KNIGHT, KAVANAGH & PAGE

THURROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY

STRATEGY REPORT
OCTOBER 2025

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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

Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS 1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION 2
PART 2: VISION AND AIMS 5
PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS 6
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 10
4.1: Football 10
4.2: Third generation turf (3G) 20
4.3: Rugby union 27
4.4: Hockey 29
4.5: Cricket 31
4.6: Tennis 37
4.7: Netball 39
4.8: Bowls 40
4.9: Athletics 42
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS 43
PART 6: ACTION PLAN 62
AVEKEY, SOUTH OCKENDON & PURFLEET ANALYSIS AREA 64
GRAYS ANALYSIS AREA 70
STANFORD-LE-HOPE & CORRINGHAM ANALYSIS AREA 77
TILBURY & CHADWELL ANALYSIS AREA 84
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS 90
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE 95

ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BC	Bowls Club
BE	Bowls England
CC	Cricket Club
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
ECCB	Essex County Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
EN	England Netball
EU	European Union
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NC	Netball Club
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PPOSS	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 agreement
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) has been commissioned to deliver a Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Thurrock Council. This will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting relevant provision within the local authority area. It replaces the previous study, which was completed in 2020, and delivers:

- A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision.
- A series of sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations.
- A series of strategic objectives and recommendations.
- A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises key issues.
- A range of housing growth scenario to understand the potential impact of developments.
- Guidance as to how the PPOSS can be delivered.

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 (ANOG) 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 ANOG has a similar staged approach, as follows:

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

Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

It should also be noted that the PPOSS is being completed in conjunction with an Indoor Built Facilities Strategy, with this providing a separate strategic document. However, the inter-relationship between the studies needs to be recognised due to the crossovers that occur i.e., sports clubs using both outdoor and indoor facilities.

Study area

The study area comprises the full local authority area of Thurrock. In addition, the Borough has been divided into sub areas to allow for both a broad and localised assessment on the supply and demand position for each sport included within the scope of work.

The previous PPOSS included three analysis areas, with these known as Central, East and West. However, these have been altered for this commission to provide a more suitable breakdown from a sports participation and local planning perspective.

The four analysis areas now utilised are as follows:

- Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet
- Grays
- Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham
- Tilbury & Chadwell

These can be further seen in Figure 1.1, below. This is followed by Figure 1.2, which shows the settlements and wards within each area.

Figure 1.1: Map showing analysis areas within Thurrock

Figure 1.2: Map showing settlements and wards within each analysis area

Cross-boundary aspects are also recognised throughout the study in regard to neighbouring (and nearby) local authorities. This most pertinently includes Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point and Havering and involves reference to imported and exported demand into and from Thurrock as well as key sites and developments that sit close to boundary lines.

Scope

The scope of the PPOSS focuses geographically on all local provision, regardless of ownership and management arrangements. The sports included within the scope of work are as follows:

- Football
- Cricket
- Rugby union
- Hockey
- Tennis (including padel)
- Bowls
- Athletics
- Netball

Furthermore, specific 3G pitch detail is also included due to the range of sports that can be accommodated on the provision. This primarily pertains to football but in Thurrock is also relevant to rugby union.

Rugby league is also generally included as standard in PPOSS work. However, the sport has not been identified as currently having a presence within Thurrock and is therefore not referenced.

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

PART 2: VISION AND AIMS

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Thurrock PPOSS (in conjunction with the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy).

> 'The PPOSS will be a robust evidence base document for the Local Plan and will ensure that existing facilities are the most appropriate in terms of quantity, quality and location and consider how best to meet the additional needs generated by the planned housing and economic growth.'

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 2.1 below). It is recommended that these are also adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS as well as Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

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

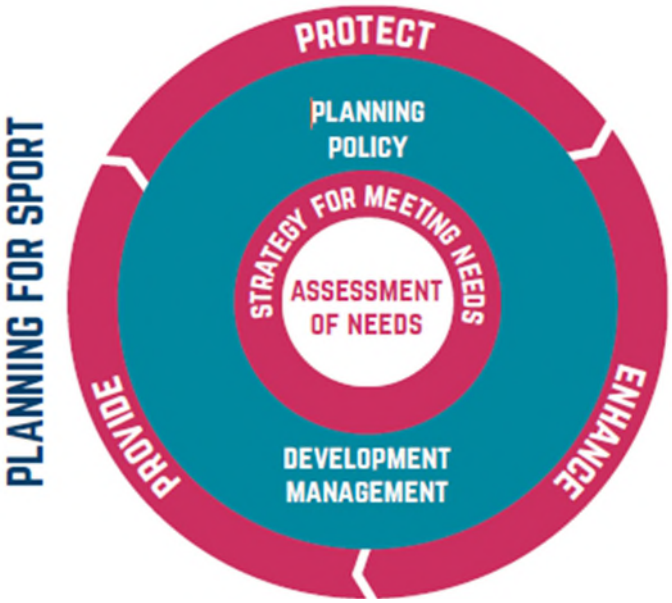
AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



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

PART 3: HEADLINE FINDINGS

The table below highlights the current quantitative shortfalls for each main pitch sport included within the PPOSS, as identified in the preceding Assessment Report, both across Thurrock and on a sub area basis. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Natural turf 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. The table below therefore uses this for football, rugby union and cricket, converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place (its current use) into the same unit of demand to enable an analysis to be undertaken.

Based on how the sports tend to be played, the match equivalent session unit for football, hockey and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport, whereas for cricket, the number of match equivalent sessions is over the course of a season. This is because how much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a square, with only one match generally played per pitch per day and with the wickets rotated throughout a season to reduce wear and to allow for repair. Each wicket is therefore able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

For 3G pitches, the carrying capacity of the provision is much higher, meaning how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how usage adversely affects quality, as is the case with grass pitches. Therefore, the total number of pitches required is instead used to form an analysis.

The following table also identifies the quantitative findings across Thurrock after taking into account future demand. This is based on a variety of factors, including population growth and club aspirations (see the preceding Assessment Report for further information), up to the period until 2043, which is in line with the Council's emerging Local Plan.

Table 3.1: Current quantitative headline findings (pitch sports)

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Football – grass pitches			
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	5.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	0.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	0
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	0
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	2
Grays	Adult	1	2
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	1
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	0
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	2
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	1.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	0
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	8

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Future supply/demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	4
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	0.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	0.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	1.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	1
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	2.5
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**6**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**10.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**4**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**0.5**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**0.5**
Football – 3G pitches			
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Full size (11v11)	0.75 pitches	0.75 pitches
Grays	Full size (11v11)	0 pitches	0 pitches
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Full size (11v11)	1.25 pitches	1.25 pitches
Tilbury & Chadwell	Full size (11v11)	1 pitch	1 pitch
Thurrock	**Full size (11v11)**	**3 pitches**	**3.5 pitches**
Cricket squares			
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Senior (Saturday)	12	12
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Senior (Sunday)	24	24
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Senior (midweek)	30	30
Grays	Senior (Saturday)	2	14
Grays	Senior (Sunday)	2	2
Grays	Senior (midweek)	2	2
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Senior (Saturday)	97	133
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Senior (Sunday)	97	80
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Senior (midweek)	89	101
Tilbury & Chadwell	Senior (Saturday)	0	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Senior (Sunday)	0	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Senior (midweek)	0	0
Thurrock	**Senior (Saturday)**	**91**	**139**
Thurrock	**Senior (Sunday)**	**79**	**79**
Thurrock	**Senior (midweek)**	**61**	**73**
Rugby union - grass pitches			
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Senior	0.5	0
Grays	Senior	0	1
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Senior	2	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Senior	0	0
Thurrock	**Senior**	**1.5**	**3**
Hockey – artificial grass pitches (AGPs)			
Thurrock	**Full size**	**1**	**1**

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

Table 3.2: Headline findings (non-pitch sports)

Sport	Headline findings
Tennis	Thurrock TC is considered to have capacity for only 120 members, meaning it is currently significantly oversubscribed with a membership of 200. This links to its identified need for sports lighting, although a deficit would remain even if all three courts were serviced (this would increase capacity to 180). Away from club-based demand, there is no local authority provision operating with LTA technology such as via ClubSpark and no local authority sites are serviced by suitable sports lighting, with both of these aspects likely to be inhibiting demand. Quality is also an issue across the stock, with none assessed as good quality. There is also likely to be demand for padel that is not being met, based on the national and local picture, with no courts currently provided. This is despite the LTA identifying a need for 14 based on its modelling.
Netball	There is significant community demand for outdoor netball provision in Thurrock, with Ortu Hassenbrook Academy serving as the main hub. While current supply meets usage needs in terms of quantity, there are notable concerns around quality, with only five courts rated as good. Additionally, there is limited community access available at alternative sites, whilst a lack of sports lighting is also a barrier to wider participation.
Bowls	The supply of bowls greens is sufficient to meet demand, with no known capacity pressures existing and with good quality facilities provided. However, with each active green in use by clubs, it is also clear that they are all required to ensure that usage levels can continue to be accommodated.
Athletics	Supply is currently sufficient to meet demand for athletics via the track and field provision at Blackshots Athletics Stadium. However, to further enhance the sport locally, supplementary provision, linked to England Athletics' NewGen products, could be established elsewhere in the Borough to better cater for additional and/or alternative types of demand. This could be tied into major new developments where there may be opportunities to include such a facility.

Conclusion

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met. As a result, no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements, meaning that there is a clear need to protect all existing provision. This is unless a planning policy exception is met, as per Paragraph 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Notwithstanding the above, most of the shortfalls identified could be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, site re-configuration, installing additional sports lighting, enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites, and bringing disused sites back into use. This means that significant levels of new provision will not necessarily be required, although this is dependent on the feasibility of delivering the other aforementioned actions.

In addition, there is also an overall shortfall of 11v11 3G pitches and padel courts identified across Thurrock that cannot be addressed unless new facilities are constructed (as there are no alternative means to reducing these deficits). Furthermore, there is also a need to assess the impact of future demand linked to housing growth, in addition to other future demand calculations and scenarios that are utilised (see Part 7 of this report).

Benchmarking

Sport England no longer advises the use of “standards” in relation to sports provision (e.g., hectares of playing field required per 1,000 people), with a localised supply and demand assessment instead advised (as provided by this study). This is because such an approach can account for the specific population profile of an area as well as any particular local nuances and issues, rather than a more generic process.

Due to the above, the methodology used to inform the PPOSS has provided a supply and demand analysis for all included sports, with this now able to be used to identify what actions are required to ensure that a sufficient level of provision is provided (see Part 4). However, whilst these actions can include the creation of new pitches/facilities to meet the shortfalls, identifying exact needs in this regard is not possible as it is dependent on the ability and success of actioning other recommendations. As an example, if quality is improved across a large number of sites, there may not be a need for any new facilities for a particular sport, whereas if no improvements take place, there could be a requirement for a relatively large number. This is also why there is a need to continually monitor the PPOSS following completion (see Part 8).

It should, however, be noted that despite the shortfalls identified within the PPOSS, this is not unique to Thurrock, with the large majority (if not all) local authorities both nationally and regionally having some form of deficit. In fact, in this regard, the level of shortfall in Thurrock is actually relatively minimal when compared to many other areas, particularly regarding sports such as football and rugby union where large deficits are especially common.

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section, in order to help develop actions for each sport, and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the findings evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report for each sport. This then informs the sport specific recommendations.

The included scenarios focus on the impact that they will have on the shortfalls and key issues identified, as well as how they can be overcome. However, whilst each can change the picture to a greater or lesser extent, it should be noted that carrying out some scenarios to the fullest degree is likely to be unviable and that a combination of actions will instead be required to ensure that all current and future demand can be met.

For some sports, no scenarios are included, although that is not to say that no action is required. Instead, recommendations are clear without the requirement for scenarios to be tested.

For site-specific and more localised recommendations, please refer to the Action Plan in Part 6 of this report.

4.1: Football

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- Actual spare capacity totals 18 match equivalent sessions per week across 26 pitches and 11 sites in Thurrock, whilst 21 pitches across 13 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 29 match equivalent sessions.
- There are currently shortfalls across adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitch types, whilst only relatively minimal levels of spare capacity exists on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- When considering future demand, the existing shortfalls are projected to worsen, whilst an additional shortfall is expected to be creation in relation to mini 7v7 capacity.
- The evidence suggests that the existing supply is insufficient to accommodate both current and future demand.

Supply summary

- The audit identifies a total of 116 Grass football pitches across 42sites in Thurrock, with 103 pitches across 38 sites identified as being available for community use.
- Since the 2020 PPOSS was completed, there are ten fewer community available pitches due to provision becoming disused and/or re-configuration.
- The number of disused pitches equates to 37 (17 adult, three youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, six mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 pitches), with this incorporating provision across 12 sites.
- Of the community available pitches, 28 are managed by the Council, 25 by sports clubs, 48 by education operators, and the remaining two pitches by other providers.
- Six community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 68 as standard quality and 29 as poor quality.
- Poor quality ancillary provision is found at Billet Recreation Ground, Chadwell Recreation Ground, Old Hall Farm and Ortu Hassenbrook Academy.

Demand summary

- In total there are 300 teams across 73 clubs identified as playing in Thurrock, with this equating to 65 adult teams, 88 youth 11v11 teams, 46 youth 9v9 teams, 58 mini 7v7 teams and 43 mini 5v5 teams.
- The figures include four women's teams and 20 dedicated girls', representing 8% of all demand across the Borough.
- The total number of teams across the Borough has increased significantly from 262 teams to 300 teams since 2020.

- Three men's and two women's teams play within the National League System and must adhere to ground grading regulations.
- There are 12 clubs identifying latent demand for pitch provision, which is a considerable number.
- Grays Athletic FC and Aveley FC export some demand outside of the Borough, whereas Hastag United FC imports activity into Thurrock (from Basildon).
- Seven clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, totalling a large predicted growth of 42 teams, whilst population projections predict a growth of 20 teams (seven adult, four youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, three mini 7v7 and four mini 5v5).

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality and addressing overplay

In total, there are 21 pitches in Thurrock across 13 sites that are overplayed by a combined total of 29 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving the quality of such provision will increase capacity across the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that the large majority of existing overplay 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 pitch quality	Matches per week	Youth pitch quality	Matches per week	Mini 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	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
4	Billet Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	2.5	-
18	Giffards Primary School	Mini 7v7	1	Standard	1	1	-
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	Adult	1	Standard	3.5	2.5	-
27	Lakeside Sports Ground	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5	-
34	Old Hall Farm	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	2	0	-
34	Old Hall Farm	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	3	0	-
35	Ormiston Park Academy	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	-
37	Orsett Heath Academy	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	-
41	Ortu Gable Hall School Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	-

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Good quality capacity rating	Actual spare capacity created
41	Ortu Gable Hall School Playing Fields	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	-
42	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	Youth 11v11	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	-
43	Parkside (Aveley Football Club)	Adult	1	Standard	1	0	-
43	Parkside (Aveley Football Club)	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	-
47	St Clere's School	Youth 11v11	2	Standard	3	1	-
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5	-
53	The Gateway Academy	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	2.5	0.5	-
53	The Gateway Academy	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1.5	0.5	-
53	The Gateway Academy	Mini 7v7	1	Poor	3	1	-
53	The Gateway Academy	Mini 5v5	1	Poor	2	2	-

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good, with 18.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity created. Only three overplayed pitches, with these identified at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club), Lakeside Sports Ground and The Gateway Academy. However, no match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity would be established due to existing peak time usage and/or security of tenure issues.

Improving quality as set out above will also eradicate all shortfalls on a Borough-wide basis, with overall spare capacity existing on each pitch type although not necessarily within the peak period. Moreover, when assessing each analysis area, only deficits remain on adult pitches in the Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet and Grays analysis areas.

Table 4.2: Impact on supply and demand if quality of overplayed pitches improved to good

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	2.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	0
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	1.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	2.5
Grays	Adult	1	0.5
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	0
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	0
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	2.5
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	2
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	1.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	0
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	0

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	2
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	1.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	0
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**0.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**1.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**5**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**3**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**4.5**

Where overplay remains following quality improvements, or if quality improvements are not possible at specific sites, play should be encouraged to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity and where actual spare capacity exists. Furthermore, where improvements do take place, this will likely require existing maintenance regimes and budgets to be enhanced in order for the betterment to be sustainable, which can put added pressures on operators.

Providing security of tenure / community use

Currently, 45 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches across Thurrock, which is a considerable amount. If these pitches were to fall out of use, on a Borough-wide level, significant shortfalls would be created on all pitch types across Thurrock, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.4: Current supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	2.5	12.5
Youth 11v11	8.5	20
Youth 9v9	3	14
Mini 7v7	1	5
Mini 5v5	2.5	4

Should the above become reality, there would be an increased need to action the other scenarios featured within this section of the report (e.g., quality improvements and bringing disused sites back into use). However, given the significant shortfalls identified, this would not be enough to accommodate all demand, meaning a definitive need for new pitches would also be created.

