

**Ploszajski Lynch
Consulting Ltd.**



**East Cambridgeshire District
Council**

*Playing Pitch Strategy
'Stage D' Report*

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was commissioned by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to produce an Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy for the district, comprising three distinct elements:

- Formal playing pitches for football, cricket, rugby and hockey.
- Formal outdoor sports facilities for bowls, netball, tennis and athletics.
- Informal outdoor provision for sport and physical activity, including multi-use games areas and walking, running and cycling trails.

1.2 Background

East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district. The District Council does not directly control any outdoor leisure facilities, apart from a small country park in Ely. All such facilities in the district are owned and managed by parish councils, schools, or free-standing local trusts or sports clubs. It is recognised, however, that in order to respond to local aspirations and emerging opportunities a coherent overview of provision and needs is increasingly necessary. The purpose of strategy is to facilitate this.

ECDC is currently building on its 2015 Local Plan, through the production of Supplementary Planning Guidance documents. The Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will form part of the evidence base, will inform the Local Plan and provide a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor facilities between 2020 and 2036, in line with population projections. It will also be used to ensure that there is a good supply of high-quality provision to meet the sport and physical activity needs of local communities as far as possible. By providing valuable evidence and direction, it will be used to help provide significant benefits to a wide variety of interested parties.

1.3 The objectives of the strategy

The objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- To establish a comprehensive and up-to-date record of current facilities for outdoor sport and related leisure activities.
- To provide an objective evaluation of the quantity, quality, availability and use of all such facilities, taking account of relevant sports governing body or other technical benchmarks as appropriate.
- To identify and evaluate emerging and likely future influences on facility needs.

- To identify facility deficits and/or surplus provision, priorities for development and future provision, and opportunities for rationalisation, as appropriate, so as to guide planning and investment decisions for the period to 2036.
- To engage partner organisations and local stakeholders in the process and its outcomes.
- To support engagement with current or impending sport-specific development strategies.

1.4 Key outcomes

The strategy must provide two documents, covering respectively playing pitches and all other formal and informal outdoor sports facilities. Each document should include:

- A comprehensive record of outdoor sports facilities and resources in East Cambridgeshire.
- A comprehensive understanding of:
 - Usage patterns, including effective catchments.
 - The strengths and weaknesses of all current facilities, including accessibility, management and usage arrangements, and ancillary facilities, as well as the core facilities.
 - The relevant objective standards of provision and/or user expectations which frame recommendations for development.
- A robust and workable facility development strategy, identifying:
 - Priorities for development, with indicative financial implications (capital and revenue).
 - Opportunities for rationalisation or improved management arrangements.
 - Key policy approaches

1.5 Strategy format

This document comprises the playing pitch strategy. The structure of the document is as follows:

- Assessing playing pitch needs in East Cambridgeshire.
- The local context for pitch provision.
- Strategic influences on pitch provision.
- Football pitches.
- Cricket pitches.
- Rugby pitches.
- Hockey pitches.

- Policies and recommendations.
- Applying and reviewing the strategy.

2 ASSESSING PLAYING PITCH NEEDS

2.1 Introduction

This section comprises an assessment of playing pitch needs in East Cambridgeshire. It covers the need for formal pitches for:

- Football.
- Cricket.
- Rugby Union.
- Hockey.

2.2 Methodology

The methodology for the playing pitch elements of the study follows the '*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*' (2013) approach to playing pitch assessments, developed by Sport England. The process involves five stages and ten steps as follows:

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

2.3 Assessing current needs

To assess whether the current provision is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent sessions' at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches and related facilities are being used during their respective peak periods.

- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.
- The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:
 - Being overplayed - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
 - Being played to the level the site can sustain - where use matches the carrying capacity.
 - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the position at a wider geographical area, to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- Any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
- The impact of latent or displaced demand.
- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch and related facility provision.

2.4 Assessing future needs

The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for pitches and related facilities arising from population growth also involves the approach advocated in Sport England's PPS guidance, namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

2.5 Assessed demand parameters

Analysis of the above factors influencing the future supply and demand for playing pitches in the district has led to the following conclusions, which are reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change:** East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'*

(2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

- **Participation trends:** According to Sport England’s ‘Active People’ and ‘Active Lives’ surveys, participation at a national level in all the pitch sports has remained static or fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation in the pitch sports cannot be assumed based upon historic trends and have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.
- **Sports development initiatives:** A number of sports development initiatives are delivered in East Cambridgeshire by the governing bodies of the pitch sports and their member clubs. The impact on sustained increases in participation directly attributable to these activities is unproven has therefore not been factored in to projected future needs.
- **Changes in supply:** Any known proposed gains or losses in pitches and related facilities provision will influence the ability to accommodate the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

2.5 Delivering future needs

To identify the most appropriate way to meet the additional pitch and related facilities needs arising from population growth, four sequential questions were addressed:

- **Existing deficiency or spare capacity:** To what extent do existing pitches and related facilities have any current shortfalls or any over-supply?
- **Additional needs:** What additional needs will arise from population growth?
- **Accommodating needs:** Which needs can be met in whole or part by spare capacity in existing pitches and related facilities and which will need to be met in whole or part by new provision?
- **Extra pitches:** What extra pitches and related facilities of each type are required to provide for the residual unmet demand?

2.7 Outputs

The methodology provides quantified answers to the above questions as follows:

- **Current provision:** The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity was assessed using Sport England’s approved methodology, adapted where appropriate to assess informal demand and facilities.
- **Additional needs:** Additional needs were calculated by identifying the existing Team Generation Rates in the district, to identify the number of people that are currently required to form a team of various types in each of the pitch sports. These figures have then been applied to the ONS mid-2014 population projections, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036, to calculate the gross additional team and related pitch needs arising from the additional population.
- **Net requirements:** The net requirement for additional provision was calculated by comparing the extra required capacity to the current spare capacity where appropriate, to identify the difference.

- **Location of provision:** The location of additional pitch and related facilities needs was established by comparing the respective levels of projected population growth in each part of the district.

2.8 Stakeholder consultation

Information was gathered from a wide range of consultees including:

- **Sport England:** Guidance on the assessment methodology.
- **East Cambridgeshire Council:** Consultation with officers from Leisure and Planning and on their respective areas of responsibility.
- **Living Sport (the county sport and physical activity partnership):** Information on local and wider strategic priorities.
- **Neighbouring local authorities:** Information on their playing pitch assessments and the impact of any cross-border issues.
- **Governing bodies of sport:** Information on local and wider strategic priorities and local supply and demand information.
- **Parish councils:** As major pitch providers in the district, information on pitch provision and usage and assessments of local need.
- **Individual pitch sports clubs:** Information on playing pitch usage patterns, current and future needs and opinions on quality.
- **Schools and colleges:** Information on playing pitch needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use.

2.9 The criteria assessed

- **Quantity:** The number of pitches and related facilities was established and cross checked against other sources provided by local stakeholders and consultees.
- **Quality:** The quality of playing pitches was assessed by visiting every pitch in the district during the respective playing seasons and assessing quality criteria using the recognised non-technical visual assessment criteria. The ratings for each aspect of each pitch were checked and challenged via the clubs' survey and stakeholder consultation and amended where necessary.
- **Accessibility:** The accessibility of pitches, in particular the extent of secured community use and pricing was assessed, to identify any barriers to use that might impact on the capacity of local provision.
- **Strategic priority:** The assessment of need and priorities for provision was identified by the governing bodies of the respective pitch sports.
- **Used capacity:** The used capacity of existing pitches at each site was assessed using a bespoke supply-demand spreadsheet.

3 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which playing pitch provision is made in East Cambridgeshire.

3.2 Background

Size and location: East Cambridgeshire is a predominantly rural district located to the north-east of Cambridge within the county of Cambridgeshire. The district covers an area of 655km² and has a population of almost 90,000 people. The population has increased significantly in recent years and growth is expected to continue.

Settlement hierarchy: There are four main settlements - the cathedral city of Ely, the market towns of Soham and Littleport and the large village of Burwell. Together, these comprise approximately 56% of the district's population, with the remaining population spread between about 50 villages and other rural parts of the district.

- Ely is the largest urban area and acts as a retail, service and administrative centre for a wide rural catchment.
- Soham is a small market town with a range of shops, catering for day-to-day needs.
- Littleport is a small fenland town with a localised service catchment due to its proximity to Ely.
- The villages of Bottisham, Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton play a key service role for their rural hinterlands.

Landscape and economy: East Cambridgeshire can be broadly defined into two sub-areas:

- The northern part of the district is predominantly intensively farmed fenland, with many settlements located on higher ground on the old 'islands' in the fen. Flood risk is a key issue, with much of the land at or below sea level. With the possible exception of Ely, incomes are generally lower and deprivation is more marked than the southern part of the district.
- The south of the district consists of elevated chalk and heath land and contains a range of attractive villages and hamlets. The local economy and landscape is dominated by the horse racing industry with large areas of farmland converted to stud use. Residents in the south of the district mainly look to Newmarket and Cambridge for services and facilities.

3.3 Population

3.3.1 Current population

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-2018 population estimates for East Cambridgeshire indicate 89,600 residents. This represents an increase of 5,782 people or 6.9% growth since the 2011 Census figure of 83,818.

3.3.2 Age structure

The ONS 2016 broad age and gender estimates for East Cambridgeshire were as follows, with comparator figures for Cambridgeshire and England as a whole. The figures show that the district has a slightly polarised age structure, with proportionately more younger and older people than the county and the country as a whole.

<i>Age</i>	<i>East Cambs %</i>	<i>Cambs %</i>	<i>England %</i>
0-14	18.9%	17.6%	18.9%
15-64	61.1%	63.5%	64.7%
65+	20.0%	18.9%	16.4%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

3.3.3 Ethnicity

East Cambridgeshire's population is less ethnically diverse than the national average. At the 2011 Census 95.9% of the resident population was White, 1.0% Asian/Asian British, 2.1% are Black/Black British and 1.1% are from mixed/multiple/other ethnic groups.

3.3.4 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The 'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study' (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

3.4 Deprivation

Based upon the Government's Indices of Local Deprivation, East Cambridgeshire is ranked as 262nd most deprived local authority in England (out of 326) and is therefore a relatively affluent area. However:

- 34.0% of the district's population are amongst the 20% most deprived in the country in terms of their access to housing and services, based upon geographical and affordability barriers.
- Life expectancy is 2.9 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of East Cambridgeshire than in the least deprived areas.
- 9.1% of all children and young people aged 0-18 live in low-income households.

3.5 Health

Public Health England's 'Health Profile for East Cambridgeshire' (2018) records that:

- Life expectancy at birth is slightly higher than the national averages by 2.1 years for men and 1.5 years for women.

- 11.3% of year 6 children in East Cambridgeshire are obese, compared with the national average of 20.0%.
- 58.5% of adults in the district are overweight or obese, compared with the national average of 61.3%.

3.6 Local demand for sport and physical activity

3.6.1 'Active Lives' survey

Sport England's 'Active Lives' survey measures physical activity rates amongst people aged 16 and over. The definitions used in the survey are as follows:

- **Sport and physical activity:** This includes at least 10-minutes of moderate or higher intensity sports activities, walking and cycling for leisure or travel, fitness and dance.
- **Active:** The 'Active' population is defined as those doing at least 150 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Fairly active:** The 'Fairly active' population is defined as those doing between 30 and 149 minutes of the above activities per week.
- **Inactive:** The 'Inactive' population is defined as those doing 30 minutes or less of the above activities per week.

The key data for East Cambridgeshire, with county, regional and national comparators from the 2019 survey is set out below. The results showing activity levels below the county average, but above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Active</i>	<i>Fairly active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
East Cambs	63.3%	13.0%	23.7%
Cambs	64.7%	11.8%	23.5%
East	61.1%	13.3%	25.6%
England	62.6%	12.3%	25.1%

3.6.2 Geographical variations

Notwithstanding the district average figures, the 'Active Lives' survey data shows great variations at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA), with the figures for those from Ely in the 'Active' category being relatively high and those in Littleport and Soham being relatively low.

3.7 The local pitch supply network

Pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire comprises a mixed economy involving the public and voluntary sectors. The key providers are as follows:

- **East Cambridgeshire District Council:** The Council is a minority provider of pitches, with the '3G' pitch at the Hive the main element.
- **Parish Councils:** Parish councils are major providers of pitches in the district.
- **Schools and Leisure Centres:** The Village Colleges are significant pitch providers and most provision is community accessible; all of the trust-managed leisure centres include or manage some level of outdoor provision, particularly in Ely (Paradise Centre) and Littleport.
- **Sports clubs:** Sports clubs provide and run a range of playing pitches. The Ely Outdoor Sports Association is a consortium comprising the rugby, hockey and tennis clubs that runs a cluster of outdoor facilities and several football clubs across the District also own or operate their own facilities.

3.8 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the local context for playing pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- **Population growth:** The population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036. This will provide additional demand for all types of playing pitch. New housing developments typically have a younger age profile, whilst the trend in the general population is towards an older age profile. The convergence of these factors suggests that the two trends may balance each other out in the district as a whole to maintain a similar age profile for the period of the strategy, although there will be variations at local level in areas where new development is prioritised (Ely, Littleport and Burwell).
- **Local deprivation:** Whilst the district is relatively affluent, which is traditionally associated with higher than average participation in sport and physical activity, deprivation relating to access to housing and services is relatively high. This relates in large part to geographical barriers to access in a relatively large rural area and emphasises the need to develop a wide geographical spread of pitches.
- **Participation rates:** General rates of participation in sport and physical activity are above the regional and national averages, which will inflate demand for pitch provision. However, the trends vary markedly within individual sports and these needs will be analysed later in this strategy in relation to specific types of pitch.
- **Geographical variations:** Participation rates varies widely across the district, with the highest rates around Ely coinciding with the greatest concentration of good quality of pitches.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of relevant policies and priorities on pitches in East Cambridgeshire, including the impact of national strategies.

4.2 East Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Corporate Plan 2019-23* (2019) sets out the Council's overall promises and commitments:

- The Housing promises include 'seeking developer contributions for open spaces and walking and cycling infrastructure'.
- The Social and Community Infrastructure promises include 'supporting improvements to sporting and leisure facilities'.

4.3 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan

The *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan*' (2015 sets out the vision, objectives spatial strategy and policies for the future development of the district. The following elements are of relevance:

4.3.1 Spatial vision

This includes a commitment that 'communities will have improved social, recreational, health and educational facilities'.

4.3.2 Strategic objectives

These include:

- 'Support and enhance the vitality and viability of town and village centres, as places for shopping, leisure and community activities'.
- 'Ensure a high quality of life by maintaining and delivering strategic and local infrastructure and facilities needed to support local communities'.

4.3.3 Policies

The policies of relevance to pitches and outdoor sports facilities are as follows:

- ***Policy COM3: Retaining Community Facilities:*** The policy states that 'proposals that would lead to the loss of non-commercial community facilities (existing sites or sites last used for this purpose) will only be permitted if:

- It can be demonstrated there is a lack of community need for the facility, and that the building or site is not needed for any alternative community use - and in the case of open space, that the site does not make an important contribution in amenity, visual or nature conservation terms; or
 - Development would involve the provision of an equivalent or better replacement community facility (either on-site or in an appropriately accessible alternative location); or
 - Development would involve the provision of an alternative community facility which brings demonstrable greater benefits to the settlement or neighbourhood - except in the case of open space, sports and recreational facilities which should be retained where possible in accordance with paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework’.
- ***Policy COM4: New Community Facilities:*** The policy states that ‘proposals for new or improved community facilities should be located within settlement boundaries wherever possible. In exceptional circumstances facilities may be permitted in the countryside, where there is a lack of suitable and available land within settlements, or where a rural location is required. Proposals for all new or improved community facilities should:
 - Be well located and accessible to its catchment population (including by foot and cycle).
 - Not have a significant adverse impact (itself or cumulatively) in terms of the scale or nature of traffic generated.
 - Not have a significant adverse impact on the character of the locality, or the amenity of nearby properties.
 - Demonstrate that opportunities to maximise shared use have been explored; and
 - Be designed to facilitate future adaptation for alternative community uses or shared use’.
 - ***Policy COM5: Strategic green infrastructure:*** The policy states that ‘proposals which would cause loss of or harm to existing strategic green infrastructure will not be permitted, unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably and substantially outweigh any adverse impacts on the green infrastructure. The Council will support proposals for new and improved strategic green infrastructure where these:
 - Are consistent with the objectives of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011).
 - Provide increased public access for quiet recreation and/or increased provision for biodiversity.
 - Do not harm the character and appearance of any existing buildings or the locality.
 - Will have no adverse effects on any existing designated sites of conservation or biological importance and impacts will be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of alternative provision away from more sensitive sites.

- Would not (by itself or cumulatively) have a significant adverse impact in terms of the amount or nature of traffic generated.
- Will not detract from residential amenity; and
- Will aim to achieve Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) through improving accessibility, naturalness and connectivity of greenspaces, which are appropriate in scale and location to the needs of the local community.

New development will be expected to contribute towards the establishment, enhancement and ongoing management of strategic green infrastructure by contributing to the development of strategic green infrastructure network within the district'.

4.4 East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The most recent update to the *'East Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy'* (2015) specifically notes the importance of physical activity to the health and wellbeing of the local community, with the following provisions of particular relevance:

4.4.1 Priorities

The priorities for the period 2019 to 2021 are:

- 'Physical activity and healthy lifestyles'.
- 'Partnership working'.

4.4.2 Vision

The vision includes a recognition that:

- 'Open spaces are important for the health and well-being of local residents across the District'.
- 'Providing and supporting the development of local community facilities and parks and open spaces including leisure facilities to help ensure that local people have the appropriate infrastructure to support their social well-being'.

4.4.3 Actions

The actions include the following:

- Support continuing development and improvement of leisure facilities and programmes.
- Support community sports development programmes.
- Develop targeted programme-linkages to health sector (e.g. exercise referral, weight management, falls prevention).

- Engage with key partners including schools, sports bodies, community groups and health agencies to identify development needs and opportunities.
- Support development of informal everyday activities, such as local walks groups.
- Promote and support all existing opportunities to get active.
- Promote the benefits of physical activity.

4.5 Living Sport Strategic Plan

Living Sport is the county sports partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and its '*Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021*' (2017) contains the following material of relevance:

4.5.1 Purpose

Living Sport's purpose is 'to inspire everyone to lead healthy lives by increasing and improving opportunities to be active and to participate in sport and physical activity'.

4.5.2 Priorities

The priorities are to increase and improve opportunities for:

- Older people's participation in sport and physical activity.
- Sport and physical activity participation by disabled people.
- Sport and physical activity amongst women and girls.
- Focused work to increase sport and physical activity participation in targeted areas of identified need.

4.6 The Government's Planning Policies

In July 2018, the Government published revisions to the '*National Planning Policy Framework*' (2018), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to pitch provision and retention are as follows:

- ***Sustainable development:*** 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- ***Promoting healthy and safe communities:*** 'Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- Promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.
- Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion - for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
- Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.
- To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
 - Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
 - Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.
 - Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.
 - Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.
 - Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services'.
- ***Open space and recreation:*** 'Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate'.
- '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.

- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use’.

The Government also issued *Planning Practice Guidance*’ in 2014 to support the 2013 version of the *National Planning Policy Framework*’ and it remains a current document. The following is of particular relevance to playing pitches:

- ***Open space, sport and recreation provision:*** ‘Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby’.
 - ‘Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England’s guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities’.
 - ‘Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more’.
- ***Health and well-being:*** ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
 - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
 - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation)’.

4.7 The Government’s Sports Strategy

The Government’s sports strategy *‘Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation’* (2015) sets the context for a national policy shift. It contains the following material of relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire:

- The Strategy seeks to ‘redefine what success looks like in sport’ by concentrating on five key outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.
- The benefit of engaging those groups that typically do little or no activity is immense. Future funding will therefore focus on those people who tend not to take part in sport, including women and girls, disabled people, those in lower socio-economic groups and older people.

4.8 Sport England Strategy

Sport England's strategy *'Towards an Active Nation'* (2016) contains a significant policy shift to encourage more currently inactive people to become active, with a relative move away from support for programmes aimed at existing participants. Elements of particular relevance to pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- More money and resources will be focused on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest.
- There will be greater investment in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life.
- Sport England will work with those parts of the sector that serve existing participants to help them identify ways in which they can become more sustainable and self-sufficient.

4.9 The implications for pitch provision

The implications of the key strategic influences on sports facilities provision in East Cambridgeshire are:

- ***Local corporate priorities:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role that sports facilities can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment. Corporate priorities also emphatically support the value of local facilities, both as a general principle and to underpin healthy lifestyles.
- ***Planning policy:*** Whilst local and national planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, the current work on the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs. Policy COM4 in the Local Plan emphasises the general importance of healthy and safe communities and providing universally accessible opportunities to access open space and recreation provision.
- ***National sports policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for individual sports to ensure that their 'offer' is sufficiently relevant and attractive to engage a wider participation base, including people who are currently inactive. Recent innovations such as walking and small-sided versions of many sports might prove more attractive than the more traditional models.

