one time. The table below therefore tests a scenario to permit all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches within Colchester based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

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Table 4.20: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams ⁷
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for 4.5 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 28 teams playing 5v5 football requiring 3.5 pitches and 51 teams playing 7v7 football requiring 4.5 pitches (rounded up from 4.25). It is therefore considered feasible that all mini football could be accommodated on the existing stock of 3G pitches.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football playing on a full-size pitch with dimensions of 91 x 57m.

Table 4.21: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – Noon	1 x 9v9	1/2
Noon – 2pm	1 x 9v9	1/2
2pm – 4pm	1 x 9v9	1/2

This demand could be accommodated on 10 full size pitches (rounded up from 9.5) based on 57 teams currently playing this format within Colchester.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby (WR) 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. The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There is one full size WR compliant 3G pitch within Colchester, located at Northern Gateway Sports Park. This is currently used almost entirely by Colchester RFC, meaning that the 3G pitch is helping alleviate overplay on the sites accompanying grass pitches. Given the quantity of demand at Colchester RFC, the 3G pitch has significantly aided existing provision at the site.

Based on existing shortfalls elsewhere, there is no clear requirement for further WR compliant 3G pitches to be developed in Colchester.

Recommendations

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◆ To alleviate identified competitive and training demand shortfalls, look to create additional 3G pitches.

⁷ Number of teams is double the number of games based on teams playing home and away

- ◀ Carry out further work to identify the best possible locations for 3G provision and ensure this is done in consultation with the relevant County FA's and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ◀ Ensure England Hockey is consulted with regarding any proposals for development of new 3G artificial grass pitches or proposed conversion to 3G of existing hockey AGPs, to ensure the sustainability and sufficient supply of existing AGPs for hockey.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches.
- ◀ Ensure that all other full size and larger smaller sized pitches remain on the FIFA/FA/RFU register are re-tested when required to sustain certification.
- ◀ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ◀ Follow through the work outlined for a 3G pitch conversion to the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World (Central/ East Analysis Area).
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring a grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.

4.3: Cricket pitches

Assessment report summary

- ◀ **There are seven squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets although only two of these have actual spare capacity for senior demand on Saturday's, whilst three have actual spare capacity on Sunday's.**
- ◀ **Five squares have actual spare capacity during midweek for junior cricket.**
- ◀ **Six squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 78 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ **Demand for senior cricket is currently showing a shortfall of provision with 54 sessions of overplay identified. Future demand through team generation rates increase this shortfall to 102 sessions of overplay.**
- ◀ **Sunday demand is also showing a shortfall of provision amounting to 18 match equivalent sessions. This figure increases to 30 sessions after future demand is considered.**
- ◀ **It is expected that junior cricket will be able to be currently satisfied, however shortfalls of 6 sessions will be present in the future.**
- ◀ In total, there are 30 grass cricket squares in Colchester, of which 18 are available for community use.
- ◀ 11 are assessed as good quality, six are assessed as standard quality and one is deemed of a poor quality.
- ◀ A disused square is located at Mill Road Playing Fields. The site was formerly accessed by Colchester Cavaliers CC which has now relocated to Mile End Sports Ground. There are also a further four sites that no longer provide grass wicket squares but still offer sporting provision, those being Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium, Langham Recreation Ground, Mile End Sports Ground and Wormingford Playing Field. Langham Recreation Ground is scheduled to be brought back into use for IPSCOL CC as of 2024.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at six sites and there are five standalone NTPs at as many sites.
- ◀ No club is identified as having issues relating to the lease or management of their sites.
- ◀ Colchester Cavaliers CC and Boxted CC are both working towards renovating the interior of their clubhouses. The former Club is finishing the interior of the new wooden building that was developed through Colchester City Council funding, with the Club promised it would be granted ancillary provision as part of its relocation from Mill Road Recreation Ground.

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- ◀ 11 clubs report having demand for additional training facilities.
- ◀ There are 15 affiliated clubs in Colchester which collectively provide 89 teams.
- ◀ IPSCOL CC exported demand outside of Colchester when accessing Ipswich CC's second square. As of the 2024 season the Club shall access the new square at Langham Community Centre.
- ◀ Abberton CC, Chappel and Wakes Colne CC, Colchester CC, Copford CC, West Bergholt CC and West Mersea CC are engaged in ECB national participation programmes e.g. All Stars Cricket and Dynamo's Cricket.
- ◀ Abberton CC, Chappel and Wakes Colne CC, Colchester CC and West Mersea CC all run softball women's and girls' sessions.
- ◀ Future demand from clubs equates to a potential growth of 14 teams (five senior mens, two senior women's and seven junior boys), whereas team generation rates result in four senior mens teams, one ladies team and four junior boys team.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

In Colchester, overplay is identified at Abberton CC, Fordham Heath Playing Field (Eight Ash Green CC), The Duchy Field (Dedham CC), The Glebe Colchester (West Mersea CC), West Bergholt Cricket Club and Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club. Overplay across the six sites equates to 78 match equivalent sessions per season.

All overplayed squares are currently assessed as either standard or good quality. Improving the quality of provision at all overplayed squares to good would only result in The Glebe (West Mersea) no longer showing overplay.

In the case of the remaining overplayed sites, Abberton CC, Fordham Heath Playing Field and West Bergholt Cricket Club are all currently without an NTP. Installing one on site to enable the transfer of demand from the grass wickets could therefore further relieve any capacity issues. The Duchy Field and Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club are both already serviced by NTP's, meaning greater use if the existing NTP's should be encouraged to fully eradicate overplay.

Accommodating future demand

Of the five clubs that express aspirations to increase their number of junior teams, Colchester CC, Colchester Cavaliers CC and Earls Colne CC all have capacity to accommodate the additional demand.

In the case of Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club, the site is capable of accommodating additional demand from a programming perspective, however, it shall worsen the identified overplay from five to 11 match equivalent sessions per season. Finally, West Bergholt CC does not have capacity to gain any additional teams from a programming perspective whilst also being overplayed by 39 match equivalent sessions per season.

Four clubs indicate a desire to field additional senior teams (playing either Saturday or Sunday) and of these Colchester Cavaliers CC, Earls Colne CC and IPSCOL CC shall be able to accommodate its future demand ambitions. For IPSCOL CC this shall only be possible when relocated to Langham Community Centre.

Given this information, it is the case that there is a shortfall of provision for these collective clubs in that they cannot achieve future demand targets. If opportunities present themselves for new cricket provision to be established in the future (through development) then cricket should be considered as part of any new provision, on the basis a suitable usage programme can be established from clubs referenced above.

Hybrid wickets

Although not readily available within grassroots cricket, there may be potential in the future to address overplay through the installation of hybrid wicket/s on competitive senior squares. The ECB has been working with SIS Pitches on the installation of hybrid cricket wickets at county cricket clubs (2019) and more recently recreational squares such as Perry Hall Park in Birmingham (2021) and Didsbury Cricket Club in Manchester (2022).

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less the 5% of uniquely engineered, soft polyethylene yarn, which has already been used to improve golf tees, tennis courts and pitch surrounds. These wickets are to offer a greater capacity in addition to reducing time on repair works with a faster recovery time. Reports found that hybrid wickets improve surface stability, reduced wear, reduced bowler foot holes and significantly extended hours of playing time.

Ideally, once these become more readily available for community cricket clubs and have gone through the required testing, they could act as a way to increase levels of playing capacity on overplayed squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions things such as boundary length or ball strike.

Although it is difficult at this stage to understand what impact hybrid wickets could have on each site's capacity, it is suggested that it could potentially alleviate all the overplay on sites struggling with capacity issues in the future and could also be considered when new cricket provision is being established. This assumes that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Address overplay via quality improvements, an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs.
- ◀ If overplay cannot be alleviated through the abovementioned methods, explore the feasibility of utilising planned housing growth to create new cricket squares.
- ◀ Explore future opportunities to access provision at Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Ground as it is deemed one of the best quality squares within Essex and could help in reducing shortfalls for Saturday and Sunday cricket demand.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs continue to operate without any tenure difficulties.
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so, with sites such as Colchester Cavaliers CC and Boxted CC both working towards renovating the interior of its clubhouses.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, with 11 clubs reporting the demand for additional training facilities.
- ◀ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

- ◀ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Consider re-introducing disused squares in instances where demand is present for this, sites such as Mile End Sports Ground which is a site actively used for cricket has scope for a disused square to reinstated, if demand is apparent.

4.4: Rugby union - grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **There is currently an insufficient supply of provision for rugby union to accommodate existing demand, with a shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions identified.**
- ◀ **Future demand (through TGRs) does exacerbates shortfalls to 6.75 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ **There is one site and two pitches which are overplayed by a total of 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ◀ **Despite four sites showing theoretical levels of spare capacity, this is only considered to be actual spare capacity across one site (Northern Gateway Sports Park), totalling 2 match equivalent sessions.**
- ◀ Within Colchester there are 14 sites containing a total of 23 senior, 16 junior and four mini rugby union pitches, of which 11 senior and seven junior pitches are available for community use across six sites.
- ◀ All club-based pitches have secure tenure.
- ◀ There are nine pitches assessed as good quality, 15 standard quality and 19 poor quality pitches.
- ◀ There is one rugby compliant 3G pitch within Colchester, located at the Northern Gateway Sports Park. The pitch has significantly helped accommodate the high demand at Colchester RFC and has resulted in the sites grass pitches showing actual spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Mersea Island RFC is working towards developing its ancillary provision following the clubs' receipt of S106 funding. The site accommodates rugby, football and cricket demand, and funding is outlined to go towards the provision of a multiuse community facility with changing rooms.
- ◀ There are two rugby clubs in Colchester: Colchester RFC, and Mersea Island RUFC.
- ◀ In total, clubs' field seven senior men's, one senior women's, nine junior boys', one junior girls' and 11 mini teams.
- ◀ Colchester RUFC trains on the 3G pitch at Northern Gateway Sports Park, whilst Mersea Island rugby Club train on a sports lit pitch.
- ◀ Mersea Island RFC aspires to add sports lights to its second grass pitch.
- ◀ Future demand for senior rugby is expressed by Mersea Island rugby Club and amounts to one junior boys and one mini mixed team, whilst Colchester RFC state it does not intend to increase in number of teams. The RFU, however, anticipates the Club increasing a junior girls demand and have therefore been attributed one additional junior girls' team.
- ◀ Based on future projections, when calculated at a City-wide level, there is potential growth for one additional senior men's and one junior boys' team. This is then discounted due to no teams are created when broken down by analysis areas.

Scenarios

Improving pitch maintenance and drainage

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand through the season. Currently, there are two rugby union pitches across one site in Colchester which is overplayed by a total of 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This pitch is located at The Glebe (West Mersea).

Table 4.22: 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

The table below looks at what capacity benefits would be seen if maintenance was undertaken at each site to an M2 specification and pipe drainage (D2) was installed on each overplayed pitch.

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Table 4.23: Improving maintenance on overplayed by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
93	The Glebe (West Mersea)	1	M1 / D0	Standard	1 Yes	12.5	4	6.25	M2/D0	Good	5.75
		1						2.25			1.75

Table 4.24: Improvements to existing drainage regime by one increment

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
93	The Glebe (West Mersea)	1	M1 / D0	Standard	1 Yes	12.5	4	6.25	M1/D1	Standard	5.75
		1						2.25			1.75

Table 4.25: Maximum improvements to maintenance and drainage outcome

Site ID	Site name	Number of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Improved technical score	Improved quality score	Improved capacity rating
93	The Glebe (West Mersea)	1	M1 / D0	Standard	1 Yes	12.5	4	6.25	M2/D3	Good	4.75
		1						2.25			0.75

The above three tables illustrate the theoretical benefits of improvements to maintenance regimes and drainage solutions. These shows that an improvement by one increment would reduce overplay by one match equivalent session per week. If pitches are improved to good, total overplay would still be present but would be reduced to 5.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This overplay could be alleviated via sports lighting installation on its second pitch, or an increased use of the additional sports lit training area, which currently only accommodates mini training demand.

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The table below illustrates how such improvements would impact the current and future supply analysis. Overplay would be reduced but still present at The Glebe (West Mersea) if improvements took place. Peak time capacity would remain unchanged. Overall Colchester would remain overplayed, however, shortfalls would be reduced to 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Table 4.26: Impact of rugby union pitch improvements on overall supply and demand balance (senior pitches)

Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions per week				
	Actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current capacity balance	Overplay after maintenance and drainage improvements	Capacity balance after pitch improvements
Central/East	2	-	2	-	2
North	-	-	-	-	-
South	-	8.5	8.5	5.5	5.5
West	-	-	-	-	-
Colchester	2	8.5	6.5	5.5	3.5

Additional provision and sports lighting

An alternative method of addressing capacity issues is through increasing the quantity of pitches provided at a site, as well as the number of sports lit pitches. The table overleaf outlines how the identified overplay at The Glebe (West Mersea) would be impacted through an additional senior sports lit pitch.

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Table 4.27: Impact on overall supply and demand balance by increasing sports lit provision (senior pitches)

Site ID	Site name	Current no. of senior pitches	Current technical score	Quality*	Sports lit?	Training equivalent sessions per week	Capacity rating	New no. of senior pitches	Sports lit?	Training equivalent sessions per week	New capacity rating	New overplay
93	The Glebe (West Mersea)	1	M1 / D0	Standard	Yes	6	6.25	1	Yes	3	3.25	6.5
		1			No	1.5	2.25	1	No	1.5	2.25	
								1	Yes	3	1	

As can be seen by Table 4.27, by increasing the quantity of sports lit provision at The Glebe (West Mersea) by one pitch total training demand can be more evenly distributed rather than focused predominantly on one pitch. This results in total overplay being reduced from 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week to 6.5.