Conversely, 10.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity per week are currently discounted due to several sites having unsecure tenure. As such, securing tenure across these would provide increased levels of spare capacity which would then reduce existing shortfalls.

The relevant sites are:

- Harris Academy Ockendon
- Ormiston Park Academy
- Ortu Hassenbrook Academy
- St Clere's School
- The Hathaway Academy
- William Edwards School

There are then a further 11 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity that are currently discounted due to schools being unavailable for community use. This means that gaining access to such provision would again provide increased level of spare capacity which would then reduce shortfalls. The sites with unavailable pitches are:

- Abbots Hall Primary Academy
- Belmont Castle Academy
- Corringham Primary School
- Deneholm Primary School
- Grays Convent High School
- Harris Academy Chafford Hundred
- Herringham Primary Academy
- Little Thurrock Primary School
- Somers Heath Primary School
- Stiffords Clay Primary School
- Tudor Court Primary School

Across Thurrock as a whole, if community use and tenure was secured at all sites, only a shortfall of youth 11v11 provision would remain. However, some level of shortfall would also still exist in three of the analysis areas, with only the Grays Analysis Area without a deficit.

Table 4.5: Current supply and demand balance with all sites secured

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	4
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	1
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	1.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	1.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	2.5
Grays	Adult	1	1
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	2
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	10
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	3
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	1
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	7
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	2.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	2.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	2.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	1

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	0
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	1
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**0**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**6.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**1**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**11**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**5.5**

Notwithstanding the above impact, it should be noted that community use and security of tenure at all sites will not always be viable, particularly in the case of education sites. This is especially the case at smaller sites (as external usage is less sustainable) or where it is not operationally viable for access to be enabled.

Bringing disused provision back into use

The Assessment Report identifies a total of 12 sites in Thurrock that previously accommodated some form of football provision, with these being:

- Aveley Sports & Social Club
- Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)
- Bulphan Recreation Ground
- Chadfields (Tilbury Football Club)
- Daisy Field Tilbury
- East Thurrock United Football Club (Rookery Hill)
- Linford Recreation Ground
- Lofthall
- Long Lane Recreation Ground
- The Springhouse Sports Club
- Thurrock Football Club
- West Thurrock Memorial Ground

The number of disused pitches across the site equates to 37, which is significant and equates to 17 adult, three youth 11v11, five youth 9v9, six mini 7v7 and six mini 5v5 pitches. As seen in the table below, bringing these back into use would establish spare capacity across Thurrock on adult and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst increasing spare capacity on mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Only a shortfall of youth 11v11 provision would remain.

On an analysis area basis, the only deficits that would remain are on youth 11v11 pitches in Grays, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches in Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham, and mini 7v7 pitches in Tilbury & Chadwell.

Table 4.6: Impact on supply and demand if disused provision is brought back into use

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	1.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	0
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	1.5

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	2.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	3.5
Grays	Adult	1	5
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	0.5
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	0
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	2.5
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	2
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	4
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	6
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	1.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	3
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	1
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	1
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	0
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**13.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**5.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**1**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**6**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**8.5**

Notwithstanding the above, it should be qualified that it may be difficult in practice to bring some of the disused sites back into use due to the level of investment required to reinstate adequate pitches and ancillary facilities. This therefore needs to be assessed on a site-by-site basis.

Priority should be placed on multi-pitch sites such as Aveley Sports & Social Club, Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field), Linford Recreation Ground, Lofthall, Long Lane Recreation Ground and The Springhouse Sports Club due to the level of demand they could feasible accommodate. In addition, asset transfer to suitable clubs/operators could be considered at some of the venues as a means to bringing the provision back into use and to secure external investment.

Actioning each of the above scenarios

Via a combination of improving pitch quality at overplayed sites, securing tenure and bringing disused pitches back into use, all current shortfalls in Thurrock would be alleviated on a Borough-wide basis. Furthermore, spare capacity will exist on each pitch in each analysis area.

Table 4.7: Impact of actioning all scenarios

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	3
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	1
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	3.5

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	3.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	3.5
Grays	Adult	1	7.5
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	1
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	2
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	10
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	3
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	2.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	2
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	3
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	4.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	4.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	3.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	2.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	1
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	3
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**17**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**6.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**13**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**18**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**13.5**

The above evidences that, theoretically, there is no overarching requirement for new grass provision to meet current demand, with the existing supply of pitches able to be better utilised to overcome the identified shortfalls. However, actioning each scenario to the fullest degree is unlikely to be reasonably practicable. The need for new provision will increase for every scenario that cannot be undertaken to the fullest degree, whilst future growth also needs to be monitored (see scenarios below).

Accounting for club future demand aspirations

During consultation, seven clubs reported aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, equating to a predicted growth of 42 teams. This is relatively substantial but has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population growth. However, the table below explores the impact if such demand is realised.

Table 4.8: Future supply and demand if club aspirations are realised

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Adult	4.5	6
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 11v11	0	0
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Youth 9v9	0.5	0.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 7v7	0.5	0.5
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Mini 5v5	2.5	1.5
Grays	Adult	1	2
Grays	Youth 11v11	0.5	2

Analysis area	Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Grays	Youth 9v9	0	1.5
Grays	Mini 7v7	2.5	2.5
Grays	Mini 5v5	2	0.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Adult	1	0.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 11v11	7	10.5
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Youth 9v9	3.5	7
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 7v7	1	1
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Mini 5v5	0	4
Tilbury & Chadwell	Adult	2	2
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 11v11	1	1.5
Tilbury & Chadwell	Youth 9v9	0	1
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 7v7	3	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	Mini 5v5	2	2
Thurrock	**Adult**	**2.5**	**5.5**
Thurrock	**Youth 11v11**	**8.5**	**14**
Thurrock	**Youth 9v9**	**3**	**9**
Thurrock	**Mini 7v7**	**1**	**1**
Thurrock	**Mini 5v5**	**2.5**	**4**

As seen, across Thurrock, spare capacity would only exist on one of the pitch types (mini 7v7). Shortfalls would increase on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches and be established on mini 5v5 provision.

Future demand being realised to align to this scenario will increase the requirement to carry out the other actions outlined, as well as potentially increasing the need for new pitches. This should therefore be monitored throughout the Stage E process as and when demand increases.

Continuation of growth trends

The Assessment Report identifies that growth from the previous PPOSS delivered in 2020 surpassed the forecasted growth, with an increase of 38 teams from 262 to 300 (representing a 13% increase). This was also over a shorter time period than initially forecast. The scenario therefore seeks to establish the impact on the current stock of pitches within Thurrock should this trend continue over the next five year period, covering up to when the next iteration of the PPOSS is likely to be due (or delivered).

A 13% growth from 300 teams will increase demand to 339 teams. Broken down, this will equate to eight additional adult teams, 11 additional youth 11v11 teams, six additional youth 9v9 teams, eight additional mini 7v7 teams and six additional mini 5v5 teams. The impact of this on the existing supply and demand balance is shown in the following table, with shortfalls evident on each pitch type.

Table 4.9: Future supply and demand balance if growth trends continue

Pitch type	Current supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)	Potential supply/ demand balance (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	2.5	6.5
Youth 11v11	8.5	14
Youth 9v9	3	6
Mini 7v7	1	3
Mini 5v5	2.5	0.5

Future demand being realised to align to this scenario will increase the requirement to carry out the other actions outlined, as well as potentially increasing the need for new pitches. This should therefore be monitored throughout the Stage E process as and when demand increases.

It should also be noted that whilst a 13% (or more) growth across Thurrock to 2030 is possible, it will likely not be equally distributed across each type as set out above. Instead, based on recent trends, it is probable that mini and youth pitches will be more substantially affected due to increases outweighing what would be expected for adult football.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve pitch quality with a focus on overplayed pitches and pitches assessed as poor quality and utilise the FF's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- Provide security of tenure at sites, with a focus on those currently in use by clubs.
- Seek to gain community access to sites that are currently unavailable, with a focus on those providing the largest number of pitches.
- Consider bringing disused pitches back into use.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, particularly in relation to women's and girls' demand.
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- Monitor future growth levels via the Stage E process to determine when and where new grass pitches may be required.
- Consider allocating land for new pitches to meet existing need as part of the Local Plan process (in addition to residential allocations and their requirements).
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning on an individual basis.
- 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.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls.

4.2: Third generation turf (3G)

Assessment Report summary

Supply and demand summary

- There is insufficient supply of 11v11 size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football demand in Thurrock, with a potential current shortfall of three 11v11 3G pitches identified.
- The creation of new provision should therefore be seen as a priority, although the overall shortfall could be reduced through access and the installation of sports lighting at Thames Park Secondary School as well as the already planned development at Tilbury Football Club.
- Away from football, no further demand for access to 3G provision is considered to be required, outside of the existing usage of the pitch at Orsett Heath Academy by Thurrock RUFC.

Supply summary

- There are six 11v11 3G pitches in Thurrock, with five sports-lit and available for community use (the pitch at Thames Park Secondary School is not).
- Thames Park Secondary School is working on opening its pitch up for community use and is in the stages of applying for sports lighting.
- There are also six smaller sized pitches in Thurrock, all of which are serviced by sports lighting although the pitch at Purfleet Primary Academy is unavailable to the community.
- A planning application has been approved for the creation of a 11v11 3G pitch at Tilbury Football Club, whilst applications have been submitted for the establishment of two pitches at Belhus Park Golf & Country Club and one pitch at The Springhouse Sports Club.
- At Wyldecrest Sports Country Club, there is an aspiration to develop its smaller sized 3G pitch into an 11v11 3G pitch.
- Five of the 11v11 3G pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches (the exception is the pitch at Thames Park Secondary School).
- The pitch at Orsett Heath Academy is World Rugby compliant.
- Five of the six 11v11 3G pitches are rated as good quality, with the pitch at Lakeside Sports Ground rated as standard quality due to it being close to the end of its recommended lifespan.
- Despite being installed in 2019, the smaller sized pitch at Harris Academy Riverside has significant issues relating to its quality.

Demand summary

- The 11v11 3G pitch stock currently servicing Thurrock is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, both during midweek for training and at weekends for matches.
- It is considered that most of the community-based activity on the 3G pitches is football related, although the pitch at Orsett Heath Academy is primarily used for rugby union.
- There are 65 football teams utilising the 3G provision for matches, which is a relatively large number for the number of pitches provided.
- A total of 13 football clubs report that they require additional access to 3G provision, which represents a high proportion of unmet demand.
- Future demand for football (from population projections) equating to 20 teams will likely increase 3G pitch requirements, whilst rugby union growth could also have an impact.
- The FA training model suggests a current shortfall of two 11v11 3G pitches, increasing to 3.5 when accounting for future demand.
- The shortfalls are identified in the Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet, Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham and Tilbury & Chadwell analysis areas.
- Despite existing rugby union usage, there is no evidence that additional 3G provision is required in the Borough based on the current supply and demand picture for the sport.
- No other sporting needs for 3G access is identified, outside of football and rugby union.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

As shown in the proceeding Assessment Report, if all teams were to utilise 3G pitches to accommodate their training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for eight 11v11 size 3G pitch equivalents in Thurrock. This means a current shortfall of three pitches based on the current available supply.

Table 4.10: Current demand for 3G pitches in Thurrock (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Current demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Current shortfall (number of pitches)
300	8	5	3

When factoring in future demand from population growth, the overall requirement could increase by 0.5. This means a potential shortfall of 3.5 11v11 size pitches.

Table 4.11: Future shortfall of 3G pitches to meet football training demand

Future demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Future shortfall (number of pitches)
320	8.5	5	3.5

To further this analysis, the table below explores where the theoretical 3G pitch shortfalls exist by analysis area on the assumption that all demand will want to train within the area that they play matches in. This approach is beneficial for determining where new pitches should be located to overcome the identified shortfall.

Table 4.12: Current demand for 3G pitches in Thurrock by analysis area

Analysis area	Current demand (number of teams)	Current 11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Current shortfall (number of pitches)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	90	2.5	1.75	0.75
Grays	70	2	2	0
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	93	2.5	1.25	1.25
Tilbury & Chadwell	47	1	-	1
Authority	**300**	**8**	**5**	**3**

This also shows current overall shortfall of three 11v11 3G pitch equivalents, aligning to the shortfall across Thurrock as a whole. It also identifies that there are specific shortfalls in the Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet, Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham and Tilbury & Chadwell analysis areas (demand is being met in the Grays Analysis Area).

Additional future demand

Factoring in aspirational future demand expressed by clubs (42 teams) increases the calculated 3G pitch requirement to a shortfall of four. This has previously been discounted from calculations due to being more aspirational than what is predicted via population forecasts.

Table 4.13: Potential future shortfall of 3G pitches based on club aspirations

Potential future demand (number of teams)	11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of available 11v11 3G pitches	Potential shortfall (number of pitches)
342	9	5	4

When analysing the club aspirations by analysis area, it is shown that the increased need is most likely to arise in Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham and Tilbury & Chadwell.

Table 4.14: Potential future demand for 3G pitches in Thurrock Borough by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (number of teams)	Future 11v11 3G pitch requirement	Current number of 11v11 size 3G pitches	Future shortfall (number of pitches)
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	95	2.5	1.75	0.75
Grays	82	2	2	0
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	115	3	1.25	1.75
Tilbury & Chadwell	50	1.5	-	1.5
Authority	**342**	**9**	**5**	**4**

In addition, a continuation of recent growth trends over the next five years (as shown in Table 4.9) would also result in the need for an additional pitch (32 teams).

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

In Thurrock, there are currently 65 affiliated teams registered as using 3G pitches for regular match play, which is a relatively high number for the number of pitches provided. To increase such demand, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are played on council pitches be transferred. At peak time for each format of play, this currently applies to only 28 teams in Thurrock, which is a relatively low amount.

Table 4.15: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	12
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	6
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	4
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	3
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	3
-	-	**Total**	**28**

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 below.

Table 4.16: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	10	5	32	320	5
Youth 11v11	6	3	32	192	3
Youth 9v9	6	3	10	60	0.9375
Mini 7v7	3	1.5	8	24	0.375
Mini 5v5	3	1.5	4	12	0.1875

Given that peak time for the adult and youth 11v11 pitch types (Sunday AM) are different to peak time for and youth 9v9 and mini football (Saturday AM), transferring all matches currently on council owned pitches would equate for the need for eight 11v11 size 3G pitches. As such, whilst this could not be accommodated on the currently supply of pitches, it could be catered via increasing the supply to meet the requirements of training demand.

An alternative (or additional) approach to consider is the transfer of all mini football from grass to 3G pitches. As such, the table below tests a scenario that would enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

Table 4.17: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	Playing format	Total games/teams
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 the formats, the overall need is for 5.5 11v11 size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 43 teams playing 5v5 football and 59 teams playing 7v7 football. It could therefore be accommodated via the establishment of just one additional pitch. However, it should be noted that this would also require the re-programming of all existing pitches to achieve.

Below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. Such demand could be accommodated using eight 11v11 pitches, based on 49 teams playing this format currently. This could therefore also be supplied via meeting the needs for training activity.

Table 4.18: 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

Meeting the shortfall of 3G pitches

An existing 11v11 3G pitch is located at Thames Park Secondary School, with this not currently available for community use due to a lack of sports lighting. However, the operator reports that it is exploring the potential installation of sports lights, which if successful would then enable external access. This would then reduce the current deficit of 11v11 3G pitches across the Thurrock from three to two pitches, although it should be noted that the pitch resides in the Grays Analysis Area where no current shortfall exists.

Elsewhere, a planning application (REF:24/01027/FUL) has been submitted at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club) comprising the demolition of the existing driving range structures and fencing and provision of replacement sports use comprising two sports-lit 11v11 3G pitches, storage facilities and a sports pavilion including accessible changing facilities for four teams (plus officials). This provision would reduce the 3G deficit to one 11v11 3G pitch across the Thurrock as a whole, although a present need for only 0.75 pitches is identified in the area. This therefore needs to be considered against the planning application, in addition to other national planning policy requirements.

A planning application (REF:24/01216/CONDC) has been approved at Tilbury Football Club for the erection of a new stadium that will feature a 11v11 3G pitch on the site of existing training pitches that are located to the north-east of its existing provision at Chadfields. However, as the Club competes in the National League System, it is unclear as to what degree this will help meet the training requirements of other clubs. Moreover, it should be noted that due to the investors pulling out, the development is currently suspended and is considered at risk.

Similarly, a planning application (REF:24/01197/FUL) is in place for the redevelopment of The Springhouse Sports Club that will include a new 3G pitch as well as supporting facilities. This is yet to be determined but if approved will be self-funded by the Club itself.