5 FOOTBALL PITCH NEEDS

5.1 Introduction

The key stakeholders delivering football in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Cambridgeshire FA:** Most football clubs in the district affiliate to the Cambridgeshire FA, which administers the game in the county, although four clubs affiliate to the Suffolk FA.
- **FA-affiliated clubs:** There are 23 FA-affiliated clubs in East Cambridgeshire, who collectively run 33 adult teams, 66 youth teams and 44 mini-soccer teams.
- **Pitch providers:** A range of organisations provide football pitches in the district, in particular the parish councils, clubs and schools.

5.2 Strategic context

5.2.1 The Football Association

The Football Association's *National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021* has a number of targets with important implications for football and its facilities needs at grassroots level (see box below).

- Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
- Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
- Increase the number of over 16's playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.
- Create 100 new '3G' football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches by 2021.
- Develop 'Football Hubs' in 'areas where pressures on the local game are greatest'. The aim of the new programme is to create a new sustainable model for football facilities based around '3G' pitches and high-quality grass pitches on Hub Sites.
- Ensure that 50% of youth football and mini-soccer matches are played on '3G' pitches by 2021.

The Football Association's emerging *National Facilities Strategy* also contains a number of longer-term (10-year) facilities-related targets:

- 1,000 new '3G' football turf pitches in a mix of sizes and settings, dependent upon local needs, all aimed at enhancing the quality of the playing experience.
- 20,000 improved natural-turf pitches: to help address drop-off due to a poor playing experience.
- 1,000 new changing pavilions/clubhouses all linked to priority sites.
- Small-sided facilities to grow the small-sided game for teams and leagues, recreational and informal play.

Linked to the national facilities strategy, the FA is rolling out a system of ‘Local Football Facilities Plans’ (LFFPs) drawing upon playing pitch strategies and guiding investment in facilities. These plans will cover each local authority in England. The East Cambridgeshire LFFP will be produced in parallel with the playing pitch strategy work.

5.2.2 Cambridgeshire Football Association

The ‘*Cambridgeshire FA Strategy 2015-2019*’ (2018 update) contains the following material of relevance to football in East Cambridgeshire:

- **Play:** The county participation objectives are:
 - Grow recreational football to 1,077 teams.
 - Easy entry into the game.
 - Transitions from youth to adult.
 - Pathways for talented players.
 - The targets for (and delivery of) team numbers are as follows:

<i>Age group teams</i>	<i>Baseline (2015)</i>	<i>2017/18 Target</i>	<i>2017/18 Actual</i>	<i>2018/19 Target</i>
Adult male	280	253	257	248
Adult female	26	26	34	26
Youth male	337	360	362	377
Youth female	65	63	66	65
Mini-soccer	264	306	335	308
Disability male	18	20	20	22
Disability female	1	1	1	3

- **Facilities:** The county objectives for improved facilities are as follows.
 - 8 new or upgraded ‘3G’ pitches by 2019.
 - Improve at least 23 grass pitches.
 - Provide advice, support and funding.
 - The targets for (and delivery of) facilities are as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Baseline (2015)</i>	<i>2017/18 Target</i>	<i>2017/18 Actual</i>	<i>2018/19 Target</i>
Improved grass pitches	0	16	15	23
New/improved ‘3G’ pitches	0	3	3	3

5.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The *West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy* (2015) identifies the following:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 108 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 93 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***Youth pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 98 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 72 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***Mini-soccer pitches:*** There is a current districtwide surplus of 183 match equivalents, reducing to a surplus of 163 match equivalents by 2031.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** Additional supply is needed in Bury St. Edmunds (but this location has negligible impact on supply/demand in East Cambridgeshire).

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The *Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031* (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire:

- ***Adult grass pitches:*** There is current and future spare capacity.
- ***Youth 11v11 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of one pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Youth 9v9 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of one pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Mini 7v7 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of ten pitches, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***Mini 5v5 pitches:*** There is a projected future deficit of two pitch, if unsecured sites were lost.
- ***'3G' football turf pitches:*** There is a need for a further six '3G' pitches to meet projected future needs. Unmet demand in the north-east part of the district impact will impact on supply/demand in East Cambridgeshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council:

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The *Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy* (2016) identifies that there is sufficient supply of grass football pitches in Fenland to cater for both the current and future demand for football, with limited deficiency on only a small number of specific sites. However, there is an assessed shortfall of one '3G' football turf pitch in the district although the focus of demand has negligible impact on supply/demand in East Cambs.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

5.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for football in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- ***Participation increases:*** The FA's target increases in participation amongst the over 16s need to be set in the context of falling demand locally for adult league football.
- ***'3G' pitches:*** The increased dependence on '3G' football turf pitches for youth football and mini-soccer matches by 2019 is likely to place stresses on existing provision in the district.
- ***Neighbouring areas:*** There is spare capacity of most grass pitch types in those neighbouring areas that have undertaken assessments, but some shortfalls of '3G' pitches. Demand from the north-east part of South Cambridgeshire may impact on provision in East Cambridgeshire.

5.3 Football pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire

5.3.1 Expressed demand

The information on football clubs and teams affiliated to the Cambridgeshire FA and based in East Cambridgeshire was supplied by the FA through its 'Whole Game System' database, cross-referenced to a local clubs survey. A questionnaire survey was circulated to all FA-affiliated football clubs in East Cambridgeshire. The following clubs responded:

- Burwell Tigers FC
- Ely City FC
- Haddenham Rovers Colts FC
- Isleham United FC
- Mepal Sports FC
- Soham Town Rangers Youth FC

The following clubs affiliate to the FA and play in East Cambridgeshire. Home grounds listed in italics are outside the district:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Burwell Tigers FC	Burwell Recreation Ground Lode Recreation Ground Bottisham Village College Swaffham Prior Recn. Grd. Margaret Field	2	1	1	3	1
Cambs FC Girl's Advanced Coaching	Witchford Village College	-	2	1	-	-
Crusaders 2019 FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-

<i>Club</i>	<i>Match venue</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Ely City FC	Ely City FC Little Thetford Recn. Grd. Paradise Recreation Ground	4	1	-	-	-
Ely City Crusaders FC	Ely City FC Paradise Recreation Ground	-	4	4	3	4
Fordham FC	Fordham Recn. Ground	2	-	-	1	1
Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	Haddenham Recn. Ground Haddenham Primary School Wilburton Recn. Ground	-	3	4	4	1
Isleham United FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-
Isleham United Ladies FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Isleham United Youth FC	Isleham Recreation Ground	-	6	4	4	6
Kennett Youth FC	Kennett Recreation Ground	1	3	2	2	3
Little Downham & Pymoor Swifts FC	Pymoor Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-
Littleport Town FC	Pymoor Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Littleport Town Colts FC	Littleport Leisure Centre	-	2	-	1	-
Mepal Sports FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	4	12	6	4	5
Norwich City FC Development	Ely College	2	-	-	-	-
Panthers FC	<i>Moulton Playing Field</i>	-	2	-	-	-
Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham Recreation Ground	3	-	-	-	-
Soham Town Rangers Youth FC	Soham Village College Kingfisher Drive Wicken Recreation Ground Shropshire Sports & Social	-	2	4	1	3
Soham United Youth FC	Qua Fen Common	2	6	2	4	5
Stretham FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Stretham Sporting FC	Stretham Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-
Sutton Rangers FC	Brooklands Pavilion	-	2	1	-	2
The Eagle (Ely) FC	<i>George Lambton Pl. Fields</i>	1	-	-	-	-
The Isle FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-
Village Inn FC	Witchford Village College	1	-	-	-	-
Wicken FC	Wicken Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-
Wilburton FC	Wilburton Recn. Ground	-	-	2	-	1
Witchford 96 FC	Witchford Playing Field	2	-	-	-	-
Witchford Colts FC	Witchford Playing Field Witchford Village College Little Downham Recn. Grd.	-	5	6	3	2
TOTALS		33	53	41	26	33

The key expressed demand issues are as follows:

- **Team numbers:** 30 men's teams, three women's teams, 47 youth male (11v11) teams, six youth female (11v11) teams, 35 youth male (9v9) teams, six youth female (9v9) teams, 26 mixed mini-soccer (7v7) teams and 33 mixed mini-soccer (5v5) teams play in East Cambridgeshire.

- **Charter Standard Clubs:** 25 clubs in East Cambridgeshire have achieved the FA’s quality-assured Charter Standard status. This is 80.6% which compares with the national average of 27%. In terms of teams, 95.7% (177 out of 185) play for a Charter Standard club in East Cambridgeshire, compared with the national average of 81.1%. This means that the benefits of belonging to an accredited club with formalised safeguarding procedures and qualified coaches is enjoyed by all youth and mini-soccer players in the district.
- **Women and girl’s football:** Football for women and girls is well-developed in East Cambridgeshire, with three adult women’s teams, six youth 11v11 teams and six youth 9v9 teams.

5.3.2 Expressed demand trends

- **National trends:** Overall football participation by adults is falling across the country. The ‘Active People’ survey shows that participation has fallen from 3.15 million adult players in 2010/11 to 2.66 million in 2015/16.
- **Local trends:** Teams data provided by Cambridgeshire FA shows the following trends in the county as a whole:

<i>Age group teams</i>	<i>Teams 2015</i>	<i>Teams 2018</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Adult male	280	257	-8.2%
Adult female	26	34	+30.8%
Youth male	337	362	+7.4%
Youth female	65	66	+1.5%
Mini-soccer	264	335	+26.9%
Disability male	18	20	+11.1%
Disability female	1	1	0.0%
TOTALS	991	1,065	+8.4%

5.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of football pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa:

- **Imported demand from external clubs:** No teams from neighbouring districts play their home matches on pitches in East Cambridgeshire.
- **Exported demand from internal clubs:** One adult team and two youth (11v11) teams from East Cambridgeshire play their matches on pitches in neighbouring areas (shown in italics above).

The net effect of displaced demand in East Cambridgeshire is three exported teams.

5.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.

- Pitches of a particular size or type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with local clubs identified that only one currently operates waiting lists for youth and mini-soccer players (Ely City FC), so there is limited evidence of unmet demand.

5.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. Consultation with local clubs indicated that in their judgement the following additional teams could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult teams</i>	<i>Youth (11v11)</i>	<i>Youth (9v9)</i>	<i>Mini (7v7)</i>	<i>Mini (5v5)</i>
Burwell Tigers FC	2	6	2	2	2
Ely City FC	0	2	2	2	2
Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	0	0	0	0	0
Isleham United FC	1	0	0	1	0
Mepal Sports FC	0	1	0	0	0
Soham Town Rangers Youth FC	0	2	1	2	2
TOTALS	3	11	5	7	6

5.4 Football pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire

5.4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the detail of football pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions as specified in the FA's 'Guide to Pitch Dimensions' (2013):

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football 11v11 (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football 11v11 (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football 11v11 (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football 9v9 (U11-U12)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

The categories assessed are as follows:

- Pitches available for community use and used.

- Pitches available for community use but not used.
- Pitches not available for community use.

5.4.2 Full-sized '3G' football turf pitches

The following pitches are all available for community use and used. The Bottisham and Witchford pitches are on the FA's '3G' pitch register and can therefore be used for competitive match play.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	106m x 70m	Yes	2017
Newmarket Town FC	Cricket Field Rd., Newmarket CB8 8BT	106m x 70m	Yes	2016
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	106m x 70m	Yes	2017

5.4.3 Small-sided '3G' football turf pitches

The following pitch available for community use and used.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
The Hive	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	92m x 58m	Yes	2018

5.4.4 Other full-sized artificial turf pitches used for football

The following all-weather pitches are all available for community use and used and have some football use:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	100m x 61m	Sand-filled	Yes	2003
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	100m x 60m	Sand-filled	Yes	2018

5.4.5 Other small-sided artificial turf pitches used for football

The following all weather pitches are all available for community use and used are whilst they are too small to accommodate competitive play but are used for training purposes:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	40m x 30m	Sand-dressed	Yes	2004
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	40m x 20m	Sand-filled	Yes	2005
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	33m x 30m	Sand-filled	Yes	2011
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 3SY	40m x 40m	Sand-filled	Yes	2010
Ross Peers Sports Centre	College Close, Soham CB7 5HP	30m x 20m	Sand-filled	Yes	2009
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	40m x 30m	Sand-filled	Yes	2015
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	40m x 40m	Sand-filled	Yes	2000

5.4.6 Grass football pitches

Provision of grass pitches with regulation line markings and goalposts for organised football are as follows. Pitches overmarked on other pitches are shown in brackets:

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	3	1	2	2	4
Brooklands Pavilion	The Brook, Sutton CB6 2QQ	-	1	(1)	(1)	1
Burwell Recreation Ground	Hythe Lane, Burwell CB25 0EZ	2	(1)	1	1	-
Burwell Sports Centre	Buntings Path, Burwell CB25 0DD	1	-	-	-	1
Dullingham Sports Field	Stetchworth Road, Dullingham CB8 9XD	1	-	-	-	-
Ely City Football Club	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2	-	2	2	2
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2	-	-	-	-
Fordham Recn. Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	2	-	-	1	(1)
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	-	2	(1)	-	1
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	3	-	2	1	(1)
Kennett Recreation Ground	Station Road, Kennett CB8 7QF	1	(1)	-	1	1
Kingfisher Drive Sp. Pitches	Kingfisher Drive, Soham CB7 5GP	-	-	-	1	(2)
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 2SY	1	1	1	-	-
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	The Wytches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG	1	1	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	1	2	1	2	1
Lode Playing Field	Station Road, Lode CB25 9EH	1	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PQ	2	-	-	-	1
Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Lane, Pymoor CB6 2EE	1	-	-	-	-
Robert Arkenstall Prim. Sch.	Camping Close. Haddenham CB6 3UA	-	-	-	1	-
Soham Town Rangers FC	Julius Martin Lane, Soham CB7 5EQ	1	-	-	-	-
Soham United FC	Qua Fen Common, Soham CB7 5DF	1	2	(2)	(2)	-
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	-	1	1	-	-
Stretham Recreation Ground	Short Road, Stretham CB6 3LS	1	-	-	1	-
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG	-	-	1	1	-
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	1	-	1	-	-
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Wilburton CB6 3RP1	-	-	1	1	1
Witchford Playing Field	Bedwell Hay Lane, Witchford CB6 2JN	1	-	(1)	-	1
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	2	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	31	12(2)	12(5)	15(3)	14(4)

- *Available for community use and not used:* The following pitches have community access but are not currently used:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Burrough Green CB8 9NG	1	-	-	-	-
Mepal Playing Field	Witcham Road, Mepal CB6 2YP	1	-	1	2	-
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Grd.	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	-	-	-	-
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	4	0	1	2	0

- *Not available for community use:*
 - *Full-sized artificial turf pitches used for football:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Built</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	Sand-filled	97.5m x 61m	2007	Yes

- *Other small-sided artificial grass pitches used for football:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Rackham Primary School	Main Street, Witchford CB6 2HQ	40m x 20m	Sand-filled	No	2010

- *Grass pitches:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>
Bottisham Primary School	Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham CB25 9BE	-	-	-	1	-
Ely St. John's Primary School	St John's Road, Ely CB6 3BW	-	-	-	1	-
Ely St. Mary's Primary School	High Barns, Ely CB7 4RB	-	-	-	1	-
Fordham Primary School	Isleham Road, Fordham CB7 5NL	-	-	-	1	-
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	1	-	-	-	-
Kings School (Amherst Field)	Bridge Road, Ely CB7 5TH	1	-	-	-	-
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	1	1	2	-	-
Isle of Ely Primary School	Cam Drive, Ely CB6 1DP	-	-	-	1	1
Isleham Primary School	Malting Lane, Isleham CB7 5RZ	-	-	-	1	-
Lantern Primary School	Nene Road, Ely CB6 2WJ	-	-	-	1	-
Littleport Primary School	Parson's Lane, Littleport CB6 1JS	-	-	1	1	1
Mepal & Witcham Primary Sch.	Brangehill Lane, Mepal CB6 2AL	-	-	-	1	-
Millfield Primary School	Grange Lane, Littleport CB6 1HW	-	-	-	1	-
Rackham Primary School	Main Street, Witchford CB6 2HQ	-	-	1	-	-
St. Andrew's Primary School	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	-	-	-	1	-
Stretham Primary School	Wood Lane, Stretham CB6 3JN	-	-	-	1	-
Swaffham Prior Primary School	Station Road, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG	-	-	-	1	-
Weatherall's Primary School	Pratt St, Soham CB7 5BH	-	-	1	-	-
Wilburton Primary School	Carpond Lane, Wilburton CB6 3RJ	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS	-	3	1	5	14	2

5.4.7 Artificial turf pitch quality

The quality of the full-sized '3G' football turf pitches in East Cambridgeshire was assessed from a site visit, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed for use in conjunction with the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'. The assessment generates an overall 'score' by evaluating the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Bottisham Village College	Good	Good
Newmarket Town FC	Good	Good
The Hive	Good	Good
Witchford Village College	Good	Good

5.4.8 Grass pitch quality

The quality of all grass football pitches in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used was assessed from site visits during the playing season, to apply the Non-technical Visual Assessment criteria developed by the FA for use in conjunction with the *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*. The criteria assessed are as follows. A percentage score and associated ratings are generated as an overall measure of quality:

- **The playing surface:** This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
- **The changing facilities:** This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
- **Grounds maintenance:** This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The ratings for each grass football pitch in East Cambridgeshire are below. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 100% - 75% (highlighted in green below), ‘Standard’ for scores of 74.9% - 50% (highlighted in yellow below), ‘Poor’ for scores of 49.9% - 25% (highlighted in red below) and ‘Unsuitable’ below 25%:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bottisham Village College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 3 Mini 5v5 pitch 4	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Brooklands Pavilion	Youth 11v11 pitch (Youth 9v9 pitch) (Mini 7v7 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches, two of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Burwell Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 (Youth 11v11 pitch) Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Good Good Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and ‘Good’ quality changing.
Burwell Sports Centre	Adult pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good	Good	‘Good’ quality fenced pitches with ‘Good’ changing in the sports centre.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Dullingham Sports Field	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch on cricket outfield and 'Good' quality changing.
Ely City Football Club	Stadium pitch Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch 1 Mini 5v5 pitch 2	Good Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Good' quality stadium pitch, but other pitches are 'standard' quality. 'Good' quality changing facilities, although the capacity is inadequate in the peak period to serve the number of pitches. Disabled access is non-compliant.
Ely College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2	Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches with 'Good' quality changing.
Fordham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Good Good Good Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and 'Standard' quality changing.
Haddenham Recn. Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch2 (Youth 9v9 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Poor Poor Poor Poor	Good	'Poor' quality pitches with bad drainage, a significant slope and poor grass cover. 'Good' quality changing.
Isleham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Adult pitch 3 Youth 9v9 pitch 1 Youth 9v9 pitch 2 Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with consequent reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Kennett Recreation Ground	Adult pitch (Youth 11v11 pitch) Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with reduced capacity. The adult/youth 11v11 pitch is floodlit. 'Good' quality changing.
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	Mini 7v7 pitch (Mini 5v5 pitch) (Mini 5v5 pitch)	Standard Standard Standard	Standard	Pitches at the lower end of 'standard' quality, two of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity and 'good' quality changing.
Little Downham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch	Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Littleport Leisure Centre	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch 2 Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard Standard	Good	Pitches towards the lower end of 'standard' quality and 'good' quality changing facilities.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Lode Playing Field	Adult pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality pitch on cricket outfield and 'Good' quality changing, but poor vehicular access.
Mepal Playing Field	Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch 1 Mini 7v7 pitch 2	Poor Poor Poor Poor	Good	'Poor' quality pitches currently subject to drainage improvements and unused. 'Good' quality Football Foundation funded changing.
Paradise Recreation Ground	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Mini 5v5 pitch	Standard Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches with 'good' quality changing in the leisure centre.
Pymoor Social Club	Adult pitch	Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitch, but 'good' quality changing.
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard	None	'Standard' quality pitch but no changing for community users.
Soham Town Rangers FC	Stadium pitch	Good	Good	'Good' quality floodlit stadium pitch with 'Good' quality changing.
Soham United FC	Adult pitch Youth 11v11 pitch 1 Youth 11v11 pitch 2 (Youth 9v9 pitch 1) (Youth 9v9 pitch 2) (Mini 7v7 pitch 1) (Mini 7v7 pitch 2)	Good Good Good Good Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, four of which are overmarked with consequent reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Soham Village College	Youth 11v11 pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Good Good	None	'Good' quality pitches but no changing for community users.
Stretham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard	Good	'Standard' quality pitches, but 'good' quality changing.
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch	Standard Standard	Poor	'Standard' quality pitches, but very basic, 'poor' quality changing.
Wicken Recreation Ground	Adult pitch Youth 9v9 pitch	Standard Standard	Standard	'Standard' quality pitches and changing facilities.
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch Mini 7v7 pitch Mini 5v5 pitch	Good	Standard	'Good' quality pitches, but 'standard' quality changing.
Witchford Playing Field	Adult pitch (Youth 9v9 pitch) Mini 5v5 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches, one of which is overmarked with reduced capacity. 'Good' quality changing.
Witchford Village College	Adult pitch 1 Adult pitch 2 Youth 11v11 pitch	Good Good Good	Good	'Good' quality pitches and changing facilities.