Recommendations

- ◀ Continue to develop strong relationships between rugby clubs and schools through curricular and extracurricular programmes in order to increase levels of mini and junior participation.
- ◀ Protect all rugby union pitches currently in use and pitches that are inaccessible or no longer in use due to the potential that they may offer for meeting current and future needs (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Maximise usage of the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at Northern Gateway Sports Park for the benefit of the regional rugby offer.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, foremostly through improved and more regular maintenance at sites used by community clubs. Engage and utilise the GMA Pitch Advisory Service to establish recommended programme of works at key sites.
- ◀ Continue work undertaken across 2022 towards improving the quality of pitches at The Glebe (West Mersea).
- ◀ Work to increase the overall supply of sports lighting to reduce concentrated midweek training demand pressures at key club sites, such as The Glebe (West Mersea).
- ◀ Support Mersea Island RFC in its plans to renovate its current clubhouse which shall include developing its social space and changing rooms.

4.5: Rugby league – grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club resembles the one rugby league club within Colchester.**
- ◀ **The Club accesses the WR22 compliant 3G at Northern Gateway Sports Park from April to August for both fixtures and training.**
- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches in Colchester.
- ◀ The Club accesses Northern Gateway Sports Park with no security of tenure, something it would like to address as to provide longer term security.
- ◀ Any residual need is likely to be captured within Eastern Rhinos RC and not result in the formation of a second Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure any current and future demand within Colchester can be sufficiently accommodated at Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club.
- ◀ Look to form a lease agreement for pitch access to Northern Gateway Sports Park for Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club.

4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Two of the three community available full size AGPs require protection for continued hockey use.**
- ◀ **The disused pitch at Colchester Leisure World is outlined for a 3G pitch conversion, with having been condemned prior to 2020.**
- ◀ **There are no current capacity issues at either Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium or the University of Essex Sports Centre, with both sites adequately catering for demand from a partnered Club.**
- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs in Colchester, two of which are available to the community and sports lit.
- ◀ There are no smaller sized pitches within the City.
- ◀ The full-size pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium is managed by the Ministry of Defence, whilst the University of Essex Sports Centre pitch is managed by Essex University.
- ◀ The remaining pitch at Colchester Leisure World is managed by Colchester City Council.
- ◀ Colchester HC accesses its provision at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium without security of tenure, despite sharing a good relationship with the Merville Barracks. Colne HC accesses the University of Essex Sports Centre AGP, with no reference to a long-term arrangement raised by either party, meaning it is likely there is no long-term agreement in place.
- ◀ The pitches at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium and the University of Essex Sports Centre are both assessed as good quality, with the former receiving a surface replacement in 2020, and the latter in 2022.
- ◀ The pitch at Colchester Leisure World is in a disused state and has been outlined for a 3G conversion scheduled to take place in 2023.
- ◀ The Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium is accompanied by changing facilities and social space with dedicated catering team. Comparatively, Essex University Sports Centre provides ten changing rooms and a space for teas and coffee. The site has a long term ambition of developing its changing rooms in the future.
- ◀ The two hockey clubs in Colchester consist of 14 teams, which as a breakdown consists of five senior men's, five senior women's and four junior teams.

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- ◀ Colne HC provides one senior women's team, with all remaining demand catered for at Colchester HC.
- ◀ In addition to the two formal hockey clubs there is also Essex University HC which provides two mens and one women's team for the 2021/22 season. All fixtures are held at University of Essex Sports Centre and take place on Wednesday afternoons.
- ◀ Colchester has plans to increase its membership by two junior teams, whilst Colne HC has no known ambitions to grow in demand.
- ◀ Neither Club hosts back to hockey or walking hockey sessions.
- ◀ Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium currently has spare capacity for an additional one senior team, whilst the University of Essex Sports Centre has spare capacity for an additional three matches per week.

Scenarios

Meeting current and future demand

Based on existing levels of demand from Colchester HC, Colne HC and the University of Essex there is a total need for two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Colchester. There are two existing pitches provided at Colchester Garrisons Athletics Stadium and the University of Essex both of which are good quality and will be sufficient for use over the lifespan of the PPOSS. The pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium last had a surface replacement in 2019, whilst the University of Essex Sports Centre was replaced in 2022.

Future demand ambitions from Colchester HC of two junior teams does not increase the need for hockey specific provision in Colchester, on this basis ensuring that a minimum of two pitches are retained for the benefit for hockey will be sufficient for existing and potential future demand. On this basis, efforts should be made to ensure sinking funds are in place for both pitches for the eventual refurbishments as to ensure the long term sustainability of hockey for Colchester.

On the basis for the above, the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World is not required to accommodate any level of hockey demand and is able to be either improved as a hockey usable facility (such as a Gen2⁸ multi sport offer) or converted to 3G.

The AGP provided at University of Essex Sports Centre currently accommodates both Colne HC on a Saturday and Essex University HC during the week. As such, the site has spare capacity for a further three fixtures during peak time demand.

With Colchester HC only having capacity for an additional one senior team during peak times, the spare capacity at the University of Essex Sports Centre should be preserved for potential future demand from Colchester HC. Given the site is only 3.2 mile drive from Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium this could enable Colchester HC to continue to develop as a club without the need for a second pitch at its current site.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect and improve quality of the AGP's at both the University of Essex Sports Centre and Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.
- ◀ Ensure England Hockey is consulted with regarding any proposals for development of new 3G artificial grass pitches or proposed conversion to 3G of existing hockey AGPs, to ensure the sustainability and sufficient supply of existing AGPs for hockey.
- ◀ Consider options to convert the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World into a 3G surface to reduce shortfalls for this provision type.

⁸ <https://www.slattersportsconstruction.com/gen2-multi-sports-pitches/>

- ◀ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ◀ Look to improve the tenure position of both Colchester HC and Colne HC as both clubs currently operate with no long-term security of tenure.
- ◀ Look to move football demand to other 3G facilities within the area to ensure there is enough capacity at the four-sand based AGP's for hockey usage, although ensure the pitches remain sustainable without football usage.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

4.7: Tennis courts

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Dedham TC has capacity issues, with the Club hosting 370 members at its site the Dutchy Field which provides three non-sports lit courts.**
- ◀ **In order to address current capacity issues at the site, Dedham TC should look to increase its sports lighting or increase in number of courts provided.**
- ◀ **As no non-club courts are identified as have any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts, such as Earls Colne Recreation Club and Lorkin Daniell Playing Field.**
- ◀ There are a total of 124 tennis courts identified in Colchester across 25 sites, with 92 courts categorised as being available for community use at 16 sites.
- ◀ The majority of courts are operated by schools, although only 46% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The large majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 70 being of this type compared to 33 having a concrete surface.
- ◀ In total, 56 of the 124 tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 45% of the provision.
- ◀ Of the courts, 62 are assessed as good quality, 40 as standard quality and 22 as poor quality.
- ◀ For non-club courts, ancillary provision is generally considered to be in a good condition.
- ◀ There are 11 tennis clubs in Colchester, which provides a combined known membership of 1254 senior and 367 junior members.
- ◀ Dedham TC is the largest club, catering for 320 members, whereas Spring Lane TC has 96 members (details regarding David Lloyd Club are unknown).
- ◀ Of the clubs consulted with, only Colchester Officers TC and West Mersea TC state its membership has declined in recent years.
- ◀ Seven of the clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 426 potential additional members (275 senior and 151 junior).
- ◀ ClubSpark and associated LTA initiatives are utilised in Colchester across eight venues.
- ◀ Air domed tennis provision is installed at the University of Essex Sports Centre, Holmwood House Preparatory School and David Lloyd (Colchester).
- ◀ There is currently no padel tennis in Colchester, however Spring Lane TC is hoping to install padel provision.

Scenarios

Meeting demand for informal tennis

The LTA has developed a package of support for LAs to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

Lorkin Daniell Playing Field should be prioritised by the LTA for the development of informal tennis with the site providing good quality ancillary facilities.

In order to facilitate this demand, no quality improvements to the playing surface would have to take place as the site already provides good quality, sports lit courts.

Satisfying club demand

The LTA suggests that a non-sports lit hard court can accommodate 40 members whereas a hard court with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. A grass court has a capacity of 20 regardless of the lighting position and courts covered with an air dome can also accommodate 100 members.

On this basis, when reviewing club demand in Colchester it is evident that Dedham TC, based at the Duchy Field is the only site currently showing overplay within Colchester. With three non-sports lit courts the site has a currently capacity of 120 members. Therefore, as Dedham TC currently has 320 members the site has overplay of 200 members.

When considering future demand (club aspirations), Langham TC (Lanham Recreation Ground) and West Mersea TC (The Glebe Colchester) shall also be showing overplay if ambitions are to be achieved. In the case of Langham TC, overplay would total 10 members whilst West Mersea TC would be overplayed by 28 members.

Given the location of Dedham Tennis Club and that the only way it could increase in provision is to utilise playing field which is currently used as football pitches, as such, it can be deemed that the site cannot accommodate for an increase in provision as to support its capacity balance. As the Club is looking to install floodlights to improve its capacity balance, efforts should be made to support the Club with this ambition.

This development would not eradicate overplay and would reduce it to 140 members. Therefore, accessing suitable education sites to utilise as satellite provision should be considered. The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods), located 5.5 miles (13 minute drive) from the Club site, is a possible option to explore as it provides eight community accessible sports lit courts. It is however used frequently for netball meaning considerations around the Colchester Netball League operating on Monday evenings would also have to be considered. However, if agreed, this may provide a partnership opportunity for the Club to encourage coaching, development and linked club-school pathways for students.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., ClubSpark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional sports lighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites such as Dedham TC that are operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, where it is required, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.

4.8: Netball courts

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of sports lighting and no community use being allowed.**
- ◀ **Given that the Colchester Netball League caters for the wider region of both Colchester and Tendring, the provision at The Gilberd School (Leisure World Highwoods) holds a great importance for the area. Therefore, there is the need to ensure provision at the site is of a good quality and maintained thoroughly.**
- ◀ **Focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be ran from.**
- ◀ There is a total of 63 netball courts identified in Colchester across 23 sites. Of these, 47 courts at 12 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ All but four outdoor netball court in Colchester are operated by education providers. These courts are located at Leisure World Tiptree and are operated by the Council.
- ◀ The majority of outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 49 being of this type; the remaining courts all have a concrete or artificial surface.
- ◀ 41 of the courts are over marked by other tennis provision.
- ◀ In total, 44 courts are serviced by sports lighting which represents a fairly high percentage.
- ◀ Of the courts, 20 are assessed as good quality, 24 are assessed as standard quality and 19 are assessed as poor quality; of the community available courts, there are 17 rated as good quality, 17 rated as standard and 13 as poor.
- ◀ The Colchester Netball League accommodates six clubs across Colchester, which creates a combined demand of 48 adult and 39 junior teams. All this demand is accommodated via the use of the ten outdoor courts at The Gilberd School (Leisure World Highwoods).
- ◀ The League raised frustrations with the quality of courts provided at The Gilberd School (Leisure World Highwoods), which has since seen six of its ten courts resurfaced over 2022.
- ◀ Back to Netball sessions are held at The Gilberd School (Leisure World Highwoods) every Monday from 17:45 to 19:00.
- ◀ Walking Netball and Bee Netball are both not currently taking place in Colchester.

Scenarios

Accommodating netball demand

Given that the Colchester Netball League is adequately catered for with the six good and four standard courts at The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods), there is not the need to increase in the number of courts across Colchester. Sites such as Leisure World Tiptree and Stanway School should be considered as a second venue for the league if future demand causes capacity issues at The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods). This should be monitored as part of the Stage E process.

Efforts should also be made to utilise sports lit community accessible courts for England Netball initiatives such as walking netball and Bee Netball.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect quantity of courts.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts quality through resurfacing or improved maintenance.
- ◀ Explore options to increase sports lighting across Colchester.
- ◀ Open discussions with sites providing a large number of courts to determine whether provision could be opened for community use.
- ◀ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball, with sites such as Leisure World Tiptree and Stanway School possible venues for hosting such sessions.
- ◀ Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.
- ◀ Ensure the quality of the playing surface and sports lights for the courts at the Gilbert School are thoroughly maintained and kept to a high standard given the strategic importance of the site for community sport.

4.9: Bowling greens

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **Four sites are currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold for a bowling green.**
- ◀ **No greens are operating below the required membership threshold.**
- ◀ **Two greens are disused.**
- ◀ There are 10 flat green bowls greens in Colchester provided across eight sites.
- ◀ Overall, six greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and two as poor quality.
- ◀ No greens are serviced by sports lighting.
- ◀ Ancillary provision accompanying the greens is generally adequate, although some improvements and particularly modernisation is required at certain sites.
- ◀ There are nine clubs using bowling greens in Colchester and they collectively cater for 541 members (at the eight clubs where membership is known).
- ◀ The average membership across the clubs is 68.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2033), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Six clubs express ambitions to increase in membership, equating to potential growth of 60 senior members and five junior members, whilst all remaining responsive clubs are focusing on membership retention.
- ◀ All clubs anticipate being able to accommodate its growth in demand with its existing provision.

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Scenarios

Accommodating demand

Four clubs; Woods BC, Tiptree Jobserve BC, West Mersea BC and Wivenhoe BC are all operating above the Bowls England membership guidelines (which state a club to be sustainable and near capacity should have around 60 members), none raise capacity issues, and none state the need to access a second green. Table 4.28 outlines the capacity balance of the sites referred to, with West Mersea BC the most overplayed by 35 members.