At Wyldecrest Sports Country Club, there is an aspiration to develop its smaller sized 3G pitch into an 11v11 3G pitch. It reports that this would ideally be in partnership with the FF to help better accommodate football demand within the Borough; however, the FF states that it has received no engagement in relation to it. The site is located in the Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham Analysis Area, where there is an identified need for 1.25 3G pitches (the site also has an ambition to create additional smaller sized pitches where disused courts and a bowling green currently reside).

Storm Fit reports an aspiration to convert its full size sand-based pitch to 3G; however, it must be noted that this is currently used to accommodate substantial hockey demand via Thurrock HC. Another option could be to consider the conversion of the pitch at The Gateway Academy as this is currently unused for hockey, although this could only be supported if hockey activity at Storm Fit was future proofed. For this, resurfacing would be required, and long-term security of tenure would need to be provided.

Alternatively, hockey access to The Gateway Academy could be secured, which would then free up the pitch at Storm Fit for conversion. Regardless, what is clear is that one of the two pitches requires protection for hockey, which would then enable the other to be converted.

Using the above information and based on there being a requirement for at least three additional 11v11 size 3G pitches within Thurrock to meet training demand, the table below further summarises this and potential site options for meeting the shortfalls.

Table 4.19: 3G pitch options for meeting requirements

Analysis area	Current supply/ demand balance	Comments
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	Shortfall of 0.75 pitches	Potential for this to be met via the proposed pitches at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club); however, it is unclear if this will be granted planning permission or what the timescales of the development will be. Furthermore, the proposal could result in there being an oversupply in the area. Elsewhere, an aspiration exists for a second pitch to be provided at Parkside (Aveley Football Club). The disused pitch at East Thurrock United (Rookery Hill) is also referenced in the 2025 LFFP as potentially providing an option to meet the shortfall with a view that Grays Athletic would operate out of that site.
Grays	Demand is being met	No current requirement for an additional pitch, although an aspiration exists at Thames Secondary School for sports lighting to be installed which would then increase the supply in the area. If this came to fruition, a further analysis would be required to determine its impact on the requirements across Thurrock and in other analysis areas (this would form part of the Stage E process).
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	Shortfall of 1.25 pitches	The existing planning application for a pitch to be provided at The Springhouse Sports Club presents a potential option for reducing the shortfall, if this is considered to be a strategic location and if the proposal meets planning policy requirements. In addition to the above, there is potential scope for Wyldecrest Sports Club and Billet Recreation Ground identified within the 2025 LFFP as providing an option for alleviating the area shortfalls.
Tilbury & Chadwell	Shortfall of 1 pitch	Whilst Tilbury Football Club has planning permission to establish an 11v11 3G pitch, it is unclear if this would be sufficient to reduce the local shortfall given that it will be used for National League System activity. As such, another pitch may still be required. For this, converting the sand-based pitch at The Gateway Academy could be considered (as featured in the 2025 LFFP), providing Thurrock HC has its needs secured (i.e., at Storm Fit). Alternative, hockey demand could be transferred to The Gateway Academy to free up conversion potential at Storm Fit.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

There is one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Thurrock, located at Orsett Heath School. This is well utilised by Thurrock RUFC to the point where its grass provision is no longer overused, exemplifying the benefit such provision can have in meeting demand. However, there is no evidence that additional 3G provision is required in the Borough for rugby union based on the current supply and demand picture. Only a minimal shortfall remains that can be overcome through grass pitch solutions, with this relating to Stanford-le-Hope RUFC.

Loss of access of 3G rubber crumb provision

The utilisation of 3G provision across Thurrock and nationally is strategically important to accommodate both training and competitive demand for various sports, particularly for football. As evidenced in the Assessment Report, where known through booking data, community available 11v11 3G pitches are extensively used midweek for football training with little spare capacity remaining. At the weekend, there are also 32.5 match equivalent sessions of competitive football demand taking place on the existing stock. This will only increase as new pitches are provided.

However, in September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G AGPs. The Commission has confirmed an eight-year transition period before the new restriction becomes effective and from October 2031, by which point rubber crumb will no longer be purchasable within the EU. This results in a major threat to existing and new 3G pitch provision.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, the regulatory framework for such matters now sits at a UK level (except for Northern Ireland, which continues to follow EU REACH requirements) and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently commissioned an evidence project to review emissions of intentionally added microplastics in the UK, including rubber infill. The project is expected to report in spring 2025 and will inform any future regulatory actions in Great Britain. Sports England has provided more information on the matter with its position statement on 3G pitches.[1]

Subject to the above, should 3G pitches no longer be accessible, the below table identifies how many good quality sports lit grass pitches would be required in replacement to accommodate all football training demand currently taking place in Thurrock for each relevant age format. This assumes that every team will train for one match equivalent session a week on their preferred pitch type.

Table 4.20: Summary of grass pitch requirements without access to 3G provision

Format	Total number of teams	Good quality pitch capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Total number of good quality sports-lit pitches required
Adult	63	3	21
Youth 11v11	89	4	22
Youth 9v9	46	4	12
Mini 7v7	59	6	10
Mini 5v5	43	6	7

As seen, there would be a requirement for circa 72 additional sports-lit grass football pitches (given that shortfalls exist on the current stock). This is wholly unfeasible and showcases just how crucial the provision of 3G is. As such, in the event that the existing rubber crumb infills become outlawed, there will be a need to resurface them with an alternative suitable and appropriate infill based on the findings of the DEFRA report. Several solutions are currently being tested.

[1] Position statement on 3G pitches | Sport England

In addition, there would also be a need to accommodate around 10 match equivalent sessions of additional rugby union training demand. This is because of the potential displacement of 3G activity from Thurrock RUFC, which would result in significant overplay of its existing grass pitch stock.

Recommendations

- Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- Explore sports lighting potential at Thames Secondary School to add to the useable 3G pitch stock.
- Seek to develop additional 3G pitch provision, with priority placed on projects in the Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet, Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham and Tilbury & Chadwell analysis areas.
- Ensure all existing and new 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability and seek resurfacing when pitches reach the end of their recommended lifespan.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions.
- Seek FIFA/FA testing of all existing and new 3G pitches so that they can be (or can continue to be) used for competitive football matches and ensure re-testing when it is required.
- For the pitch at Orsett Heath Academy, ensure World Rugby testing every two years so that it can continue to be used for full contact rugby union activity.
- Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.
- Ensure that all new 3G pitches are serviced by sports lighting (LED with controllable switch gear) to maximise usage potential.
- For pitches with existing sports lighting, encourage a switch to more energy efficient provision, where required.
- Ensure suitable infill containment is retro-fitted and that all pitches have containment and recycling strategies in place, with alternatives to rubber crumb to be explored, subject to the findings of the DEFRA report.
- Ensure ancillary facilities are appropriate to support 3G pitch provision.

4.3: Rugby union

Assessment Report summary

Rugby union – supply and demand summary

- There is one rugby union pitch in Thurrock with actual spare capacity at Thames Rugby Club), whilst two pitches are overplayed at Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground.
- Overall, there is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week to meet current demand, with this increasing to three match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- There is a clear shortfall of rugby union capacity across the Borough; however, this is relatively minimal and can be overcome through better utilising the current stock.

Rugby union – supply summary

- There are 13 grass rugby union pitches (12 senior and one age grade) identified across eight unique sites, with them all available for community use.
- Three grass pitches are sports-lit, with one at Thames Rugby Club and two at Thurrock Rugby Football Club, whilst there is also a senior sized World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provided at Orsett Heath Academy.
- Stanford-le-Hope RUFC, Thames RFC and Thurrock RUFC are all considered to have security of tenure at their sites, whilst Pegasus Palmerians RUFC does not at Storm Fit.

- Four pitches are rated as poor quality, five are as standard quality and four as good quality.
- The good quality pitches are at Thurrock Rugby Football Club, with the Club completing its own maintenance, whereas the pitch utilised by Pegasus Palmerians RUFC at Storm Fit is poor quality.
- Thurrock RUFC accesses good quality ancillary provision, whereas Stanford-le-Hope RUFC and Thames RUFC access poor quality provision (Pegasus Palmerians RUFC has standard quality facilities.
- Thurrock RUFC has aspirations to develop its main building and Thames Rugby Club has aspirations for the complete refurbishment of its ancillary facilities.

Rugby union – demand summary

- Club based demand for rugby union within Thurrock equates to 31 teams across the four clubs; there are eight senior men's, three senior women's, ten age grade boy's, four age grade girl's and six age grade mixed teams.
- There has been an overall slight in demand in recent years, with this experienced by Thurrock, Pegasus Palmerians and Thames rugby clubs.
- Stanford-le-Hope, Thames and Thurrock rugby clubs all use match pitches for some training demand, although Thurrock RUFC also accesses the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and Stanford-le-Hope RUFC also utilises separate grass areas via mobile lights.
- No unmet, latent, exported or imported demand is identified.
- Thames RUFC has future demand for one senior women's team, whereas population forecasts suggest a growth of one senior men's and one age grade team.

Scenarios

Alleviating overplay

Only two rugby union pitches in Thurrock are currently overplayed, with these both being at Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground. They are both assessed as standard quality (M1/D1) and have a deficit of one match equivalent session. As a result, improving quality to good through improved maintenance (M2/D1) or the installation of a drainage system (M1/D3) would be sufficient for the shortfalls to be overcome.

Table 4.21: Capacity of pitches if quality was maximised (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating (match equivalent sessions)	Good quality rating (match equivalent sessions)
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	2	Standard	2	0

Accessing World Rugby compliant 3G provision

There is currently one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in Thurrock, located at Orsett Heath School. This is well utilised by Thurrock RUFC to the point where its grass provision is no longer overused, exemplifying the benefit such provision can have in meeting demand. Its grass pitches are currently played to capacity, but loss of access to the 3G pitch would result in overplay of around 10 match equivalent sessions per week as the training demand would need to transfer.

Notwithstanding the above, there is no evidence that additional 3G provision is required in the Borough for rugby union based on the current supply and demand picture. This is because only a minimal shortfall remains that can be overcome through grass pitch solutions, with this relating to Stanford-le-Hope RUFC at Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground.

Additional sports lighting

Although no additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitch is required, and although all grass pitch shortfalls can be overcome via quality improvements, it should be noted that both Stanford-le-Hope RUFC and Pegasus Palmerians RUFC are currently without access to fixed sports-lit provision. As a result, whilst they can still field their demand, it is considered that a permanent solution should be sought, if possible, to better accommodate training requirements.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of pitches in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve pitch quality, with priority placed on Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground given its current overuse.
- Explore installation of additional sports lighting to service Stanford-le-Hope RUFC and Pegasus Palmerians RUFC.
- Ensure continued access to the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Orsett Heath Academy to ensure no future overplay at Thurrock Rugby Football Club.
- Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly in regard to women's and girls' demand.
- Improve the ancillary facilities servicing the clubs and ensure facilities are inclusive and suitable for mixed-gender usage.
- Seek to provide increased security of tenure for Pegasus Palmerians RUFC.
- Retain the stock of pitches at education sites for continued curricular and extracurricular usage and encourage improved club links where possible.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future rugby union needs through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

4.4: Hockey

Assessment Report summary

Hockey – supply and demand summary

- The supply of hockey provision in Thurrock is currently sufficient to meet demand, with two full size pitches provided and only one pitch being required.
- The supply will only remain adequate if quality and security of tenure issues are overcome, particularly at Storm Fit given its use by Thurrock HC.

Hockey – supply summary

- There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs in Thurrock (at Storm Fit and The Gateway Academy), with both available for community use and serviced by sports lighting.
- One smaller sized hockey suitable AGP has also been identified at Dilkes Academy, with this also available for community use albeit it is without sports lighting.
- A third full size hockey suitable AGP at the Harris Academy Chafford Hundred has been converted to 3G.
- Thurrock HC utilises the pitch at Storm Fit, whereas the pitch at The Gateway Academy is unused for community hockey.
- Due to the nature of the agreement between Thurrock HC and Storm Fit, the Club is considered to have unsecure tenure as no formal community use agreement is in place.
- Both full size pitches are rated as poor quality due to the age of the surfaces.

- Ancillary provision provided at Storm Fit is rated as good quality by Thurrock HC, although it has aspirations for its own dedicated provision.

Hockey – demand summary

- Thurrock HC provides a total of six teams, with this equating to four senior men's and two senior women's teams.
- The Club also has a junior section that plays ad hoc games in addition to regular training activity.
- Total membership equates to 47 senior men, 35 senior women, 46 junior boy and 29 junior girl members.
- The Club utilises the pitch at Storm Fit on Thursday evenings from 18:00 until 21:00 for training, with matches taking place throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday.
- Demand has increased significantly since 2020.
- No unmet, latent, imported or exported demand is identified.
- Thurrock HC does not express any desire to increase the current number of teams within the Club following its recent growth.
- Significant football demand also takes place on the two full size hockey pitches, with limited capacity existing, particularly midweek.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

It is suggested that a full-size hockey suitable, sports-lit AGP can accommodate up to four matches on one day, providing no usage limitations are in place. With teams playing on a home and away basis, this equates to one pitch being able to cater for eight 'home' teams at peak time (which is Saturdays for seniors and Sundays for juniors). Using this, on the basis that there are currently two full size hockey suitable pitches in Thurrock, this provides a theoretical opportunity to accommodate up to 16 senior teams at peak time across the Borough. With only six teams presently fielded by Thurrock HC, this therefore equates to overall spare capacity, with only one pitch required to meet its demand.

Notwithstanding the above, whilst supply in quantitative terms is sufficient to meet demand from Thurrock HC, poor quality at both Storm Fit and The Gateway Academy as well as a lack security of tenure provides a threat to the Club's long term access. As a result, in addition to at least one of the pitches requiring continued protection for hockey demand, quality improvements via resurfacing and a long-term usage agreement are also required.

Preference would be to undertake improvements and secure tenure at Storm Fit given that this provides the pitch that is utilised by Thurrock HC. However, this needs to be managed alongside the operators' aspirations to convert the provision to 3G. Such a development could only be supported if the required actions were instead undertaken at The Gateway Academy and on the further proviso that adequate (secure) capacity was made available to Thurrock HC.

3G conversion

Whilst only one of the two hockey suitable pitches is theoretically required to meet demand from Thurrock HC, conversion should only be sought if quality is improved and tenure is secured at the other venue. Without this, both pitches are required from a hockey perspective in the event that one becomes unusable (e.g., due to further quality deterioration or because of a site management decision).

If conversion is to take place, preference should be placed on the pitch at The Gateway Academy given the existing hockey usage at Storm Fit.

Recommendations

- Protect at least one pitch for continued hockey demand, with preference placed on the provision at Storm Fit given current usage levels.
- Improve quality at least one of the sites via pitch resurfacing and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.
- Seek to provide long-term security of tenure at a venue for Thurrock HC to safeguard its future access.
- Seek to improve ancillary facility quality and access for the Club.
- Only consider 3G conversion of one of the two pitches if the above actions are undertaken, and ensure this process is undertaken with approval from EH.
- Ensure that future growth from housing developments is provided for and seek contributions to improve existing provision (need for new hockey provision is unlikely).

4.5: Cricket

Assessment Report summary

Cricket – supply and demand summary

- There is a clear shortfall of natural turf cricket squares to meet demand within Thurrock for each playing format, meaning the existing supply is insufficient to meet demand levels.
- The shortfalls are primarily due to significant overuse within the Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham Analysis Area.
- When factoring in future demand, Borough-wide shortfalls worsen.

Cricket – supply summary

- There are nine grass wicket cricket squares in Thurrock across seven sites (Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club and Stanford-le-Hope Cricket Club have two).
- All grass wicket provision is available for community use.
- Two grass cricket squares at St Clere's School are identified as being temporarily disused, with this leading to Horndon-on-the-Hill CC needing to export some demand outside of Thurrock.
- There are two disused squares at Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field) that were last provided in 2018, whilst cricket was also previously provided at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club).
- Three of the squares are accompanied by an NTP, whilst there are also 10 standalone NTPs provided across school sites.
- All clubs have secure tenure at their respective grounds and will therefore be able to service cricket for the foreseeable future
- The audit of grass wicket squares found two grass wicket squares to be of good quality, five to be of standard quality and two to be of poor quality.
- All clubs have access to ancillary provision rated as standard quality, although only Belhus CC at North Stifford Recreation Ground has facilities that are appropriate for female participation.
- Three of the five clubs have access to fixed onsite net provision, with Aveley CC not currently serviced and Horndon-on-the-Hill CC using mobile facilities.