5.4.9 Summary of grass pitch quality

The number and percentage of pitches in each quality band is tabulated below. The summary shows that almost one-half of all pitches are rated as 'good' quality, with fewer than one-in-ten being assessed as 'poor' quality.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good</i>		<i>Standard</i>		<i>Poor</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	20	64.5%	10	32.3%	1	3.2%
Youth 11v11	10	71.4%	2	14.3%	2	14.3%
Youth 9v9	8	47.1%	7	41.2%	2	11.7%
Mini-soccer 7v7	7	41.2%	8	47.1%	2	11.7%
Mini-soccer 5v5	10	55.6%	7	38.9%	1	5.5%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>56.7%</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8.2%</i>

5.4.10 Summary of changing facilities quality

The number and percentage of pitches of each type that are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities is tabulated below. Whilst only 5.2% of pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities, the adverse impact on user experiences makes it more difficult to recruit and retain new players, particularly women and girls.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult 11v11	0	0.0%
Youth 11v11	1	0.0%
Youth 9v9	2	12.5%
Mini-soccer 7v7	2	11.8%
Mini-soccer 5v5	0	0.0%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5.2%</i>

5.4.11 Grass pitch maintenance

Football pitch maintenance in the district is organised as follows:

- ***Club-managed pitches:*** The pitches owned and managed by local football clubs, are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- ***Parish council-owned pitches:*** The parish councils employ external contractors to undertake football pitch maintenance.
- ***Pitches on education sites:*** The school sites with community use all employ or contract their pitch maintenance staff.

5.4.12 Pitch hire charges

The cost of hiring football pitches in East Cambridgeshire and comparisons with other areas are as follows:

- ***3G’ football turf pitches:***

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per hour (£)</i>
<i>East Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
<i>The Hive</i>	
Full pitch (Adult peak)	£55
Full pitch (Adult off-peak)	£40
Full pitch (Junior peak)	£30
Full pitch (Junior off-peak)	£20
Half pitch (Adult peak)	£27.50
Half pitch (Adult off-peak)	£20
Half pitch (Junior peak)	£15
Half pitch (Junior off-peak)	£10
<i>Bottisham Village College</i>	
Full pitch	£65
Half-pitch	£40
One-quarter pitch	£20
<i>Fenland District Council</i>	
<i>Thomas Clarkson Academy, Wisbech</i>	
Full pitch (Adult)	£50
Full pitch (Junior)	£40
One-third pitch (Adult)	£25
One-third pitch (Junior)	£20
Floodlights (Adult)	£7.50
Floodlights (Junior)	£7.50
<i>Cromwell Community College, Chatteris</i>	
Full pitch (Adult match)	£38.33
Full-pitch (Adult training)	£73.50
Full pitch (Junior match)	£19.43
Full pitch (Junior training)	£60.90

- ***Grass pitches:***

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Cost per match (£)</i>
<i>East Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
<i>Bottisham Village College</i>	
Adult, youth and mini pitches	£25
<i>Burwell Recreation Ground</i>	
Adult and youth pitches	£40
<i>Huntingdonshire District Council</i>	
Adult, youth and mini pitches	£30
<i>South Cambridgeshire District Council</i>	
Adult pitch	£32
Youth pitch	£17

The comparison of prices in East Cambridgeshire with elsewhere shows that they are broadly comparable with most neighbouring areas and are therefore unlikely to influence imported or exported demand.

5.4.13 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of access of all football pitch sites in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used is detailed below. Security of tenure refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of tenure</i>
Bottisham Village College	Bottisham Village College	Bottisham Village College	Secured
Brooklands Pavilion	Sutton Parish Council	Sutton Parish Council	Secured
Burwell Recreation Ground	Burwell Parish Council	Burwell Parish Council	Secured
Burwell Sports Centre	Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd.	Burwell Community Sports Centre Ltd.	Secured
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham Parish Council	Dullingham Parish Council	Secured
Ely City Football Club	East Cambs DC	Ely City Football Club	Secured
Ely College	Ely College	Ely College	Unsecured
Fordham Recreation Ground	Fordham Parish Council	Fordham Parish Council	Secured
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham Parish Council	Haddenham Parish Council	Secured
Isleham Recreation Ground	Isleham Parish Council	Isleham Parish Council	Secured
Kennett Recreation Ground	Kennett Parish Council	Kennett Parish Council	Secured
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	Soham Town Council	Soham Town Rangers FC	Unsecured
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham Parish Council	Little Downham Parish Council	Secured
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	Little Thetford Parish Council	Little Thetford Parish Council	Secured
Littleport Leisure Centre	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	Secured
Lode Playing Field	Lode Parish Council	Lode Parish Council	Secured
Mepal Playing Field	Mepal Parish Council	Mepal Parish Council	Secured
Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	Newmarket Town FC	Secured
Paradise Recreation Ground	East Cambs DC	The Paradise Centre	Secured
Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Social Club	Pymoor Social Club	Secured
Robert Arkenstall Primary Sch.	Cambs County Council	Robert Arkenstall Prim. Sch.	Unsecured
Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC	Soham Town Rangers FC	Secured
Soham United FC	Soham United FC	Soham United FC	Secured
Soham Village College	Soham Village College	Soham Village College	Unsecured
Stretham Recreation Ground	Stretham Parish Council	Stretham Parish Council	Secured
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Swaffham Prior Parish Council	Swaffham Prior Parish Council	Secured
The Hive	East Cambs DC	Better Leisure	Secured
Wicken Recreation Ground	Wicken Parish Council	Wicken Parish Council	Secured
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Wilburton Parish Council	Wilburton Parish Council	Secured
Witchford Playing Field	Witchford Parish Council	Witchford Parish Council	Secured
Witchford Village College	Witchford Village College	Witchford Village College	Secured

The proportion of football pitches in East Cambridgeshire with secured access is below:

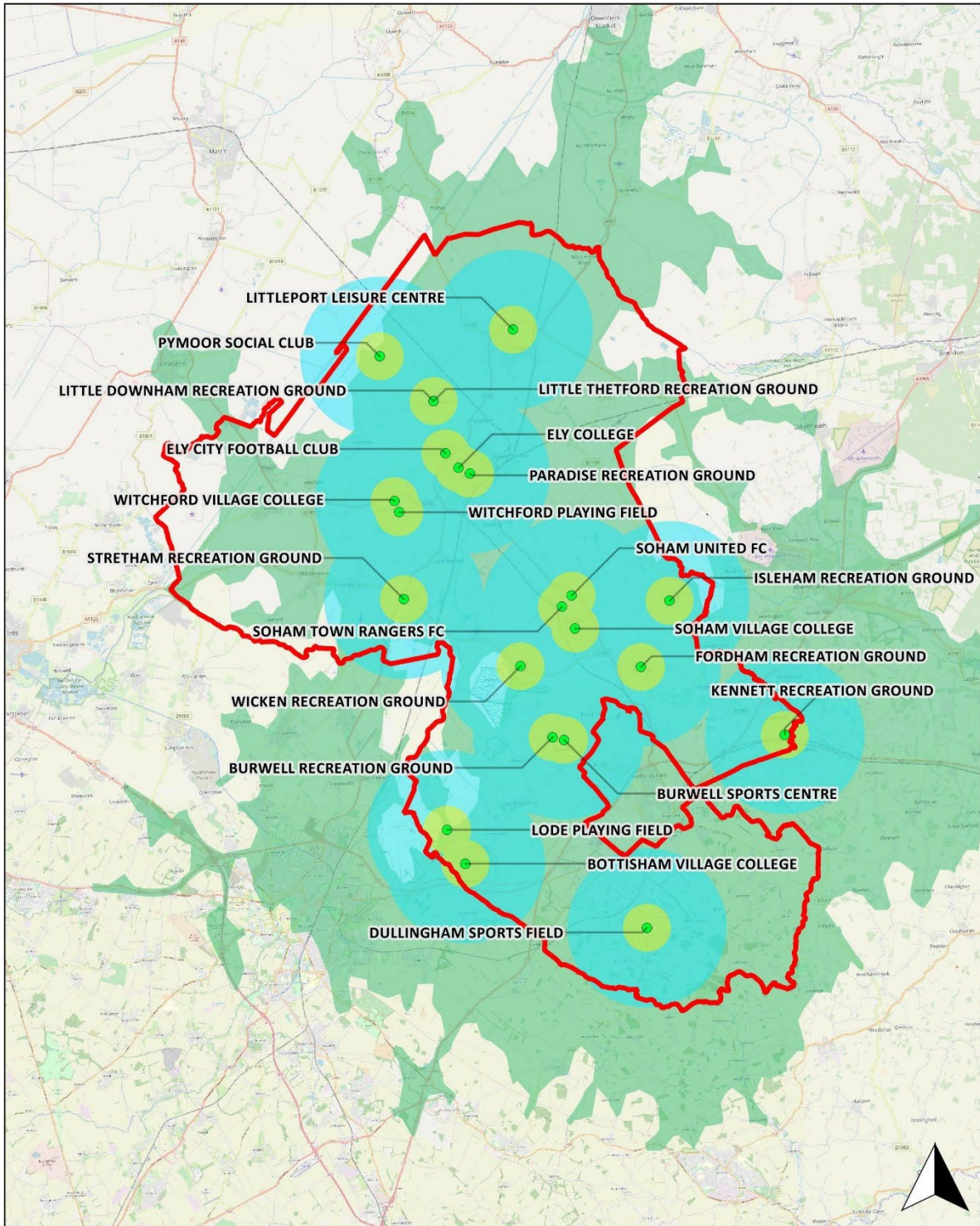
<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Secured</i>		<i>Unsecured</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
Adult football	29	90.6%	3	9.4%
Youth football (11v11)	13	92.9%	1	7.1%
Youth football (9v9)	16	100%	0	0.0%
Mini-soccer (7v7)	16	88.9%	2	11.1%
Mini-soccer (5v5)	15	88.2%	2	11.8%
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	4	100%	0	0.0%
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>92.1%</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7.9%</i>

5.5 Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of football in East Cambridgeshire is set out in the maps below. 15-minute walking and cycling time catchments have been marked to illustrate local level accessibility. This is based on the results of the clubs' survey, which identifies 15-minutes travel time as the typical maximum for grass pitches, with 20-minutes travel time for '3G' football turf pitches.

5.5.1 Adult grass pitches

The map overleaf shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest adult football pitch:

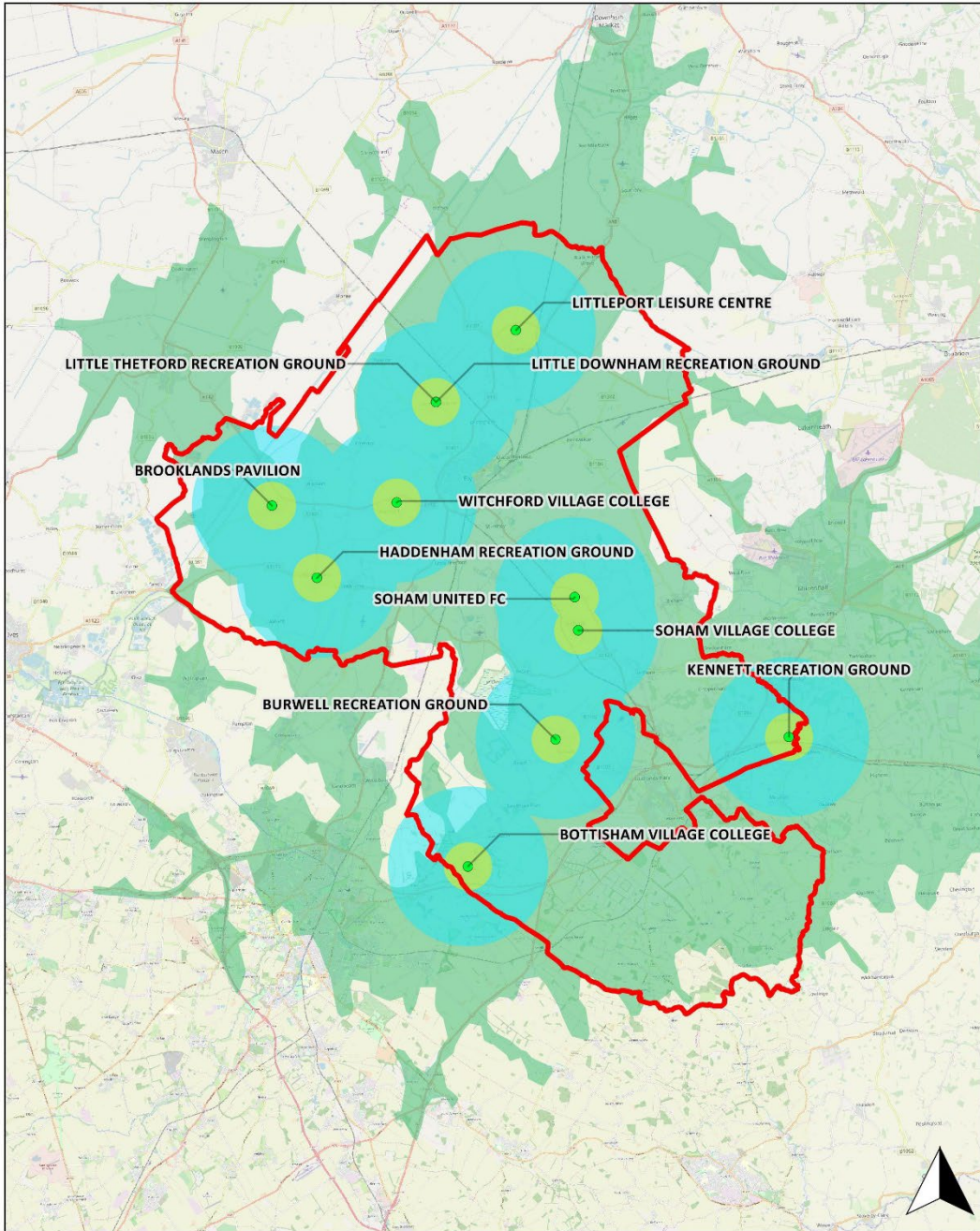


	East Cambridgeshire	 Adult Football	 15 min drive time
	Adult Football	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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5.5.2 Youth 11v11 grass pitches

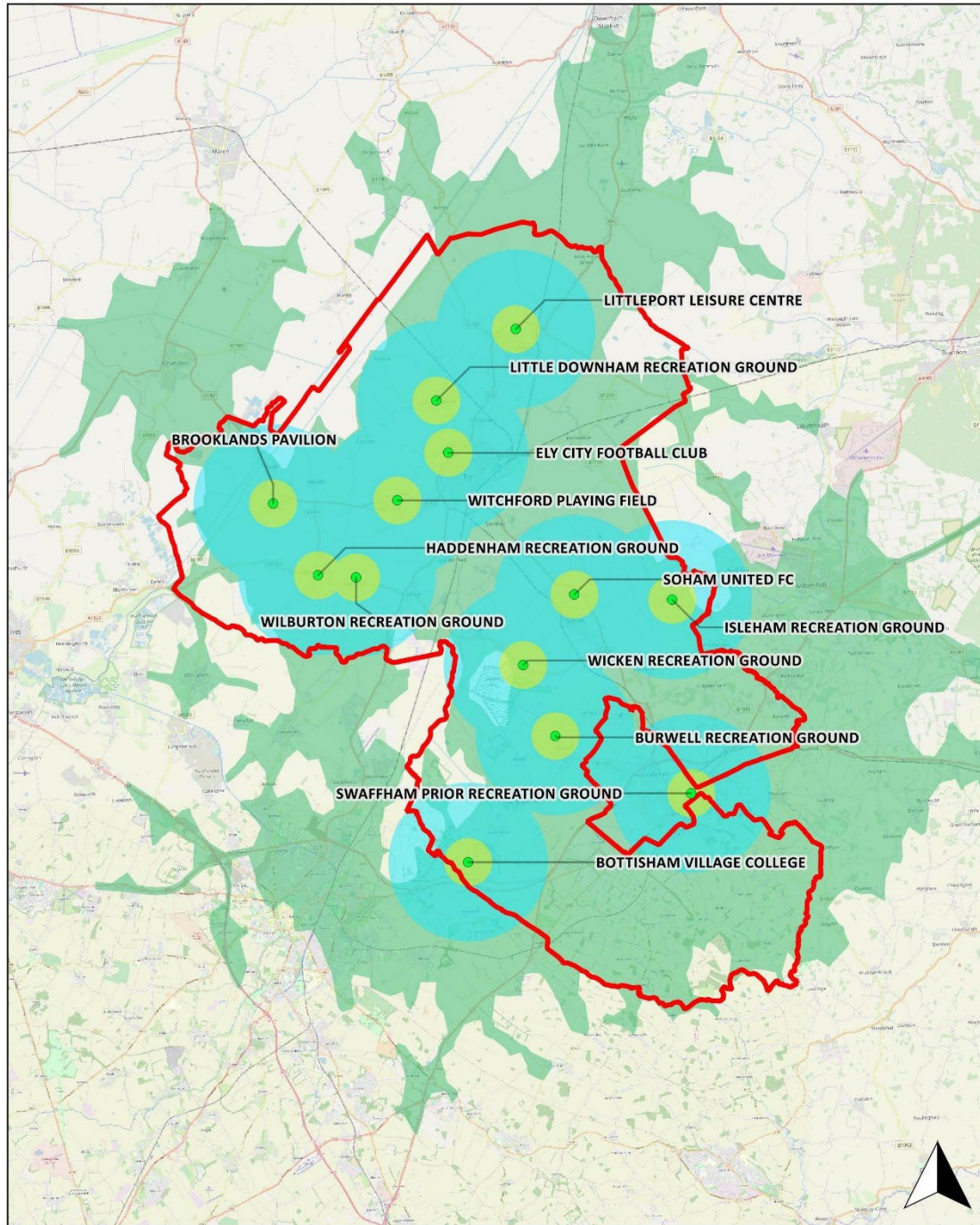
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest youth 11v11 football pitch:



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5.5.3 Youth 9v9 grass pitches

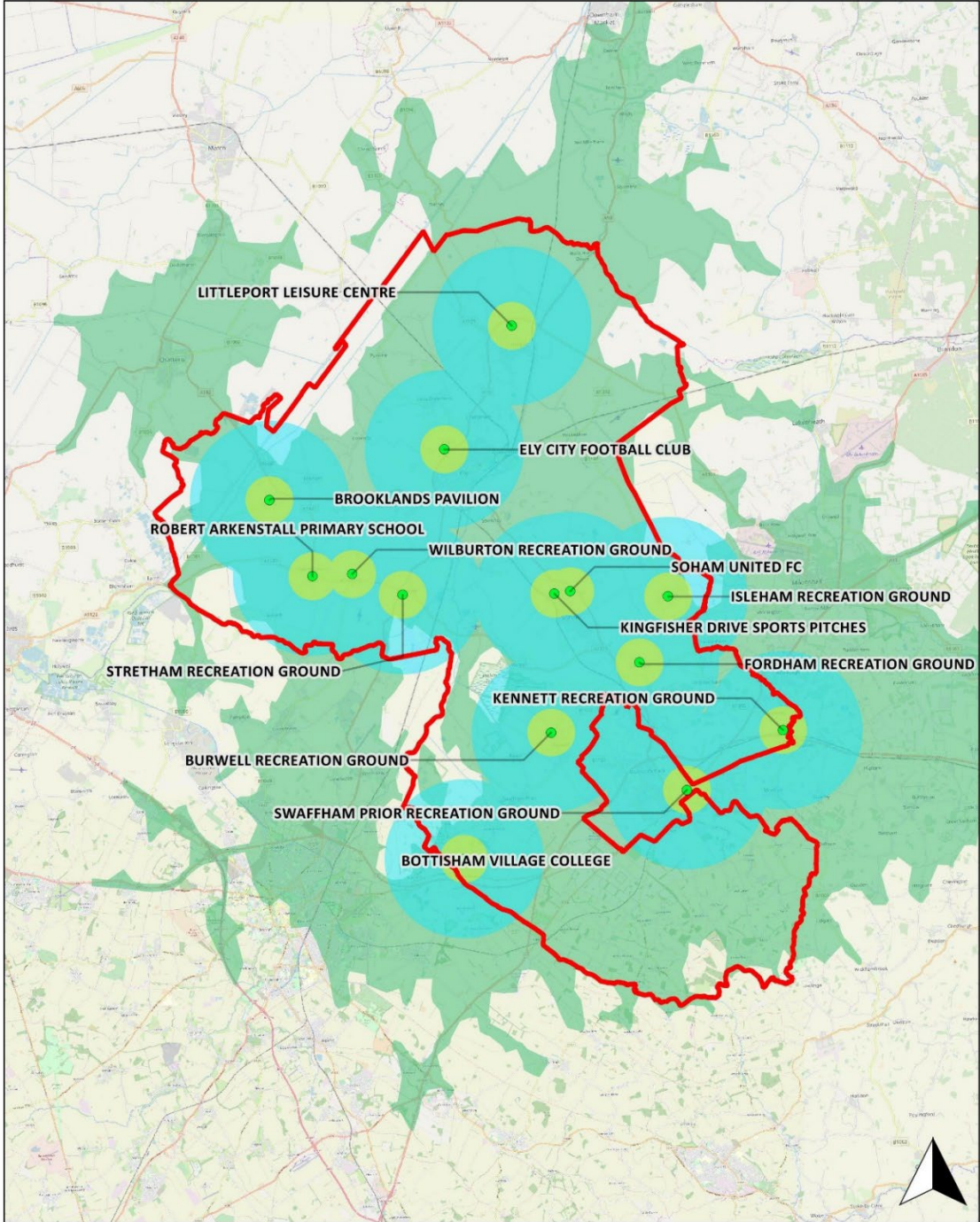
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest youth 9v9 football pitch:



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5.5.4 Mini-soccer 7v7 grass pitches

The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer 7v7 football pitch:

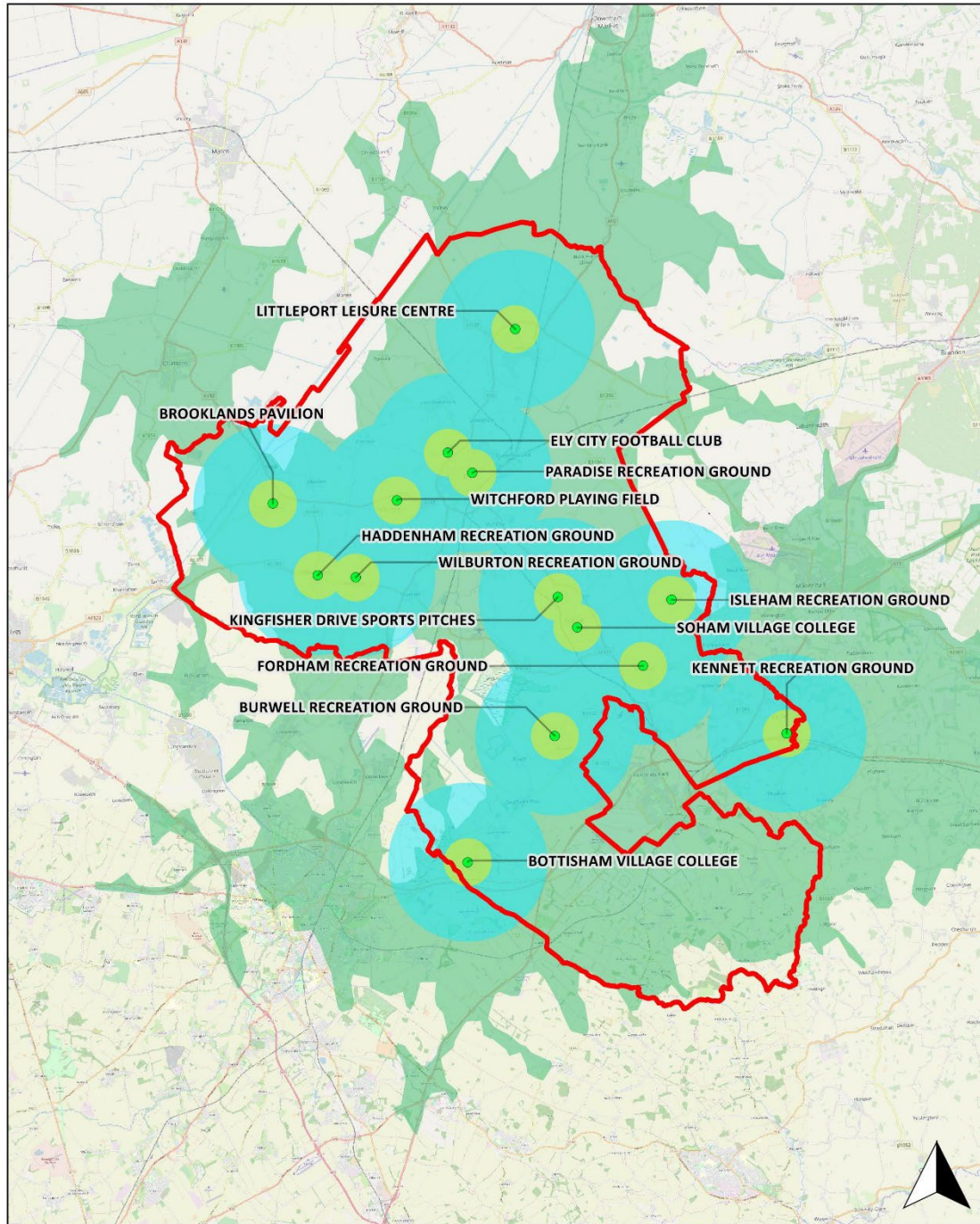


	East Cambridgeshire	 Mini Soccer 7v7	 15 min drive time
	Mini Soccer 7v7	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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5.5.5 Mini-soccer 5v5 grass pitches

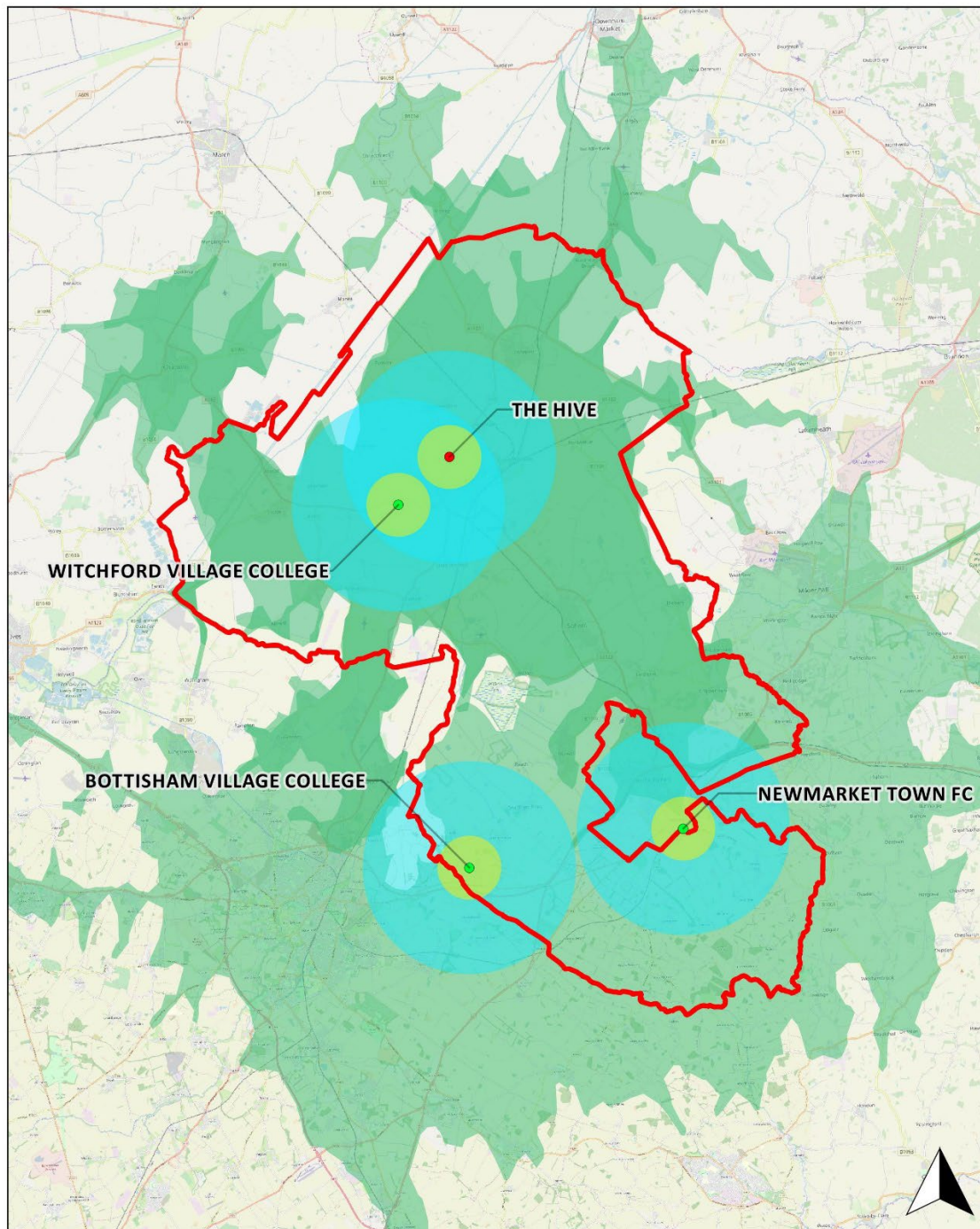
The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer 5v5 football pitch:



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5.5.6 '3G' football turf pitches

The map below shows that with the exception of some sparsely populated rural areas on the periphery of the district, the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes driving time of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch:



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5.6 The views of local stakeholders

5.6.1 Cambridgeshire FA

Consultation with the Cambridgeshire FA highlighted that:

- **Cross-border movements:** There is some cross-border movement of football teams into and out of East Cambridgeshire, given the proximity of Newmarket and Cambridge in particular.
- **Disability football:** In East Cambridgeshire there are two disability football teams and the Cambridgeshire FA is committed to increasing this further.
- **Girl's football:** FA Wildcats girl's football centres provide the first step on the recreational football pathway, providing girls aged 5 to 11 with regular opportunities to play the game in a fun and engaging environment. East Cambridgeshire has three such centres and it is a priority for the FA to increase this number.
- **Small-sided football:** Small-sided football leagues are played at the Hive Leisure Centre and Ely Hockey Club. There is no Futsal activity in the district at present.
- **Recreational football:** Recreational football involves FA 'Just Play' sessions, walking football and casual pitch hire for small-sided match play. Walking Football is delivered by the Cambridgeshire FA at Bottisham Village College and Witchford Village College.
- **Informal football:** Informal football takes place at a number of recreation grounds and multi-use games areas in the district, although by definition it is difficult to quantify levels of use.

5.6.2 Local football clubs

Burwell Tigers FC: The club commented that 'our teams currently play matches at four different sites and we would like to focus all activities at Burwell Recreation Ground if we could have a full-sized '3G' football turf pitch'.

Ely City FC: The club made the following comments:

- 'Girls training sessions to be introduced this season from ages 10 - 13 with the aim to create girls teams moving forward'.
- 'We have plans to refurb main changing room block. Plans for a modular changing block to support colts pitches'.
- 'The current space for colts pitches is not enough to fit all teams and therefore other facilities have to be used. There is not enough changing rooms at the club to support the number of teams. The new '3G' built in Ely was not full size so we cannot move adult 11 v 11 games there to save wear and tear on grass pitches'.

- ‘We don't have a formal tenancy agreement at the Paradise Recreation Ground but have played at this venue for a long time’.

Haddenham Rovers Colts FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘We currently do not have sufficient pitches or training facilities for our current teams and have to hire additional facilities. We would like to have a new team every year come out of our academy but this lack of facilities makes this difficult’.
- ‘Our pitches do not drain very well and so we have to limit number of games on them. We currently hire the school pitch but are limited to the amount of games per month. We also hire a nearby village rec. but share this with their local team and thus are limited to access. A number of other surrounding villages are not prepared to let us use their facilities as they are full already’.

Isleham United FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘We need a new pitch as current facilities are over-used which affecting the quality of the pitches. We also have nowhere to train locally’.
- ‘It is difficult to play pre-season games at home due to cricket and other use’.
- ‘The village club has played here [Isleham Recreation Ground] since 1910 and no written agreements in place’.
- ‘The ideal scenario would be either some sort of floodlights and available space at Isleham or a full size 3G floodlit facility closer to us’.

Mepal Sports FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘If we can return to Mepal after three seasons at Stretham due to problems with the recreation field, we hope to rebuild the Club. The playing surface, which is on the village recreation field, has been in a very bad and dangerous state for a few years leading to both Mepal Juniors and Seniors having to find alternative venues. The Parish Council is trying to find a solution to this problem’.
- ‘Mepal Sports Juniors had to relocate and reform as Wilburton due to the dangerous condition of the recreation field at Mepal. Mepal Sports Seniors have been playing at Stretham in that time but hope to return if the field can be maintained to a safe state’.
- Unfortunately, there is a shortage of suitable pitches in the area which can be available to us’.

Soham Town Rangers Youth FC: The club made the following comments:

- ‘The only thing holding us back as a club is the lack of facilities and pitches in Soham’.

- ‘Limited pitches in Soham and what there is gets waterlogged from December to mid-March. The only floodlit area for training is a small run down 5-a-side pitch at the local sports centre and it costs £27.50 for an hour so cripples us financially’.
- ‘Soham Parish Council is refusing to renew our lease at the Kingfisher Drive pitches when it ends in 3-years’ time so we will no longer have pitches for 5v5 or 7v7 football’.

5.6.3 Parish Councils

Ashley Parish Council: ‘The village has 250 houses and a fairly old demographic. Whilst the pavilion has a single changing room the population doesn't seem to support a full-sized team sport, despite having a large and flat playing field. Other than the play area, we have no facilities for small groups of young/teenage children to play informal sport on, other than a small goal post made from scaffolding poles’.

Haddenham Parish Council: The key comments were as follows:

- ‘Football is very popular in Haddenham (as it is in most villages nowadays). We have a men’s team plus an Academy and 11 colts teams playing regular matches and training which places a huge strain on our small recreation grounds two pitches (one of which is about to be taken out of service for a year for refurbishment work by the Parish Council because it has no grass in the summer and is too wet in winter). There was never enough topsoil added when the pitch was levelled (and indeed none in the middle third which is pure clay)’.
- ‘Youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches spring up temporarily but as the pitches are shared with the cricket pitch, the lack of space and overlapping seasons cause huge problems’.
- ‘It is a difficult dilemma for the Parish Council to support growth when currently 6 of our 11 Colts teams play permanently on other villages pitches. They might as well join those parishes teams and anyway better players seem to migrate to villages with better facilities which has caused the demise of our men’s team in the past’.
- ‘The school also has very few sporting facilities although our village teams do get occasional use of their football pitch but this is limited so it is not overused’.

Lode Parish Council: ‘There have been fewer bookings for the football pitch over the last year or so’.

Soham Parish Council: ‘Soham Town Rangers with Soham Village College are planning to provide and open two ‘4G’ all weather, floodlit football pitches for all schools, club and community use’.

5.7 The implications for football in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply of football pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Participation rates:** Football demand is very buoyant in East Cambridgeshire, with countywide increases of 8.4% in team numbers since 2015 also reflected at district level in the youth and mini age groups. There are a number of large well-run FA Charter Standard clubs that cater for youth football and mini-soccer.

- **Displaced demand:** There is a small amount of displaced demand, with three teams from the district playing matches on pitches elsewhere.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is latent demand for a further 32 teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 17.2% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is generally good, with only 8.2% of pitches rated as ‘poor’. More than 90% of pitches have secured community access.
- **Changing facilities:** Changing facilities are generally good quality, with only 3.1% of football pitches served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities.

5.8 Assessment of current needs

5.8.1 Introduction

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ at each site. A ‘match equivalent session’ represents the wear and tear on a pitch equivalent to a formal match, so the impact of training sessions and unauthorised use can also be accounted for.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green below).

In line with FA guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Good quality</i>	<i>Standard quality</i>	<i>Poor quality</i>
Adult	3	2	1
Youth 11v11	4	2	1
Youth 9v9	4	2	1
Mini-soccer 7v7	6	4	2
Mini-soccer 5v5	6	4	2

The supply demand balance is tabulated below. Spare capacity is highlighted by green shading, balanced usage levels are highlighted in yellow and sites that are overused are highlighted in red.

5.8.2 Adult pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	3	Bottisham Village College	9.0	6.0	+3.0	3.0	3.0	Balanced
Burwell Recn. Ground	2	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Burwell Sports Centre	1	Burwell Tigers FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Dullingham Sports Field	1	No recorded use	3.0	0.0	+3.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Ely City FC	2	Ely City FC Ely City Crusaders FC	5.0	5.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Ely College	2	Norwich City FC Development Ely College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Fordham Recn. Ground	2	Fordham FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Isleham Recreation Ground	3	Isleham United FC Isleham United Ladies FC Isleham United Youth FC	6.0	8.0	-2.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0
Kennett Recn. Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	3.0	4.0	-1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Downham Recn. Ground	2	Witchford FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Little Thetford Recn. Ground	1	Ely City FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	Littleport and East Cambs Academy	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Lode Playing Field	1	Burwell Tigers FC	3.0	1.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Paradise Recn. Ground	2	Ely City FC Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Pymoor Sports & Social Club	1	Little Downham & Pymoor Swifts FC Littleport Town FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham Town Rangers FC	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham United FC	1	Soham United FC	3.0	2.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Stretham Recn. Ground	1	Mepal Sports FC Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Wicken Recn. Ground	1	Wicken FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Playing Field	1	Witchford 96 FC Witchford FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Village College	2	Crusaders 2019 FC Witchford Village College The Isle FC Village Inn FC	3.0	3.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	31	-	79.0	58.0	+21.0	31.0	30.0	+1.0

The key findings are:

- Adult demand is supplemented by nine youth (11v11) teams using adult pitches at Ely City FC, Isleham Recreation Ground, Kennett Recreation Ground and Witchford Playing Field.
- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, is balanced at 15 sites and shows spare capacity at four sites.
- Collective peak time spare capacity in the district amounts to 1.0 match equivalent session. This figure becomes a deficit of 2.0 match equivalent session if the education sites without secured community access are excluded.

5.8.3 Youth 11v11 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	1	Burwell Tigers FC Bottisham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Brooklands Pavilion	1	Sutton Rangers FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Recreation Ground	(1)	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	2	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	2.0	3.0	-1.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Kennett Recn. Ground	(1)	Kennett Youth FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Downham Recreation Ground	1	Witchford Colts FC	4.0	3.0	+1.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Little Thetford Recreation Ground	1	Ely City FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	2	Littleport Town Colts FC Littleport & E.C. Academy	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Soham United FC	2	Soham United Youth FC	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	3.0	-1.0
Soham Village College	1	Soham Town Rangers YFC Soham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Village College	1	Cambs FC Girl's Coaching Witchford Colts FC Witchford Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	12(2)	-	46.0	36.0	+10.0	14.0	16.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, balanced provision at seven sites and spare capacity at one site.
- The collective peak time supply-demand position in the district is a deficit of 2.0 match equivalent sessions. The deficit increases to 3.0 match equivalent sessions if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.8.4 Youth 9v9 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	2	Burwell Tigers FC Bottisham Village College	8.0	6.0	+2.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Brooklands Pavilion	(1)	Sutton Rangers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	(1)	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	1.0	1.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	2	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Little Downham Recreation Ground	1	No recorded use	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	Littleport & E.C. Academy	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham Village College	1	Soham Town Rangers YFC Soham Village College	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Soham United FC	(2)	Soham United Youth FC	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wicken Recreation Ground	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	2.0	2.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers CFC Wilburton FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Witchford Playing Field	(1)	Witchford Colts FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
TOTALS	12(5)	-	55.0	34.0	+19.0	16.0	19.0	-2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at three sites, a balance at nine sites and a deficit at two sites.
- The collective peak time deficit in the district amounts to 2.0 match equivalent session. The deficit remains the same if the education sites without secured community access are excluded, because none has a youth 9v9 pitch.