Table 4.28: Bowls Clubs operating over capacity

Site name	Club name	Total membership	Site capacity	Current capacity
Keepers Green Bowling	Woods BC	70	60	10
Warriors Rest Bowls	Tiptree Jobserve BC	89	60	29
West Mersea BC	West Mersea BC	95	60	35
Wivenhoe BC	Wivenhoe BC			20

Unused provision

With two unused greens located at Castle Park Bowling and Old Heath Recreation Ground and no clubs outlining the need to access a second green, consideration could be given to repurposing or developing those that are not needed. Alternatively, they could be held as strategic reserve should there be any growth in demand or the formation of new clubs.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of in use greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Ensure that any potential development of remaining greens are mitigated in line with Sport England NPPF.
- ◀ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Support all clubs to increase membership levels to a more sustainable level. Particularly those with are known to have low memberships.

4.10: Cycling tracks

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **There is active demand for cycling in Colchester, predominately in the form of road cycling, meaning focus should be place on ensuring the infrastructure is appropriate.**
- ◀ **Northern Gateway Sports Park provides the one dedicated cycling facility in the form of a 1600m macadam track.**
- ◀ **Provision is available to community use and is accessed by Colchester Cycling UK as well as members of the general public.**
- ◀ **Various infrastructure developments for Colchester are outlined in the Colchester City Cycling Action Plan (2018).**
- ◀ There are three prominent cycling clubs in Colchester, those being Colchester Rovers Cycling Club, Colchester Cycling UK and VC Revolution.
- ◀ Two of the three clubs cater for various disciplines of cycling, whilst Colchester Cycling UK operates purely as a road cycling Club.

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- ◀ There is a small but active contingent involved in Go-Ride, with rides arranged from Northern Gateway Sports Park.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 8,224 people who would like to participate in cycling in Colchester.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Look to continue to expand British Cycling programmes such as HSBC UK Go-Ride and HSBC UK Breeze.
- ◀ Ensure any current and future demand for dedicated facilities within Colchester can be sufficiently accommodated at Northern Gateway Sports Park or similar sites or alternatively in neighbouring authorities.

4.11: Athletics tracks

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ **The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand, although quality improvements may be required in the near future.**
- ◀ **Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Colchester and the events that are being held.**
- ◀ There is one purpose-built athletics track in Colchester, provided at the Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.
- ◀ The venue provides a 400-metre track that is serviced by sports lighting and is available to the community.
- ◀ The track is standard quality with resurfacing required in the near future.
- ◀ It is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Seven clubs have been identified that have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity, with two of these having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◀ None of the clubs consulted with have a waiting list in place and all clubs are open to gaining new members.
- ◀ Colchester and Tendring Athletics Club, Running Colchester and Parkside Road Runners all form part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◀ A Park Run event is held each week at Colchester Castle, Highwoods and Mersea Island.
- ◀ Annual events held in include the Colchester Half Marathon and the Santa Fun Run.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure the track and supporting facilities at the Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium are retained and remain in adequate condition.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, signposting potential club members from the likes of Parkrun events and other health initiatives.
- ◀ Considerations should be made for the installation of mini, compact or active tracks as to increase the amount of athletics provision provided.

4.12: Golf courses

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ Colchester has a reasonable supply of golf provision, with a variety of facilities available and with capacity for growth.
- ◀ As no clubs have a significantly low membership and as levels have recently increased, it is apparent that each venue is required, meaning that each facility should be protect and supported to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ There are currently four golf sites in Colchester.
- ◀ Three sites provide a standard hole course, all of which two are 18-hole courses and one is a nine hole course.
- ◀ There are no Par 3 courses provided in Colchester.
- ◀ Tiptree Gold Driving Range provides a covered driving range, whilst Waldegraves Holiday Park offers a nine hole crazy golf course.
- ◀ Three sites are members clubs, whilst Tiptree Golf Driving Range and Waldegraves Holiday Park are private facilities.
- ◀ The average Club membership figures as of 2022 are 452 members, which resembles a 17.42% increase from 2018. This is notably above the England Golf national average of 386 members.
- ◀ In terms of quality, it is relatively good across Colchester with a range of facilities available for players of differing abilities.
- ◀ Membership breakdowns of each Club are not available, however, the combined average figures are on an upward trend and above the national average.
- ◀ Furthermore, England Golf reports that membership has increased considerably over the last 12-18 months, with the average membership across the sites now 452, compared to 351 when the data was collected in 2018.
- ◀ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Lexden Wood Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.
- ◀ Pay and play usage is unknown but is in place at all five sites. Green fee rates are lowest at Birch Grove Golf Club, with a price of £19 on both a weekday or weekend.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost or reduced without it impacting upon demand.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

4.13: Other grass pitches

Assessment Report summary

- ◀ American football demand is present within Colchester with Essex Blades American Football Club and Colchester Gladiators. Both clubs are adequately catered for with the one pitch at the University of Essex Sports Centre and one pitch at Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium.
- ◀ Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club resembles the one Rugby League Club within Colchester. The Club access the WR 3G pitch at Northern Gateway Sports Park.

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- ◀ Consultation with the Club states it is frustrated at the lack of security of tenure, with the Club having been left out of the lease agreements put in place when the site was established.
- ◀ There are four Multi use games areas (MUGAs) in Colchester, all of which are located in the Central/ East Analysis Area. Efforts should be made to install more provision in the remaining three analysis areas.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ If demand is to arise for other sports which are not already established, ensure adequate provision is provided to allow participation to be sustained and encouraged to grow.
- ◀ Look to increase the number of MUGA's provided in the North, South and West analysis areas.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sport facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 99 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case-by-case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field used within the last five years and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

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Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate that the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

Policy Exception E2

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use'.

Policy Exception E3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ◀ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ◀ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ◀ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ◀ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ◀ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site'.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and;
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Policy Exception E5

'The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice of use, of the area of playing field'.

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.

A number of sites are being used in the City for competitive play, predominately for football. The following schools, university and M.o.D sites are already used for community use at varying levels but have no secure community usage:

- ◀ Colchester Academy
- ◀ Colchester County High School for Girls
- ◀ Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium
- ◀ Kingswode Hoe School
- ◀ Philip Morant School
- ◀ Stanway Primary School
- ◀ St Benedict's Catholic College
- ◀ St Lukes C of E Primary School
- ◀ The Gilbert School (Leisure World Highwoods)
- ◀ The Thomas Lord Audley School
- ◀ University of Essex Sports Centre

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the Football Scenarios. In the case of Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium and the University of Essex Sports Centre, the sites hold particular importance for hockey and athletics, and security of tenure should be formalised between the regular club users of both sites.

Further partnership working with NGBs should be carried out to encourage schools to put in place CUA including access to changing provision where required.

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will therefore help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the scenario section of this report.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Essex FA and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of any agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

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Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council or NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be support and clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁹. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

The Council could establish core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate are assigned sites. Outcomes may, for example, include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or at minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users. For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

⁹ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Colchester, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue, especially at some private schools and academies.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to secure community use agreements, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as court that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, the Active Partnership and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sport facilities and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain quality and seek improvements where necessary
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The action plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality site and/or sites that are overplayed.

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into pitch quality is challenging and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality across Colchester is variable but generally most pitches are assessed as poor or standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

Based upon an achievable target, using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g., a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

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If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites (thus reducing capacity issues).

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, users can utilise the services of the Football Foundation'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.

The tool is available by web based apps and desktop and 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 required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund. These is also a need for on-going assessments twice per annum as part of any funding commitment to monitor forthcoming improvements or issues which arise.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Pitch Advisor Service (formerly GaNTIP) which is jointly funded by Sport England and the Football Foundation, working in association with the ECB, RFL and RFU. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

Specifically for tennis, 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 the local communities.

For the improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:: [Facility cost guidance | Sport England](#)

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

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Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

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

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-sports lit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the City, these are generally centred at either club or council managed sites.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance. For example:

- ◀ Birch Park
- ◀ Elm Farm
- ◀ Rowhedge Recreation Ground
- ◀ Spring Lane Playing Field
- ◀ The Duchy Field

Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

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Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate provision and subsequent maintenance. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new provision is provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sport facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision both for now and in the future. Maximising use of existing provision through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ◀ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

Recommendation (i) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is only required in specific cases such as 3G pitches, potentially sand-based AGPs, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock. In the long term, there could theoretically be a need for new cricket provision to be provided to cater for affiliated cricket. This will need to be determined by the ECB and local county boards to understand the feasibility of accommodating demand from a mixture of clubs.

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

Site hierarchy

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context i.e., they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the City. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or two pitches.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

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Hub sites are of City wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e., a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

For local authority sites local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions.

Given the extent of potential actions, it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority actions, as they have wide importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.

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The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>

Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period and the information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years)
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years)
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years)

Aim

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three Sport England aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

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CENTRAL/ EAST ANALYSIS AREA

Pitch sport summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2033)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	Central/ East	Adult	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 16
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 10
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
	Colchester	Adult	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 24.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 13.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
Football (3G pitches)	Central/ East	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 4.25	Shortfall of 4.75
Football (3G pitches)	Colchester	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.5
Cricket	Central/ East	Saturday	Spare capacity of 7	Spare capacity of 7
		Sunday	Spare capacity of 19	Spare capacity of 19
		Midweek	Spare capacity of 43	Spare capacity of 43
	Colchester	Saturday	Shortfall of 54	Shortfall of 102
		Sunday	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 30
		Midweek	At capacity	Shortfall of 24
Rugby union	Central/ East	Senior	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
	Colchester	Senior	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Colchester	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

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Non-pitch sports summary

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	<p>Both the University of Essex Sports Centre and David Lloyd (Colchester) provide bubble tennis provision for its good quality courts.</p> <p>Lexden Hill LTC currently provides nine grass tennis courts and has ambitions of installing padel provision on site.</p> <p>No clubs within the analysis area are operating outside of LTA recommended guidelines.</p>	<p>Ensure maintenance of bubble provision is thorough as to ensure the long-term sustainability of both sites.</p> <p>Once future demand through Club ambitions are considered, no sites are outlined to showing an undersupply of provision if growth is achieved.</p>
Netball	<p>The Gilbert School currently hosts the Colchester Netball League, which accommodates demand from for Colchester and Tendring, site is of particular importance for the region.</p> <p>Provision at the site is a mix of good and standard quality, following surface improvements to some courts in 2022.</p>	<p>The Gilbert School currently hosts the Colchester Netball League, which accommodates demand from for Colchester and Tendring, site is of particular importance for the region.</p> <p>The Colchester Netball League anticipates growth in the number of teams, which it anticipates can be accommodated at the Gilbert School.</p> <p>Sites such as Colchester Academy should be outlined to accommodate England Netball initiatives.</p>
Bowls	<p>Two sites are currently operating over Bowls England capacity guidelines, those being Keepers Green Bowling (Woods BC) and Wivenhoe BC.</p> <p>Overuse at each site is marginal and manageable.</p>	<p>If future demand through Club ambitions are achieved, Old Heath Recreation Ground (Three Clubs BC) shall also be operating over Bowls England guidelines.</p> <p>Neither Keepers Green Bowling (Woods BC) and Wivenhoe BC express intentions to increase members so shortfalls are not expected to be exacerbated.</p>
Athletics	<p>The existing 400m track at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium effectively services the existing running clubs such as Colchester and Tendring AC and Colchester Harriers AC, as well as the wider surrounding regions.</p>	<p>With future demand ambitions of 120 members at Team2gether, considerations should be made towards how the access to the Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium is balanced.</p>
Cycling	<p>Northern Gateway Sports Park provides a 1600m macadam cycle track that was installed in 2020, making it a good quality surface.</p> <p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>	<p>Having first been installed in 2020, the existing 1600m macadam cycle track at Northern Gateway Sports Park adequately services the area for cycling provision.</p> <p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>
Golf	<p>With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.</p>	<p>Clubs should look to further increase in membership figures in reflection of the increasing population rates and England Golf's goal of increasing in members.</p>

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	With a range in low and high price point offerings it can be determined that all types of golfers can be catered for.	
Other sports	<p>Supply of American football pitches are present in the Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium and University of Essex Sports Centre, with the latter accessed by Essex Blades American Football Club. Both clubs are currently catered for across the two accessible pitches within Colchester.</p> <p>Rugby League demand takes place through Eastern Rhinos Rugby League Club, which access the WR22 3G at Northern Gateway Sports Park. The Club is frustrated by its lack of tenure and would like a lease for its access to the site.</p> <p>Installation of additional MUGAs in the North, South and West analysis areas should be considered.</p>	Although no specific demand is identified for other sports, there will be a continued need to ensure good quality provision is provided.

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key or poor quality sites such as Mile End Sports Ground and King George Playing Field (Lexden). ◀ Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs such as Rowhedge Recreation Ground to Rowhedge Colts. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Improve changing facilities and ancillary provision where required, such as Wivenhoe Town FC.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Ensure all WR22 receive the necessary tests to maintain its certification for Rugby training and match play compliancy. ◀ Undertake necessary steps to convert the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World into a 3G pitch. ◀ Identify a site suitable to provide an additional full-size pitch. Potential options (which require full feasibility work to determine their viability) include, Broad Lane Sports Ground and Shrub End Sports Ground).
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. ◀ Support clubs in need of additional training facilities such as Wivenhoe Town CC. ◀ Ensure all provision has been appropriately re-instated before the disused square at Mill Road Playing Fields is developed for properties. ◀ Support Colchester Cavaliers CC in its relocation to Mile End Sports Ground, with the interior of its ancillary provision in need of investment.