Cricket – demand summary

- There are five clubs in Thurrock which collectively provide 62 teams, with this equating to 29 senior men's, two senior women's, 27 junior boys and four junior girls' team.
- The biggest club is Orsett & Thurrock CC with a total of 27 teams.
- Participation has increased in recent years, with 12 additional teams now compared to 2020.
- Four clubs take part in both the All Stars and Dynamos initiative, whilst three field women's softball teams.
- Horndon-on-the-Hill CC exports some demand following the loss of access to St Clere's School, utilising Small Gains Playing Fields in Castle Point and Wickford Memorial Park in Basildon.
- No unmet or latent demand is identified and no clubs import demand into the Borough.

- Future growth from population increases is anticipated to equate to four senior men's and two junior boy's teams, whilst two of the five clubs have plans to increase the number of teams they currently provide by a total of seven teams.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay and improving quality

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g., at North Stifford Recreation Ground), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. Attempts should therefore be made to reduce identified overplay, although it is recognised that many clubs do not necessarily believe that there is an issue and are able to accommodate such demand.

In Thurrock, overplay is currently identified at six squares across as four sites. The table below looks at the impact of quality improvements on this provision as a solution to alleviating overplay, with none currently assessed as good quality. As a reminder, for good quality squares, capacity is five matches per grass wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, it is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not deemed safe for play.

Table 4.22: Impact on overplay if squares were improved to standard then good quality

Site ID	Site name	Club users	Quality	No. of wickets	Capacity balance (match equivalent sessions per season)	Potential capacity balance when improved to standard	Potential capacity balance when improved to good
11	Corringham Recreation Ground	Orsett & Thurrock CC	Poor	8	21	3	19
32	North Stifford Recreation Ground	Belhus CC	Standard	13	2	2	11
36	Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club	Orsett & Thurrock CC	Standard	12	20	20	8
36	Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club	Orsett & Thurrock CC	Standard	8	14	14	6
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	Stanford-le-Hope CC	Poor	12	30	18	30
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	Stanford-le-Hope CC	Poor	8	16	16	24

As seen, when improved to standard or good quality the squares at North Stifford Recreation Ground and Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club will remain overplayed; however, all others have spare capacity created. Overall, this will reduce existing shortfalls from 91 match equivalent sessions to 38 match equivalent sessions if improved to standard quality and to two match equivalent sessions when improved to good quality.

Table 4.23: Overall impact of improving quality to standard (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential Total
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	12	-	**12**
Grays	-	2	**2**
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	-	40	**40**
Tilbury & Chadwell	-	-	**0**
Thurrock	**12**	**40**	**40**

Table 4.24: Overall impact of improving square quality to good (match equivalent sessions)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Potential Total
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	12	-	**12**
Grays	-	-	**0**
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	-	14	**14**
Tilbury & Chadwell	-	-	**0**
Thurrock	**12**	**14**	**2**

Installing / use of non-turf pitches (NTPs)

Of the squares that would remain overplayed at Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club, one is without and NTP. As such, installing an additional one at the site, or it at the Club's alternative venue (Corringham Recreation Ground) could further contribute towards alleviating capacity issues, particularly at junior level, as usage could be transferred (although it is recognised that most cricket will remain on grass and that some leagues do not allow NTP usage).

As an alternative to an NTP (or addition), 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 pitches. 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).

A hybrid wicket combines natural turf grass with less than 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 overplay squares. This would be particularly beneficial for those sites which are limited on space and cannot create additional wickets due to restrictions on 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 both junior and senior wickets. This is based on the assumption that more senior demand can take place on the hybrid wickets allowing for the outer senior wickets to be used/converted for junior demand. However, it should also be known that hybrid wickets are a new development and remain largely untested at grassroots level, meaning there is no data at present to formally promote them as a solution.

In addition, it should also be noted that hybrid wickets have generally been designed to support high quality provision. It is said that only sites achieving a 'good' standard or above via PitchPower assessments are suitable (meaning 'basic' and 'poor' sites are not). As such, this could only be applied to the square at South Ockendon Recreation Ground

New cricket squares / reinstating disused squares

Should quality improvements and NTP installation not be possible, there is likely to be a need for new cricket pitch provision to meet existing and future demand levels. Based on existing shortfalls, the table below examines how many squares could be required within each analysis area, based on a standard 10-wicket facility (40 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 4.25: Potential need for new cricket pitch provision

Analysis area	Current total (match equivalent sessions)	Number of wicket equivalents (four matches per wicket)	Number of pitches required
Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	12	-	-
Grays	2	40	1
Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	101	120	3
Tilbury & Chadwell	0	-	-

As seen, up to four new pitches could theoretically be required, with this focused on the Grays and Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham analysis areas. However, this is only based on where demand currently plays, meaning it should also be considered that other analysis areas could potentially also meet requirements. As an example, the ECCB has identified a requirement in the Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet Analysis Area via Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)that would receive demand. This is further evidenced by the following scenario (accommodating future demand).

In the Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham Analysis Area, bringing the two disused squares back into use at St Clere's School will theoretically reduce the number of pitches required from four to two. However, this is subject to full community availability being offered (and secured) and enough capacity existing beyond curricular and extra-curricular use. This is therefore something that will need to be monitored.

For the Grays Analysis Area, one solution to meet the requirements is to reinstate the disused provision at Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field). Two squares were previously provided at the site before falling out of use in 2018. It should, however, be noted that clubs are apprehensive about utilising the site due to vandalism and antisocial behaviour that takes place at the site, as well as a need for improved changing facilities. Such issues will therefore also need to be overcome.

Elsewhere, there is potential to reintroduce the provision previously available at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club), which would involve reinstating an eight-wicket square on the south side of the site, which could be achieved without disrupting the existing football configurations. A similar opportunity exists at Billet Recreation Ground, where development could also proceed without compromising the current football arrangements.

In addition to the above, it should also be noted that there is an element of recreational demand in Thurrock that would also likely benefit from new cricket pitch provision. Furthermore, the growth and requirements of women's and girls' activity also needs to be considered when assessing the need for an increased supply.

Outside of Thurrock, it should be noted that the development of Dunton Hils Garden Village situated In Brentwood is to provide a cricket square which could accommodate additional demand from Thurrock, particularly via Belhus CC and Orsett & Thurrock CC.

Accommodating exported and future demand

In Thurrock, both Aveley CC and Horndon-on-the-Hill CC express and quantify future demand aspirations, with the table below exploring what impact this would have on capacity for the clubs. This has previously been discounted from calculations as it is considered to be more aspirational than future growth predicted via population increases.

Table 4.26: Accommodating additional future demand (club-by-club)

Club	Exported and Future demand				Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Aveley CC	4	1	1	-	Capacity exists for the junior boys' team but not for the senior men's teams. In addition, the senior women's team could only be accommodated if suitable ancillary facilities were provided.
Horndon-on-the-Hill CC	2	-	1	-	Capacity exists midweek to accommodate the demand but not for the senior men's teams.

As seen, Aveley CC cannot achieve its future demand aspirations at its current site (South Ockendon Recreation Ground) due to existing capacity issues and because its ancillary facilities are not currently suitable for female access. For the senior men's teams to be fielded, access to two additional squares would be needed (on the assumption that all four will play Saturday cricket).

Furthermore, Horndon-on-the-Hill CC is not able to accommodate the exported demand of its 3rd and 4th teams. A total of 24 match equivalent sessions per season would be required in order to accommodate this demand.

In addition, the ECB and ECCB identifies that future growth in women's and girls' demand is likely to exceed what is set out above (see following scenario), with this also not captured via population projections due to lower levels of existing activity. Because of this, it is imperative that relevant sites are equipped to accommodate female demand, particularly in relation to ancillary facilities. Existing provision at South Ockendon Recreation Ground, Corringham Recreation Ground, North Stifford Recreation Ground, Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club and Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground is all said to be insufficient in this regard at present.

Accommodating women's and girls' demand

The ECB has recently established a target of trebling the number of female teams across the Country over the next two years, with this therefore likely to further increase in demand across Thurrock above and beyond what is forecast through other methods. To quantify this, with six female teams currently fielded (two senior and four junior), it is expected that there will be 18 female teams in the Borough by 2026/2027. Nationally, the average number of women's and girl's teams is 16, therefore highlighting that the Borough is behind in comparison to the rest of the country.

As female demand commonly takes place either on Sundays or during midweek, this will increase existing shortfalls. This is shown in the following table. It assumes that activity will be split across the two playing formats and that the new teams will play on average six match equivalent sessions a season (in line with existing teams).

Table 4.27: Impact on supply and demand via the predicted growth of female cricket

Format	Current total (match equivalent sessions)	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)	Potential total (match equivalent sessions)
Saturday	**91**	**-**	**91**
Sunday	**79**	**33**	**112**
Midweek	**61**	**33**	**94**

Only three sites currently display actual spare capacity for female activity, with these being:

- Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground
- South Ockendon Recreation Ground
- Thames Rugby Club

Whilst these could be initially prioritised to accommodate the growth of the female game, as previously mentioned, the suitability of the sites from an ancillary perspective also needs to be considered. Improvements will be required across Thurrock in this regard, whilst for any new cricket pitches that are established, it will also need to be ensured that suitable provision for mixed gender usage is included.

It should be noted that the number of women's and girl's entries for the 24/25 cricket season have changed upon previous seasons, although figures for the 23/24 season have not been provided in order to work out the trend based growth within Thurrock within the women's and girl's game.

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of cricket squares in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve quality at sites assessed as poor and standard quality to increase capacity and reduce overplay.
- Install NTPs where they are not already in place at overused sites and encourage greater usage where they are already installed.
- Consider reinstating disused squares in areas of need.
- Explore the creation of new pitches in strategic areas and at strategic sites, particularly when other actions cannot be achieved and where there is a particular growth in demand.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so, particularly to ensure inclusive and mixed gender usage of sites.
- Improve existing and provide additional outdoor training facilities where there is demand.
- Ensure a co-ordinated approach with the findings of the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to ensure improved quality and access to indoor provision (i.e., via sports halls).
- Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is adequately provided for.
- Consider allocating land for new pitches to meet existing need as part of the Local Plan process (in addition to residential allocations and their requirements).
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the requirements for new pitch provision to meet existing and future football needs through master planning 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.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Ensure that any developments nearby to existing or new cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).

4.6: Tennis

Assessment Report summary

Tennis - supply and demand summary

- The supply of tennis provision in Thurrock is currently insufficient to meet both club and non-club demand.
- There are capacity issues for Thurrock TC, primarily linked to a lack of sports lighting, and a lack of good quality, sports-lit local authority courts that are easily accessible.
- There is a need for padel provision to be established across the Borough, with no courts currently provided.

Tennis - supply summary

- There are 48 tennis courts identified in Thurrock across 21 sites, with 34 courts available for community use across 17 sites.
- There are disused courts identified at Wyldecrest Spots Country Club and Orsett Recreation Ground.
- There are no padel courts provided.
- There are 16 community available courts operated by schools, 15 by the Council and three by a sports club (all unavailable courts are at education sites).
- All but four courts have a macadam surface, with the remainder courts being artificial turf.
- There are 16 courts serviced by sports lighting, which is a relatively low number.
- Thurrock TC is not currently provided for in regards to sports lighting - it has gained planning permission for telescoping lighting to be installed on two of its courts.

- Four courts are assessed as good quality (three available to the community), whereas 30 are standard quality courts (19 available for community use) and 12 are poor quality (all available for community use).
- Ancillary facilities are adequate for Thurrock TC but generally problematic at non-club sites.

Tennis - demand summary

- There is one tennis club in Thurrock, known as Thurrock TC.
- The Club's membership totals 200, with this equating to 60 senior men, 60 senior women, 40 junior boys' and 40 junior girls.
- Membership has grown from 140 since 2020, although a second club has been lost during this time period (Storm Fit TC).
- Away from clubs, community usage can be difficult to quantify, particularly in Thurrock as no sites operate with LTA products such as ClubSpark.
- There is no Local Tennis League operating in Thurrock and no courts are part of the Free Parks Tennis initiative.
- No padel usage is taking place due to no courts existing; however, the LTA identifies a need for 14 courts within the Borough and take-up is therefore likely to be high when provision is established.
- Thurrock TC reports latent demand due to currently operating at capacity, which is linked to its need for sports lighting to be established.
- Future demand from population projections equates to 2.13 courts (to 2044).

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

For club-based tennis, the LTA suggests that non-sports lit courts can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas courts with sports lighting can accommodate 60 members. Using this, Thurrock TC is considered to have capacity for only 120 members, meaning it is currently significantly oversubscribed with a membership of 200. This links to its identified need for sports lighting, although a deficit would remain even if all three courts were serviced (this would increase capacity to 180).

Accommodating padel demand

There are currently no padel courts in Thurrock, meaning no activity is taking place. However, that is not to say that there is no demand. Several operators have aspirations to establish provision and this would likely result in significant usage when considering national and regional trends.

To assist local authorities in strategically planning padel provision, the LTA has established, by authority, the number of padel courts that can be sustained based on population density and padel demand. In Thurrock, this identifies a need for 14 courts, which is based on 20% of the population being interested in padel (taken from a YouGov survey), penetration levels of 8%, and one court being able to accommodate up to 200 players.

The above figures provided form a start point for conversation and strategic planning. It does not mean that the suggested number should be seen as a cap, but that the has LTA confidence that there is sufficient demand for the number of courts identified. Some areas where the sport is more established will create higher levels of demand.

Recommendations

- Protect existing courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sustain quality at Thurrock Lawn Tennis Club.

- Support investment into local authority sites to better provide for recreational tennis and seek to maximise usage following funding – focus should be placed on improved existing poor and standard quality courts, as well as implementing sustainable operational models, with priority placed on sites with two courts or more.
- Explore investment opportunities at school sites, particularly where community demand could be accommodated following improvements.
- Explore the installation of sports lighting where it is not currently provided to increase the capacity of courts, especially at park sites that are or could be well used.
- Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via further utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark and Gate Access) to support the customer journey.
- Improve ancillary provision servicing courts where demand is, or could be, high.
- Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- Work collaboratively with the LTA to develop a strategic plan for future padel developments across Thurrock given its growing demand and with a need for 14 identified, providing that no existing traditional courts are lost (unless it can be evidenced that this is of benefit to padel, tennis and other relevant sports e.g. netball).
- Where padel courts are to be provided (not to the detriment of tennis and multi-sport use), prioritise sites with appropriate existing supporting infrastructure and management e.g., leisure centres.
- Consider allocating land for new tennis courts and padel courts as part of major residential developments.

4.7: Netball

Assessment Report summary

Netball – supply and demand summary

- The supply of netball provision in Thurrock is broadly sufficient to meet demand.
- An improvement in court quality, the number of community available courts and the number of sports-lit courts are required to ensure that current activity levels and any future growth can be accommodated.

Netball – supply summary

- There are 81 netball courts identified across 33 sites in Thurrock, although only 43 are available for community use across 13 sites.
- There are two disused netball courts found at Wyldecrest Sports Country Club, where plans exist to convert the provision to 3G.
- Most court sites are managed by schools, with the only exceptions being at Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field), Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground and Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground.
- Due to most facilities being operated by schools, security of tenure for netball users is limited.
- All courts have a macadam surface.
- Only 24 of the 81 courts are serviced by sports lights, which is a particularly low number.
- Five courts are assessed as good quality, whilst 62 are considered to be standard quality and 14 are poor quality.

Netball – demand summary

- The South Essex Thurrock Netball Association accommodates most demand for netball within Thurrock, with matches taking place at Ortu Hassenbrook Academy.
- The courts at Ortu Hassenbrook Academy are also widely used by teams for training throughout the year, with this including demand from large clubs such as Fusion NC and Star NC.
- Other venues known to be used for training are Storm Fit, Harris Academy Chafford Hundred, St Clere's School and the Gateway Academy.
- There is also a commercial netball league operating via Play Netball, with this utilising courts at St Clere's School.

- No England Netball initiatives are identified as taking place in the Borough, although Back to Netball and Netball Now sessions were previously held.
- Imported demand into Thurrock is likely to be high due to the presence of the South Essex Thurrock Netball Association, whilst exported demand also exists due to the proximity of the Basildon & District Netball Association.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect existing quantity of courts in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve court quality, with priority on the provision at Ortu Hassenbrook Academy and St Clere's School given the demand levels received.
- Consider establishing additional sports lighting at additional venues to increase the supply of useable supplementary provision.
- Improve ancillary provision where required.

4.8: Bowls

Assessment Report summary

Bowls – supply and demand summary

- The supply of bowls greens in Thurrock is sufficient to meet demand, with no known capacity pressures existing and with good quality facilities provided.
- With each active green in use by clubs, it is also clear that they are all required to ensure that usage levels can continue to be accommodated.