5.8.5 Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	2	Burwell Tigers FC	12.0	1.0	+11.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Brooklands Pavilion	(1)	No recorded use	6.0	0.0	+6.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Burwell Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	8.0	3.0	+5.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Fordham Recreation Ground	1	Fordham FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	1	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Kennett Recreation Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	1	Soham Town Rangers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	2	Littleport Town Colts FC	8.0	2.0	+6.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	4.0	4.0	Balanced	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Soham United FC	(2)	Soham United Youth FC	12.0	4.0	+8.0	2.0	2.0	Balanced
Stretham Recreation Ground	1	Stretham Sporting FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Swaffham Prior Recreation Ground	1	Burwell Tigers FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
TOTALS	15(3)	-	90.0	27.0	+63.0	18.0	18.0	Balanced

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows a deficit at three sites, is balanced at eight further sites and there is peak time spare capacity at three sites, including one where there is currently no recorded use.
- The collective peak time position in the district shows an exact balance between supply and demand. However, a deficit of 1.0 match equivalent sessions emerges if the education site without secured community access is excluded.

5.8.6 Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Bottisham Village College	4	Burwell Tigers FC	24.0	1.0	+23.0	4.0	1.0	+3.0
Brooklands Pavilion	1	Sutton Rangers FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Burwell Sports Centre	1	Burwell Tigers FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Ely City FC	2	Ely City Crusaders FC	8.0	3.0	+5.0	2.0	1.0	+1.0
Fordham Recreation Ground	(1)	Fordham FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	1	Haddenham Rovers Colts FC	2.0	1.0	+1.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Isleham Recreation Ground	(1)	Isleham United Youth FC	4.0	6.0	-2.0	1.0	3.0	-2.0
Kennett Recreation Ground	1	Kennett Youth FC	6.0	3.0	+3.0	1.0	2.0	-1.0
Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	(2)	Soham Town Rangers FC	4.0	2.0	+2.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Littleport Leisure Centre	1	No recorded use	4.0	0.0	+4.0	1.0	0.0	+1.0
Paradise Recreation Ground	1	Ely City Crusaders FC	4.0	1.0	+3.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Wilburton Recreation Ground	1	Wilburton FC	6.0	1.0	+5.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
Witchford Playing Field	1	Witchford Colts FC	6.0	2.0	+4.0	1.0	1.0	Balanced
TOTALS	14(4)	-	86.0	24.0	+62.0	17.0	15.0	+2.0

The key findings are:

- Peak time utilisation shows an overall deficit at two sites, is balanced at eight sites and shows spare capacity at three sites.
- The collective peak time surplus in the district amounts to 2.0 match equivalent sessions. The position remains the same if the education sites without secured community access are excluded, because none has a mini-soccer 5v5 pitch.

5.8.7 '3G' football turf pitches

The methodology for assessing the used capacity of the three full-sized artificial grass pitches used for football in East Cambridgeshire is based upon assessing information from two sources:

- The actual used capacity of the two '3G' football turf pitch use is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.
- A projection based upon the FA's guide figure of one pitch per 38 teams.

Used capacity: The used capacity of the ‘3G’ football turf pitches used for football in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Peak hours</i>	<i>Utilised peak hours</i>	<i>Peak utilisation rate</i>
Bottisham Village College	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	15	75%
Newmarket Town FC	18.00 - 22.00 Mon - Fri	20	100%
Witchford Village College	18.00 - 21.30 Mon - Fri	14	80%

FA guidance: An alternative way to assess ‘3G’ pitch needs is to apply the FA’s guide figure for training needs of one full-sized pitch per 38 teams. With 186 football teams in East Cambridgeshire at present, there is a requirement for 4.89 pitches the district. If the 32 additional teams identified by local clubs as representing latent demand are included, the requirement increases to 5.74 pitches. Existing provision of three community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 1.89 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches, or 2.74 if latent demand is included.

5.9 Assessment of future needs

5.9.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council’s planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The ‘*East Cambridgeshire Growth Study*’ (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

5.9.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for football in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection.

- **FA strategic targets:** The FA’s ‘*National Game Strategy for Participation and Development 2018 - 2021*’ sets the following participation targets:
 - Boost female youth participation by 11% by 2021.
 - Retain and support the 129,000 male, female and disability teams.
 - Increase the number of over 16’s playing every week by over 200,000, by offering a variety of formats by 2021.
- **Local trends:** Consultation with local clubs indicated that the following additional teams could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. The projected increase is equivalent to a 17.3% rise in current team numbers. Given the broadly static participation levels over the past five years, it is considered appropriate to project future needs based on current team numbers.

<i>Team Type</i>	<i>No. Teams</i>
Adult teams	3
Youth 11v11 teams	11
Youth 9v9 teams	5
Mini 7v7 teams	7
Mini 5v5 teams	6

TOTAL TEAMS	32
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5.9.3 Site-specific pressures

East Cambridgeshire District Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal football activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to accommodate existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other green space functions.

5.9.4 Potential changes in supply

Current '3G' football turf pitch proposals are as follows:

- Soham Village College in conjunction with Soham Town Rangers FC.
- Isleham Recreation Ground.
- Littleport Leisure Centre in conjunction with Littleport and East Cambs Academy.
- Ely College is considering converting its sand-filled artificial grass pitch into a '3G' football turf pitch.

Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. However, details are still to be finalised, and none of these projects is yet fully funded.

5.9.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing surpluses (shown with a '+') or deficits (shown with a '-') in football pitch peak-time capacity have been calculated in section 5.7 above and are as follows. It is important to note that the shortfalls cannot be met by improvements to pitch quality (and related capacity), because they relate to peak period demand, which is defined by the number of pitches:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Match equivalents</i>
Adult	+1.0
Youth 11v11	-2.0
Youth 9v9	-2.0
Mini-soccer 7v7	Balanced
Mini-soccer 5v5	+2.0

5.9.6 Future grass pitch needs

Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand. The results of applying the Calculator for football needs in East Cambridgeshire are set out below:

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand 2036</i>		
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Youth</i>	<i>Mini</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	2.15	7.50	4.63
Extra training hours per week on '3G' pitches	29.52		
Extra grass pitches to meet demand	2.15	7.50	4.63
Capital cost of extra pitches	£221,908	£579,426	£119,173
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£46,823	£121,680	£25,026
Extra '3G' pitches to meet demand	0.78		
Capital cost of extra '3G' pitches	£793,250		
Annual running costs of extra '3G' pitches	£28,459		
Extra changing rooms	15.28		
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£2,675,267		

5.9.7 Future '3G' pitch needs

The Playing Pitch Calculator projects future '3G' pitch needs to 2036 as a requirement for 0.78 additional pitches, in addition to the existing assessed shortfall of 1.89 pitches.

5.10 Key findings and issues

5.10.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Participation rates:** Football demand is very buoyant in East Cambridgeshire, with countywide increases of 8.4% in team numbers since 2015 also reflected at district level in the youth and mini age groups. There are a number of large well-run FA Charter Standard clubs that cater for youth football and mini-soccer.
- **Displaced demand:** There is a small amount of displaced demand, with three teams from the district playing matches on pitches elsewhere.
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is latent demand for a further 32 teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 17.3% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is generally good, with only 8.2% of pitches rated as 'poor'. More than 95% of pitches have secured community access.
- **Changing facilities:** Changing facilities are generally good quality, with only 5.2% of football pitches served by 'poor' quality or no changing facilities.

5.10.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - there is a deficit for most pitch types

- **Adult grass pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at accessible, community-secured sites.
- **Youth 11v11 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 3.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.

- **Youth 9v9 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 2.0 weekly match equivalent session at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 7v7 pitches:** There is a collective deficit of 1.0 weekly match equivalent session at community-secured sites.
- **Mini-soccer 5v5 pitches:** There is a collective surplus of 2.0 weekly match equivalent sessions at the community-secured sites.
- **'3G' football turf pitches:** There is 7.5 hours of peak time availability at existing '3G' football turf pitches in the district, which is equivalent to 0.38 pitches. Based on the FA's calculation of training needs against current provision however, there is an assessed current shortfall of 1.89 pitches. The net position, deducting spare capacity from surplus demand, leaves a requirement for 1.51 additional pitches.

5.10.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES - at most pitches**

- **Quality:** Pitch quality was rated 'poor' at only eight out of 97 grass football pitches in the district. However, quality is at the lower end of 'standard' at a further five pitches, many of which are likely to fall into the 'poor' category in the future, without enhanced maintenance.
- **Maintenance:** Most pitches in East Cambridgeshire are appropriately maintained.

5.10.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district's population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, is a reasonable basis for forecasting.

Changes in supply: '3G' football turf pitches are under discussion at Soham, Isleham, Littleport and Ely College (for conversion of an ageing sand-filled artificial grass pitch). Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. However, no details are currently available as to size or number of pitches and none of these projects is yet fully funded.

- **Existing spare capacity:** The only notional spare capacity is 2.0 match equivalent sessions at mini-soccer 5v5 pitches.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, additional future needs have been assessed as follows by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator:
 - Adult grass pitches: 2.15 pitches.
 - Youth grass pitches: 7.5 pitches.
 - Mini-soccer grass pitches: 4.63 pitches.

- '3G' football turf pitches: 0.78 pitches.

5.10.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - there is a deficit for all pitch types.

The situation at community accessible pitches in the district is summarised below:

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current secured pitches</i>	<i>Current secured peak spare pitch capacity</i>	<i>Current peak needs</i>	<i>New peak match equivalents by 2036</i>	<i>Total peak pitch needs by 2036</i>	<i>Surplus/deficit in 2036</i>
Adult football	29	-2.0	31.0	2.15	33.15	-4.15
Youth 11v11	13	-3.0	16.0	4.0	20.0	-7.0
Youth 9v9	16	-2.0	18.0	3.5	21.5	-5.5
Mini 7v7	17	-1.0	18.0	2.32	20.32	-3.32
Mini 5v5	17	+2.0	15.0	2.31	17.31	-0.31

5.11 Scenario Testing

5.11.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

5.11.2 Scenario 1: Re-instating un-used and disused pitches

- **Rationale:** The table below models the effect of re-instating unused and disused pitches to meet future demand. The pitches concerned and the reasons why they are currently unused are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Reasons for non-usage</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Burrough Green CB8 9NG	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
Mepal Playing Field	Witcham Road, Mepal CB6 2YP	1	-	1	2	-	Problems with drainage currently being addressed.
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
The Ellesmere Centre	Ley Road, Stetchworth CB8 9TS	1	-	-	-	-	Pitch available but no current demand.
TOTALS	-	4	0	1	2	0	-

- The pitches can all be restored to 'standard' quality and there are no access and parking issues at the sites. Whilst it would have limited impact on the amount of additional pitch capacity that would still need to be provided, it would at least reduce the number required. It would therefore make sense either to consider resuming use of these pitches to meet unmet existing demand for youth and mini-soccer pitches (the Ellesmere Centre would be particularly appropriate for this with an existing small-sided floodlit artificial grass pitch), or to retain them as open space until such time as additional future demand emerges.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - All pitches were used until recently, so could be reinstated at relatively low cost.
 - All sites have secured community access so usage would be assured.
- **Disadvantages:** There are no obvious disadvantages to this scenario.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis.

5.11.3 Scenario 2: Accessing pitches on education sites

- **Rationale:** The following pitches on school sites in East Cambridgeshire have no community use at present. Local clubs with surplus demand in the vicinity of each site that would benefit from additional pitch access are also listed:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Local clubs with surplus demand</i>
Bottisham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Ely St. John's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Ely St. Mary's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Fordham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Fordham FC
Kings School	1	-	-	-	-	The Eagle (Ely) FC
Kings School (Amherst Field)	1	-	-	-	-	Ely City FC
Kings School (Brand Field)	1	1	2	-	-	Ely City FC
Isle of Ely Primary School	-	-	-	1	1	Ely City FC
Isleham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Isleham United Youth FC
Lantern Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Ely City FC
Littleport Primary School	-	-	1	1	1	Littleport Town Colts FC
Mepal & Witcham Primary Sch.	-	-	-	1	-	Mepal Sports FC
Millfield Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Littleport Town Colts FC
Rackham Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	Witchford Colts FC
St. Andrew's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Soham Town Rangers FC
Stretham Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Stretham Sporting FC
Swaffham Prior Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Weatherall's Primary School	-	-	1	-	-	Soham United Youth FC
Wilburton Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	Wilburton FC
TOTALS	3	1	5	14	2	-

- The table below models the effect of gaining access to school pitches to meet future community demand. It shows that whilst additional capacity would still need to be provided for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9, the amount of provision required would be reduced. Whilst pitch capacity is reduced by the education use, it would nevertheless make sense to consider negotiating the use of these pitches to meet additional future demand, rather than making entirely new provision.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Current School pitches</i>	<i>Peak match equivalent capacity</i>	<i>Unmet current and future peak demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Adult football	3	3.0	-1.15	+1.85
Youth 11v11	1	1.0	-6.0	-5.0
Youth 9v9	5	5.0	-5.5	-0.5
Mini 7v7	14	14.0	-2.32	+11.68
Mini 5v5	2	2.0	-0.31	+1.69

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into use at little or no additional cost, depending on the current quality of the respective pitches.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
 - The pitches should be available during the peak demand periods for community-based teams at weekends.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - None of the schools has community use at present and there is no obvious mechanism for securing it, so there is no guarantee that they would be prepared to commence such an arrangement.
 - No site has a Community Use Agreement so continued access would be unsecured.
 - No assessment has been made of the quality of schools pitches without community use, so the extent of their capacity to accommodate additional use is unknown.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers some advantages for enhancing local pitch capacity on a cost-effective basis and should therefore be examined further on a site-by-site basis.

5.11.4 Scenario 3: Improve existing grass pitch carrying capacity

- **Rationale:** The following football pitches in East Cambridgeshire are either ‘standard’ or ‘poor’ quality and as such their carrying capacity is compromised. The users of each site are also listed in the table below, to illustrate which clubs might benefit from pitch quality (and related capacity) improvements:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch rating</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Ely City FC	Standard	1	-	2	2	2	Ely City FC
Ely College	Standard	2	-	-	-	-	Norwich City FC Ely College
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Poor	-	2	(1)	-	1	Haddenham Rovers FC
Isleham Recreation Ground	Standard	3	-	2	1	(1)	Isleham United FC
Kingfisher Drive pitches	Standard	-	-	-	1	(2)	Soham Town Rangers FC

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch rating</i>	<i>Adult 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 11v11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7v7</i>	<i>Mini 5v5</i>	<i>Club users</i>
Littleport Leisure Centre	Standard	1	2	1	2	1	Littleport Town Colts FC
Mepal Recreation Ground	Poor	1	-	1	2	-	Mepal Sports FC
Paradise Recreation Ground	Standard	2	-	-	-	1	Ely City FC
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	Standard	-	-	-	1	-	Haddenham Rovers FC
Stretham Recreation Ground	Standard	1	-	-	1	-	Mepal Sports FC Soham Town Rangers FC Stretham FC Stretham Sporting FC
Swaffham Prior Recreation Grd.	Standard	-	-	1	1	-	Burwell Tigers FC
Wicken Recreation Ground	Standard	1	-	1	-	-	Wicken FC
TOTALS	-	12	4	8(1)	11	5(3)	-

- The table below models the effect of improving the pitches to ‘good’ quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Improved pitch capacity (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Unmet current and future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Balance (match equivalents)</i>
Adult football	13.0	-1.15	+10.85
Youth 11v11	10.0	-6.0	+4.0
Youth 9v9	22.0	-5.5	+16.5
Mini 7v7	26.0	-2.32	+23.68
Mini 5v5	16.0	-0.31	+15.69

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Overall usage capacity would be improved, the districtwide collective weekly capacity deficiencies would be eliminated and the distribution of the sites gives good geographical coverage across the whole district.
 - This would be a cost-effective option compared with the expense of providing new pitches, particularly if land acquisition costs are factored in.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The capital cost of pitch improvements may be supported by the Football Foundation grants programmes, the main financial challenge to many pitch providers would be meeting the revenue cost implications of the enhanced works associated with maintaining the pitch quality as ‘good’.
 - The major benefit of capacity improvements are on weekly capacity and would have very limited impact on the peak period shortfalls.
- **Conclusions:** Improving the ‘poor’ quality pitches (Haddenham Recreation Ground and Mepal Recreation Ground) would have the greatest impact on current deficiencies.

5.11.5 Scenario 4: Provide additional grass pitches in conjunction with housing developments

- **Rationale:** Additional grass pitches are also under active consideration or linked to planned housing developments in Burwell, Haddenham and Sutton. These have the potential to meet all additional football needs arising from the extra demand created by the inhabitants of the new housing.
- The table below models the effect of improving the pitches to ‘good’ quality and subsequently maintaining them as such.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Unmet current and future demand (match equivalents)</i>	<i>Grass pitches needed to meet extra demand by 2036</i>
Adult football	-1.15	2
Youth 11v11	-6.0	6
Youth 9v9	-5.5	6
Mini 7v7	-2.32	3
Mini 5v5	-0.31	1

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The districtwide collective grass pitch capacity deficiencies would be eliminated.
 - The costs of providing and maintaining the pitches will be secured through developer contributions.
 - There are existing football clubs in all three areas who may be in a position to take on the management of the pitches through an asset transfer arrangement.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - No details are currently available as to size or number of pitches associated with the proposed housing developments and none of them is yet fully funded.
 - Grass pitch provision, particularly for youth football and mini-soccer, may be less relevant in the future than ‘3G’ football turf pitches.
- **Conclusions:** Grass pitch provision associated with major housing developments in the district should be balanced against the case for inviting off-site developer contributions towards the costs of providing ‘3G’ football turf pitches to address the extra demand.

5.11.6 Scenario 5: The impact of current ‘3G’ pitch proposals

- **Rationale:** There are the following active proposals for ‘3G’ pitch provision in East Cambridgeshire:
 - Soham Village College, in conjunction with Soham Town Rangers FC.
 - Isleham Recreation Ground.

- Littleport Leisure Centre in conjunction with Littleport and East Cambs Academy.
 - Ely College is considering converting its sand-filled artificial grass pitch into a '3G' football turf pitch.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows.
 - Assuming that all pitches are provided as full-sized facilities with full community access, they will be capable of accommodating an additional 158 training slots per week. Existing provision of three community-accessible full-sized pitches leaves an effective shortfall of 1.89 full-sized '3G' pitches, or 2.74 if latent demand is included, so the proposed facilities will meet all of the current shortfall.
 - In addition to the extra training capacity, assuming the permissibility of staggered kick-off times and the accreditation of each pitch on the FA Register, the pitches could collectively provide for 16 adult or youth 11v11, or 24 youth 9v9 or mini 7v7 or 32 mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions per weekend, thus eliminating peak demand deficits on grass pitches.
 - The geographical spread of the proposed facilities would give good geographical coverage of the district, in conjunction with the existing pitches.
 - **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that conversion of an artificial grass hockey pitch into a '3G' surface will need to be considered carefully in relation to the needs of hockey in the area.
 - **Conclusions:** The current '3G' pitch proposals in East Cambridgeshire have the potential to provide for all current football training needs and match play deficits, but further feasibility work will need to be undertaken to determine that:
 - All four proposals are financially viable and can be managed to accommodate all needs.
 - There is sufficient current and future artificial grass pitch capacity to meet hockey needs in the district.

5.12 Policy recommendations

5.12.1 Introduction

The East Cambridgeshire PPS is a robust and evidence-based assessment of the current and future needs for football in the district. The recommendations in relation to football are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the three main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

5.12.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The Strategy identifies a need for all current and disused football pitch sites to be retained, on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport and/or other wider open space functions in East Cambridgeshire both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that existing planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Fewer than 10% of football pitches in the district are on sites without secured community use and the absence of a Community Use Agreement at some school sites makes it impossible to assume the continued availability of the pitches for the community. It is therefore recommended that efforts are made to achieve security of Community Use Agreements at sites without them at present.

5.12.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision, including dis-used sites: Eight pitches (8.3%) in the District are rated as ‘poor’ quality and several more are rated at the lower end of ‘standard’ quality. Additionally, 3% of pitches are served by ‘poor’ quality or no changing facilities. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that:

- The site owners concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.
- Sites with poor playing surfaces should apply to be part of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme, which will offer a programme to improve the short, medium and long-term maintenance of pitches to improve pitch quality.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions (enhancements): Some of the additional demand for football arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, should be accommodated through enhancements to existing pitches and facilities. It is recommended that the site-specific action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for determining facility enhancements that demonstrably relate to the scale and location of specific developments and that an appropriate level of financial contributions be sought under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements.

5.12.4 Provide

Recommendation 5 - ‘3G’ football turf pitches: Based upon the FA’s guide figure, there is a current shortfall of 1.87 full-sized ‘3G’ pitches in the district, with additional demand equivalent to 0.78 full-sized pitches being generated by population growth by 2036. ‘3G’ pitches are an important component of provision because their all-weather nature and floodlights enable a high volume of play to be accommodated on good quality playing surfaces. The provision of additional ‘3G’ pitches to meet needs identified in the East Cambridgeshire PPS should be supported as a priority in appropriate locations. Sites currently under active consideration and include Soham College, Isleham Recreation Ground, Littleport Leisure Centre and Ely College.