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Sport	Priority recommendations
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve quality of existing provision. ◀ Ensure all WR22 receive the necessary tests to maintain its certification for Rugby training and match play compliancy. ◀ Work with Colchester RFC in to address the issue with the echoing acoustics of its ancillary provision.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision located at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium and University of Essex Sports Centre. ◀ Undertake necessary steps to convert the disused AGP at Colchester Leisure World into a 3G pitch. ◀ Look to raise the fencing behind both goals at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium as to address ball striking issues. ◀ Preserve actual spare capacity for Saturday demand at University of Essex Sports Centre for growth in demand from Colne HC or Colchester HC to use as an overspill site.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure clubs with capacity issues manage access to its green effectively, with key sites including Wivenhoe BC, Keepers Green Bowling (Woods BC) and Old Heath Recreation Ground (Three Clubs BC).
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as Spring Lane Playing Field with the installation of sports lights and potential surface replacements. ◀ Ensure that all bubble domes at University of Essex Sports Centre and David Lloyd (Colchester) are effectively maintained as required. ◀ Support Lexden Hill LTC in its efforts to install padel provision at its site.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure provision at the Gilbert School is maintained and cleaned frequently as to ensure courts for the Colchester Netball League are as good quality as possible. ◀ Look to utilise key sites offering good quality, sports lit provision that are open for community use for England Netball initiatives, such as Colchester Academy.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Consider balancing demand to allow more non-club based runners to access the provision.
Other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim	
5	Brinkley Grove Primary School	Netball	School	One poor quality concrete court with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.	School EN	Local	L	L	L		
6	Broad Lane Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	Nine good quality pitches of varying pitch scales, accessed by Wivenhoe Tempest FC and Wivenhoe Town FC. Site has actual spare capacity of 1.5 MES. Site is outlined in the LFFP for the installation of a 3G pitch in partnership with Essex University. Wivenhoe Tempest FC are looking to improve the ancillary provision provided at the site which also includes improvements to associated carparking facilities.	Ensure pitch maintenance maintains to a good standard as to support the high demand seen. Explore the feasibility of following out the work identified in the LFFP to install a 3G pitch, with key stakeholders including Wivenhoe Tempest FC, Wivenhoe Town FC, Colchester City Council and Essex University. Look to improve the ancillary facilities and parking at the site in line with the ambitions of Wivenhoe Tempest FC and Wivenhoe Town FC.	Sports Club Council University EFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide	
		Tennis		Four good quality sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use and accessed by Wivenhoe TC.	Sustain existing quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to best support demand from Wivenhoe TC.			Sports Club LTA	L	L		L
7	Broomgrove County Infant & Junior School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
8	Camulos Academy	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 and one poor quality 5v5 pitch both of which have no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA FF		L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
		Netball		One poor quality concrete court with no community use.	Retain for curricular demand.			School EN	L	L		L
12	Cherry Tree Academy	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	
13	Colchester Academy	Football	School	Three adult and one youth 11v11 pitch that are of a standard quality, and one 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitch that are a good quality. Youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular and community demand. Consider re-configuring layout of provision as to reduce identified overplay.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide	
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.			School RFU	L	L		L
		Tennis		Four standard quality sports lit artificial turf courts with no community use.	Given the quality and quantity of provision, look to open courts to community use as to utilise the accompanying sports lights.			School LTA	L	L		L
		Netball		Four good quality sports lit artificial turf courts that are open to community use.	Given the quality of provision and accompany sports lights, consider utilising the site for England Netball recreational programmes.			School EN	M	L		L

¹⁰ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
14	Colchester and East Essex Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square accessed by Colchester and East Essex Cricket Club. Site has actual spare capacity for one additional midweek team.	Sustain existing quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to best support existing demand. Utilise identified midweek actual spare capacity.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
15	Colchester County High School For Girls	Football	School	Two standard quality 5v5 pitches that are open to community use but are un-used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Look to partner with a football Club as to utilise the standard quality un accessed provision.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Two non-community accessible grass wicket squares.	Given the quantity of provision, consider opening the squares to community access as to better service Club demand.	School Essex Cricket Board		M	M	L	
		Tennis		Three standard quality, non-sports lit, non-community accessible macadam courts.	Explore the possibility to install sports lights on site as to improve tennis and netball offering.	School LTA		M	M	L	
		Netball		Three standard quality, non-sports lit, non-community accessible macadam courts.	Explore the possibility to install sports lights on site as to improve tennis and netball offering.	School EN		L	L	L	
16	Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium	Athletics	M.o.D	One standard quality sports lit 400m track that is open to community use. Site is heavily accessed by Colchester and Tendring AC and Colchester Harriers AC.	Protect provision for community use. Consider allocating more access to the site for non-Club based runners as to better service regular individuals. Explore opportunities to provide Colchester and Tendring AC a longer term access agreement on the site.	M.o.D EA SE	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		AGP		One good quality AGP accessed by Colchester HC. Fencing behind both goals is in need of raising to be the same height as the fencing along the sides to address ball striking issues. Members of Colchester HC state that the parking for the site is the biggest frustration.	Protect provision for community use. Look to raise the height of the fencing behind either goal as to address ball striking issues. Explore means of increasing the allocated parking where possible. Explore opportunities to provide Colchester HC a longer term access agreement on the site.	M.o.D EH EFA FF		H	S	M	
		Football		Two standard quality adult pitches that are open to community use and are un accessed. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Look to partner with a football Club as to utilise the standard quality un accessed provision.	M.o.D EFA FF		M	M	L	
17	Colchester Leisure World	AGP	Council	One disused AGP that is outlined by Essex FA for 3G pitch conversion. England Hockey has confirmed with the existing hockey provision the site is not needed to service hockey for the region.	Work with the required partners to enable the disused provision to be converted into a 3G pitch.	Council EH EFA FF	Local	H	S	H	Provide Enhance
19	Colchester Royal Grammar School Sports Ground	Football	School	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are of a poor quality and non-community accessible.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity of provision consider opening the site for community use to be support identified demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Rugby Union		One senior and two junior pitches all of which are of a standard quality and non-community accessible.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity of provision consider opening the site for community use to be support identified demand.	School RFU		M	M	L	
		Cricket		One non community accessible grass wicket square.	Retain for curricular demand.	School Essex Cricket Board		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three poor quality, non-sports lit non community accessible concrete courts.	Enhance court surface as to improve court quality and explore the possibility of installing sports lights as to enhance tennis and netball demand. If possible open courts to community use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Two standard quality, sports lit concrete courts that are not open to community use.	Given the quantity of provision and accompanying sports lights, consider opening site to community use.	School EN		M	M	L	
22	Colchester United (Jobserve Community Stadium)	Football	Professional Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch accessed by EFL Club, Colchester United FC.	Protect for the use of professional football Club.	Professional Sports Club EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		Two poor quality, small sided, sports lit 3G pitches that are open to community use. Provision is the same surface as it was when first installed in 2008.	Given the age of provision, consider funding a replacement surface as to enhance quality.	Professional Sports Club EFA, FF SE		M	S	H	
25	Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium	Football	M.o.D	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are open to community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support military and community demand.	M.o.D EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		Two standard quality non community accessible senior pitches.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support military demand.	M.o.D RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Eight good quality, community accessible, concrete tennis courts, four of which are sports lit. Provision is accessed by Colchester Garrison TC.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Explore the possibility of installing sports lights as to enhance tennis offering.	M.o.D LTA		M	L	L	
		American Football		One full sized American football pitch accessed by Colchester Gladiators American Football Club. The Club confirm the site adequately caters for its demand.	Protect provision. Look to provide Colchester Gladiators American Football Club with a formal tenure agreement for its access to the site.	M.o.D BAFA		L	L	L	
32	Gas Rec Playing Field	Football	Council	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are standard quality. Actual spare capacity of 0.5 MES is present on the 9v9 pitch.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
33	Gosbecks Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch that has no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
34	Hazelmere Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch that has no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
35	Highwood Community Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches that have no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
38	Iceni Academy	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch that has no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
40	King George Playing Field (Lexden)	Football	Council	Six standard quality community accessible pitches of varying scales. Adult pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
41	King George V Playing Field (Wivenhoe)	Football	Council	One poor quality 11v11 pitch with no actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
42	Kingswode Hoe School	Football	School	One poor quality 11v11 pitch that is open to community use but has no actual spare capacity and is un-used.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular and community demand. Consider partnering with a football Club as to utilise community accessible provision.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
55	Mile End Sports Ground	Football	Council	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch, all of which are community accessible. One adult pitch is good quality, with the remaining provision of a poor quality. Two adult pitches are overplayed by 1 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Consider re-configuring layout of provision as to reduce identified overplay.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Two grass wicket squares, one of which is of a good quality, with the other assessed as poor. The site also has one disused square which could be reinstated if demand suggests a need to do so. Provision is accessed by Colchester Cavaliers CC and Great Horkesley and Lexden CC. Site has actual spare capacity for one additional midweek team. The sites timber building which hosts Colchester Cavaliers CC requires interior work such as its kitchen and function space to be completed. Site has a planned extension to the sports ground in its Southwest corner.	Look to improve maintenance of provision as to enhance poor quality square. Utilise actual spare capacity. Work with Colchester Cavaliers CC in the exterior and interior development of its new ancillary provision. Look to integrate the planned extension to the sports ground on the agricultural land to the South West of the site and ensure that new pitches are designed to suit the needs of the site. Consider re-introducing the disused square at the site if demand continues to grow.	Council Essex Cricket Board		M	M	L	
56	Military Corrective Training Centre	Football	M.o.D	One poor quality adult pitch that has no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support military use.	M.o.D EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		One poor quality concrete court with no community use.	Protect provision for military use.	M.o.D LTA		L	L	L	
60	Monkwick Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
61	Montgomery Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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62	Northern Gateway Sports Park	Rugby Union	Council	Four senior and three junior pitches all of which are good quality and accessed by Colchester RFC. Site has 5 MES of actual spare capacity. Colchester RFC state the ancillary provision has echoing acoustics in every rooms, something it is working towards addressing.	Ensure current maintenance regime continues as to preserve existing quality. Look to utilise actual spare capacity. Support Colchester RFC in its efforts to address the acoustics of its ancillary provision.	Council RFU	Hub site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		Two good quality full sized sports lit 3G pitches, one of which is WR22 compliant and is heavily accessed by Colchester RFC for training demand. WR22 compliant pitch is also accessed by Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club during summer months. The Club raise frustrations with its lack of tenure agreement for its pitch access.	Preserve quality of provision with effective maintenance of both pitches. Undertake necessary tests as to ensure the site remains its WR22 compliancy in the future. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to preserve the sustainability of the provision. Work with Eastern Rhinos Rugby Club as to secure the site with a longer-term lease agreement for its playing provision.	Council RFU EFA FF SE		H	M	M	
		Football		Site is outlined for several football pitches to the back of its site on what is already existing playing field land.	Work with the RFU, FA and FF to install football pitches on the site.	Council EFA, FF		M	M	L	
		Cycling		One 1600m macadam cycle track that is open to community use.	Protect existing provision for community use.	Council BC, SE		L	L	L	
63	Old Heath Recreation Ground	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two poor quality bowling greens accessed by three clubs BC. Site is operating at capacity and shall be outside Bowls England capacity guidelines if future demand through Club growth is achieved.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support demand from three clubs BC. Ensure Club manages demand of provision given its current and future capacity balance.	Sports Club BE SE	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		MUGA		One standard quality non sports lit MUGA.	Protect existing provision. Explore the possibility of installing sports lights to the site.	Sports Club EFA, FF		L	L	L	
64	Parsons Heath C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
66	Philip Morant School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular and community demand and alleviate overplay.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		Two standard quality, non-sports lit community accessible senior pitches that are un-used. Actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		3G		One good quality FIFA approved full sized 3G pitch that is open to community use.	Look to utilise any un-used pitch access as to maximise financial profit and better support football training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to guarantee the long term sustainability of provision.	School EFA FF SE		H	M	H	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Tennis		Five good quality sports lit concrete courts that are open for community use.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		Netball		Five standard quality, sports lit macadam courts that are open for community use.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts. Given the quality of provision and accompany sports lights, consider utilising the site for England Netball recreational programmes.	School EN		M	M	L	
68	Powerleague (Colchester)	3G	Commercial	Seven standard quality sports lit community accessible small sided 3G pitches all of which are open to community use.	Look to utilise any un-used pitch access as to maximise financial profit and better support football training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to guarantee the long term sustainability of provision.	Commercial EFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
69	Prettygate Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Netball		One poor concrete court with no community use.	Protect for curricular use. Consider resurfacing courts as to better service curricular use.	School EN		L	L	L	
72	Roach Vale Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
73	Rowhedge Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, one 9v9, one 7v7 and four 5v5 pitches all of which are of a standard quality. Site has actual spare capacity of 4 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
75	Shrub End Sports Ground	Football	Council	Seven standard quality adult football pitches accessed by several clubs. Site has no actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Work with the FA and FF to explore the loss of one adult pitch as to enable the development of a 3G pitch.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One full sized sports lit, standard quality, FA approved 3G pitch. Site is outlined in the LFFP for the installation of a second 3G pitch.	Look to utilise any un-used pitch access as to maximise financial profit and better support football training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place to guarantee the long term sustainability of provision. Look to work with all required stakeholders as to enable the installation of a second 3G pitch.	Council EFA FF SE		H	M	H	
76	Spring Lane Playing Field	Football	Council	One adult, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches. Provision is of a standard quality, other than one of the 7v7 and one 5v5 pitches which are good quality. Adult pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand and reduce overplay.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Tennis		Eight standard quality, non-sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts. Following this, explore the possibility of installing sports lights as to enhance tennis offering.	Council LTA		M	M	M	
77	St Benedicts Catholic College	Football	School	Four standard quality adult pitches that are open to community use but are unused.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity and quality of provision look to open provision to community use.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		One standard quality, non-community accessible senior rugby pitch.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three poor quality, non-sports lit community accessible courts.	Protect for curricular use. Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of provision.	School EN		L	L	L	
79	St Helena School	Rugby Union	School	One poor quality junior pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Six poor quality sports lit concrete courts that are not open to community use.	Protect for curricular use. Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of provision. Given the quantity and accompanying sports lights explore the feasibility of opening courts to community use.	School LTA		M	M	M	
		Netball		Four poor quality sports lit concrete courts that are not open to community use.	Protect for curricular use. Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of provision. Given the quantity and accompanying sports lights explore the feasibility of opening courts to community use.	School EN		L	L	M	
80	St James C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
84	St Michaels Primary and Nursery School	Football	School	One 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality and non-community accessible.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity and quality of provision, considering opening site to community use.	School EFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
92	The Gilberd School (Leisure World Highwoods)	Football	School	Two adult, two 9v9 and two 5v5 pitches all of which are of a standard quality. Adult pitches are overplayed by 1 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular and community demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Ten standard quality sports lit community accessible macadam courts.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts.	School LTA		L	L	L	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Netball		Ten sports lit community accessible macadam courts, four of which are standard and six are good quality. Site is used for the Colchester Netball League which services demand for all of Colchester and Tendring. League representatives raise frustrations with the lack of cleaning to the courts with people walking from the football pitches across the courts, thus leaving mud across the provision.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts. Ensure provision is frequently maintained as to preserve quality.	School EN		H	L	L	
95	The Sixth Form College Colchester	3G	School	One poor quality non community accessible small sided 3G pitch.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision. Consider opening provision for community use.	School EFA, FF SE	Local	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
97	The Thomas Lord Audley School	Football	School	Four standard quality youth 11v11 pitches. No actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular and community demand. Consider the reconfiguration of provision as to better service community demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		One standard quality, non-community accessible senior pitch.	Protect provision for curricular use. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Six poor quality, non-community sports lit courts	Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of provision.	School LTA		L	L	M	
		Netball		Nine community accessible macadam courts, three of which are good quality and six are poor quality.	Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of poor quality provision. Given the quantity and quality of provision, consider utilising the site for England Netball initiatives.	School EN		M	M	L	
101	Unity Academy	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch not open to community use.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	University of Essex Sports Centre	Football	School	12 good quality pitches of varying scales, all of which are open to community use and accessed heavily by Layer Colts FC. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Preserve pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Where possible look to maximise actual spare capacity identified. Consider consulting with Layer Colts FC to determine the most appropriate pitch configuration as to best suit the club's demand.	School EFA FF	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby Union		Two good quality, community accessible senior pitches that are un-used.	Preserve pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Given the quality of provision, explore opening access to community use as to utilise un-used pitches.	School RFU		L	L	L	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		AGP		One good quality full sized AGP that is open to community use and accessed by Colne HC.	Given the pitch is one of two AGP's within Colchester, provision must be protected as a hockey suitable surface for community and curricular use. Preserve actual spare capacity for Saturday demand for the potential growth in demand from Colne HC or Colchester HC as an overspill site. Look to provide Colne HC with a more formal tenure agreement for its access to the site.	School EH SE EFA FF		H	L	H	
		Cricket		Two non-community accessible grass squares.	Preserve square quality through current maintenance regime. Consider opening provision for community use.	School Essex Cricket Board		M	M	L	
		American Football		One full sized American Football pitch that is open to community use and accessed by Essex Blades American Football Club.	Protect provision as to ensure an American Football pitch remains within the City for Essex Blades American Football Club. Preserve square quality through current maintenance regime.	School BAFA		M	L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality, sports lit, bubble, macadam community accessible courts. Provision is accessed by University of Essex TC and is operating within LTA guidelines.	Preserve court quality through current maintenance regime. Continue community use agreement as to utilise one of the three bubble court sites in Colchester. Ensure required maintenance to the bubble takes place as to protect provision.	School LTA SE		H	L	M	
105	West End Sports Ground	Football	Council	Two un-used standard quality 7v7 pitches with actual spare capacity of 2 MES.	Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
106	Willow Brook Primary School	Football	School	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch both of which are of a poor quality and non-community accessible.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Netball		One poor quality concrete court with no community use.	Protect for curricular use. Consider replacing the playing surface as to enhance the quality of provision.	School EN		L	L	L	
107	Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square accessed and owned by Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club. Site has overplay of 5 MES. Club has expressed a desire for a portable practice net.	Preserve pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Look to provide the Club with a portable practice net as to support training demand. If possible look to increase the number of wickets on site as to increase the squares total capacity, given the clubs overplay of 5 MES and future demand from the Club of an additional junior team.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Key Centre	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
111	Keepers Green Bowling	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality green accessed by Woods BC. Site is operating ten members over capacity.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support the high demand seen. This is of particular importance given the overcapacity rating identified.	Sports Club BE SE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