Bowls – supply summary

- There are nine flat greens located across eight sites in Thurrock (Blackshots Recreation Ground provides two).
- Disused greens are located at The Springhouse Sports Club (in addition to its active green), Billet Recreation Ground, Aveley Sports & Social Club and Wyldecrest Sports Country Club.
- Eight greens are operated by the Council and leased or rented to clubs, whilst the remaining green is managed commercially (at The Springhouse Sports Club).
- At Blackshots Recreation Ground, the lease of one of the greens has now expired, with this used by Thurrock BC.
- Seven greens are assessed as good quality and two are assessed as standard quality (none are poor quality).
- Four greens are serviced by good quality ancillary provision and five are serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.
- No greens are serviced by sport lighting.

Bowls – demand summary

- There are 10 bowls clubs playing in Thurrock.
- There has been a reduction in clubs over recent years following the merger of Corringham BC and Fobbing & District BC as well as the folding of Drums BC.
- Five clubs are signed up to Play Bowls.
- No unmet or latent demand is known to exist, with the majority of clubs having dedicated access to their own green and Thurrock BC reporting no capacity issues where this is not the case (at Blackshots Recreation Ground).
- Using ONS projections, the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to significantly increase for the period up to 2044, with this likely to increase demand for bowls.
- Bowls England also has a current focus on attracting younger participants which could result in the emergence of junior players.

Scenarios

Accommodating current and future demand

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 80 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting the required level of demand. Thurrock no greens are currently above this, meaning no capacity issues are presently considered to exist.

Club sustainability

Bowls England suggests that clubs operating with a membership of below 20 could be unsustainable. This, however, is not presently an issue within Thurrock as all clubs have demand levels above this. No clubs are therefore considered to be at risk from a sustainability perspective.

Disused provision

There are currently four disused bowling greens in Thurrock, with these located at The Springhouse Sports Club (in addition to the active green), Billet Recreation Ground, Aveley Sports & Social Club and Wyldecrest Sports Country Club. As no demand has been identified for these to be re-established for bowls, they could be suitable for development; however, it is recommended that at least some are retained as strategic reserve should access be required in the future. This is because all active greens have a relatively strong membership.

If any of the disused sites are brought forward for development, exploration should first take place to understand if the provision can be re-purposed to meet other sporting requirements. Only if this can be demonstrated as not being required or possible could alternative plans be supported, in line with national planning policy.

Linked to the above, Wyldecrest Sports Country Club has an aspiration to establish smaller sized 3G pitch provision where its disused green resides. This is the type of opportunity that could be supported, although it should be noted that the proposal also includes disused tennis and netball courts that will require separate consideration.

Loss of active provision

Nationally, many active bowls greens are faced with closure and/or development pressures, especially where usage levels are declining. This is often warranted where provision is unused, or where clubs with a low membership can be amalgamated onto a fewer number of greens. However, with all active provision in Thurrock in current use, and with no clubs struggling for membership, it is clear that this cannot be supported in the Borough, and that all such provision requires continued protection.

Recommendations

- Protect all existing in-use greens, in line with national and local planning policy.
- Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality (at The Springhouse Sports Club and Orsett Bowls Club) and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- Sustain ancillary facility quality.
- Continue to monitor membership levels to ensure that clubs remain within capacity thresholds.

- Retain disused greens as strategic reserve, unless evidence is provided to support development – where this is the case, priority should first and foremost be given to repurposing the provision to meet other sporting requirements.

4.9: Athletics

Assessment Report summary

Athletics – supply and demand summary

- Supply is currently sufficient to meet demand for athletics via the track and field provision at Blackshots Athletics Stadium.
- To further enhance the sport locally, supplementary provision via NewGen products could be established elsewhere in the Borough to better cater for alternative types of demand.

Athletics – supply summary

- There is currently one athletics tracks in Thurrock located at Blackshots Athletics Stadium.
- The site is operated by Thurrock Harriers on behalf of the Council.
- The track and field provision is rated as good quality and it is TrackMark accredited.
- The ancillary provision supporting the site is good quality, particularly given that Thurrock Harriers has its own clubhouse at the site.

Athletics – demand summary

- Thurrock has one formal athletics club, with this known as Thurrock Harriers.
- The Club currently has 250 members (160 senior and 90 junior) and accesses Blackshots Athletics Stadium for its activity.
- Thurrock Nomads is a running club, with Thurrock Rugby Club accessed as a base.
- There is a RunTogether group in the Borough known as Chafford Hundred Running Group.
- There is one Parkrun event held in Orsett Heath.
- Unmet/latent demand is expressed by Thurrock Harriers, with a waiting list currently in place, albeit this is not because of a lack of site capacity.
- The Club has a future aspiration to increase its membership by 48 additional senior members and 28 additional junior members.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- Protect existing track and field facility at Blackshots Athletics Stadium in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sustain quality and look to make improvements when necessary to ensure that demand can continue to be met and that TrackMark accreditation can be sustained.
- Sustain ancillary facility quality.
- Explore if an opportunity exists to establish supplementary provision within the Borough, linked to England Athletics' NewGen products, particularly within any major new developments.
- Continue to support clubs, running groups, events and initiatives such as Park Run.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed across Thurrock based on the sport-by-sport and overall findings. As such, they apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport or one area.

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

a) Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and 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 playing pitches and 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 appropriate mitigation until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls i.e., following improvements.

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 appropriate mitigation is provided and agreed upon, in line with national planning policy. NPPF Paragraph 104 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

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

Should facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g., council and partner budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPOSS or a separate needs assessment), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of provision used within the last five years and will use the PPOSS to help assess planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

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'.

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'.

Disused provision

Disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with the NPPF and Sport England's policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. As such, any disused sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate permanent loss via a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

For playing pitch sports, the lawful use of a disused playing field is still that of a playing field until such time as it is developed for a non-pitch sport use or its use is formally changed through the planning system. There is no positive obligation, under planning law, for a playing field to be actively used as such.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value 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 provision and that replacement facilities are in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost (e.g., taking into account a “bedding in” period).

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

Some school and commercial sites are being used in Thurrock for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of such facilities has been classified as secure; however, it is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have high levels of unsecured community use e.g., at Storm Fit, William Edwards School, Harris Academy Ockendon and Ormiston Park Academy.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Active Essex and the FF 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.

Given current budgetary pressures, 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, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds for the acquisition and development of sites, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also 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 manage assets and to apply for external funding for site improvements. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be enhanced and sites developed.

Local sports clubs that could be able to manage their own assets should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, club development should be supported and clubs should be encouraged to develop business and sports development plans to show how facilities can be sustainable and to maximise income generation.

Relevant clubs could also be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)[2]. They should also be signposted 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.

[2] http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits

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

Club	Site
Clubs should have Clubmark/NGB accreditation award. Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links. 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. Ideally, clubs should have already identified any match funding required for initial capital investment identified. Clubs have processes in place to maintain sites to the existing or better standards.	Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e., not those with a Borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate. As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of an accreditation award). Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards the improvement of the site.

Furthermore, the Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- Increasing participation, particularly in target areas such as women's and girls' activity.
- Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- Commitment to quality standards.
- Improvements to facilities, or as a 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 sites remain available for other purposes and for other users.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain so that extensions can be secured, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site development. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

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 Thurrock, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from providers to open up provision is also an issue, especially at 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 the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration could also be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

The following is a list of schools that have outdoor sports facilities in Thurrock but that do not allow for community use of some or all of their provision:

- Abbots Hall Primary Academy
- Belmont Castle Academy
- Corringham Primary School
- Deneholm Primary School
- Dilkes Academy
- East Tilbury Primary School
- Giffards Primary School
- Grays Convent High School
- Harris Academy Chafford Hundred
- Harris Academy Ockendon
- Herringham Primary Academy
- Little Thurrock Primary School
- Ortu Gable Academy
- Ortu Hassenbrook Academy
- Purfleet Primary Academy
- Quarry Hill Academy
- Somers Heath Primary School
- Stiffords Clay Primary School
- Tudor Court Primary School
- Woodside Academy

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 extracurricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

In addition, linked to Recommendation (b), several of the schools that do offer community use do so without providing security of tenure, which can limit the level of access that they receive. Such schools include:

- Dilkes Academy
- East Tilbury Primary School
- Harris Academy Ockendon
- Ormiston Park Academy
- Ortu Gable Academy
- Ortu Hassenbrook Academy
- St Clere's School
- Storm Fit
- The Gateway Academy
- The Hathaway Academy
- Treetops School
- Tudor Court Primary School
- William Edwards School
- Woodside Academy

NB: Please note that some schools are listed as both being unavailable for community and as being available but with unsecured access. Where this is the case, it is because some of the facilities are community available whilst others are not.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large education sites offering several pitches/facilities, with focus therefore placed predominately on secondary schools rather than primary schools. Securing access to such sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within. This also ties in with recommendations made in the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy, which makes a recommendation to work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use, particularly relating to sports halls.

Linked to the above, it is recommended that the schools that are considered priorities for securing access to in both the PPOSS and the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy are identified to identify overlap and to provide focus. Where possible, a strategic approach to working with schools should be taken across the local authority and the wider South Essex region, with support from the education authorities. For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach with other engagement that takes place between the schools and relevant stakeholders e.g., sports development initiatives.

Another recommendation made in the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy is to work with colleagues in education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement. This should also apply to outdoor sports facilities in order to provide greater security of tenure to club users.

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 providers 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.

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

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, these should be designed to facilitate community access via a community use agreement, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as artificial pitches (e.g., 3G) or courts that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

d) Improve quality

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, well used sites that are overplayed and/or poor quality). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement.

Notwithstanding the above, with pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore also be considered. This could be via clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include the use of equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Thurrock is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality, although poor quality provision is more prevalent than good quality provision. 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 pitches 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 the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary year on year dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall, although maintenance regimes could be altered to reduce this impact.

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). Where this occurs, it is vital that the improvements are advertised and marketed towards potential users as their perception of the provision may need altering.

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 (although other provision can be key for income generation) 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, clubs 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 across mobile 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.

For rugby union and cricket, the respective NGBs are now also utilising Pitch Power, with reports being produced similar to those for football.

For the improvement/replacement of 3G pitches and hockey AGPs, this is most commonly linked to age, with any surfaces older than 10 years generally requiring replacement. Where pitches are provided, sinking funds should be put into place to ensure that refurbishment can take place when it is required.

As improving all sites is unlikely to be feasible from a budgetary and logistical perspective, key sites with a larger number of pitches/facilities should be prioritised, particularly where they are well used or could be well used following improvements. The table below identifies sites in Thurrock that could be focused on for each relevant sport, based on their current status and issues.

Table 5.2: Key sites requiring quality improvements (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Billet Recreation Ground Corringham Recreation Ground Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club) Lakeside Sports Ground Mobil Field Old Hall Farm Parkside (Aveley Football Club)

Sport	Sites for improvement
	St Clere's School The Gateway Academy
Rugby union	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground
Hockey	Storm Fit
Cricket	Corringham Recreation Ground North Stifford Recreation Ground Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground
Tennis	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field) Corringham Recreation Ground Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground Stanford-le-Hope Recreation GroundS Storm Fit
Netball	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy Storm Fit The Gateway Academy
Bowls	Orsett Bowls Club The Springhouse Sports Club
Athletics	Blackshots Athletics Stadium

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 (e.g., via a non-technical site assessment and/or technical PitchPower assessments) and allocating a match/usage limit to each.

The FA, RFU, ECB and EH all recommend a maximum 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.

Table 5.3: Recommended carrying capacity of grass pitches in number of matches

Sport	Pitch type	Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Football	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
Rugby union	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
Rugby union	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
Rugby union	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
Cricket	One non-turf wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	4 per day	4 per day	N/A

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 hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members if it is serviced by sports lighting, whereas a non-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. Where overplay is identified, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity, or quality should be improved to increase capacity to appropriate levels. Where play is transferred, 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 rugby union, additional sports lighting, in conjunction with quality improvements, can further reduce levels of overplay at club sites as it allows clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent sports lighting is not possible, portable sports lighting can be provided as an alternative.

Similarly, additional sports lighting can help resolve capacity issues for both tennis and netball as it can allow for greater court usage, especially during winter months.

For cricket, an increase in 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 with existing squares. The emergence of hybrid wickets could also provide an additional solution.

The table below identifies sites in Thurrock that are currently overplayed for each sport.

Table 5.4: Overplayed sites (by sport)

Sport	Sites for improvement
Football	Billet Recreation Ground Giffards Primary School Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club) Lakeside Sports Ground Old Hall Farm Ormiston Park Academy Orsett Heath Academy Ortu Gable Hall School Playing Fields Ortu Hassenbrook Academy Parkside (Aveley Football Club) St Clere's School Storm Fit The Gateway Academy
Rugby union	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground
Hockey	-
Cricket	Corringham Recreation Ground North Stifford Recreation Ground Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground
Tennis	Thurrock Lawn Tennis Club
Netball	-

Sport	Sites for improvement
Bowls	-
Athletics	-

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but which are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

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

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 outdoor sport sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide and sporting context. As such, this takes into account the level of demand accommodated and the potential impact the recommended actions will have on addressing the identified shortfalls/issues. The proposed site-hierarchy is summarised in the following table.

Table 5.5: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Services the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches / facility types, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches / facility types.	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 more at a basic level.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school/college/university 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.

Hub sites are of Borough-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. Actions at these sites are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the issues identified in the PPOSS.

Key centres are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. 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.

For council sites in this tier, 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 it is 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.

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding is secured for improved sports provision and directed to areas of need. This should be underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities, with the PPOSS able to be used as an evidence base for attracting investment.

Furthermore, 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 PPOSS Steering Group as well as with neighbouring local authorities. Cross-border developments can accommodate demand from within Thurrock (and vice versa) and lessen requirements within the Borough.

To attract investment, the Council should stay informed in relation to relevant and appropriate funding pots, both in regard to what it can directly attract as well as to what clubs could attract independently (with the Council able to assist with this process). This can also be helped through the PPOSS Steering Group signposting partners to what could be available.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development. This includes delivery from education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector.

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 developments.

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council uses 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. This should form the basis of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions and should aid the negotiation process with developers.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sport and by pitch type and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport and on that provision. That percentage is then applied to the population growth and the additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions. This then provides the associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) provided. 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.

For tennis, Sport England has been working with the LTA to add outdoor tennis courts to its Sports Facilities Calculator. This works by turning an estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent number of courts which will be needed to meet this. It helps quantify additional demand for new growth populations, development, and regeneration areas, and is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations.
The tool should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and does not take account of:

- Facility location compared to demand.
- Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- Cross boundary movement of demand.
- Travel networks and topography.
- Attractiveness of facilities.

Once the calculators have been utilised, the PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development (or group of developments) on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for contributions to be put towards improvements to increase the capacity of existing provision, or if new provision is required (or a combination of both). Where 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 development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that also 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 for Sport England and the NGBs 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 further development in the future. This is because single-pitch facilities are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

Where new provision is not required but where contributions to existing sites is instead to be sought, the PPOSS Action Plan should be used to identify suitable sites within the locality that should receive the funding. This may involve directing investment into provision most likely to receive demand from the housing development, or into provision that is most in need (e.g., due to quality issues).

Sport England also recommends that a number of objectives which should be implemented to enable best use of the calculators:

- 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 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.

Whilst neither the Playing Pitch Calculator nor the Sports Facilities Calculator identify demand for other types of pitches (outside of football, rugby, cricket and hockey) or non-pitch provision (outside of tennis), a similar assessment of need process can still be undertaken. As with the sports that are covered, this should entail utilisation of the PPOSS and engagement with the NGBs.

Developer contributions - step by step guide

For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider. In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPOSS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

Step 1	Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development

The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator, which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPOSS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a proposal.

The calculator provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions that will derive from the development. The associated costs for providing these new pitches are also identified (although please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved).

Step 2	Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site

For large-scale developments that generate high levels of demand, new pitch provision may be required to meet the population growth. This is particularly the case when the calculator identifies a need for multiple pitches and across multiple sports.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?
- Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

- Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development. When identifying a site for off-site contributions, the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites should be considered and whether they could help serve the new development – this could be informed by identifying the analysis area in which the development sits and if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites to close to the boundary.

The off-site decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study) to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

Step 3	**Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development**

The Sports Facility Calculator now calculates tennis demand so this can therefore be used to inform tennis requirements; however, neither this nor the Playing Pitch Calculator determine needs for any other sports. That being said, the PPOSS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand requirements and can therefore still be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required, in conjunction with NGB discussions.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPOSS Action Plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part a multi-sport development.

Step 4	Consider design principles for new provision

The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 5	Calculate the financial contribution required

After using the PPOSS Playing Pitch Calculator and the PPOSS as a starting point, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision: https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

h) Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current facility stock.

i) Identify opportunities to increase 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). In addition, first and foremost, it is imperative that the current levels of provision are protected and maintained to ensure that the overall picture does not worsen in the future.