Recommendation 6 - Developer contributions (new provision): Most of the extra demand for youth football in particular arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, will need to be accommodated through the provision of new pitches and facilities. It is recommended that agreement be concluded with developers to provide football pitches to meet the specific future needs identified in the East Cambridgeshire PPS. Some potential projects are emerging through this mechanism and further needs and opportunities should be kept under review through the implementation phase of the strategy.

5.13 Action Plan

5.13.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the football site-specific action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, FA - Football Association and GANTIP - Grounds and Natural Turf Pitch Improvement Programme. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England’s *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019), but actual costs will vary based on site-specific conditions.

5.13.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Community access to public and private education pitches	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed pitches on public and private education sites.	ECDC	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved football facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator	High
Identification of sites for additional ‘3G’ football turf pitches	Examine the feasibility of providing additional ‘3G’ pitches at the identified key sites.	ECDC	Potential host sites Football Foundation S106 funding	£10,000 for feasibility studies £750,000 per pitch	High
Site specific grounds maintenance needs	Review site specific grounds maintenance needs when through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	FA	GANTIP	£100 per site annually for assessment and advice.	High

5.13.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Bottisham Village College	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Brooklands Pavilion	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Burrough Green	No current use	Retain as open space and reinstate pitch in response to increased demand.	Burrough Green PC	-	-	Low
Burwell Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Burwell Sports Centre	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Dullingham Sports Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Ellesmere Centre	No current use	Explore the possibility of providing youth and/or mini pitches	Ellesmere Centre	-	-	Medium
Ely City Football Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing capacity is inadequate to serve the number of pitches. • Disabled access is non-compliant. 	Improve changing facilities	Ely City FC	Football Foundation	£250,000 for changing improvements	High
Ely College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Proposal to convert sand-filled AGP to '3G'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Feasibility study to assess impact of conversion on Hockey. 	Ely College	ECDC	£10,000 for feasibility study	Medium
Fordham Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Haddenham Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitches with bad drainage, a significant slope and poor grass cover. • Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches. • Explore additional off-site provision if available. 	Haddenham PC	GANTIP Haddenham Rovers FC	£50,000 for grass pitches	High
Isleham Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult pitch and mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches being used to over-capacity at peak times. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve grass pitches. • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch. 	Isleham PC	GANTIP Isleham FC Football Foundation	£20,000 for grass pitches £10,000 for feasibility study	High
Kennett Recreation Ground	Adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitches being used to over-capacity at peak times.	Move some adult and mini 5v5 matches to	Kennett Youth FC	-	-	Medium

		'3G' pitch in Newmarket.				
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<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
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Kingfisher Drive Sports Pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential loss of access to Soham Town Rangers YFC when lease expires. • Pitches at lower end of 'standard' quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with Soham TC to resolve longer-term access. • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP • Explore alternative sites including '3G'. 	ECDC	Soham TC Soham Town Rangers YFC GANTIP	-	Medium
Little Downham Recn. Grd.	Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 matches to '3G' pitch at The Hive in Ely.	Witchford Colts FC	-	-	Medium
Little Thetford Recn. Grd.	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Littleport Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch at lower end of 'standard' quality. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grounds maintenance with GANTIP. • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch 	Littleport & East Cambs Academy	GANTIP	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
Lode Playing Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Mepal Playing Field	Problems with drainage currently being addressed.	Reinstate pitches once drainage works are complete	Mepal Parish Council	-	-	High
Newmarket Town FC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Pymoor Social Club	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Robert Arkenstall Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Mini 7v7 pitch being used to over-capacity at peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Improve grass pitch 	ECDC	Robert Arkenstall Primary School GANTIP	£10,000 for grass pitch	Medium
Soham Town Rangers FC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Soham United FC	Youth 11v11 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 11v11 matches to '3G' pitch at Soham Village College when provided.	Soham United FC	Soham Village College	-	Medium
Soham Village College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secured community access. • Proposed '3G' pitch provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a formal Community Use Agreement • Feasibility study for '3G' pitch 	Soham Village College	ECDC	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
Stretham Recreation Ground	Adult pitch being used to over-capacity at peak times.	Improve grass pitch.	Stretham PC	GANTIP	£10,000 for grass pitch	Medium

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Swaffham Bulbeck Recreation Ground	No current use	Retain as open space and reinstate pitch in response to increased demand.	Swaffham Bulbeck PC	-	-	Medium
Swaffham Prior Recn. Ground	Poor quality changing facilities	Review the need for improved changing	Swaffham Prior PC	Burwell Tigers FC	-	Low
Wicken Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 pitch used to over-capacity in the peak period.	Move youth 9v9 matches to '3G' pitch at Soham Village College when provided.	Soham Town Rangers YFC	Soham Village College	-	Medium
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches used to over-capacity in the peak period	Move youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 matches to The Hive '3G' pitch	Haddenham Rovers FC	-	-	Medium
Witchford Playing Field	Youth 9v9 pitch used to over-capacity in the peak period	Move youth 9v9 matches to '3G' pitch at The Hive in Ely.	Witchford Colts FC	-	-	Medium
Witchford Village College	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-

6 CRICKET NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

6.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders delivering cricket in East Cambridgeshire are:

- **Cambridgeshire Cricket:** Cambridgeshire Cricket has the responsibility for all ECB participation and growth activities and support to recreational cricket as well as the representative cricket and performance pathway programmes across the County Cricket Board geographical area of Cambridgeshire.
- **Cambridgeshire Cricket-affiliated clubs:** There are 14 affiliated clubs in East Cambridgeshire, who collectively run 32 adult and 13 junior teams.
- **Pitch providers:** Pitches in the district are managed and maintained by cricket clubs and parish councils.

6.2 Strategic context

6.2.1 National cricket strategy

The England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) strategy for 2020 -2024 '*Inspiring Generations*' (2019) contains the following priorities and activities:

Grow and nurture the core: The following will be prioritised:

- A new investment fund for County Cricket Boards.
- Investment in club facilities.
- Further investment in county competitions.

Make cricket accessible: The following will be prioritised:

- Creating a new digital community for cricket.
- Installing non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas.
- Continuing to deliver the South Asian Action Plan.
- Launching a new participation product linked to the new 100-ball competition.

Engage children and young people: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling cricket participation in primary schools.
- Delivering a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards.
- Developing safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people.

Transform women and girl's cricket: There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket that will include:

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

Support our communities: The following will be prioritised:

- Doubling the number of volunteers in the game.
- Creating a game-wide approach to Trusts and Foundations through the cricket network.
- Developing a new wave of officials and community coaches.
- Increasing participation in disability cricket.

6.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The 'West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies that there is a current surplus of cricket wickets across the borough equivalent to 366 seasonal match equivalent sessions and a future surplus in 2031 of 166 seasonal match equivalent sessions. Some of this spare capacity is in the Newmarket area, close enough to East Cambridgeshire to provide some potential provision.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The 'Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031' (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that there will be insufficient cricket pitches with secured community use to meet projected demand by 2031, with two further eight-wicket pitches required to meet the deficit. Most of the additional demand will be from the major housing developments to the west of Cambridge, some distance away from East Cambridgeshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The 'Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy' (2016) identifies that there is that there is a current surplus of cricket wickets across the district equivalent to 76 seasonal match equivalent sessions and a future surplus in 2031 of 52 seasonal match equivalent sessions. Most of this capacity is in parts of the district that are not adjacent to East Cambridgeshire.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

6.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for cricket in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

- ***Local corporate priorities:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role Cricket can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Planning policy:*** Whilst local planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, including those for Cricket, the current work on the Outdoor Sports

Facilities Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.

- **Policy shifts:** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for Cricket to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants.

6.3 Cricket demand in East Cambridgeshire

6.3.1 Affiliated clubs and teams

The following clubs affiliate to Cambridgeshire Cricket and play in East Cambridgeshire. Home grounds listed in italics are outside the district:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground(s)</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
Burwell and Exning CC	Mingay Park <i>Exning Park</i>	4	0	3	0
Burrough Green CC	Burrough Green	3	0	1	0
Bottisham and Lode CC	Lode Playing Field	2	0	0	0
Chippenham CC	Chippenham Park	3	0	0	0
City of Ely CC	Paradise Recreation Ground	3	0	4	0
Dullingham CC	Dullingham Sports Field	2	0	3	0
Fordham CC	Fordham Recreation Ground	3	0	0	0
Haddenham CC	Haddenham Recreation Ground	1	0	0	0
Isleham CC	Isleham Recreation Ground	3	0	0	0
Little Downham CC	Little Downham Recn. Ground	1	0	0	0
Sutton CC	Sutton Recreation Ground	2	0	0	0
Swaffham Bulbeck CC	Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	1	0	0	0
Wilburton CC	Wilburton Recreation Ground	3	0	2	0
Witcham CC	Witcham Cricket Club	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	-	32	0	13	0

6.3.2 Demand trends

- **National demand:** The ECB's most recent 'National Cricket Playing Survey' (2019), which reflects club and league cricket only (for example it does not include Women's Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket) identified:
 - A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.
 - Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are 'core' players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are 'occasional' players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are 'cameo' players (playing one or two weeks per season).
 - 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
 - Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short-sided game cancellations also decreased by 11% in 2019 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.

- **Local trends:** Littleport Town CC, Pymoor CC and Wicken CC have all disbanded in the past few years.

6.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area and vice versa:

- **Imported demand:** No teams from outside East Cambridgeshire play their home matches on pitches in the district, although the recent merger of Burwell and Exning CC involved the latter club from West Suffolk.
- **Exported demand:** Burwell and Exning CC play some of their matches on a pitch in West Suffolk.

6.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Adult male teams</i>	<i>Adult female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>
City of Ely CC	1	1	2	0
Haddenham CC	1	0	1	0
Wilburton CC	0	0	0	0
Witcham CC	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	3	1	3	0

6.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist, latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from a population if they had access to more or better provision. It is reasonable to assume that the local clubs' estimates of additional team formation potential above are an accurate assessment of the overall levels of latent demand.

6.4 Cricket supply in East Cambridgeshire

Provision of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire is set out below. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural grass or artificial turf wickets (shown in brackets).

- *Available for community use and used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Burrough Green	Bradley Road, Bottisham CB8 9NG	1	6
Chippenham Park	Parkside, Chippenham CB7 5PR	1	8
Dullingham Sports Field	Stetchworth Road, Dullingham CB8 9XD	1	6
Fordham Recreation Ground	Carter Street, Fordham CB7 5NG	1	8
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Hop Row, Haddenham CB6 3SR	1	7
Isleham Recreation Ground	Mill Street, Isleham CB7 5RY	1	8
Little Downham Recn. Ground	School Lane, Little Downham CB6 3SY	1	7
Lode Playing Field	Station Road, Lode CB25 9EH	1	8
Mingay Park	Reach Road, Burwell CB25 0AH	1	11
Paradise Recreation Ground	Newnham Street, Ely CB7 4PQ	1	14
Sutton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Sutton CB6 2RL	1	8 (1)
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Station Rd., Swaffham Bulbeck CB25 0HP	1	4
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Station Road, Wilburton CB6 3RP	2	11
Witcham Cricket Club	High Street, Witcham CB6 2LQ	1	5
TOTAL	-	15	111 (1)

- *Available for community use and not used:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	1	(1)
Littleport Village College	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	1	(1)
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	1	(1)
TOTAL	-	3	(3)

- *Not available for community use:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	1	6
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	2	8 (2)
TOTAL	-	3	14 (2)

- *Pitches decommissioned in the past five years:*

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Wickets</i>
Kirtling Cricket Club	The Street, Kirtling CB8 9PD	1	8
Littleport Leisure Centre	Camel Road, Littleport CB6 1EW	2	10 (1)
Margaret Field	Heath Road, Burwell CB25 0BZ	1	6
Pymoor Cricket and Social Club	Pymoor Lane, Pymoor CB6 2EE	1	6
Wicken Recreation Ground	Chapel Lane, Wicken CB7 5XZ	1	6
TOTAL	-	6	36 (1)

6.4.1 Cricket facilities quality

The qualitative analysis of cricket pitches and related facilities in East Cambridgeshire involved visits to all cricket pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the ECB for Sport England’s *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*’ (2013). The assessment evaluated the condition of:

- **Grass wickets:** This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
- **Outfield:** This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
- **Non-turf wickets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
- **Changing facilities:** This includes the presence or absence of umpires’ provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
- **Non-turf practice nets:** This includes integration with the surrounding grass, surface quality, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The assessment generates a ‘score’ for each site. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 81% or more (shaded green in the table below) ‘Standard’ for scores of 80% - 51% (shaded yellow in the table below) and ‘Poor’ for scores of 50% or below (denoted by shaded red in the table below). Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question. The scores are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>	<i>Non-turf</i>	<i>Outfield</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Practice nets</i>
Burrough Green	Poor	None	Standard	Good	Poor
Chippenham Park	Good	None	Good	Good	Good
Dullingham Sports Field	Good	None	Good	Good	None
Fordham Recreation Ground	Good	None	Good	Standard	Poor
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Good	Good
Isleham Recreation Ground	Good	None	Good	Good	Poor
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Lode Playing Field	Good	None	Good	Good	Standard
Mingay Park	Good	None	Good	Good	Good
Paradise Recreation Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Sutton Recreation Ground	Good	Good	Standard	Good	Poor
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Standard	None	Standard	Standard	None
Wilburton Recn. Ground Pitch 1	Good	None	Standard	Standard	Poor
Wilburton Recn. Ground Pitch 2	Poor	None	Poor	Standard	Poor
Witcham Cricket Club	Standard	None	Standard	Good	Poor

6.4.2 Pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of ‘match equivalents’ that can be accommodated each season. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following seasonal carrying capacities for cricket pitches:

- A ‘good’ quality wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate four and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate none.
- ‘Good’ and ‘Standard’ quality artificial turf wickets accommodate 60 matches per season and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate none.
- The seasonal pitch carrying capacity of each cricket site in East Cambridgeshire is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grass wickets</i>	<i>Artificial wickets</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Burrough Green	6	-	0
Chippenham Park	8	-	40
Dullingham Sports Field	6	-	30
Fordham Recreation Ground	10	-	50
Haddenham Recreation Ground	7	-	28
Isleham Recreation Ground	8	-	40
Little Downham Recn. Ground	7	-	32
Lode Playing Field	8	-	40
Mingay Park	11	-	55
Paradise Recreation Ground	14	-	56
Sutton Recreation Ground	8	1	100
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	4	-	16
Wilburton Recreation Ground	10	-	30
Witcham Cricket Club	5	-	20
TOTALS	111	1	

6.4.3 Pitch maintenance

Cricket pitch maintenance in the district is organised by the managers of the facilities as follows:

- **Club-managed pitches:** The pitches owned and managed by local sports clubs are all maintained by the clubs themselves. This involves a combination of paid grounds staff, external contractors and volunteer help.
- **Parish Council sites:** The outfielders at the Parish Council-owned recreation ground sites are generally maintained by contractors, with the user cricket club maintaining the wickets.

6.4.4 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of all cricket pitch sites in East Cambridgeshire is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use of the site is protected (through public ownership, planning policy ownership covenants etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

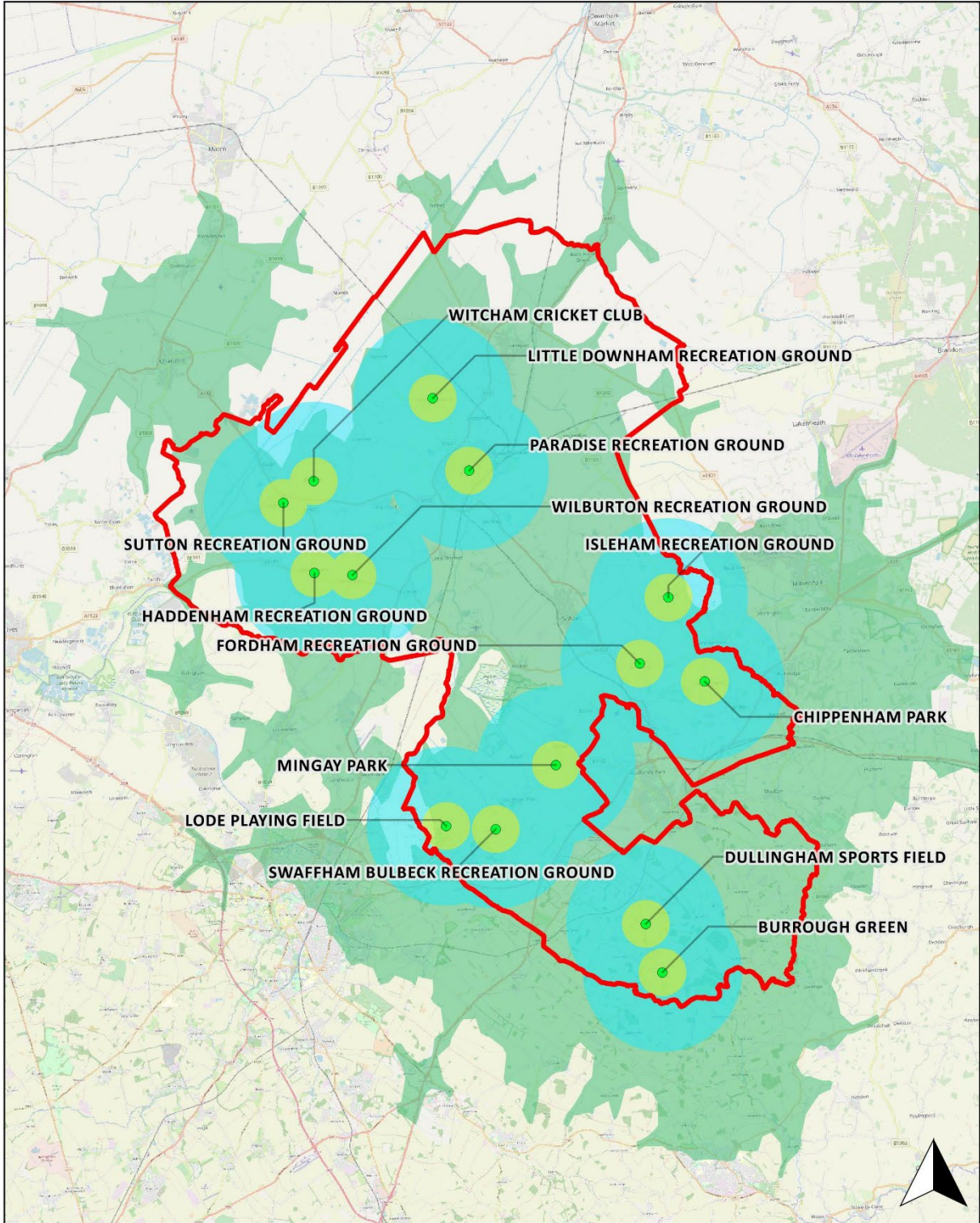
<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Burrough Green	Burrough Green Parish Council	Burrough Green Parish Council	Secured
Chippenham Park	Private owner	Chippenham Cricket Club	Secured
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham Pariah Council	Dullingham Parish Council	Secured
Fordham Recreation Ground	Fordham Parish Council	Fordham Parish Council	Secured
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham Parish Council	Haddenham Parish Council	Secured
Isleham Recreation Ground	Isleham Parish Council	Isleham Parish Council	Secured
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham Parish Council	Little Downham Parish Council	Secured
Lode Playing Field	Lode Parish Council	Lode Parish Council	Secured
Mingay Park	Burwell Cricket Club	Burwell Cricket Club	Secured
Paradise Recreation Ground	Ely Town Council	City of Ely Cricket Club	Secured
Sutton Recreation Ground	Sutton Parish Council	Sutton Parish Council	Secured
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council	Secured
Wilburton Recreation Ground	Wilburton Parish Council	Wilburton Parish Council	Secured
Witcham Cricket Club	Witcham Parish Council	Witcham Cricket Club	Secured

Whilst public access to all sites with cricket facilities in East Cambridgeshire is secured, the long-term security of tenure of some cricket clubs is more limited, in particular:

- ***City of Ely CC:*** The club has no formal agreement for the use of the Paradise Recreation Ground but has been resident there for many years.
- ***Isleham CC and Haddenham CC:*** Both clubs occupy their respective playing facilities on the basis of an annual rental agreement with the site owners.
- ***Witcham CC:*** The club uses its facilities by ‘ad hoc hirings’.