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112	Kirby Drive Bowling	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green accessed by Severalls BC. Site is operating within Bowls England guidelines.	Sustain green quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
115	West End Sports Ground Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	Two good quality greens accessed by Colchester West End BC and Arclight BC. Site is currently operating within Bowls England guidelines but if club ambitions are achieved it shall be over capacity.	Sustain green quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen. Ensure access to the green is managed effectively given the two clubs accessing the site.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
117	Wivenhoe BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality green accessed by Wivenhoe BC. Site is currently operating 20 members over capacity.	Sustain green quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen. Ensure access to the green is managed effectively given the site is over capacity.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
120	Birch Grove Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	One proprietary ran, nine-hole golf Club. Site has membership fees of £676.80 and offers green fee rates of £19 for 18 holes.	Sustain existing course maintenance to ensure quality does not decline.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
121	Colchester A Ground	Cricket	M.o.D	One standard quality square accessed by Real Oddies CC. Site has actual spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and midweek demand.	Improve existing quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to best support existing demand. Utilise identified midweek actual spare capacity.	M.o.D Essex Cricket Board	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
122	Colchester Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	Site has a members ran 18-hole golf course.	Sustain existing course maintenance to ensure quality does not decline.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
123	David Lloyd (Colchester)	Tennis	Commercial	Five good quality, bubble, sports lit polymeric courts that are open to community use.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts. Ensure required maintenance to the bubble takes place as to protect provision.	Commercial LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
125	The Colchester Officers Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality and three standard quality courts. Good quality provision is sports lit.	Protect existing provision through a thorough maintenance regime of courts. Look to increase number of sports lit courts as to increase capacity site rating.	Sports Club LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
128	Paxman Academy	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 non community accessible pitch.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One full sized, non-sports lit, non-community accessible 3G pitch.	Look to install sports lights to provision and open site to community access as to better support football training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long term sustainability of provision.	School EFA FF SE		H	S	M	
		Tennis		Two standard quality, non-community accessible, non-sports lit courts.	Protect for curricular use. Consider installing sports lights and opening provision to community use.	School LTA		M	L	M	
		Netball		Two standard quality, community accessible, non-sports lit courts.	Protect for curricular use. Consider installing sports lights and opening provision to community use.	School EN		M	L	M	

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129	Wivenhoe Town FC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult stadia football pitch that is overmarked for youth 9v9 and min 7v7. Site is overplayed by one MES. Club is in the process of enhancing the interior of its ancillary provision, with work including renovating its toilets, outdoor seating. Club state its fuse box and boiler are in need of replacing.	Sustain pitch quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen. Look to work alongside Wivenhoe Tempest FC as to utilise the actual spare capacity at Broad Lane Sports Ground and reduce overplay on site. Support Club in its need to replace its fuse box and boiler.	Sports Club EFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
134	Lexden Hill Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Council	Nine good quality, non-sports lit grass tennis courts. Provision is accessed by Lexden Hill Lawn Tennis Club and is operating within LTA recommended guidelines. Club are looking to install padel provision on its existing courts.	Sustain existing court maintenance to ensure quality does not decline. Support the Club in its efforts to install padel provision on site.	Council LTA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
135	Colchester Leisure World Tennis Centre	Tennis	Council	Six good quality and four poor quality courts that are community accessible. Good quality courts are sports lit.	Sustain existing court maintenance to ensure quality does not decline. Look to re-surface poor quality courts and increase the number of sports lit courts as to improve quality.	Council LTA	Local	M	L	M	Protect Provide Enhance
136	Lexden Wood Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	One standard 18-hole, proprietary ran golf course. Site has £920 yearly membership fees and green fee rates of £35 per round.	Sustain existing course maintenance to ensure quality does not decline.	Sports Club EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
138	Pondfield Open Space	MUGA	Council	One good quality sports lit MUGA.	Protect for community use.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
139	Magnolia Fields	MUGA	Council	One standard quality, non-sports lit MUGA.	Protect for community use. Consider the installation of sports lighting.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
140	ADI / Zone / Monkwick Open Space	MUGA	Council	One good quality sports lit MUGA.	Protect for community use.	Council EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
141	Oxley Parker School Playing Fields	Football	Council	Site formerly hosted one adult pitch which is now disused.	Protect provision from development in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as pitches currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls.	Council EFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect

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NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sports pitch summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2033)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 4.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Colchester	Adult	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 24.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 13.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
Football (3G pitches)	North	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	Colchester		Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.5
Cricket	North	Saturday	Shortfall of 39	Shortfall of 39
		Sunday	Shortfall of 15	Shortfall of 15
		Midweek	Shortfall of 21	Shortfall of 21
	Colchester	Saturday	Shortfall of 54	Shortfall of 102
		Sunday	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 30
		Midweek	At capacity	Shortfall of 24
Rugby Union	North	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Colchester	Senior	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Colchester	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

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Non-pitch sports summary

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	<p>Dedham TC resembles the only Club in Colchester currently operating over LTA guidelines, with the Club having 200 members over capacity.</p> <p>Lorkin Daniell Playing Field and Earls Colne Recreation Ground are the only community accessible sites in Colchester with ancillary provision that doesn't have a partnered Club.</p>	<p>Langham TC has future growth ambitions that shall make the site over capacity if achieved.</p> <p>Dedham TC has future growth ambitions that shall further exacerbate existing shortfalls if achieved.</p> <p>Sites such as Lorkin Daniell Playing Field and Earls Colne Recreation Ground should be explored for the installation of LTA initiatives if not already in place.</p>
Netball	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the North Analysis Area features only three courts from one site, all of which are non-community accessible.</p> <p>All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p>	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the North Analysis Area features only three courts from one site, all of which are non-community accessible.</p> <p>All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p> <p>Littlegarth School should be explored for England Netball initiatives.</p>
Bowls	<p>No provision within catchment, with all sites located in two of the four analysis areas.</p> <p>Demand across Colchester is adequately catered for with existing provision, which should all be protected for long term security.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment, with all sites located in two of the four analysis areas.</p> <p>Demand across Colchester is adequately catered for with existing provision, which should all be protected for long term security.</p>
Athletics	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>
Cycling	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>
Golf	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East and South analysis areas. With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.</p> <p>This adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East and South analysis areas. With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.</p> <p>This adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Other sports	There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the North Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand. The installation of a MUGA in the North Analysis Area should be considered.	There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the North Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand. The installation of a MUGA in the North Analysis Area should be considered.

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Elm Farm, Poors Land and Wormingford Playing Field. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs if appropriate, such as Elm Farm to Feering Falcons FC. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites, such as Littlegarth School. ◀ Improve changing and other facilities where required, such as Poors Land, where no ancillary provision is provided.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Look to provide a full-size pitch within the Analysis Area to cater for the current theoretical shortfall of 1 full sized 3G pitch, a figure that remains unchanged once future demand is considered. Potential sites include Littlegarth School and King George Playing Field (Boxted) both of which require a full feasibility to determine viability.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve existing provision at to enhance square quality and reduce overplay. ◀ Explore the means of installing additional provision as to support existing and future projected shortfalls for all formats of the game, with Langham Recreation Ground as a priority site. ◀ Look to enhance changing rooms and ancillary provision offering where necessary, with key sites including Chappel and Wakes Colne CC. ◀ Work with clubs to improve training facility needs, such as Dedham CC (The Dutchy Field) and its desire for a portable practice net and fixed practice lanes.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Improve quality of existing provision.
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve park courts such as Lorkin Daniell Playing Field and Earls Colne Recreation Ground. Both sites are the only examples of community accessible courts with ancillary provision that does not already have a partnered Club. ◀ Look to install LTA initiatives at sites where they are not already in place.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Consider opening provision to community use, with Littlegarth School outlined as a priority site due to its quality and accompany sports lights.
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.
Other sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ No action required.

**COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
9	Chappel And Wakes Colne Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two cricket squares one of which is a good quality and the other standard quality. Site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision with the Club stating its toilets, changing rooms, social area and overall condition of the building are poor. Actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek demand is present.	Improve maintenance of the second square as to enhance the quality to a good rating. Work towards improving the ancillary provision offering of the site. Utilise identified actual spare capacity.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
10	Chappel C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
26	Elm Farm	Football	Michael Browning Trust	Site has four pitches, two of which are youth 11v11 scale, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch. All pitches are poor quality and accessed by Feering Falcons FC. Youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand and alleviate overplay. Consider re-configuring layout of provision as to alleviate overplay.	Michael Browning Trust Sports Club EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
29	Fordham Heath Playing Field	Football	Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is accessed by Eight Ash Green FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to alleviate overplay.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality square accessed by Eight Ash Green CC. Site is overplayed by 9 MES.	Sustain square quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen. Consider installing additional wickets to the square as to increase overall carrying capacity and reduce overplay.	Council Essex Cricket Board		M	M	M	
30	Fordham Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One poor quality 9v9 pitch that is open to community use but is un-used.	Utilise un-used pitch. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to improve quality and create actual spare capacity that is currently discounted due to quality issues.	Council EFA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
37	Holy Trinity C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
39	King George Playing Field (Boxted)	Football	Council	One adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch all of which are of a standard quality and accessed by Boxted Lodgers FC and Colchester Town Girls FC Adult pitch is overplayed by 1 MES, and mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of 1 MES.	Utilise actual spare capacity. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to improve provision and alleviate overplay. Consider re-configuring layout of provision as to alleviate overplay.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality square with a poor-quality outfield due to rabbit problems, which Boxted CC state it has reported to the Boxted Parish Council who are reportedly working towards addressing.	Work with Boxted Parish Council and the Club to address rabbit issues at the site. Sustain square quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen.	Council Essex Cricket Board		M	M	M	
44	Langham Oaks School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

¹² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
46	Langham Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch accessed by Langham Lodgers FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Council EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Site formerly hosted a Cricket square over 20 years ago that is now outlined to be reinstated. Ipscol CC is outlined to relocate from Suffolk into Essex to utilise the new square.	Undertake the necessary work to re-instate a square at the site as to allow Ipscol CC to relocate. Support Ipscol CC in any other matters regarding its relocation to the site.	Council Essex Cricket Board		H	S	H	
		Tennis		Two standard quality non-sports lit courts accessed by Langham TC. Site is currently operating within LTA guidelines, however if future demand through Club ambitions is achieved it shall be 10 members over capacity.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Explore the possibility of installing sports lights as to enhance tennis offering and reduce the risk of potential undersupply if Club ambitions are achieved.	Council LTA		M	M	M	
51	Littlegarth School	Football	School	One adult, four youth 9v9 and three 5v5 pitches all of which are of a standard quality and not open to community use.	Given the quantity and quality of provision, look to open pitches to community use as to better support football demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby Union		One senior and two junior pitches all of which are poor quality and not open to community use.	Given the quantity of provision, look to open pitches to community use as to better support rugby demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		One non-community accessible square.	Look to open the square to community use as to better support cricket demand.	School Essex Cricket Board		L	L	L	
		Netball		Three non-community accessible, standard quality, sports lit courts.	Protect provision for curricular use. Given the quantity and quality of sports lit provision, look to open courts to community use as to better support netball demand. Site should be considered for being used for England Netball initiatives.	School EN		M	M	L	
52	Lorkin Daniell Playing Field	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch accessed by West Bergholt FC. Site has no actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Council EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Two good quality sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site is one of only two examples in Colchester of community accessible tennis courts with accompanying ancillary provision that does not have a partnered Club.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. If not already in place, look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark and Rally as to better support access to park courts.	Council LTA		M	M	M	
67	Poors Land	Football	Council	Site has one adult, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are of a poor quality. Site is accessed by Bergholt Heath FC who raise frustration with losing access to Orpen Village Hall since Covid. Actual spare capacity on adult pitch is discounted due to poor quality, whilst the 5v5 pitch is overplayed by 1 MES.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand, reduce overplay and create actual spare capacity that is discounted due to capacity issues. Consult with Orpen Village Hall as to enable Bergholt Heath FC to once again access the provision at the site.	Council EFA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
91	The Dutchy Field	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is accessed by Dedham Old Boys FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Council EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality square with good quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Dedham CC and is overplayed by 3 MES. Dedham CC state it has the need for a portable practice net and fixed lane practice nets.	Work with the Club to install a fixed lane practice lane and portable practice net at the site as to better accommodate training demand.	Council Essex Cricket Board		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Site has three good quality macadam courts that are not sports lit and are accessed by Dedham TC. The site is operating well over LTA capacity guidelines (by 200 members) and the Club has further ambitions to gain a further 50 members.	Given the quantity of demand on site and lack of sports lighting, look to install accompanying sports lights as to reduce capacity issues identified as a way of extending usage of existing provision and providing a more year-round offer for tennis. This will enable shortfalls on capacity to be reduced. Explore the possibility to increase the number of courts provided on site.	Council LTA		M	M	M	
104	West Bergholt Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality square with standard quality ancillary provision. Site is accessed by West Bergholt CC and has overplay of 39 MES. Site single-handedly contributes to half of the identified overplay in all of Colchester.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand and reduce overplay. Given the identified demand, explore possibilities of accessing a second site as to reduce overplay.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
109	Wormingford Playing Field	Football	Council	One adult and one 9v9 pitch both of which are of a poor quality with good quality accompanying ancillary provision. Site is accessed by Great Horkeley FC and Wormingford Wanderers FC. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand and create actual spare capacity.	Council EFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
132	Earls Colne Recreation Club	Cricket	Council	One standard quality square with a poor-quality outfield due to peripheral building work having left frequent stones and worn patches left due to recreational football demand. Site is accessed by Earls Colne CC and has actual spare capacity for Saturday, Sunday and Midweek demand.	Work towards improving the quality of the outfield with frequent checks for stones from ground staff. Utilise actual spare capacity.	Council Essex Cricket Board	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Four good quality, sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site is one of only two examples in Colchester of community accessible tennis courts with accompanying ancillary provision that does not have a partnered Club.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. If not already in place, look to install LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark and Rally as to better support access to park courts.	Council LTA		M	M	M	

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SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sports pitch summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2033)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	South	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
	Colchester	Adult	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 24.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 13.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
Football (3G pitches)	South	Full size, sports lit	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.75
	Colchester		Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.5
Cricket	South	Saturday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
		Sunday	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
		Midweek	Shortfall of 22	Shortfall of 22
	Colchester	Saturday	Shortfall of 54	Shortfall of 102
		Sunday	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 30
		Midweek	At capacity	Shortfall of 24
Rugby Union	South	Senior	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 9
	Colchester	Senior	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Colchester	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

Non-pitch sports summary

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	<p>The Glebe (West Mersea) resembles the only tennis courts in the South Analysis Area. It offers a range of surfaces and quality of courts.</p> <p>The site is accessed by West Mersea TC and is currently operating within LTA guidelines.</p>	<p>The Glebe (West Mersea) resembles the only tennis courts in the South Analysis Area. It offers a range of surfaces and quality of courts.</p> <p>West Mersea TC has future growth ambitions that shall make the Club over capacity if achieved.</p>

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Netball	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of sports lighting and a limited community offering. In the South Analysis Area, the four courts provided at Leisure World Tiptree resemble the only sports lit community accessible provision. All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p>	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of sports lighting and a limited community offering. In the South Analysis Area, the four courts provided at Leisure World Tiptree resemble the only sports lit community accessible provision. All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p> <p>Provision found at Leisure World Tiptree should be explored for implementing England Netball initiatives.</p>
Bowls	<p>Three bowling greens are located in the South Analysis Area, two of which are overplayed. The sites in question are Warriors Rest Bowls and West Mersea BC.</p> <p>Overuse at each site is marginal and manageable.</p>	<p>If future demand through Club ambitions are achieved, Warriors Rest Bowls and West Mersea BC both have ambitions to increase in membership figures which shall further exacerbate shortfalls.</p>
Athletics	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>
Cycling	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>
Golf	<p>The South Analysis Area provides one diving range.</p> <p>All standard hole golf courses are based in Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>The South Analysis Area provides one diving range.</p> <p>All standard hole golf courses are based in Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>
Other sports	<p>There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the South Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand.</p> <p>The installation of a MUGA in the South Analysis Area should be considered.</p>	<p>There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the South Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand.</p> <p>The installation of a MUGA in the South Analysis Area should be considered.</p>

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as The Glebe (West Mersea) and Leisure World Tiptree. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs where appropriate. ◀ Consider reconfiguration of pitch layouts at sites such as Warriors Rest. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites. Also look to utilise the one community use pitch at Colchester United (Florence Park Training Ground) for use outside of Colchester FC. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as Birch Park.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Consider installation of an additional pitch as to address the shortfall of 0.5 pitches within the analysis area, with The Glebe (West Mersea) outlined as a priority site in the LFFP.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve square quality at The Glebe (West Mersea) as to reduce overplay. ◀ Support West Mersea CC in its efforts to improve the fixed practice lane and portable practice net at The Glebe (West Mersea). ◀ Support the Mersea Island Sports Association in its use of section 106 funds as to improve the ancillary provision of The Glebe (West Mersea).
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Continue work spent on improving quality of pitches at The Glebe (West Mersea) as to reduce overplay. ◀ Explore the feasibility of increasing sports lighting at The Glebe (West Mersea).
Hockey	◀ No action required.
Golf	◀ Protect provision.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve green quality at standard quality sites such as Mersea Island BC.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Seek to improve grass courts at The Glebe (West Mersea) as to provide West Mersea TC with better quality provision.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Consider utilising Leisure World Tiptree for England Netball initiatives given the quantity and quality of sports lit courts.
Cycling	◀ No action required.
Athletics	◀ No action required.
Other sports	◀ No action required.

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
1	Abberton Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square with good quality ancillary provision. Site is overplayed by 15 MES per season. Having installed a ball striking net on one side of the site, the Club now has another ongoing ball striking issue that the Club is looking to address.	Sustain square quality through current regime as to support the identified demand seen. Look to increase the number of wickets on site as to increase the overall carrying capacity of the site and reduce overplay. If not already undertaken, commit to implementing a technical ball strike assessment to determine the most appropriate options to mitigate all known ball striking issues.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
2	Baynards Primary School	Netball	School	One standard quality, non-sports lit court with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Birch C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Birch Park	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch all of which are of a standard quality. Site has accompanying poor quality ancillary provision. Youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity of 1 MES.	Look to improve the ancillary provision provided. Utilise actual spare capacity identified. Improve pitch quality through a more thorough maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Sports Club EFA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
21	Colchester United (Florence Park Training Ground)	Football	Professional Sports Club	Five good quality adult pitches, one of which has a community use agreement in place but is un-used outside of Colchester United FC.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Look to partner with a Club to utilise the one community accessible pitch for use other than Colchester United FC.	Professional Sports Club EFA FF	Local	M	L	L	Protect Provide
28	Fingringhoe Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Site formerly hosted one adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are now disused.	Protect provision from development in accordance with Sport England's policy exceptions as pitches currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls.	Council EFA FF	Local	H	L	H	Protect
48	Layer De La Haye Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Netball		One poor quality concrete court with no sports lights or community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EN		L	L	L	
49	Layer De La Haye Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality and un-used.	Improve pitch quality through a more thorough maintenance regime as to support community demand. Look to utilise un-used pitch.	Council EFA FF	Local	H	S	L	Protect
50	Leisure World Tiptree	Football	Council	Two adult, two youth 11v11, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all of which are standard quality. Site has actual spare capacity for 2 MES.	Utilise actual spare capacity identified. Improve pitch quality through a more thorough maintenance regime as to support community demand.	Council EFA FF	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		3G		One standard quality, full sized, sports lit, community accessible 3G pitch. Provision was last resurfaced in 2017.	Utilise un-used pitch access as to better support football training demand.	Council EFA FF SE		H	L	H	

¹⁴ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
		Netball		Four good quality, macadam, sports lit courts that are open to community use.	Protect provision for curricular use. Given the quantity and quality of sports lit provision, site should be considered for being used for England Netball initiatives.	Council EN		M	L	L	
54	Mersea Island School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		Netball		One poor quality concrete court with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EN		L	L	L	
59	Milldene Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
82	St Lukes C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch accessed by Torque speed FC.	Improve pitch quality through a more thorough maintenance regime as to support community demand.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
93	The Glebe (West Mersea)	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are poor quality and open to community use. Site is accessed by Mersea Island FC and Oyster FC and is highlighted in the LFFP for the installation of a 3G pitch. Section 106 funds have been provided to the site which the Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) is intending to invest into its ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Look to utilise section 106 funds available as to enhance ancillary provision provided, as well as any other potential projects decided by the Mersea Island Sports Association.	Sports Club EFA FF SE	Key Centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Site has two standard quality squares both providing six wickets that are accessed by West Mersea CC. West Mersea CC stress the need for a new portable cage and a replacement surface of its ten year old fixed practice lane. Provision is overplayed by seven MES across both squares combined. Section 106 funds have been provided to the site which the Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) is intending to invest into its ancillary provision.	Improve square quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand and reduce overplay. Work towards providing the Club with a new portable cage and replacement surface of its ten-year-old fixed practice lane. Look to utilise section 106 funds available as to enhance ancillary provision provided, as well as any other potential projects decided by the Mersea Island Sports Association.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board SE		H	M	H	
		Rugby Union		Site has two standard quality senior pitches that have received pitch improvement work over 2022, which the Club confirm has worked in reducing the weeds identified. Site is accessed by Mersea Island RUFC and is overplayed by 8 MES. Section 106 funds have been provided to the site which the Mersea Island Sports Association (MISA) is intending to invest into its ancillary provision.	Continue pitch improvements as to further enhance the quality of the provision and reduce overplay. Look to utilise section 106 funds available as to enhance ancillary provision provided, as well as any other potential projects decided by the Mersea Island Sports Association.	Sports Club RFU SE		H	M	H	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵	Aim
		Tennis		Site has three good quality macadam and three standard quality grass courts. Macadam courts are sports lit, whilst grass courts are not. West Mersea TC accessing the provision, and is operating within LTA guidelines, but shall be over capacity if future demand Club ambitions are achieved.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime.	Sports Club LTA SE		L	L	L	
98	Tiptree Heath Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
103	Warriors Rest	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch all of which are good quality and accessed by Colchester United FC and Tiptree Jobserve FC. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Consider reconfiguration of provision as to reduce overplay.	Sports Club EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		3G		One standard quality 57m x 39m domed 3G pitch that was installed in 2016.	Utilise pitch access is maximised as to support football training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the provision.	Sports Club EFA FF		L	L	L	
113	Mersea Island BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green accessed by Mersea Island BC.	Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support demand.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
114	Warriors Rest Bowls	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by Tiptree Jobserve BC. Site is 29 members over capacity, with the Club hoping to gain a further 10 members.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Ensure demand is managed effectively.	Sports Club BE	Local	M	L	L	Protect
116	West Mersea BC	Lawn Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green accessed by West Mersea BC. Site is 35 members over recommended capacity, with the Club hoping to gain a further 10 members.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Ensure demand is managed effectively.	Sports Club BE	Local	M	L	L	Protect
126	Tiptree Golf Driving Range	Golf	Private	One privately ran, covered sports lit driving range.	Protect for community use.	Private EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect
137	Waldegraves Holiday Park	Golf	Private	One privately ran, nine- hole crazy golf course.	Protect for community use.	Private EG	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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WEST ANALYSIS AREA

Sports pitch summary

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand		Future demand (2033)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions	Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions
Football (grass pitches)	West	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Colchester	Adult	Shortfall of 8.5	Shortfall of 24.5
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 13.5
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 6.5	Spare capacity of 6.5
Football (3G pitches)	West	Full size, sports lit	At capacity	At capacity
	Colchester		Shortfall of 5.75	Shortfall of 6.5
Cricket	West	Saturday	At capacity	At capacity
		Sunday	At capacity	At capacity
		Midweek	At capacity	At capacity
	Colchester	Saturday	Shortfall of 54	Shortfall of 102
		Sunday	Shortfall of 18	Shortfall of 30
		Midweek	At capacity	Shortfall of 24
Rugby Union	West	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Colchester	Senior	Shortfall of 7	Shortfall of 7
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Colchester	Full size, sports lit	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.	Sufficient supply of provision following the replacement surface at University of Essex Sports Centre and the existing good quality pitch at Colchester Garrison Athletics Stadium.