To reduce the identified shortfalls, there is not necessarily a need for a significant level of new provision, with the current provision instead able to be better utilised to overcome most deficits. 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 and/or to artificial surfaces.
- 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 long-term tenure at sites that are currently unsecured.
- Exploring lease/management arrangements with appropriate clubs/organisations.
- Securing community use at education sites including those currently unavailable.
- Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage and secure tenure.
- Establishing additional sports lighting.
- Installing artificial surfaces (e.g., NTPs).

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality as well as unused and unsecure sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome. This is done on a site-by-site basis in the proceeding Action Plan.

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

Better utilising the stock of provision across Thurrock will lessen the need for new provision. Although there are identified shortfalls, most existing shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock is therefore not recommended as a priority solution, although for certain sports and in specific areas it could be required depending on the feasibility and success of other solutions.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a discrete need for additional 3G pitches and padel courts that cannot be overcome via other actions. However, such provision could be provided via utilisation of existing playing fields, subject to meeting the relevant NPPF requirements.

Where new pitches/facilities are likely to be needed, consideration should be given to allocating land for new pitches to meet existing need as part of the Local Plan process. This should be done in addition to residential allocations and their requirements, although it could be via providing additional land for playing fields as an extension to the playing fields required to service large-scale developments.

As intimated above, large scale housing developments may also necessitate the need for new provision, as will the establishment of any new schools. 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 can be of a benefit to the School as well as the wider community, subject to any design issues and providing that long-term security of tenure can be provided.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator should be used 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 as well as linking to the sport-by-sport scenarios and recommendations section of this document. 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.

Please note that if a site is not identified/included in the Action Plan, it does not mean that it is not needed or that it is not playing field or sports facility. Where provision is not recorded within the PPOSS, it is still considered to exist for planning purposes and will continue to do so. Furthermore, any exclusion does not mean that the provision is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Also note that where national planning policy requirements are referenced within any recommendation actions, this refers to meeting the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

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 identified key issues, local priorities and available funding. To help enable this, as stated in Recommendation (e), the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of sites and associated facilities. This is done via classifying sites as hub sites, key centres or local sites.

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council should look to work with to support delivery of the actions. It generally relates to the NGB that governs the sport/s played at the site as well as the operators and any other relevant stakeholders. 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 directly referenced. 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-operated venues).

Priority

Although hub sites are most likely to have **high** priority actions, as they have wider importance, these have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the PPOSS. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are on occasion 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).

In addition to being included within the main action plan, the high priority actions have also been separated out. This is to assist with the start of the Stage E process following adoption of the PPOSS.

Medium priority actions 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.

The **low** priority actions tend to be where little work is required, or where the status quo can be maintained, or they are for single pitch or single sport sites with only local specific importance. However, the actions may still contribute to addressing issues for specific users and there may also 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 £150k
- (M) - Medium - £150k-£750k
- (H) - High £750k and above

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

AVELEY, SOUTH OCKENDON & PURFLEET ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
14	Dilkes Academy	RM15 5JQ	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality that is played to capacity during the peak period. The site suffers from unsecure tenure.	Look to formalise tenure agreement to provide security of tenure.	Education FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
14	Dilkes Academy	RM15 5JQ	Hockey	Education	One smaller sized, hockey suitable AGP. The pitch is available for community use but without sports lighting.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Dilkes Academy	RM15 5JQ	Cricket	Education	One NTP of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
14	Dilkes Academy	RM15 5JQ	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Harris Academy Ockendon	RM15 5AY	Football	Education	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of standard quality. Both pitches have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain pitch quality. Look to formalise tenure agreement to provide security of tenure and actual spare capacity.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
21	Harris Academy Ockendon	RM15 5AY	Cricket	Education	One NTP of standard quality that is unavailable for community use. The site is also the main site for indoor training facilities in Thurrock, with Aveley, Belhus, Orsett & Thurrock and Stanford-le-Hope cricket clubs all utilising nets on site.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use. Sustain net quality for community cricket training demand and ensure continued access for clubs.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
21	Harris Academy Ockendon	RM15 5AY	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality for curricular use. Explore the feasibility of installing sports lighting on site to enable community use.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
22	Harris Academy Riverside	RM19 1QY	3G	Education	One smaller sized (82 x 50 metres) 3G pitch of poor quality. Despite being installed in 2019, one side of the pitch has sunk and cannot be used for competitive demand as it is deemed unsafe. The pitch is sports lit and available for community use.	Rectify pitch quality issues on site. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Seek FA testing so that the pitch can be used to accommodate competitive match play.	Education FA FF RFU	Local	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
22	Harris Academy Riverside	RM19 1QY	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Explore opportunities to improve quality to attract increased community usage.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
22	Harris Academy Riverside	RM19 1QY	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Explore options to provide sports lighting on site and use this to facilitate additional community usage.	Education EN	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	RM15 4PX	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The adult pitch on site is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch has actual spare capacity. The remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. The site is supported by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay on site. Explore options to relocate training demand away from the adult pitch on site to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	RM15 4PX	3G	Sports Club	A planning application (REF:24/01027/FUL) has been submitted at the site for the demolition of the existing driving range structures and fencing and provision of replacement sports use comprising two sports-lit 11v11 3G pitches, storage facilities and a sports pavilion including accessible changing facilities for four teams (plus officials). This is linked to the potential loss of Aveley Sports & Social Club for an employment scheme and the FF reports that it is supportive.	Consider plans against national planning policy requirements and the need for two 11v11 3G pitches against other potential site options in the area.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	H	Provide
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	RM15 4PX	Cricket	Sports Club	The site has previously accommodated cricket provision and the ECCB have identified an aspiration for a square to be brought back into use to address identified shortfalls.	Reinstate provision given local shortfalls and ensure quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities is of an appropriate standard.	ECB	Key centre	H	M	H	Provide
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	RM15 4PX	Tennis	Sports Club	The site is being considered for padel courts.	Explore the potential of providing padel courts at the site given local shortfalls identified across Thurrock.	LTA Sports Club	Key centre	H	M	H	Provide
35	Ormiston Park Academy	RM15 4RU	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7, all of standard quality. Spare capacity from the youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The youth 9v9 is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site. Look to formalise tenure agreement to provide security of tenure.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
35	Ormiston Park Academy	RM15 4RU	Cricket	Education	One NTP of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
35	Ormiston Park Academy	RM15 4RU	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Explore opportunities to improve quality to attract increased community usage.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
43	Parkside (Aveley Football Club)	RM15 4UA	Football	Sports Club	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are of standard quality and overplayed by one and 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week, respectively, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is of poor quality and played to capacity during the peak period. Pitches on site are reported to suffer from poor drainage on site. The site is supported by good quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site.	Sports Club FA FF RFU	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
43	Parkside (Aveley Football Club)	RM15 4UA	3G	Sports Club	One full size 3G pitch of good quality that is FA approved and heavily utilised by Aveley FC. The Club has an aspiration to deliver a second pitch on site.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for competitive demand and seek to maximise usage for this purpose. Consider aspirations for an additional pitch to alleviate area shortfalls, with this needing to be judged against other proposals and the potential of development at Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club).	Sports Club FA FF RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
45	Somers Heath Primary School	RM15 5LX	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued curricular use.	Education FA FF ECB EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Somers Heath Primary School	RM15 5LX	Cricket	Education	One NTP of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for continued curricular use.	Education FA FF ECB EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
45	Somers Heath Primary School	RM15 5LX	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam court that is without sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for continued curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
							ECB EN					
46	South Ockendon Recreation Ground	RM15 6QR	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. The youth 11v11 pitch is of poor quality whilst all the remaining pitches are of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity at peak time whilst all remaining pitch types have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate demand. Explore options to enhance ancillary provision.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
46	South Ockendon Recreation Ground	RM15 6QR	Cricket	Council	One good quality grass cricket square with ten wickets. The square has actual spare capacity to accommodate an increase in Sunday and midweek cricket. No practice facilities are provided on site. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities although there are no separate showering facilities, meaning provision is not suitable for female players.	Sustain square quality. Explore options to install permanent practice facilities on site. Enhance ancillary provision with a focus on better accommodating female demand. Explore securing a longer term tenure agreement for use by Aveley CC. Explore opportunities to provide additional provision to the Club if it achieves its growth aspirations.	ECB	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
46	South Ockendon Recreation Ground	RM15 6QR	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without sports lights.	Explore potential opportunities to provide sports lighting to attract and better accommodate recreational usage. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular maintenance and future capital works.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
46	South Ockendon Recreation Ground	RM15 6QR	Bowls	Council	One good quality bowling green that is home to South Ockendon BC. The green is considered to have capacity for an additional 42 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain green quality.	BE	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
52	Thames Rugby Club	RM15 5JU	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. The adult and youth pitches are at capacity at peak time whilst the mini 5v5 pitches have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand. Improve ancillary facilities in line with rugby union recommendations.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
52	Thames Rugby Club	RM15 5JU	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two standard (M1/D1) quality senior pitches, of which one is serviced by sports lights. The sports lit pitch is played to capacity, whilst the other has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Changing rooms on site are seen as inadequate and therefore considered to be of poor quality. Thames Rugby Club aspires to completely refurbish the ancillary provision on site to better accommodate the Club.	Consider improving quality to provide additional spare capacity to support any future growth. Improve ancillary provision on site and ensure inclusivity and mixed gender usage as part of this.	Sports Club RFU	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
52	Thames Rugby Club	RM15 5JU	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with six wickets and an NTP. The square has actual spare capacity for an increase in play during all peak periods. The changing rooms on site are seen as inadequate and therefore considered to be of poor quality.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand. Improve ancillary facilities in line with rugby union recommendations.	Sports Club ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
60	West Thurrock Memorial Ground	RM20 3BT	Football (disused)	Council	A disused adult football pitch. The site is still accessible to the community but not formally marked.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	FA FF	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
60	West Thurrock Memorial Ground	RM20 3BT	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Explore potential opportunities to provide sports lighting to attract and better accommodate recreational usage. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular	LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						maintenance and future capital works.						
68	Aveley Bowls Club	RM15 4BX	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green that is home to Aveley BC. The green is deemed to have capacity to support an additional 30 members. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain quality.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
72	Fondu Bowling Club	RM19 1TJ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green that is home to Thames Sports BC. The green is deemed to have capacity to support an additional 42 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Sustain green quality.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
73	Purfleet Primary Academy	RM19 1SX	3G	Education	One standard quality small size 3G pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
73	Purfleet Primary Academy	RM19 1SX	Tennis	Education	One good quality macadam sports lit but unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular use.	Education LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Aveley Sports & Social Club	RM15 4DT	Football (disused)	Sports Club	Four adult, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. A current planning application proposes the re-development of the site for an employment scheme, with off-site mitigation proposed in the form of two 11v11 3G pitches at Belhus Park.	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	M	L	Protect Provide
-	Thurrock Football Club	RM19 1YN	Football	Sports Club	One (stadia) adult pitch that is disused. Grays Athletic FC has been gifted the provision as a requirement of the planning permission for the re-development of the adjoining training ground for commercial development.	Re-establish provision at the site in line with the requirements of Grays Athletic FC and any other, supplementary local demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	H	M	H	Protect Provide

GRAYS ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Belmont Castle Academy	RM17 5YN	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Belmont Castle Academy	RM17 5YN	Cricket	Education	One standard quality NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
3	Belmont Castle Academy	RM17 5YN	Netball	Education	One standard quality netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
5	Blackshots Athletics Stadium	RM16 2QT	Athletics	Sports Club	One synthetic seven lane, 400-metre track (including an eight lane 100-metre straight) that is partially sports lit. It also has four jumping pits, two javelin run ups, two throwing cages and two areas for high jump beds. The quality of the track and field facilities on site is considered to be good, with TrackMark accreditation. It is home to Thurrock Harriers AC, which currently accommodates 250 members. The site hosts a 400 seat stand as well as a clubhouse, with overall ancillary provision on site considered to be of good quality.	Sustain track and field facility quality through dedicated maintenance regime and ensure resurfacing takes place when required. Ensure TrackMark compliancy is maintained when re-testing is required. Explore opportunities to supplement the provision with a NewGen facility (facilities) elsewhere in the Borough.	Sports Club EA	Key centre	H	M	M	Protect Provide
13	Deneholm Primary School	RM16 2SS	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
13	Deneholm Primary School	RM16 2SS	Netball	Education	One macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
19	Grays Convent High School	RM17 5UX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
19	Grays Convent High School	RM17 5UX	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are serviced by sports lights but unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use. Explore future community use options given the presence of sports lighting.	Education LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
19	Grays Convent High School	RM17 5UX	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use. The School aspires to have an air dome installed over its two courts.	Sustain court quality for curricular use. Explore future community use options given the presence of sports lighting, especially if the air dome facility plans come to fruition.	Education EN	Local	M	S	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
20	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	RM16 6SA	Football	Education	One standard quality adult football pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
20	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	RM16 6SA	3G	Education	One good quality full size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch is on the FA register and heavily utilised by Little Thurrock Dynamos FC.	Sustain pitch quality through dedicated maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Ensure re-testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for competitive matches and seek to maximise usage for this purpose.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
20	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	RM16 6SA	Tennis	Education	Two standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.	Sustain court quality.	Education LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
20	Harris Academy Chafford Hundred	RM16 6SA	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use and one poor quality court that is unavailable to the community.	Seek to improve poor quality court to enhance offer and explore future community use options.	Education EN	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Cricket	Council	Two disused squares that were last provided in 2018.	Reinstate provision given local shortfalls and ensure quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities is of an appropriate standard.	ECB	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Rugby Union	Council	One age grade rugby union pitch of poor (M0/D1) quality. The pitch has discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality.	Improve pitch quality to enable club usage (e.g., from Thurrock RUFC) if required.	RFU	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Tennis	Council	One standard quality macadam court that is serviced by sports lights and one poor quality court without sports lights. Both courts are available for community use.	Improve court quality and seek additional sports lighting to attract and better accommodate recreational usage. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular maintenance and future capital works.	LTA	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Netball	Council	One poor quality macadam netball court that is serviced by sports lights and available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational usage.	EN	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Bowls	Council	Two bowling greens of good quality, utilised by Grays Town BC, Senior Citizens BC and Thurrock BC.	Sustain quality.	BE	Hub site	M	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					The greens are deemed to have capacity to accommodate a further 23 members. The greens are serviced by good quality ancillary provision.							
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	RM16 2JU	Football (disused)	Council	Six adult pitches that are now disused, although the site remains accessible to the community for other sporting purposes.	Consider options to re-introduce football to the site as a means to reducing local shortfalls, particularly given the quantity of provision that could be provide.	FA FF	Hub site	H	M	M	Protect Provide
27	Lakeside Sports Ground	RM16 6DN	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of good quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the mini 7v7 pitch has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore the feasibility of relocating of some demand away from the adult pitch to alleviate overplay.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
27	Lakeside Sports Ground	RM16 6DN	3G	Sports Club	One full size 3G pitch of standard quality that is sports lit, available for community use and is on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Ensure FA testing is carried out when required to ensure the pitch can remain on suitable for competitive play and seek to maximise usage for this purpose.	RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
29	Little Thurrock Primary School	RM17 5SW	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
29	Little Thurrock Primary School	RM17 5SW	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is without sports lighting and unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Long Lane Recreation Ground	RM16 2AF	Football (disused)	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 that all lie disused. The site remains accessible to the community but pitches are not formally marked out.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
32	North Stifford Recreation Ground	RM16 5UG	Cricket	Sports Club	One standard quality grass cricket square with 12 wickets. The square is played to capacity at peak time. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to better cater for demand. Explore opportunities to improve ancillary facilities, particularly in relation to accommodating female activity.	Sports Club ECB	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
37	Orsett Heath Academy	RM16 2QH	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Both mini pitch formats have actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions per week.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
37	Orsett Heath Academy	RM16 2QH	3G	Education	One good quality, full size 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch is both FA and World Rugby compliant, although it is primarily utilised by Thurrock RUFC.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Ensure FA and World Rugby testing is carried out when required to ensure the pitch can remain on suitable for competitive play and seek to maximise usage for this purpose.	Education FA FF RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
37	Orsett Heath Academy	RM16 2QH	Rugby Union	Education	One good quality (M2/D1) senior rugby union pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain pitch quality.	Education RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
37	Orsett Heath Academy	RM16 2QH	Netball	Education	Four good quality macadam netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality and explore opportunities to increase community use.	Education EN	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
44	Quarry Hill Academy	RM17 5UT	3G	Education	One good quality, smaller sized 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Education FA FF RFU	Local	L	L	L	Protect
44	Quarry Hill Academy	RM17 5UT	Netball	Education	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Stifford Clays Primary School	RM16 2ST	Cricket	Education	One standard quality NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
49	Stifford Clays Primary School	RM16 2ST	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	RM17 5TD	Football	Storm Fit	Two poor quality adult football pitches that are currently overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	RM17 5TD	Rugby Union	Storm Fit	One poor quality (M1/D0) senior rugby union pitch that is played to capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality.	RFU	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	RM17 5TD	Hockey	Storm Fit	One full size, hockey suitable AGP. The pitch is of poor quality and has major issues with waterlogging and freezing in wet and cold weather. Storm Fit reports aspirations to convert the pitch to a 3G surface whilst Thurrock HC requires the pitch resurfacing for hockey. However, no sinking fund is in place. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand. Only consider pitch conversion if the alternative pitch in the Borough is resurfaced as hockey suitable (at The Gateway Academy) and with security of tenure provided.	EH	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	RM17 5TD	Tennis	Storm Fit	Three poor quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use. Palmers College aspires to upgrade the lighting on site to LED.	Improve court quality and seek to maximise community use. Support the site in the upgrading of the sports lighting.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	RM17 5TD	Netball	Storm Fit	Two macadam netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Improve court and sports lighting quality in line with the tennis recommendations.	EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
51	Thames Park Secondary School	RM17 5FP	3G	Education	One good quality, full size 3G pitch that is unavailable for community use and without sports lighting. The School is working on opening the pitch for community use and is applying for sports lighting to facilitate this.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Support the School to provide sports lighting on site to facilitate community use. Seek FA testing so that the pitch can be used to accommodate competitive matches.	Education FA FF	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
51	Thames Park Secondary School	RM17 5FP	Tennis	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Improve court quality. Explore sports lighting potential to attract and better accommodate community use.	Education LTA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
51	Thames Park Secondary School	RM17 5FP	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use but without sports lighting. The School reports the courts suffer from waterlogging and become unusable during inclement weather.	Improve court quality. Explore sports lighting potential to attract and better accommodate community use.	Education EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
54	The Hathaway Academy	RM17 5LL	Football	Education	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch that are of standard quality. The pitches are available for community use but have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Look to formalise community use agreements to provide actual spare capacity to club users.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
54	The Hathaway Academy	RM17 5LL	Cricket	Education	One standard quality NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
54	The Hathaway Academy	RM17 5LL	Netball	Education	Three poor quality macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality and then explore opportunities for community access.	Education EN	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
56	Thurrock Lawn Tennis Club	RM16 2ER	Tennis	Sports Club	Three good quality artificial turf tennis courts that are available for community use. No sports lighting is provided, which contributes towards the Club being oversubscribed with members.	Sustain court quality. Explore options to install sports lighting at the site to increase capacity.	Sports Club LTA	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
57	Thurrock Rugby Football Club	RM16 2QH	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Three good (M2/D1) quality pitches that are available for community use. Two of the pitches are serviced by sports lights. All three pitches are played to capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. The Club aspires to develop the main building on site to improve existing provision and install dedicated disabled facilities.	Sustain pitch quality. Support Thurrock RUFC to improve ancillary provision on site.	Sports Club RFU	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
57	Thurrock Rugby Football Club	RM16 2QH	Cricket	Sports Club	One NTP of standard quality that is available for community use.	Sustain wicket quality.	ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
58	Treetops School	RM16 2WU	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all of poor quality and played to capacity. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate demand.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
58	Treetops School	RM16 2WU	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use. The School uses mobile lighting for the four courts.	Sustain court quality.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
59	Tudor Court Primary School	RM16 6PL	Football	Education	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
61	William Edwards School	RM16 3NJ	Football	Education	One adult, two youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and four mini 7v7 pitches, all of standard quality. The adult and youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity whilst the youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure to club users.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
61	William Edwards School	RM16 3NJ	3G	Education	One good quality, smaller sized 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.	Education RFU	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
61	William Edwards School	RM16 3NJ	Cricket	Education	One NTP of standard quality that is available for community use. The School is also preparing a community use agreement that will include the NTP.	Sustain wicket quality. Seek to establish a community use programme at the School once the community use agreement is in place.	Education ECB	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect
61	William Edwards School	RM16 3NJ	Tennis	Education	One standard quality artificial turf court that is available for community use.	Sustain court quality.	Education LTA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
61	William Edwards School	RM16 3NJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.	Explore options to enable community access to the courts.	Education EN	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
62	Woodside Academy	RM16 2GJ	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but has discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality and unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality. Look to formalise community use agreement to provide security of tenure and to establish actual spare capacity.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect
62	Woodside Academy	RM16 2GJ	Netball	Education	Three standard quality macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.	Explore options to enable community access to the courts.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
70	Grays Town Park Tennis Courts	RM17 6RB	Tennis	Council	One poor quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate community demand. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular maintenance and future capital works.	LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance

STANFORD-LE-HOPE & CORRINGHAM ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Abbots Hall Primary Academy	SS17 7BW	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. The pitches are unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
1	Abbots Hall Primary Academy	SS17 7BW	Cricket	Education	One poor quality NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Improve wicket quality for curricular use.	Education ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
1	Abbots Hall Primary Academy	SS17 7BW	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
4	Billet Recreation Ground	SS17 0AP	Football	Council	One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches, all of poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week whilst spare capacity is discounted from the youth pitches due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and provide actual spare capacity. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.	FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
4	Billet Recreation Ground	SS17 0AP	Bowls (disused)	Council	A disused bowling green that has been subject to development proposals in recent years.	Retain as strategic reserve or ensure any future development meets national planning policy requirements, with priority placed of firstly repurposing the provision to meet other sporting needs.	BE	Local	L	L	L	Protect
6	Bulphan Recreation Ground	RM14 3RU	Football (disused)	Council	A disused mini 7v7 pitch. The site remains accessible to the community.	Retain as strategic reserve.	FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Corringham Primary School	SS17 9BH	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality for curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
10	Corringham Primary School	SS17 9BH	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
11	Corringham Recreation Ground	SS17 9DF	Football	Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches. All pitches are of poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity whilst all remaining pitch types have discounted spare capacity due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
11	Corringham Recreation Ground	SS17 9DF	Cricket	Council	One poor quality grass cricket square with eight wickets. The square has capacity for additional demand during the week although this is discounted due to poor quality. Football pitches are overmarked on the cricket outfield during the winter. The site is without a dedicated pavilion on site which limits usage.	Improve square quality to provide actual spare capacity. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.	ECB	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
11	Corringham Recreation Ground	SS17 9DF	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational demand. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular maintenance and future capital works.	LTA	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
11	Corringham Recreation Ground	SS17 9DF	Bowls	Council	One good quality bowling green which is home to Corringham & Fobbing BC. The green is considered to have capacity for an additional 21 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality.	BE	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect
18	Giffards Primary School	SS17 7TG	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality that is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of demand to alternative provision with actual spare capacity.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
18	Giffards Primary School	SS17 7TG	Netball	Education	Three macadam netball courts of standard quality that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
24	Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground	SS17 8NR	Football	Council	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity but the mini 7v7 pitch has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
24	Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground	SS17 8NR	Cricket	Council	One standard quality grass cricket square with eight wickets and an NTP. The square has spare capacity for one additional midweek team. No permanent practice facilities are on site, with a mobile net currently used.	Improve square quality to better accommodate demand. Explore options to provide a permanent practice facility on site.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.							
24	Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground	SS17 8NR	Tennis	Council	Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
24	Horndon-on-the-Hill Recreation Ground	SS17 8NR	Netball	Council	One poor quality macadam netball court that is available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational demand.	EN	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
30	Lofthall	RM16 3BD	Football (disused)	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch that all now lie disused. The site remains accessible to the community, but pitches are not formally marked.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	Council FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
34	Old Hall Farm	SS17 7RN	Football	Sports Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of poor quality. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by two and three match equivalent sessions per week whilst spare capacity is discounted from the mini pitches due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
36	Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club	RM16 3JP	Cricket	Sports Club	Two grass cricket squares, one with 12 wickets and an NTP and the second with five wickets. Both squares are assessed as standard quality and are overplayed by 20 and 14 matches per season respectively. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve square quality to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of establishing an additional NTP at the site or consider as a candidate for hybrid wickets when more is known in relation to the provision.	Sports Club ECB	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
38	Orsett Recreation Ground	RM16 3JR	Football	Council	One adult pitch of poor quality. The pitch has spare capacity although this is discounted due to poor pitch quality. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to establish actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
38	Orsett Recreation Ground	RM16 3JR	Tennis (disused)	Council	One disused tennis court.	Explore options to bring the provision back into use in order to cater for recreational tennis demand in the area. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular	LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						maintenance and future capital works.						
40	Ortu Gable Hall School	SS17 8JT	3G	Education	One standard quality, smaller sized 3G pitch which is sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	Education FA FF	Local	L	L	L	Protect
40	Ortu Gable Hall School	SS17 8JT	Tennis	Education	Five standard quality macadam tennis courts that are unavailable for community use and without sports lighting.	Explore opportunities to enable community use, particularly if sports lighting could be established to service the provision.	Education LTA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
40	Ortu Gable Hall School	SS17 8JT	Netball	Education	Six standard quality macadam netball courts that are unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to enable community use, particularly if sports lighting could be established to service the provision.	Education EN	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
41	Ortu Gable Hall School Playing Fields	SS17 8JT	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 and 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week respectively. The mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	SS17 0NS	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, two youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The remaining pitch types have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Look to formalise tenure agreement to provide security of tenure. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand.	Education FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	SS17 0NS	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit but unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to enable community use.	Education LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
42	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	SS17 0NS	Netball	Education	Eight macadam tennis courts of standard quality that are sports lit and available for community use. Despite being assessed as standard quality, line markings are notably worn and some cracks are appearing in the court surface. The site is home to the South Essex Thurrock Netball Association as well as Bears NC and Stars NC. It is also used widely for club netball training throughout the year, as well as	Improve court quality to ensure that high levels of netball demand can continue to be accommodated on site.	Education EN	Local	H	M	M	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					by teams affiliated to the Basildon Netball League.							
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity. The mini 7v7 pitches have discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure to club users.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	3G	Education	One good quality, full size 3G pitch that is sports lit, available for community use and features on the FA register.	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Ensure FA testing is carried out when required to ensure the pitch can remain on suitable for competitive play and seek to maximise usage for this purpose.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	Rugby Union	Education	One senior rugby union pitch of poor (M1/D0) quality that is available for community use. The pitch has discounted spare capacity due to unsecure tenure.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use.	Education RFU	Key centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	Cricket	Education	Two disused cricket squares that have been lost to house temporary school buildings after part of the school building was found to have reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). This has led to Horndon-on-the-Hill CC leaving the site and accessing provision outside of Thurrock.	Bring squares back into use to meet local shortfalls and to return exported demand. Ensure security of tenure is provided to future community users.	Education ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Provide
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	Tennis	Education	Four standard quality macadam tennis courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality.	Education LTA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
47	St Clere's School	SS17 0NW	Netball	Education	Four standard quality macadam netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use. Two of the courts are reported to become unusable during inclement weather due to waterlogging.	Seek to improve quality of the two courts with identified issues.	Education EN	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	SS17 0AJ	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Three standard (M1/D1) quality rugby union pitches. One of the pitches is played to capacity whilst the remaining two are each overplayed by one	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site. Improve the changing facilities on site and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.	RFU	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					match equivalent session per week. The changing rooms are said to be in poor condition with these specified as dated and not suitable for female players.	Explore opportunities to provide permanent sports lighting solution.						
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	SS17 0AJ	Cricket	Sports Club	Two poor quality, grass cricket squares, one with 12 wickets and the other with eight wickets. The first square is overplayed by 30 matches per season and the second is overplayed by 16 matches per season. The changing rooms are said to be in poor condition with these specified as dated and not suitable for female players.	Improve square quality to alleviate overplay on site. Improve the changing facilities on site and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.	ECB	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	SS17 0AJ	Tennis	Sports Club	Two poor quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational demand. Provide a sustainable operational model via gate access and online booking - to protect and enhance court surface quality on an ongoing basis through regular maintenance and future capital works.	LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	SS17 0AJ	Netball	Sports Club	Two standard quality macadam netball courts that are sports lit and available for community use.	Improve court quality to attract and better accommodate recreational demand.	EN	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	SS17 0AJ	Bowls	Sports Club	One good quality bowling green that is home to Stanford-le-Hope BC. The green is considered to have capacity for an additional 53 members. The site is serviced by good quality ancillary provision.	Sustain green quality.	BE	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	SS17 9BJ	Football	Sports Club	One adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of good quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time whilst the adult and youth 11v11 pitch types have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	SS17 9BJ	3G	Sports Club	One good quality, smaller sized 3G pitch that is sports lit and available for community use. The Club aspires to develop this pitch into an 11v11 3G pitch, whilst also expressing	Sustain pitch quality and ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Explore suitability of a 11v11 pitch being provided on site	Sports Club FA FF	Local	H	M	M	Protect Provide

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					aspirations to develop smaller sized pitches where the disused courts and bowls green reside.	against existing shortfalls and other local options. Consider smaller sized pitch aspirations against the needs of other sporting requirements.						
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	SS17 9BJ	Tennis (disused)	Sports Club	Two macadam tennis courts that now lie disused. The Club aspires to convert these courts into smaller sized 3G pitches.	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements, with any conversion needing to be supported by the LTA. As an alternative to 3G provision, consider potential of providing padel courts given the nature of the site and the shortfalls identified. Any loss of tennis provision here would need to be discussed and possible mitigation carefully considered.	LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	SS17 9BJ	Netball (disused)	Sports Club	Two macadam netball courts that now lie disused. The Club aspires to convert these courts into small size 3G pitches.	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements, with any conversion needing to be supported by England Netball.	EN	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	SS17 9BJ	Bowls (disused)	Sports Club	One bowling green that now lies disused. The Club aspires to convert this green into a small size 3G pitches.	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements, acknowledging that no local demand exists for the provision to be re-established for bowls.	BE	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
66	The Springhouse Sports Club	SS17 7QT	Football (disused)	Sports Club	One adult and one youth 11v11 that now lie disused. The site remains accessible to the community. A planning application (REF:24/01197/FUL) is in place for the redevelopment of the site that will include a new 3G pitch as well as supporting facilities. This is yet to be determined but if approved will be self-funded by the Club itself.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy. Consider 3G planning application and suitability for the site against local shortfalls and other site options in the area.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Provide
66	The Springhouse Sports Club	SS17 7QT	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green, home to Springhouse BC. The green is considered to have capacity for an additional 17 members. There is also a second bowling green on site that now lies disused. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand. Retain the second green as strategic reserve or ensure that any future development meets national planning policy requirements.	BE	Key centre	L	M	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
69	Rowley Road	RM16 3EU	Tennis	Council	One poor quality macadam tennis court that is available for community use but without sports lighting.	Improve court quality to better accommodate recreational demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
75	Orsett Bowls Club	RM16 3JS	Bowls	Sports Club	One standard quality bowling green, home to Orsett BC. The green is considered to have capacity for an additional 32 members. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary facilities.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Sports Club BE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
76	Mobil Field	SS17 0AS	Football	Council	Two adult and one youth 11v11 with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA FF	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
-	East Thurrock United Football Club (Rookery Hill)	SS17 9LB	Football (disused)	Sports Club	One (stadia) adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch that all lie disused. Previously used by East Thurrock United FC until 2023 and subsequently by Romford FC for the 2023/2024 season.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	Sports Club FA FF	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide

TILBURY & CHADWELL ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
7	Chadfields	RM18 8NG	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult football pitch with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session per week. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision. Planning permission has been granted (ref: 20/00242/FUL) for the demolition and site clearance of the existing stadia pitch on site and the erection of a new stadium, clubhouse, stands, lighting and car park on the site of existing training pitches located to the north-east. It is also stated that the new stadium will be a 3G surface. One youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch were also previously on site but lost to development plans circa 2022.	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements. Should a 3G pitch be provided, ensure it is constructed to meet FA pitch specifications and that testing takes place so that it can be used for competitive matches. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities support the pitch.	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Provide
8	Chadwell Recreation Ground	RM16 4UZ	Football	Council	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches, all of standard quality. The adult pitches have one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity per week whilst both youth pitch formats have actual	Seek to utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites and/or through future demand.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
					spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.							
16	East Tilbury Primary School	RM18 8SB	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of standard quality. The mini 7v7 pitch is played to capacity whilst the mini 5v5 pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Look to formalise community use agreements to provide security of tenure to club users.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect
16	East Tilbury Primary School	RM18 8SB	Netball	Education	One standard quality macadam netball court that is unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular use.	Education EN	Local	L	L	L	Protect
23	Herringham Primary Academy	RM16 4JX	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular use.	Education FA FF	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
28	Linford Recreation Ground	SS17 0RF	Football (disused)	Council	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch that now lie disused. The site remains accessible to the community, but pitches are not formally marked out.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	Council FA FF	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
53	The Gateway Academy	RM16 4LU	Football	Education	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5, all of poor quality. All pitch types currently suffer from overplay, ranging from 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week on the youth 9v9 pitch to three match equivalent sessions per week on the mini 7v7 pitch.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site.	Education FA FF	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
53	The Gateway Academy	RM16 4LU	Rugby Union	Education	One poor (M1/D0) rugby union pitch that is available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular use.	Education RFU	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
53	The Gateway Academy	RM16 4LU	Hockey	Education	One poor quality, full size, hockey suitable AGP that is sports lit and available for community use. The pitch is not currently accessed for hockey, with all demand coming from football clubs. The site is serviced by standard quality ancillary provision.	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Consider pitch conversion given the lack of hockey-based demand, providing the alternative pitch in the Borough is resurfaced as hockey suitable (at Storm Fit) and with security of tenure provided.	Education EH	Key centre	H	M	H	Protect Enhance
53	The Gateway Academy	RM16 4LU	Netball	Education	Six macadam netball courts of poor quality that are available for community use but without sports lighting.	Improve court quality. Explore options to provide sports lighting to attract and	Education EN	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
						better accommodate community demand.						
-	Daisy Field Tilbury	RM18 8HH	Football (disused)	Council	A disused adult pitch.	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy.	FA FF	Local	L	M	L	Protect Provide

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
5	Blackshots Athletics Stadium	Grays	RM16 2QT	Athletics	Sports Club	Sports Club EA	Key centre	Protect Provide	Sustain track and field facility quality through dedicated maintenance regime and ensure resurfacing takes place when required. Ensure TrackMark compliancy is maintained when re-testing is required. Explore opportunities to supplement the provision with a NewGen facility (facilities) elsewhere in the Borough.
7	Chadfields	Tilbury & Chadwell	RM18 8NG	Football	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	Protect Provide	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements. Should a 3G pitch be provided, ensure it is constructed to meet FA pitch specifications and that testing takes place so that it can be used for competitive matches. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities support the pitch.
22	Harris Academy Riverside	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM19 1QY	3G	Education	Education FA FF RFU	Local	Protect Enhance	Rectify pitch quality issues on site. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 4PX	3G	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	Provide	Consider plans against national planning policy requirements and the need for two 11v11 3G pitches against other potential site options in the area.
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 4PX	Cricket	Sports Club	ECB	Key centre	Provide	Reinstate provision given local shortfalls and ensure quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities is of an appropriate standard.
25	Impulse Leisure (Belhus Park Golf & Country Club)	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 4PX	Tennis	Sports Club	LTA	Key centre	Provide	Explore the option of providing padel courts at the site given the local shortfalls identified across Thurrock.
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	Grays	RM16 2JU	Football (disused)	Council	FA FF	Hub site	Protect Provide	Consider options to re-introduce football to the site as a means to reducing local shortfalls, particularly given the quantity of provision that could be provide.
26	Blackshots Recreation Ground (King George's Field)	Grays	RM16 2JU	Cricket (disused)	Council	ECB	Hub site	Protect Provide	Reinstate provision given local shortfalls and ensure quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities is of an appropriate standard.
36	Orsett & Thurrock Cricket Club	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	RM16 3JP	Cricket	Sports Club	Sports Club ECB	Local	Protect Enhance	Improve square quality to reduce overplay. Explore the feasibility of establishing an additional NTP at the site or consider as a candidate for hybrid wickets when more is known in relation to the provision.
42	Ortu Hassenbrook Academy	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 0NS	Netball	Education	Education EN	Local	Protect Enhance	Improve court quality to ensure that high levels of netball demand can continue to be accommodated on site.
46	South Ockendon Recreation Ground	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 6QR	Cricket	Council	ECB	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Sustain square quality. Explore options to install permanent practice facilities on site. Enhance ancillary provision with a focus on better accommodating female demand. Explore securing a longer term tenure agreement for use by Aveley CC.

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
									Explore opportunities to provide additional provision to the Club if it achieves its growth aspirations.
47	St Clere's School	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 0NW	Cricket (disused)	Education	Education ECB	Key centre	Protect Provide	Bring squares back into use to meet local shortfalls and to return exported demand. Ensure security of tenure is provided to future community users.
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 0AJ	Rugby Union	Sports Club	RFU	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay on site. Improve the changing facilities on site and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage. Explore opportunities to provide permanent sports lighting solution.
48	Stanford-le-Hope Recreation Ground	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 0AJ	Cricket	Sports Club	ECB	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Improve square quality to alleviate overplay on site. Improve the changing facilities on site and ensure suitability for inclusive and mixed gender usage.
50	Storm Fit (Grays)	Grays	RM17 5TD	Hockey	Storm Fit	EH	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Improve ancillary facilities to better accommodate demand. Only consider pitch conversion if the alternative pitch in the Borough is resurfaced as hockey suitable (at The Gateway Academy) and with security of tenure provided.
51	Thames Park Secondary School	Grays	RM17 5FP	3G	Education	Education FA FF	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Sustain pitch quality. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Support the School to provide sports lighting on site to facilitate community use. Seek FA testing so that the pitch can be used to accommodate competitive matches.
52	Thames Rugby Club	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 5JU	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Sports Club RFU	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Consider improving quality to provide additional spare capacity to support any future growth. Improve ancillary provision on site and ensure inclusivity and mixed gender usage as part of this.
53	The Gateway Academy	Tilbury & Chadwell	RM16 4LU	Hockey	Education	Education EH	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Improve pitch quality through resurfacing. Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment when necessary. Consider pitch conversion given the lack of hockey-based demand, providing the alternative pitch in the Borough is resurfaced as hockey suitable (at Storm Fit) and with security of tenure provided.
56	Thurrock Lawn Tennis Club	Grays	RM16 2ER	Tennis	Sports Club	Sports Club LTA	Key centre	Protect Enhance	Sustain court quality. Explore options to install sports lighting at the site to increase capacity.
63	Wyldecrest Sports Country Club	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 9BJ	3G	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Local	Protect Provide	Sustain pitch quality and ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Explore suitability of a 11v11 pitch being provided on site against existing shortfalls and other local options. Consider smaller sized pitch aspirations against the needs of other sporting requirements
66	The Springhouse Sports Club	Stanford-le-Hope & Corringham	SS17 7QT	Football	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	Protect Provide	Explore opportunities to bring the provision back into use given local shortfalls, whilst as a minimum retaining the

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Postcode	Sport	Management	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Aim	Recommended actions
									playing field land for all potential sports in accordance with national planning policy. Consider 3G planning application and suitability for the site against local shortfalls and other site options in the area.
-	Aveley Sports & Social Club	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM15 4DT	Football (disused)	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Key centre	Protect Provide	Ensure any development meets national planning policy requirements.
-	Thurrock Football Club	Aveley, South Ockendon & Purfleet	RM19 1YN	Football (disused)	Sports Club	Sports Club FA FF	Local	Protect Provide	Re-establish provision at the site in line with the requirements of Grays Athletic FC and any other, supplementary local demand

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2043 (in line with the emerging Local Plan), with this future demand then translated into teams likely to be generated. Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases before converting the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches that may be required to meet the growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision and splits the total pitch requirement into natural turf pitches to meet peak period demand, artificial grass pitches to meet training demand, and the additional number of changing rooms required.

Similarly, the Sports Facilities Calculator identifies the potential need for tennis courts from the population growth associated to housing developments. This element has therefore also been added to this section of the document.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the additional demand for pitch sports and tennis that could be generated from housing growth in Thurrock, thus showing how the calculators work and what they can provide. For the playing pitch sports, 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 use either a 3G pitch (football demand) or an AGP (hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on sports-lit grass pitches (i.e., for rugby union).

The scenarios used represent the Council's potential high, standard and low potential housing growth over its Local Plan period. This therefore explores the potential requirements relating to all existing resolutions, subject to S106 agreements being put into place, urban brownfield sites in the Council's building program, all major applications submitted, all major pre-applications and all major appeals pending.

The scenarios are as follows:

- Scenario One - high growth target of 28,880 dwellings over the plan period (1,448 dwellings per annum).
- Scenario two - standard method of 21,450 dwellings over the plan period (1,077 dwellings per annum).
- Scenario three - low growth of 17,260 dwellings over the plan period (863 dwellings per annum).

The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling. This is based on a national average.

Scenario One – High Growth (28,880 dwellings)

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 28,880 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 69,312.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 28,880 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 28,880 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	11.88 Match equivalent sessions	113.07 Match equivalent sessions
Youth football	25.43 Match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	19.22 Match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	5 Match equivalent sessions	5.28 Match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0 Match equivalent sessions	0 Match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	1.13 Match equivalent sessions	3.4 Match equivalent sessions
Junior hockey	0 Match equivalent sessions	0.89 Match equivalent sessions
Cricket	210.43 Match equivalent sessions	N/A[3]

The table below translates the estimated demand into new provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 69.4 pitches will be required to meet the demand in addition to 9.63 tennis courts. The capital cost of providing this is estimated at £11,870,413 in addition to lifecycle costs of £1,455,862. In addition, 83.03 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £17,150,024.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (28,880 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				Changing rooms	
	Number to meet demand	Capital cost[4]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[5]		Number	Capital cost
Adult football	11.88	£1,333,483	£262,696		23.77	£4,909,643
Youth football	25.43	£2,464,288	£497,786		33.53	£6,926,086
Mini soccer	19.22	£588,088	£116,441		0	£0
Rugby union	5	£866,610	£160,323		10	£2,064,571
Rugby league	0	£0	£0		0	£0
Cricket	4.59	£1,663,158	£306,021		9.19	£1,897,405
Hockey	0.3	£296,437	£7,707		0.6	£123,136
3G	2.98	£3,566,149	£104,887		5.95	£1,229,183
Tennis	9.63 courts	£1,092,200	-		-	-

Scenario Two – Standard Method (21,540 dwellings)

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 21,5140 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 51,696.

[3] No estimate for training demand is currently calculated for cricket as the PPC assumes the use of a pitch is not the primary location for cricket training activity e.g. use of cricket nets and the outfield.
[4] Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/)
[5] 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)

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 21,540 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 21,540 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	8.86 Match equivalent sessions	84.33 Match equivalent sessions
Youth football	18.97 Match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	14.33 Match equivalent sessions	
Rugby union	3.73 Match equivalent sessions	3.94 Match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0 Match equivalent sessions	0 Match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.84 Match equivalent sessions	2.53 Match equivalent sessions
Junior hockey	0 Match equivalent sessions	0.66 Match equivalent sessions
Cricket	156.95 Match equivalent sessions	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 51.76 pitches will be required to meet the demand in addition to 7.18 tennis courts. The capital cost of providing this estimated at £8,853,483 in addition to lifecycle costs of £1,085,847. In addition, 61.93 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £12,791,272.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (21,540 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost[6]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[7]		Number	Capital cost
Adult football	8.86	£994,574	£195,931		17.73	£3,661,840
Youth football	18.97	£1,837,975	£371,271		25.01	£5,165,790
Mini soccer	14.33	£438,621	£86,847		0	£0
Rugby union	3.73	£646,358	£119,576		7.46	£1,539,853
Rugby league	0	£0	£0		0	£0
Cricket	8.86	£994,574	£195,931		17.73	£3,661,840
Hockey	0.22	£221,096	£5,749		0.44	£91,840
3G	2.22	£2,659,790	£78,229		4.44	£916,779
Tennis	7.18 courts	£814,612	-		-	-

Scenario Three – Low Growth (17,260)

The demand generated from housing growth totalling 17,260 dwellings can be seen in the following table. This is based on resultant population increase of 41,424.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 17,260 dwellings

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 17,260 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Adult football	7.1 Match equivalent sessions	67.58 Match equivalent sessions
Youth football	15.2 Match equivalent sessions	
Mini soccer	11.49 Match equivalent sessions	

[6] Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/)
[7] 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)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 17,260 dwellings	
	Match demand	Training demand
Rugby union	2.99 Match equivalent sessions	3.16 Match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0 Match equivalent sessions	0 Match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.68 Match equivalent sessions	2.03 Match equivalent sessions
Junior hockey	0 Match equivalent sessions	0.53 Match equivalent sessions
Cricket	125.76 Match equivalent sessions	N/A

The table below translates the estimated demand into new pitch provision, with associated capital and lifestyle costs. In total, it is set out that 41.48 pitches will be required to meet the demand in addition to 7.18 tennis courts. The capital cost of providing this estimated at £7,094,317 in addition to lifecycle costs of £870,092. In addition, 49.62 changing rooms will be needed at a predicted cost of £10,249,673.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (17,260 dwellings)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches				Changing rooms	
	Number to meet demand	Capital cost[8]	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)[9]		Number	Capital cost
Adult football	7.1	£796,954	£157,000		14.21	£2,934,239
Youth football	15.2	£1,472,777	£297,501		20.04	£4,139,361
Mini soccer	11.49	£351,467	£69,590		0	£0
Rugby union	2.99	£517,927	£95,817		5.97	£1,233,886
Rugby league	0	£0	£0		0	£0
Cricket	2.75	£993,982	£182,893		5.49	£1,133,979
Hockey	0.18	£177,165	£4,606		0.36	£73,591
3G	1.78	£2,131,296	£62,685		3.56	£734,617
Tennis	5.75 courts	£652,749	-		-	-

Conclusion

Up to 2043, it is clear that demand will be generated for each pitch sport and tennis in Thurrock to a lesser or greater extent, although this position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing sites the additional demand is likely to migrate to (more will be known as and when the Local Plan process develops). Nevertheless, all scenarios above indicate that growth is likely to be significant enough to warrant the creation of additional provision for most of the included sports.

As explained in further detail in Part 5, where new pitches/facilities are required, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing rooms and car parking. Single pitch/facility sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are generally not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports. Separate consideration will also be required in regards to other non-pitch sports, using this document as an evidence base for what could be needed.

[8] Sport England Facilities Costs Third Quarter 2024 – (https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/)
[9] 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)

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document (whilst taking into account any future updates) should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required), or whether 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.

As part of the process for determining off-site contributions, consultation with appropriate NGBs should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements. the Council should also consider pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites.

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 Thurrock based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group. This could also be tied into the process undertaken by other South Essex authorities to enable better collaboration.

Delivery

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Thurrock in relation to playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting ancillary facilities. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and by using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the Borough can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this moving forward.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner and that continued engagement takes place with partners to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life that contribute to the achievement of the Council's priorities. The creation of this document should therefore be regarded as only part of the planning process. The success of the Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. To that end, 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 a key document within the study area, alongside the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy. This is show that they can guide the improvement and protection of sports provision, be used to attract and distribute both internal and external investment, and be used as an evidence base to support or oppose any development proposals. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. The Steering Group also 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. 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, 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 it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

As part of the monitoring and review process, and to extend the lifespan of the PPOSS for as long as possible, it is advised that regular Steering Group meetings take place to review the study. Ideally, these should take place twice yearly, aligned to the split of summer and winter sport seasons and in line with affiliation periods. This process should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task; however, it should highlight:

- Actions undertaken since the adoption of the PPOSS or since the last review, as well as any actions that have been attempted but have been unsuccessful (and for what reason).
- Any changes required to the priority afforded to each remaining action (as the priority of some may change following the delivery of others or for more general reasons e.g., alterations in participation trends or focus areas).
- Any significant changes to supply and demand information and what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
- Any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area (e.g., via PitchPower).
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
- Any new or emerging issues (e.g., development pressures) and opportunities (e.g., S106 contributions or club aspirations).
- Priority actions to be focused on before the next review.
- How the PPOSS has been applied to date and the lessons learnt.

The above process is already implemented within the South Essex region for other local authorities. As such, the Council could look to tie into a wider process to enable improved collaboration, to share knowledge and learnings, and to improve input from external stakeholders. It is also possible that between reviews, the Steering Group could operate as a ‘virtual’ group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically - when and where relevant.

Appendix 1 provides an Action Plan of the high priority actions, as found in Part 6 of this report. This is to assist the start of the Stage E process to identify the actions that should be initially prioritised following adoption of the PPOSS (although that is not to say that lower priority actions should not also be explored where possible).

Checklist

To help ensure the PPOSS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the Steering Group can refer to Sport England's Stage E Checklist, as shown below.

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy ◂ Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
◂ 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?		
◂ Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date ◂ Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
◂ Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
◂ Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
◂ Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
◂ 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?		
◂ Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		