6.4.5 Geographical distribution

The locations of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the whole population of East Cambridgeshire is within 15-minutes’ drive time of at least one cricket pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. This is based on the results of the clubs’ survey, which identifies 15-minutes travel time as the typical maximum for cricket pitches:



	East Cambridgeshire	● Cricket Pitches	 15 min drive time
	Cricket Pitches	 15 min walk time	 East Cambridgeshire boundary
		 15 min cycle time	

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6.5 The views of local stakeholders

6.5.1 Cambridgeshire Cricket

Consultation with Cambridgeshire Cricket highlighted that:

- There are several strong clubs with a good geographical spread in the district.
- The majority of sites are shared with football, which can cause some problems in the seasonal overlap periods.
- The ‘All Stars’ cricket programme for 5 - 8-year olds is expected to continue to grow.
- A new ECB programme ‘Dynamos Cricket’ for 8 - 11-year olds has been launched and is expected to increase the numbers of children playing cricket.
- There is ongoing development of schools activity (through ‘Chance to Shine’) around East Cambridgeshire, particularly Littleport/East Cambridge Academy which will continue to drive the accessibility of the game and also the opportunity to migrate to local clubs.
- The ‘Ely North’ development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely CC. The club will maintain the Paradise Centre for its second ground but plans just to have a non-turf pitch there.

6.5.2 Bottisham and Lode Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we hope to increase our junior teams, but it is difficult to attract new players’.

6.5.3 City of Ely Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘There simply hasn’t been enough done about recreational grounds sharing with Football clubs and the small window we are given to repair the outfield isn’t enough’.
- ‘Membership has remained static over the past five years’.
- ‘We don’t have a formal tenancy agreement at the Paradise Recreation Ground but have played at this venue for a long time’.

6.5.4 Haddenham Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have started coaching from 11 - 17-year olds from a low base which is slowly increasing but limited by coaching resources’.

- ‘Our adult team is made up from 15 - 60 years old including one female and our ambition is to have a second adult team and one youth team’.
- ‘Pitch facilities are limited due to pressure from football teams also we have no cricket nets which is a funding problem. We have a strategy to provide an artificial wicket on the cricket square with roll-on nets, followed by permanent training facility which includes a full-length bowling lane and cage subject to grant funding’.
- ‘Football and cricket do not go well together on the Haddenham Recreation Ground and we will have to separate longer term to support growth’.

6.5.5 Isleham Cricket Club

The club made the following comments:

- ‘We have lost our outdoor net facility and are currently fundraising to build a new one’.
- ‘We plan to enter junior teams in the league in the future’.

6.5.6 Wilburton Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we hope to have a new pavilion in the next two to three years’.

6.5.7 Witcham Cricket Club

The club commented that ‘we are keen to replace our existing practice nets, which are very poor standard’.

6.6 The implications for cricket in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply of cricket pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Participation rates:** Team numbers within existing clubs have remained broadly static in the past five years, although local clubs have folded in that period (Littleport Town CC, Kirtling CC and Pymoor CC). There are currently no dedicated women or girl’s teams in the district.
- **Displaced demand:** Burwell and Exning CC, which formed through a recent merger, plays some of its matches in Exning (in West Suffolk).
- **Unmet/latent demand:** Local clubs believe that there is unmet demand for a further seven teams in East Cambridgeshire (an increase of around 15.6% on the current team numbers).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is ‘poor’ at two sites and the practice nets are ‘poor’ quality at six sites.
- **Shared usage:** Several sites with cricket pitches are also used for football and this causes problems for both sports in the seasonal overlap periods (April-May and August-September).

6.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods. The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are
- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the tables below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity (highlighted in yellow in the tables below).
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity (highlighted in green in the tables below).

In line with ECB guidance, the following assumptions have been made in relation to the number of weekly match equivalents that can be accommodated by different quality pitches:

- Overall capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.
- The number of wickets at each site is shown below.
- The supply-demand balance for grass and artificial turf wickets respectively have been assessed separately because there is little or no use of artificial wickets by adult teams, with use confined to junior teams.
- In line with the guidance it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality grass wicket will accommodate five matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate four and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate no play.
- ‘Good’ and ‘standard’ quality artificial turf wickets will accommodate 60 matches per season and the additional capacity that they provide is analysed in a separate column in the table.
- Adult teams typically play ten home games per season and junior teams typically play eight home games per season.
- Aspects of each site shaded in red indicate a deficiency, those shaded in yellow indicate that supply and demand are balanced and those shaded in green have some spare capacity.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Peak capacity</i>	<i>Peak demand</i>	<i>Peak balance</i>
Burrough Green	Burrough Green CC	40	0	-40	1	1	Balanced
Chippenham Park	Chippenham CC	30	40	+10	1	1	Balanced
Dullingham Sports Field	Dullingham CC	50	30	-20	1	1	Balanced
Fordham Recn. Ground	Fordham CC	30	50	+20	1	1	Balanced
Haddenham Recreation Ground	Haddenham CC	10	28	+18	1	1	Balanced
Isleham Recn. Ground	Isleham CC	30	40	+10	1	1	Balanced
Little Downham Recn. Ground	Little Downham CC	10	32	+22	1	1	Balanced
Lode Playing Field	Bottisham and Lode CC	20	40	+20	1	1	Balanced
Mingay Park	Burwell and Exning CC	50	55	+5	1	1	Balanced
Paradise Recn. Ground	City of Ely CC	70	56	-14	1	1	Balanced
Sutton Recn. Ground	Sutton CC	20	100	+80	1	1	Balanced
Swaffham Bulbeck Recn. Ground	Swaffham Bulbeck CC	10	16	+6	1	1	Balanced
Wilburton Recn. Ground	Wilburton CC	50	30	Balanced	2	2	Balanced
Witcham Cricket Club	Witcham CC	10	20	+10	1	1	Balanced
TOTALS	-	430	537	+107	15	15	Balanced

The key findings are as follows:

- There is collective seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions.
- Three sites show a seasonal deficit but peak usage is balanced in the District as a whole.
- Seasonal spare capacity at sites with secured community use remains the same.

6.7 Assessment of future needs

6.7.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The 'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study' (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

6.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Changes in demand for cricket in the future can be modelled on a trend-based projection.

- **National cricket playing survey:** The ECB's most recent 'National Cricket Playing Survey' (2019), which reflects club and league cricket only (for example it does not include Women's Soft Ball Cricket, or junior cricket) identified:
 - A 1.2% increase in player numbers between 2018 and 2019.

- Of the 822,000 players nationally, 229,000 are ‘core’ players (playing at least 12 weeks per season), 353,000 are ‘occasional’ players (playing between three and 11 weeks per season) and 238,000 are ‘cameo’ players (playing one or two weeks per season).
 - 81.4% of completed fixtures were played in 2019, 5.4% of completed fixtures were abandoned and 7.5% of completed fixtures were cancelled.
 - Compared to 2018, conceded fixtures decreased by 15% to 5.7% of completed fixtures and short-sided game cancellations also decreased by 11% in 2019 to 11.7% of completed fixtures.
- **Local demand:** Consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would constitute a 15.6% increase over current team numbers.

6.7.3 Site-specific pressures

East Cambridgeshire District Council needs to identify sites upon which it can deliver its housing targets. Whilst planning policy offers protection to playing pitches, those sites that do not currently accommodate formal cricket activity may be vulnerable unless it can be proved that they are needed to meet existing or future shortfalls in supply or serve some other open space needs.

6.7.4 Potential changes in supply

The ‘Ely North’ development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely Cricket Clubs.

6.7.5 Existing spare capacity

Existing cricket pitch capacity has been calculated in section 6.6 above and indicates seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions. If weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity in the peak period for cricket at present.

6.7.6 Future cricket pitch needs

Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra seasonal match equivalent sessions	67.67
Extra pitches to meet demand	1.57
Capital cost of extra pitches	£477,983
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£96,553
Extra changing rooms	3.15
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£550,895

6.8 Key findings and issues

6.8.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Quantity:** There is seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions. However, if weekly peak time capacity is considered, supply and demand is balanced, which confirms that there is no effective spare capacity as present.
- **Participation rates:** Littleport Town CC, Pymoor CC and Wicken CC have all disbanded in the past few years. However, consultation with local clubs indicated that a total of seven additional teams of all age groups could be accommodated in East Cambridgeshire if the quality and quantity of pitch provision was improved. This would constitute a 15.6% increase over current team numbers.
- **Women and Girls:** There are currently no dedicated women or girl's teams in the district.
- **Displaced demand:** Burwell and Exning CC, which formed through a recent merger, plays some of its matches in Exning (in West Suffolk).
- **Pitch quality:** Pitch quality is 'poor' at two sites and the practice nets are 'poor' quality at six sites.
- **Shared usage:** Several sites with cricket pitches are also used for football and this causes problems for both sports in the seasonal overlap periods (April-May and August-September).

6.8.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **YES**

- **Seasonal pitch capacity:** There is seasonal spare capacity of 107 match equivalent sessions.
- **Peak time pitch capacity:** Supply and demand are precisely balanced at peak times.

6.8.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **MOSTLY** - The pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground Pitch Two are rated as 'poor' quality,

The pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground Pitch Two are rated as 'poor', as is the outfield at the latter site.

6.8.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The District's population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.

- **Changes in demand:** Balancing past trends that identify falling demand against the target increases in participation, suggests that projecting future need based on current demand levels is a reasonable basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** The 'Ely North' development will provide new cricket facilities which will become the new base for City of Ely Cricket Clubs.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no effective peak time spare capacity as present.
- **Future needs:** Based on projected population growth, there will be additional demand for 67.67 seasonal match equivalent sessions by 2036. This is equivalent to 1.57 additional pitches

6.8.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **No** - There is no effective spare capacity at present.

There is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet future demand at present, but additional capacity could be created in five ways:

- **New pitch provision:** The proposed new cricket facilities to be provided as part of the Ely North development.
- **Pitch quality improvements:** If the 'poor' quality pitches at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground were upgraded, it would add two peak-time match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Installation of non-turf wickets:** Installing non-turf wickets at sites like Dullingham Sports Field and Paradise Recreation Ground, that are currently used to over capacity would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity, although would have little impact on peak time provision if provided as part of an existing square.
- **Re-instating unused pitches:** Re-instating unused or recently decommissioned sites in the district would expand collective seasonal carrying capacity by six pitches and 36 grass wickets. If all wickets were maintained to a 'good' quality standard, this would increase seasonal carrying capacity by 180 match equivalent sessions.
- **Using pitches on school sites:** Using the artificial grass cricket pitches at Bottisham Village College and Soham Village College that are available but have no community use at present would add a further two pitches and 120 seasonal match equivalent sessions to the available supply.

6.9 Scenario Testing

6.9.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, a number of scenarios have been examined, to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

6.9.2 Scenario 1: Increasing capacity by improving 'poor' quality pitches to 'standard' quality.

- **Rationale:** If the 'poor' quality wickets at Burrough Green and Wilburton Recreation Ground (Pitch 2) were upgraded, it would add 44 seasonal match equivalent sessions to overall capacity.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that additional peak period capacity would be created and the improvements to the pitches could be achieved at relatively low cost.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantage of this scenario is that there would be additional pitch maintenance cost implications of around £5,000 per annum.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario has significant benefits for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire.

6.9.3 Scenario 2: Installation of additional non-turf wickets

- **Rationale:** Installing non-turf wickets at the following sites, in particular to support junior play, would help to expand seasonal carrying capacity:
 - Dullingham Recreation Ground.
 - Paradise Recreation Ground.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The pitches can be installed at relatively low cost (£8,000 - £10,000).
 - They have the potential to accommodate 60 match equivalent sessions per season.
 - Pitch maintenance costs are relatively low compared with natural turf.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Non-turf wickets are used primarily for junior matches, so they would have limited impact on addressing capacity issues in relation to adult play.
 - Unless there is space to accommodate non-turf pitches away from the main square, they would not address peak-time deficiencies because they could not be used simultaneously with the grass wickets.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be examined further at Dullingham Recreation Ground and Paradise Recreation Ground.

6.9.4 Scenario 3: Re-instating un-used pitches.

- **Rationale:** The pitches at Kirtling Cricket Club, Littleport Leisure Centre, Margaret Field (Burwell), Pymoor Cricket and Social Club and Wicken Recreation Ground all ceased to be used in the past five years. Re-instating the use of these pitches at 'standard' quality would

collectively provide an additional 144 match equivalent sessions per season a collective total of six peak time match equivalent sessions.

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that the pitches could help to ease the peak period capacity issues identified by each club.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that all the pitches would require additional investment to get them back into a useable condition. The capital costs of restoring each pitch are estimated at £12,000, with annual maintenance budgets of £5,000 per annum. Furthermore, use was discontinued due to falling demand in the locality of each pitch and this position has not materially altered.
- **Conclusions:** The un-used pitches should be retained as recreational open space and the demand position kept under review with a view to reinstating provision in response to any additional team formation.

6.9.5 Scenario 4: Negotiating access to school pitches

- **Rationale:** Using the artificial grass cricket pitches at Bottisham Village College and Soham Village College that are available but have no community use at present would add a further two pitches and 120 seasonal match equivalent sessions to the available supply. It would also add to peak time capacity by two match equivalent sessions.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Additional peak time pitch capacity could be accessed, particularly for junior matches on non-turf pitches.
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if community-based clubs were playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There is no evidence of unmet demand in the Bottisham and Soham areas at present.
 - Existing use by the respective schools reduces the overall seasonal carrying capacity of the pitches.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario offers little practical benefit for meeting additional cricket pitch demand in East Cambridgeshire from junior teams.

6.10 Policy recommendations

6.10.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to cricket are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’, ‘enhance’ and ‘provide’.

6.10.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for cricket in the district. The PPS identifies a need for all current cricket pitch sites to be retained on the basis of the specific identified roles that each can play in delivering the needs of the sport in East Cambridgeshire both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites based upon the evidence in the PPS. If any pitch sites do become the subject of development proposals, this will only be permissible if they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

6.10.3 Enhance

Recommendation 2 - Improving existing ‘poor’ quality provision: Two sites in the District have ‘poor’ quality wickets, one has a ‘poor’ quality outfield and seven have ‘poor’ quality practice nets. This reduces the quality of playing experience and may deter some potential participants. Subject to security of tenure issues, it is recommended that the clubs concerned should be supported to apply for external funding for facility enhancements, including the receipt of developer contributions (see below) where the usage capacity would be enhanced.

6.10.4 Provide

Recommendation 3 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of providing additional cricket pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2035.

6.11 Action Plan

6.11.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the cricket action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, ECB - England and Wales Cricket Board and CCB - Cambridgeshire Cricket Board. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019*' (2019).

6.11.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved cricket facilities, in particular as part of the Ely North development.	ECDC	Developers Local clubs	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High
Preserving unused cricket pitches	Ensure that the currently unused cricket pitches at Kirtling Cricket Club, Littleport Leisure Centre, Margaret Field (Burwell), Pymoor Cricket and Social Club and Wicken Recreation Ground are all preserved as recreational open space to enable reinstatement in the future.	ECDC	Site owners Local clubs	-	High

6.11.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Burrough Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitch and practice nets. • Seasonal capacity deficit due to quality issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch • Provide new practice nets 	Burrough Green CC	Burrough Green PC	£2,000 per annum for extra maintenance £25,000 for new nets	High
Chippenham Park	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Dullingham Sports Field	Seasonal capacity deficit	Provide new non-turf pitch	Dullingham PC	Dullingham CC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Fordham Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Fordham CC	Fordham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium
Haddenham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Isleham Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Isleham CC	Isleham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium

Little Downham Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Lode Playing Field	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Mingay Park	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Paradise Recreation Ground	Seasonal capacity deficit	Provide new non-turf pitch	City of Ely CC	Ely TC	£10,000 for non-turf pitch	High
Sutton Recreation Ground	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Sutton CC	Sutton PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium
Swaffham Bulbeck Recreation Ground	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Wilburton Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitch and outfield on pitch 2. • 'Poor' quality practice nets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch and outfield • Provide new practice nets 	Wilburton CC	Wilburton PC	£5,000 per annum for extra maintenance £25,000 for new nets	High
Witcham Cricket Club	Poor quality practice nets	Provide new practice nets	Witcham CC	Witcham PC	£25,000 for new nets	Medium

7 RUGBY UNION NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

7.1 Organisational context

- **Rugby Football Union:** The RFU is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in East Cambridgeshire.
- **RFU-affiliated Rugby Club:** Ely Rugby Club is the only club in the district and fields two adult teams, eight junior teams and six mini-rugby teams.

7.2 Strategic context

7.2.1 National rugby facilities strategy

The RFU has set the following targets and objectives for 2017 - 2021. A new rugby facilities strategy will be launched in 2020:

- 600 new male adult 15-a-side teams (10% increase).
- 10,000 more 15-a-side male adult matches (20% increase).
- 25,000 more 15-a-side male adult players (9% increase).
- 25,000 more female adult players (100% increase).
- 800 more female teams and 8,000 more matches.
- 625 '02 Touch Rugby Centres' and 42,000 players.
- 150 Field Rugby Centres and 15,000 players.

7.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring local authority areas identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council

The 'West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy' (2015) identifies the following:

- Newmarket RFC has a pitch deficiency because of poor quality and limited carrying capacity.
- The RFU has prioritised finding a long-term base for Newmarket RFC. The club's preference is to secure a long-term lease and to improve provision on its current site.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The 'Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031' (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that the Renegades RFC, which is currently based in Cottenham should relocate to the proposed '3G' pitch provided as part of the Northstowe development.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The ‘*Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2016) identifies that there is a current shortfall equivalent to 7.5 rugby pitches in the district. This should be addressed through a combination of drainage and maintenance improvements and the provision of floodlights at the existing sites.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

7.2.3 Implications of the strategic context

The implications of the strategic context for rugby union in East Cambridgeshire are:

- ***Local corporate priorities:*** Given the increasing limitations on public finances, demonstrating the role rugby can play in delivering wider agendas such as health and wellbeing is a key requirement for attracting investment.
- ***Planning policy:*** Whilst local planning policy is supportive of the retention and provision of playing pitches, including those for rugby, the current work on the Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a methodologically robust basis for determining current and future needs.
- ***Policy shifts:*** The move in national sports policy towards prioritising new participants will create a challenge for rugby to demonstrate that it can attract new and lapsed participants. The RFU’s support for Touch Rugby, Tag Rugby and walking rugby are all positive developments in this regard.
- ***Additional demand for pitch capacity:*** The RFU’s targets for increased participation will create additional demand for pitch capacity, including activity in the summer period when traditionally much pitch maintenance is undertaken.

7.3 Rugby demand

7.3.1 RFU-affiliated club and teams

Ely Tigers RFC has the following teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Male teams</i>	<i>Female teams</i>	<i>Junior male teams</i>	<i>Junior female teams</i>	<i>Mini teams</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	2	0	7	1	6

7.3.2 Demand trends

- ***National trends:*** Sport England’s ‘*Active People*’ survey national data for rugby union indicates that the percentage of adults (16+) who played rugby the four weeks prior to each survey has remained static in the period since 2005.

2005/6	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/1	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	% Change
0.46%	0.56%	0.50%	0.46%	0.42%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	0.40%	0.46%	0.00%

- **Local trends:** Team numbers at Ely Tigers RFC have remained static over the past five years, with the exception of an additional junior girls team, so broadly match the national picture.

7.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area which takes place outside of the area. 75% of club members are drawn from East Cambridgeshire, with the remainder coming from Fenland district.

7.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with the RFU and Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is some evidence of unmet demand at present, necessitating the use of the Kings College pitches for mini-rugby play.

7.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no evidence of any latent demand in East Cambridgeshire at present. Consultation with the RFU and Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is scope for another adult men's team, an adult women's team and two junior girl's teams over the next five years. The growth of female teams is a strategic priority for the RFU, through its *Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021*.

7.4 Rugby supply

7.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of rugby pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire. The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings. The categories assessed are as follows:

- **Available for community use and used:**

Site	Address	Floodlit pitches	Non-floodlit pitches
Ely Tigers RFC	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	1.5	1.5
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	0	4

- **Available for community use and not used:** There are no rugby pitches available for community use that are not used.
- **Not available for community use:** The following grass rugby pitches on school sites are not available for community use, although the pitches at Ely College, Soham Village College and Bottisham Village College all host the ‘All Schools’ programme delivered by Ely Tigers RFC. All pitches are non-floodlit:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Pitches</i>
Bottisham Village College	Lode Road, Bottisham CB25 9DL	1
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	2
Kings School (Amherst Field)	Bridge Road, Ely CB7 5TH	3
Kings School (Brand Field)	Angel Drove, Ely CB7 4DT	3
Soham Village College	Sand Street, Soham CB7 5AA	1
Witchford Village College	Manor Road, Witchford CB6 2JA	1
TOTALS	-	11

- **Not available as disused:** There are no rugby pitches that are available for community use that are disused.