Non-pitch sports summary

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Tennis	Holmwood House Preparatory School offers the only community accessible provision within the Analysis Area. Site offers six good quality courts, three of which are domed covered.	Holmwood House Preparatory School offers the only community accessible provision within the Analysis Area. Site offers six good quality courts, three of which are domed covered.

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Sport	Current picture	Future picture
	Provision is accessed by Lexden Rackets and Fitness TC who are operating within LTA guidelines.	Future demand through Club ambitions does not result in Lexden Rackets and Fitness TC to operate outside LTA guidelines.
Netball	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of sports lighting and a limited community offering. In the West Analysis Area, Stanway School provides the only community accessible provision, however they are not serviced with sports lights.</p> <p>All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p>	<p>Whilst there is a large quantity of netball courts provided in Colchester, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand due to a variety of factors including poor quality, a lack of sports lighting and a limited community offering. In the West Analysis Area, Stanway School provides the only community accessible provision, however they are not serviced with sports lights.</p> <p>Provision at Stanway School should look to install sports lights as to enhance offering and better support Netball demand.</p> <p>All demand is adequately catered for with the Colchester Netball League in the Central/ East Analysis Area.</p>
Bowls	<p>No provision within catchment, with all sites located in two of the four analysis areas.</p> <p>Demand across Colchester is adequately catered for with existing provision, which should all be protected for long term security.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment, with all sites located in two of the four analysis areas.</p> <p>Demand across Colchester is adequately catered for with existing provision, which should all be protected for long term security.</p>
Athletics	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East. This serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>
Cycling	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>	<p>Respectable demand for cycling is identified within Colchester, especially through latent demand. As it is, likely that the majority of this is for cycling via the road network, and with three cycling clubs in existence, focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.</p>
Golf	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East and South analysis areas. With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.</p> <p>This adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>	<p>No provision within catchment. All provision based in Central/ East and South analysis areas. With four golf facilities in Colchester, supply is good for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses and driving ranges both supplied.</p> <p>This adequately serves all demand across Colchester. Need to protect quality and improve when needed in the future.</p>

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Sport	Current picture	Future picture
Other sports	<p>There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the West Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand.</p> <p>The installation of a MUGA in the West Analysis Area should be considered.</p>	<p>There is no demand or supply identified for American Football, Rugby League or MUGA's in the West Analysis Area of Colchester. All supply for other sports is provided for in the Central/ East Analysis Area which adequately caters for American Football and Rugby League demand.</p> <p>The installation of a MUGA in the West Analysis Area should be considered.</p>

Overarching recommendations

Sport	Priority recommendations
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Marks Tey Playing Fields. ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand. ◀ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Stanway School, with the site in the process of finalising a long-term use agreement of the 3G pitch with Stanway Pegasus FC. ◀ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs. ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites such as Holmwood House Preparatory School. ◀ Improve changing facilities where required, such as Marks Tey Playing Fields.
3G pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place. ◀ Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches. ◀ Finalise any details as to allow Stanway Pegasus to utilise Stanway School for first team fixtures as to reach step 6 compliancy.
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Look to open provision at Holmwood House Preparatory School to community use given the quantity of provision.
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Look to open provision at Holmwood House Preparatory School to community use given the quantity of provision.
Hockey	◀ No action required.
Golf	◀ No action required.
Bowls	◀ No action required.
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Ensure that the bubble dome at Holmwood House Preparatory School is effectively maintained as required.
Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Protect provision. ◀ Look to increase sports lighting at Stanway School as to improve the overall offering. ◀ Look to utilise Stanway School for England Netball initiatives.
Cycling	◀ No action required.
Athletics	◀ No action required.
Other sports	◀ No action required.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷	Aim
23	Copford C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Retain for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
24	Copford Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square with a standard quality ancillary provision. Site is played at capacity.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime.	Sports Club Essex Cricket Board	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
36	Holmwood House Preparatory School	Football	School	Two 5v5 and two 9v9 pitches all of which are standard quality and not open to community use.	Given the quantity and quality of provision, consider granting community access to pitches as to better support football demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		Site has seven grass wicket squares, four of which are only capable of accommodating junior demand due to the size of the boundary. All provision is not open to community use.	Given the quantity and quality of provision, consider granting community access to pitches as to better support cricket demand.	School Essex Cricket Board		L	L	L	
		Rugby		Four standard quality, non-sports lit, junior pitches that are open to community use but are un-used. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to un-secure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Look to work with local Rugby Clubs to utilise actual spare capacity.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Six good quality, sports lit macadam courts that are open to community use and accessed by Lexden Rackets and Fitness TC. Provision has a bubble dome for its courts, making it one of three sites with domed courts. Lexden Rackets and Fitness TC are operating within LTA guidelines both currently and if Club growth ambitions are achieved.	Protect for curricular and community use. Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime. Ensure maintenance of the domed bubble is thorough as to prolong its use.	School LTA		M	M	L	
		Netball		Three good quality, sports lit macadam courts that are not open to community use.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School EN		L	L	L	
43	Lakelands Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect
		3G		One 60m x 40m 3G pitch installed in 2022 that is open to community use and managed by SchoolHire. The site does not have any accompanying floodlights and cannot be used in evenings.	Protect for curricular and community use and explore options to provide sports lighting to provide an improved community offer to users. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for the existing surface.	School EFA, FF		M	L	L	
		Netball		One standard quality concrete, non-sports lit court with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EN		L	L	L	

¹⁶ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷	Aim
53	Marks Tey Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches accessed by Coggeshall United FC and Marks Tey FC. Marks Tey FC state the ancillary provision is in need of improving as visiting teams frequently complain about the quality and quantity of changing rooms on site. The Club report its changing facilities feature broken windows, no flooring, showers or proper seating.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Work with Coggeshall United FC to improve the ancillary provision offering.	Council EFA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
85	St. Andrews C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 7v7 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
86	Stanway Fiveways Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality 5v5 pitch with no community use.	Protect for curricular use.	School EFA, FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		3G		One good quality, 36m x 19m sports lit 3G pitch with no community use. Provision was first installed in 2018.	Protect for curricular use. Given the accompanying sports lights, look to open provision to community use as to increase revenue and better support training demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.	School EFA FF SE		M	S	M	
87	Stanway Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are open to community use but un-used. Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Look to partner with a football Club as to utilise spare capacity.	School EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
88	Stanway Rovers Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch, accessed by Ability Using Sports FC and Stanway Rovers FC. Site is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to support community demand. Where possible, look to shift demand from site as to reduce overplay.	Sports Club EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
89	Stanway School	Football	School	One poor quality 9v9 pitch accessed by Stanway Pegasus FC and Stanway Rovers FC.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community and curricular demand.	School EFA FF	Key Centre	L	L	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Rugby Union		One poor quality senior pitch that is open to community use and is un-used.	Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		3G		One standard quality full sized 3G pitch. Provision was installed in 2016 and has the same surface. Stanway Pegasus FC is finalising a ten-year formal use agreement for access to its 3G pitch for its first team, currently at Step 6.	Protect for curricular and community use. Work with Stanway Pegasus FC to ensure the Club reaches an agreement with the site as to enable step 6 ground grading to be reached. If Club progresses to Step 5 look to work with the School and Club as to enable necessary ground grading upgrades to be reached. Look to maximise pitch allocation as to increase revenue and better support football training demand.	School EFA FF SE		H	S	M	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷	Aim
					Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of provision.						
		Tennis		Five standard quality macadam courts with no sports lighting or community use.	Protect for curricular use. Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.	School LTA					
		Netball		Three standard quality, non-sports lit courts that are open to community use.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Look to install sports lights to provision as to better support Netball demand. Given the quantity and quality of provision, look to utilise provision for England Netball initiatives over summer months due to the lack of sports lighting.	School EN					
90	Stanway Village Playing Fields	Football	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are good quality following investment from the Football Foundation into pitch improvements. Site is accessed by Stanway Villa FC and is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Sustain current quality of provision through a thorough maintenance regime as to support demand. Look to balance demand on site as to keep overplay as minimal as possible.	Sports Club EFA FF	Local	L	L	L	Enhance Protect
119	Best Western Marks Tey Hotel	Tennis	Private	Two poor quality, sports lit concrete courts that are not open to community use.	Protect for use for use of hotel guests.	Private LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts to 2033 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenario below is provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Colchester, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports lit grass pitches (rugby).

The scenario is based on one development already planned in Colchester and Tendring, which is as follows:

- ◀ Scenario One – Colchester and Tendring Borders Garden Community – 17,150 population increase.

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Scenario One – Colchester and Tendring Borders Garden Community

Table 7.1: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator results – 17,150 population increase¹⁸

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ¹⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁰	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	(6) 6.56	£702,991	£148,331	13.13	£2,527,422
Youth football	(7) 7.44	£645,241	£135,501	10.04	£1,932,078
Mini soccer	(3) 3.36	£102,916	£21,612	0.00	£0
Rugby union	(1) 0.97	£158,129	£33,840	1.94	£373,086
Rugby league	(0) 0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	(1) 1.53	£515,150	£104,060	3.06	£589,300
Sand based AGPs	(0) 0.11	£93,464	£2,897	0.21	£41,027
3G	(1) 0.91	£1,002,397	£36,361	1.83	£352,004

The results of the PPC identify an indicative need for 16 grass football pitches, one senior rugby union pitch, one cricket square and one full size third generation (3G) pitch. There is no identified need for either new dedicated rugby league provision or for hockey suitable artificial grass pitches. However, a residual demand increase is expected for hockey which will likely extend to pressure on existing facilities and as such contributions to the sport should still be sought.

The totality of need (including that of associated ancillary provision i.e., car parking, clubhouses, changing rooms etc) relates to a significant supply of required provision to meet the needs of the new population generated from the TCBGC.

Consideration must be given to how this increased supply of new provision can best be provided for. Supplying all provision on one site is unlikely to be operationally viable and as such, a multi-site offer is likely to be the most suitable approach. Education sites (particularly secondary schools) can play a role in providing for certain provision types (i.e., tennis, netball, and artificial surfaces) but not for grass pitches. Sport England and sports governing bodies do not see grass pitches at school sites as being sufficient to meet both curricular demand as well as community demand due to the restricted carrying capacity of this surface type, as well as the requirement for educational needs to take priority over community needs. On this basis, demand for grass pitches should be provided for outside of a school setting.

It is more likely that dedicated community sports hubs would provide better outcomes, provide better quality maintenance opportunities and be more accessible for residents and user groups, particularly across daytime hours.

In addition to newly dedicated provision, developer contributions could be sought as an option to increase the capacity and user experience of existing sites within the locality of the development. This could in theory reduce the need to provide the full extent of provision identified within the PPC, particularly for football pitches, but should only be considered if it has agreement from Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.

¹⁸ To establish PPC results team generation rates for Colchester have been utilised in agreement with both Councils

¹⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2022 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/facility-cost-guidance>)

²⁰ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

Tennis/netball courts and bowling greens

The broad position from both the playing pitch and outdoor sport strategies is that there is a sufficient supply of tennis/netball courts and bowling greens. In most cases, and as considered below further in the report, developer contributions are much likely better spent on improving the key sites within the locality of the development such as Colchester Tennis World and several bowling green sites (identified in Table 3) to maximise the existing facility stock and increase capacity for new users, as opposed to providing new provision.

It should be, however, noted that the development of a dual tennis and netball offer with sports lighting at a new education site with secured community access would also be welcomed by both the LTA and England Netball and this would likely feature as a curricular essential regardless. In this case, engagement with the LTA and England Netball about best practise of operating facilities such as these for community usage and engagement will be essential. This offer may well provide residents of the new development with closer facilities than those potentially improved and as such may be a more suitable outcome as it will work to serve a dual outcome with curricular and community need.

New educational provision

New schools, and in particular, secondary schools, often provide suitable land for the creation of new sports provision which can assist in meeting demand from new population, as well as satisfying demand for curricular need. When establishing new school sites, suitable community use access (including accessible ancillary provision etc) should be built into masterplans. A joint use facility should be designed for community access including, but not limited to, the location of the 3G/pitches, car parking, changing room access etc. Further to this, community use agreements (CUAs) should be established as part of the planning conditions and must be robust with clear commitments to maintenance standards.

Although exact details cannot be detailed at this stage of what will be required to meet curricular needs, artificial provision (3G pitches) at secondary schools are generally considered sustainable, and supported by the Football Foundation, given they provide suitable provision for curricular, extracurricular and community demand throughout the week.

As an example of the above, the outdoor sporting facility mix for a school should first and foremost focus on needs of students. As previously mentioned, grass pitches on school sites should be primarily provided for curricular need. Sport England holds the view that it is unlikely pitches at school sites can adequately accommodate for both curricular demand as well as consistent community demand.

On this basis, identified demand for natural turf grass pitches from a community perspective should be met away from education sites. However, for tennis, netball and third generation artificial grass pitches, a school could play an adequate role in servicing this community led demand.

Rugby union

The PPC suggests a need for one full size senior rugby union pitch to be provided to meet demand from new development. In the case of rugby union, clubs in both Colchester and Tendring would be unlikely to access provision off site (as is the case currently) and for this reason, an off-site developer contribution would be better served in meeting new demand through the improvement of an existing club/s. This is further explored below. There may remain a need to provide a rugby union pitch at a secondary school site for the purposes of curricular demand.

Cricket

The PPC identifies a need for 1.53 cricket squares due to associated population increase related to the Garden Community development. For cricket in particular, it will be prudent to plan for two full squares on the same site. This will be to account for housing growth not captured within ONS forecasts as part of the PPOSS Assessment. A second square could initially have a non-turf-pitch designed primarily for youth cricket and training needs of teams but designed to accommodate a secondary fine turf square in the future, once demand is fully established.

Sporting hubs

Community sport hubs and associated sports clubs can play a key role in delivering sporting opportunities within communities and help aspiring participants and athletes develop and learn. These should be developed when opportunities permit to meet demand from developments such as at TCBGC. Typically, a sports hub would comprise of the following characteristics:

- ◀ Three or more grass pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitch (with sports lighting)
- ◀ Single or multi-sport offer to support winter and summer sports
- ◀ A secure management and ownership position allowing for full community access
- ◀ Good quality ancillary provision with sufficient changing rooms, social space and car parking for associated levels of demand

In the case of TCBGC, as there is a significant need for associated sports provision there is an opportunity to consider the development of one or more sporting hubs which are separate to any educational sports provision (albeit these could overlap in terms of shared use of court and artificial grass facilities). Sports pavilions/clubs can be integrated into shared use community centres so opportunities for shared provision should be explored to reduce capital and maintenance costs and for this reason co-location of new school provision and sporting hubs should be explored as there may be potential to share infrastructure such as carparking.

To fully meet the need of community demand deriving from the PPC there is a requirement to create a minimum of 16 football pitches and cricket provision, however, it is unlikely to be operationally suitable to deliver this at just one sporting hub. It is also the case that it may not be conducive to the overall phasing position of the development scheme. Therefore, two smaller hub sites could also be an option and allow the phasing of the development to fit better within master planning. As an example, two smaller hub sites could have the following facility mixes:

Table 7.2: Example accommodating TCBGC across two sites

Hub One	Hub Two
4 x adult football pitch	2 x adult football pitch
2 x youth 11v11 football pitches	3 x youth 11v11 football pitches
1 x cricket square (with the scope for a second to be established in the future on the same site)	2 x youth 9v9 football pitch
1 x alternate athletics facility	3 x mini football pitches

These two sites are just examples of how provision could be provided, however, providing two sites with each having a focus on team ages may be more suitable. i.e., one site for adult participation and the other youth and junior football.

This is due to sites accommodating for these age ranges typically having differing ancillary needs. This should be considered further in consultation with Sport England and the relevant NGBs.

Note, this example assumes a full size third generation artificial pitch with sports lighting is provided at a secondary school with secured community use. It could, however, also be a key element of one of the hub sites instead of a school, if sports lighting is provided with the pitch.

Both sites would require a suitable supply of ancillary provision and associated infrastructure to supporting the needs of each site. A need to engage with both Sport England and the relevant NGBs is also essential to define the site specifics and to ensure the needs of clubs/users are as best met as possible.

Broad Lane Playing Fields

Wivenhoe Tempest FC access Broad Lane Sports Ground for its home fixtures for which it has 75 years remaining on a lease signed with Wivenhoe and District Sports Facilities Trust in 1996. The site is operating at capacity and has no opportunity to accommodate new/increased demand at peak periods. An extension of this site through creating new playing field on adjacent land would provide users a good opportunity to expand the site and be a good option to the existing infrastructure. The Club is also one of the closest to the TCBGC development and as such would likely see one of the highest associated increases of demand.

Linking to this site and creating new playing field (as to develop one of the hub sites) or even partially increasing available playing field land (and reducing pitch numbers at a new hub site/sites) would be recommended to best meet associated demand from the development. If this site was to be selected for associated capacity and quality improvements, the existing pavilion and carparking capacity of the site would require both improvement and extension.

Alternative athletics provision

England Athletics confirms it is adopting a new approach to facility planning that can enable local councils to install new athletics provision at a much more affordable cost than a traditional 400m synthetic track.

The first of the three alternative designs is a 'compact track' featuring a 60m sprint straight with an accompanying jump lane and shot-put space. This provision is the smallest of the three and is installed at sites with limited available land. A 'mini track' features a 140m four lane oval track with a six lane 60m sprint, as well as accompanying shot put and jumping provision.

An advantage to a mini track design is it leaves a large space in the centre of the oval track to be used for either various field events such as long jump/ triple jump, or alternatively it can be used for other sports such as football pitches or an outdoor gym. Mini track sites also feature a new design of shot-put practice areas, in which it flattens a natural slope and athletes throw into a hill allowing for the put to roll back to the participant thus reducing time spent retrieving the put after each throw.

Finally, an 'active track' is a synthetic loop with no fixed shape or distance (much like a formula 1 circuit), in which a track is drawn to fit its natural surroundings such as an existing park or school field. This is installed at sites where a 400m oval would not be feasible as it allows for adaptations to the shape in order to suit land in its current state.

These three designs present alternative approaches to athletics provision as to offer more affordable and feasible means of creating athletics tracks. In the main, there is no specific need for new dedicated 400m tracks in either Colchester or Tendring. However, a compact, alternate facility offer as part of a sporting hub design (i.e., a sprint track or mini track) alongside playing field or adjacent to it, where users have full access to on-site ancillary facilities should be encouraged and promoted. This will require further consultation with England Athletics which will be able to advise on suitable provision for this scheme.

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Off-site contribution to improve the quality of provision

The Sport England PPC requirements for TCBGC could also partially be met through off site contributions, improving sites within the locality of the development to increase capacity and user experience. There may be an option to deliver some off site contributions at an early stage of the development prior to some of the major infrastructure developments (e.g. schools, sports facilities) being delivered. This may also help to demonstrate localised benefit at an early stage of the development. Potential sites which could be considered are as follows:

Table 7.3: Potential developer contributions options

Site and distance to TCBGC development	LA	Sport	Current provision	Contribution	Comments
The Garrison (4 miles)	Colchester	Hockey	1 x hockey AGP	Pro rata sinking fund	To meet increase in hockey demand arising from development, a pro rata contribution to pitch sinking fund would be a suitable contribution for hockey.
Essex University (1 mile)	Colchester	Hockey	1 x hockey AGP	Pro rata sinking fund	To meet increase in hockey demand arising from development, a pro rata contribution to pitch sinking fund would be a suitable contribution for hockey.
Mile End Sports Ground (5.7 miles)	Colchester	Football	5 x football pitches	Pitch improvements	Poor quality pitches with identified overplay.
Colchester Tennis World (5.5 miles)	Colchester	Tennis	10 x courts	Court improvements	Improve recreational tennis offer. Currently mixed quality. Explore options to create netball opportunities outside of those currently taking place at Gilbert School.
Shrub End (5.7 miles)	Colchester	Football	7 x football pitches	Pitch improvements	Standard quality pitches which accommodate a significant amount of demand from several clubs.

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Site and distance to TCBGC development	LA	Sport	Current provision	Contribution	Comments
Spring Lane (5.2 miles)	Colchester	Football	6 x football pitches	Pitch improvements	Mixture of standard and good pitches. Site is overplayed.
Wivenhoe Bowls Club (3.7 miles)	Colchester	Bowls	1 x bowling green	Green quality and ancillary improvement	The Club has a strong membership. Improvements to overall site will support existing and any future growth.
West End Bowls Club (5.7 miles)	Colchester	Bowls	2 x bowling green	Green quality and ancillary improvement	The Club has a strong membership. Improvements to overall site will support existing and any future growth.
Old Heath Bowls Club (3.6 miles)	Colchester	Bowls	2 x bowling green	Green quality and ancillary improvement	The Club has a strong membership. Improvements to overall site will support existing and any future growth.
Wivenhoe Tennis Club (3.8 miles)	Colchester	Tennis	4 x courts	Changing room improvements	Good quality site but poor changing rooms. Scope to increase demand at the site and improve user experience
Strangers Corner Sports Complex (7.8 miles)	Tendring	Rugby Union	3 x rugby union pitches	Pitch/drainage improvements Floodlighting	Brightlingsea RFC home venue. Site overplayed due to poor pitch quality/drainage issues.
Bayard Recreation Ground (9.2 miles)	Tendring	Cricket	1 x cricket square	Improvement to cricket square and outfield. New clubhouse	Home to Brightlingsea CC. The clubhouse and associated facilities likely to be condemned in next several years.

Note, this is not an exhaustive list and other options could be considered which are highlighted from both Sport England and NGBs.

Conclusion

There is a need to develop new playing pitch and outdoor sport provision to accommodate for the levels of demand associated with TCBGC. This will best be met through the development of or two sporting hub sites which predominately, but not exclusively accommodate for football.

The need from the Sport England PPC is as such:

- ◀ 6 (6.56) x adult football
- ◀ 7 (7.44) x youth football
- ◀ 3 (3.36) x mini football
- ◀ 1 (1.53) x cricket squares (with the potential for a secondary square added to the same site in the future)
- ◀ 1 (0.91) x full size third generational artificial pitch (with sports lighting)

There is no need for new rugby league or for artificial grass pitch hockey provision (albeit an appropriate contribution to hockey should be sought). For tennis and netball, the development of provision at a secondary school site is likely the best outcome to meet new demand, on the basis provision has accompanying sports lighting and a secure community use arrangement is in place.

For bowling greens, a developer contribution to improve existing sites is the most appropriate outcome. The nearest sites to the development at Wivenhoe and Old Heath bowling clubs.

Likewise, it is also recommended that off-site developer contributions are secured for rugby union, Strangers Corner Sports Complex is the nearest site with the most obvious need for improvement, but the RFU should be consulted to confirm where it would like to see a contribution spent.

Alternate athletics provision should also be considered and intertwined with any design at new hub sites (including school sites) to support health and wellbeing of residents and users.

These recommendations sit outside of the need for curricular uses of school playing field and these should be designed in the first instance of satisfying school demand.

PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Colchester based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Colchester. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the City can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g., the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g., the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings.

The NGBs are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

Checklists

In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	

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6.	Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7.	Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8.	Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9.	Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10.	Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11.	Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12.	Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13.	Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14.	Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	
15.	Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16.	Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17.	Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18.	Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy		✓	
1.	Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		
2.	Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3.	Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4.	Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5.	Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6.	Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		

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2.	Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3.	Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date			
1.	Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2.	Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3.	Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4.	Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5.	Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6.	Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

For more information, see: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:

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Recover and reinvent: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

Connecting communities: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

Positive experiences for children and young people: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

Connecting with health and wellbeing: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

Active environments: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

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

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

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

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

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will, however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

Essex FA aims and objectives

In conjunction with the LFFP, Essex FA has outlined released a 'Moving Forward 2024' strategy looking to united grassroots environment which delivers football opportunity for all.

With regards to facilities, the strategy has the goal develop a sustainable network of quality football facilities across the county which allows participation to continue to sustain and grow. It outlines four key areas of focus in order to achieve such a goal which are as follows:

- ◀ Work with local authority network and other partners to address shortfalls in 3G provision through actively developing projects identified in Local Football Facility Plans, targeting £2 million of total project cost investment in each year of the strategy.
- ◀ Work with our grass pitch operators to improve a minimum of 328 pitches to a good standard across the country, utilising Grounds Maintenance Associate expertise, Pitch Power and respective Football Foundation opportunities.
- ◀ Support our grassroots club network to access relevant funding opportunities which improve the training and matchday environment.
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England and our local authorities to respond to planning applications which influence future facility development to service grassroots football.

Through outlining these goals, Essex FA hopes to improve the overall football experience within both Colchester and all of the County through tackling a wide range of issues from grass pitch improvements, the development of 3G pitches and other associated planning applications.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2019-2024)

"Inspiring Generations" is the new ECB participation strategy which was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women's and girls' cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

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

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan 2021 onwards

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.EnglandHockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
<http://www.EnglandHockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)

- The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

Bowls England: Fit for the Future (2021-2026)

Bowls England's new Strategy; 'Fit For The Future' frames an exciting course for the sport. The five-year plan has been designed with the ultimate goal of getting more people playing & enjoying bowls. It sets out its vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get it to the target of 1 million bowls experiences per year by 2026 are:

- ◀ Building the brand of bowls by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls, and utilizing opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage;
- ◀ Ensuring the sport is truly accessible to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways;

- ◀ Creating positive playing experiences for everyone who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
- ◀ Putting volunteers first, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs in order to empower them to thrive;
- ◀ Leading the sport with purpose by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - ◀ The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball

In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.

England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.

COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to:-

- ◀ accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
- ◀ elevate the visibility of the sport, and
- ◀ lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.

At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, with its proud and unique female foundations, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.

Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.

The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.

Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Working with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation.

The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.

The elite game is in focus too, with the ambition for the Vitality Roses to be the best female sports team in the world, supporting the national team to consistently win on the world stage, with an outstanding talent pathway in place to fuel sustainable successes on court, and setting new standards for netball. The professionalisation of the game over the next decade is a priority, focusing on growing world-leading international and domestic competitions and events, and creating more careers in the sport.

Grounded in feedback from the Netball Family, with over 3,000 members and stakeholders consulted as part of the strategic process to understand what they wanted netball to 'look like' in 2031, the plan is aspirational and ambitious and sees the organisation pledge to continue to be a trailblazer for women's sport as it embarks on its new adventure.

Facility Development

The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to:-

- ◀ Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives;
- ◀ Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level;
- ◀ Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

- ◀ For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that:-
- ◀ Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and art courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- ◀ Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- ◀ Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- ◀ Supports the installation of sports lights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- ◀ Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- ◀ Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".