7.4.2 Quality

The qualitative analysis involved a visit to all rugby pitches in East Cambridgeshire with community use and used during the playing season, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by the RFU for Sport England’s *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013). The assessment generated ‘scores’ for each pitch by evaluating the condition of:

- **Pitch drainage:** Inadequately naturally drained (scores D0), adequately naturally drained (scores D1) pipe drained (scores (D2) and pipe and slit drained pitches (scores D3).
- **Grounds maintenance:** Frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing. This generates scores of ‘Poor’ (M0), ‘Adequate’ (M1) and ‘Good’ (M2).

The scores for the pitches at Ely Tigers RFC as follows. ‘Good’ ratings are highlighted in green, ‘standard’ in yellow and ‘poor’ in red.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Drainage</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	M1	D1
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	M1	D1
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	M0	D1

7.4.3 Grass pitch carrying capacity

The carrying capacity of grass pitches is related to their quality and is expressed as the number of ‘match equivalent sessions’ that can be accommodated each week. The *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* indicates the following weekly carrying capacities for rugby union pitches:

<i>Drainage</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>		
	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Adequate</i>	<i>Good</i>
Natural inadequate	0.5	1.0	2.0

Natural adequate	1.5	2.0	3.0
Pipe drained	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and slit drained	2.0	3.0	3.5

The weekly collective carrying capacity of the pitches at Ely Tigers RFC is therefore as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	2.0
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	2.0
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	1.5
TOTALS	5.5

7.4.4 Changing quality

The quality of the changing facilities at each Ely Tigers RFC, which are shared with Ely Hockey Club is as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	Standard

7.4.5 Pitch maintenance

The Ely Tigers RFC pitches are maintained by contractors employed by the club.

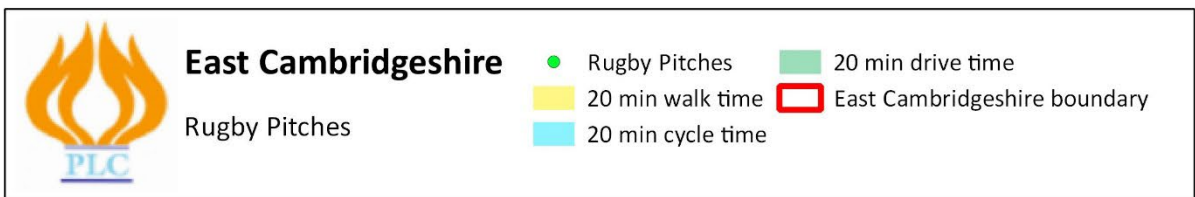
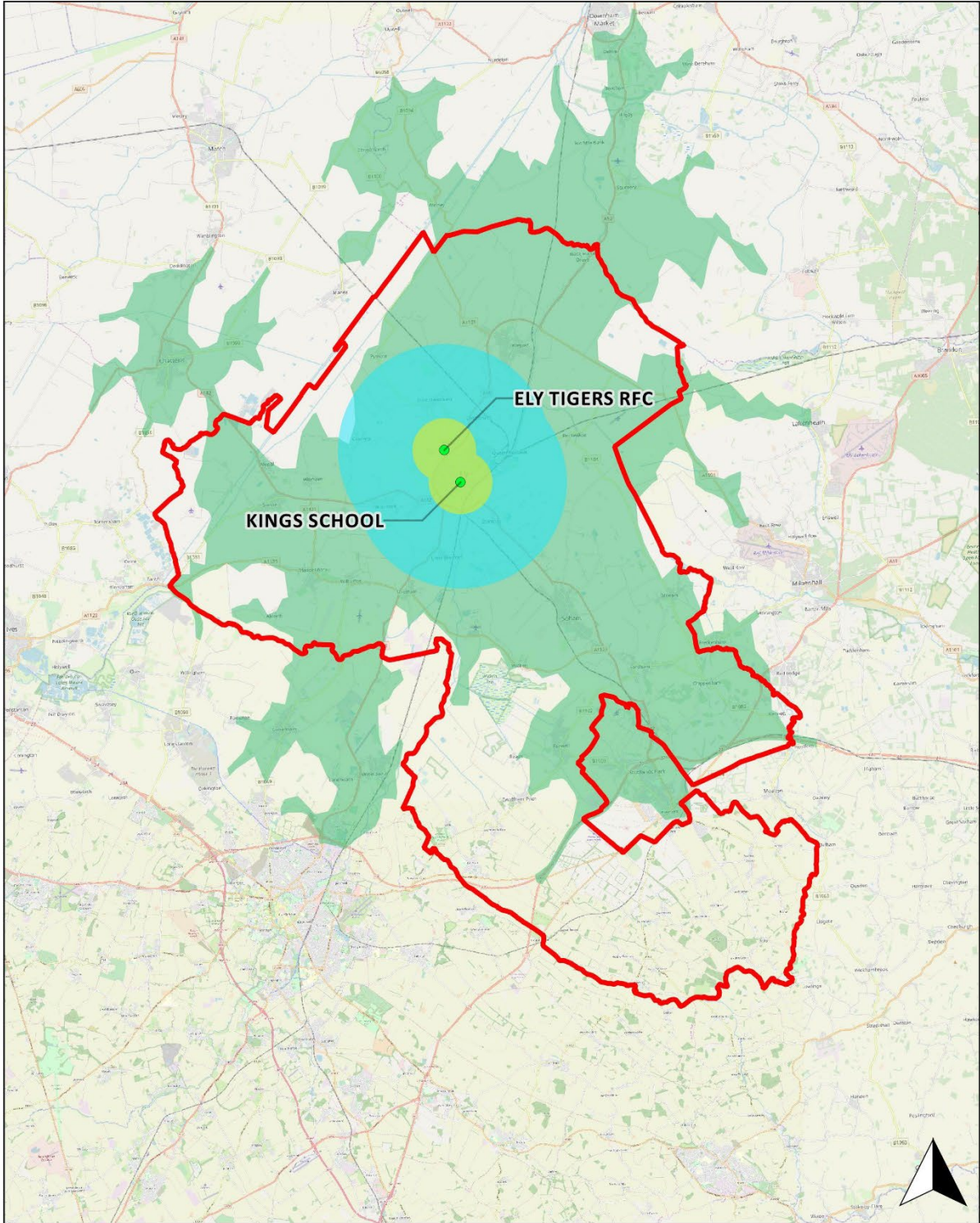
7.4.6 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of the Ely Tigers RFC pitches detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
<i>Ely Tigers RFC</i>			
Pitch 1 (floodlit)	Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely Tigers RFC	Secured
Pitch 2 (part floodlit)	Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely Tigers RFC	Secured
Pitch 3 (not floodlit)	Private landowner	Ely Tigers RFC	Unsecured

7.4.7 Geographical distribution

The locations of rugby pitches in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the population in the northern part East Cambridgeshire is within 20-minutes' drive time of at least one rugby pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. The southern part of the district is not served by pitches within East Cambridgeshire, but provision in Cambridge, Newmarket and Cottenham:



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7.5 The views of local stakeholders

7.5.1 The Rugby Football Union

Consultation with the RFU highlighted that:

- The pitches at Ely Tigers RFC are heavily used by the club but are also regularly made available to the County Union and Eastern Counties Rugby Union for representative rugby. Along with this the site has been host venue for the emerging in popularity, Friday night lights where a number of short form games are played under floodlights between clubs.
- The Ely Tigers site is split across two areas with the two main pitches positioned in front of the clubhouse and a further third pitch to the north/east of the site. It is understood that this is on a different arrangement to the other pitches, with a local farmer. It is felt that this pitch receives relatively little maintenance and not of great quality or levels. But serves well to provide pitch space during peak periods of Sunday mornings.
- The Rugby club is part of the Ely Outdoor Sports Association (EOSA) who possess freehold status over the site.
- The site is facing increasing demand for use due to the above requests from outside organisations, but also the advent of girls rugby starting with fledgling numbers at U13's and U15's. There is also a Women's touch rugby section which operates session every week. In line with the RFU's *'Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021'*, sustainable growth is anticipated in the next assessment period, which will place further demands on pitch capacity at Ely Tigers RFC.
- There are no significant reports of cancellations of activity during the past 12 months, but there has been incidents where the pitch conditions have been reported as being poor.
- The pitch in front of the clubhouse is fully floodlit to a recognised standard within the RFU 'Guidance for Floodlighting' which classes the system as a Match (200lux) system. The second pitch is served by about half a pitch of lights, and the need to complete the pitch with a full system is recognised as a priority which would help to migrate some of the training demand from Pitch one but also avoid heavy wear areas to one side of Pitch two.
- Ely Tigers RFC is linked into the RFU's flagship 'All Schools' programme locally with secondary schools supported with investment and dedicated coaching intervention. The schools currently involved are Ely College, Witchford College and Soham Village College.
- The immediate growth anticipated at Ely Tigers is within the emerging women and girls section, in particular the U13s and U15s. The aim will be to bolster and establish the teams at these age groups. The RFU Development team will support through mentoring of the coaches involved. There is also a recognised need to develop the coaches at ETRFC with additional training through the RFU's coach education programme.
- The RFU will focus on the club to deliver a Young Match Officials scheme.
- The Colts section at the rugby club continues to develop and although in the past it has clustered with other local clubs to fulfil fixtures, it is likely that the club will be able to sustain a colts section independently from season 2020/21 onwards.

- The club has an aspiration to field a 3rd XV adult male team this coming season, but realistically this may take a further two or three seasons.
- There could be a medium-term transition of the Women's touch section into full contact, but this is likely to require up to five years to develop.
- The club is RFU Club Accredited.
- Governance and club management at Ely Tigers RFC has improved significantly and the relationship with the EOSA has improved greatly with a joint approach to the development of the site.
- The clubhouse has enjoyed some recent improvements, but these have been towards the social area and kitchen with the club securing external funds. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing rooms.

7.5.2 Ely Tigers RFC

The club commented as follows:

- 'We have regularly had to send mini teams to train and play at Kings School pitches on Sunday mornings, due to increased numbers of players and insufficient pitch space. Insufficient pitch space for all youth, girls and senior teams to train midweek, particularly floodlit pitch space'.
- 'We need more floodlights on pitch 2, so that whole pitch can be used for midweek training'.
- 'Sunday training and midweek training sessions are staggered. Minis rugby is 9.30-10.30 on Sunday and Youth rugby starts at 11.00. Youth training midweek is spread over 3 nights and start times are staggered.'.
- 'Our pitches are also used for Cambridgeshire Senior games and occasional Eastern Counties games. We also host local cluster schools tournaments twice-a-year'.
- 'Pitch 3 is on rented land (10-year lease) and is not aerated or regularly fertilised. It is sloping and has a very thin layer of topsoil over poor subsoil'.

7.6 The implications for rugby in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply of rugby union pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Local club:** Ely Tigers RFC provides high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams at the club has increased only slightly in the past five years, with the addition of one junior girls team. However, in line with the RFU's *Women and Girl's Action Plan 2017 - 2021*, growth in the female game is anticipated in the next assessment period.

- **Imported and exported demand:** 75% of the club’s membership is drawn from within East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is some evidence of a shortage of pitch supply at the club’s main site, necessitating use of the pitches at Kings School for mini-rugby on Sunday mornings.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are:

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity (highlighted in red in the table below).
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

As per RFU guidance, rugby union pitch capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as ‘match equivalent sessions’, both weekly and at peak times.

Site	Pitches	Users	Weekly capacity	Weekly demand	Weekly balance	Peak capacity	Peak demand	Peak balance
Ely Tigers RFC	3	Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	10.5	-5.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0

The split between midweek training supply and demand and weekend match supply and demand is tabulated below, to highlight the main capacity pinch points.

Site	Midweek training capacity	Midweek training demand	Midweek training balance	Weekend match capacity	Weekend match demand	Weekend match balance
Ely Tigers RFC	2.5	6.5	-4.0	3.0	4.0	-1.0

There is a capacity shortfall at midweek and weekends, with the latter mitigated by the use of pitches at King's School for mini-rugby. The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.

7.8 Assessment of future needs

7.8.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

7.8.2 Potential changes in demand

The RFU has confirmed that.

- The immediate growth anticipated at Ely Tigers is within the emerging Girls section and in particular the U13s and U15s.
- The Colts section at the rugby club continues to develop and although in the past it has clustered with other local clubs to fulfil fixtures, it is likely that the club will be able to sustain a colts section independently from season 2020/21 onwards.
- The club has an aspiration to field a 3rd XV adult male team this coming season, but realistically this may take a further two or three seasons.
- There could be a medium-term transition of the Women's touch section into full contact, but this is likely to require up to five years to develop.

In addition, Ely Tigers RFC indicated that there is scope for another adult men's team, an adult women's team and two junior girls' teams over the next five years.

7.8.3 Site-specific pressures

There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.8.4 Potential changes in supply

There are no known potential changes in rugby pitch supply, although with no security of tenure, use of pitch three could in theory be lost at any time. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing room

7.8.5 Existing spare capacity

There is no current spare capacity, with both the midweek and weekend supply-demand balance showing a deficit.

7.8.6 Team Generation Rates

Future rugby pitch needs are modelled below using ‘Team Generation Rates’ (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the District are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected changes in population to identify the likely number of teams in the future:

<i>Team type</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>Projected extra teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Popn. 2036</i>	<i>Teams 2036</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>
Adult males	19-45	13,522	2	1	1: 4,507	13,632	3	1
Adult females	19-45	14,069	0	1	1: 14,069	13,525	1	1
Junior males	13-18	3,310	7	0	1: 473	3,568	8	1
Junior females	13-18	2,906	1	2	1: 1,453	3,304	2	1
Mini-rugby	7-12	7,209	6	0	1: 1,202	6,754	6	0

7.8.7 Future rugby pitch needs

Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator provides an additional way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	0.92
Extra weekly training sessions	1.04
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.92
Capital cost of extra pitches	£132,323
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£28,317
Extra changing rooms	1.84
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£321,356

7.9 Key findings and issues

7.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local club:** Ely Tigers RFC provides high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of rugby teams at the club has increased only slightly in the past five years, with the addition of one junior girls team.
- **Imported and exported demand:** 75% of the club’s membership is drawn from within East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is some evidence of a shortage of pitch supply at the club’s main site, necessitating use of the pitches at Kings School for mini-rugby on Sunday mornings.
- **Pitch quality:** There are some pitch quality issues, based upon the need for improved pitch maintenance and drainage on all pitches and a good case for improving floodlighting on pitch two, based on midweek capacity issues.

7.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO** - There is a significant weekly and peak time deficit

The key findings are that there is a capacity shortfall at midweek and weekends, with the latter mitigated by the use of pitches at King’s School for mini-rugby. The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.

7.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **NO** - The capacity of all the pitches is compromised by poor drainage and maintenance

Improvements in drainage and maintenance at the three pitches could potentially increase their capacity as follows to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week, from the current 5.5 match equivalent sessions. Improvements should be prioritised on the pitches with secured tenure.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Future capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 1	2.0	3.5
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 2	2.0	3.5
Ely Tigers RFC Pitch 3	1.5	3.5
TOTALS	5.5	10.5

7.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district’s population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** Projecting future need based on current demand patterns, plus the RFU’s forecasts of increases in women’s and girl’s teams, is the most appropriate basis for forecasting.
- **Changes in supply:** Ely Tigers RFC has aspirations to fully floodlight its second pitch.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is no current spare capacity, with a deficit of both weekly and peak-time pitch capacity.
- **Future needs:** Additional future needs involves demand for 0.92 peak match equivalent sessions and 1.04 training sessions per week, equivalent to an extra 0.92 pitches.

7.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **NO**

There is a current weekly deficit of 5.0 match equivalent sessions. Additional future needs involves demand for a further 0.92 peak match equivalent sessions and 1.04 training sessions per week, equivalent to an extra 0.92 pitches. Additional capacity could be created in three ways:

- **Pitch quality improvements:** Improvements in drainage and maintenance at the three pitches could potentially increase their capacity to 10.5 match equivalent sessions per week, from the current 5.5 match equivalent sessions.

- **Installation of floodlights:** The provision of full floodlighting to the second pitch at the club would improve the potential for additional midweek use but would only be effective with improvements in pitch drainage and maintenance to expand capacity.
- **Using pitches on school sites:** Additional use could be made of the four pitches at Kings School, although these are not floodlit so would not alleviate the lack of capacity for midweek training.

7.10 Scenario testing

7.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

7.10.2 Scenario 1: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the maintenance of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	4.5	10.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional match equivalents would provide some of the capacity to support the clubs' aspirations to increase team numbers over and above population-based team generation rates.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for maintenance improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of drainage improvements and floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.3 Scenario 2: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the drainage of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	0.5	6.0

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional match equivalents would provide some of the capacity to support the clubs' aspirations to increase team numbers over and above population-based team generation rates.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for drainage improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of maintenance improvements and floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.4 Scenario 3: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity with maintenance and drainage improvements

- **Rationale:** Improving the maintenance and drainage of the grass pitches where they are sub-optimal at present would add the following capacity (in match equivalent sessions):

<i>Site</i>	<i>Current capacity</i>	<i>Extra capacity</i>	<i>Total capacity</i>
Ely Tigers RFC	5.5	5.0	10.5

- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - The additional capacity match equivalents would provide all of the capacity to meet existing demand.
 - The extra capacity could be achieved at the existing site without the need for additional land acquisition costs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:

- The main pinch points are in the midweek evenings for training, so without additional floodlight provision, the improved pitch capacity could not be used during the hours of darkness in the winter months.
 - Even with floodlighting, the additional capacity would only meet current, but not future additional needs.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in pitch improvements would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** There would be merit in exploring the potential for maintenance (annual recurring costs) and drainage improvements. However, to maximise the benefits of this, the review will also need to consider the issue of floodlighting to maximise the benefits in the midweek evening period (see below).

7.10.5 Scenario 4: Enhancing grass pitch carrying capacity by providing floodlights

- **Rationale:** Whilst improved maintenance and drainage would add overall capacity, to achieve the maximum benefits floodlighting will be required to facilitate use during midweek evenings. 1.5 pitches are already floodlit, but 1.5 are not.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Floodlighting additional pitches will increase their availability on midweek evenings when training sessions take place.
 - The Ely Outdoor Sports Association site already has several floodlit pitches, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and in may reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - Its effectiveness is contingent upon the pitch capacity enhancements achievable through the drainage and maintenance improvements, so it needs to be considered in conjunction.
 - Even with floodlighting, the additional capacity would only meet current, but not future additional needs.
 - There is no security of tenure on pitch 3, so investing money in floodlights would be risky.
- **Conclusions:** The greatest benefits of floodlighting will only be achieved if it is combined with an improvement in pitch maintenance and drainage ratings and even then the additional capacity will only meet current and not additional future needs.

7.10.6 Scenario 5: Negotiating access to rugby pitches on school sites

- **Rationale:** There are 11 rugby pitches on school sites with no community use at present, including eight in Ely and accessing these facilities would provide some additional capacity. The pitches at the three Kings School sites in Ely are relatively close to the Ely Tigers site.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - The pitches already exist and therefore could be brought into community use at little or no additional cost.
 - There would be opportunities to establish closer school-club links if Ely Tigers RFC was playing on school sites.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Some capacity is already used by the schools to meet their educational needs, so the potential net pitch availability for community use is around half the total number of match equivalent sessions.
 - Some schools only mark rugby pitches for the spring term, so they are not available for the full rugby season.
 - The main capacity issues at the Ely Tigers site are at midweek evenings when pitch usage is dependent on floodlighting. None of the schools pitches are floodlit.
- **Conclusions:** Given the lack of impact on pitch capacity in the midweek evening peak periods, this scenario is not the preferred way to meet identified current and future needs.

7.10.7 Scenario 6: Provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant artificial grass pitch

- **Rationale:** A floodlit rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch would provide 12.0 hours per week of midweek training time and 10.0 hours per week of weekend match time. This would be sufficient to meet all current and future needs, without the necessity of improving the drainage and maintenance of the grass pitches.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - Sufficient pitch capacity could be provided within the current site to meet all the current and future needs of the club.
 - The Ely Outdoor Sports Association site already has several floodlit pitches, which should simplify obtaining planning consent and may reduce installation costs if some of the services infrastructure is already in place.
 - There is demand for additional '3G' pitch capacity for football in Ely and any surplus capacity at the Ely Tigers pitch could be used by local football clubs.
- **Disadvantage:** The only disadvantage of this scenario is that the cost of provision is relatively high. Sport England's latest cost guidance (second quarter of 2019) quotes £1.32 million for a rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch.

- **Conclusions:** Given that this scenario would provide sufficient pitch capacity to meet all the club's current and future needs within the current site, further consideration should be given to its feasibility.

7.10.8 Scenario 7: Additional land acquisition at Ely Outdoor Sports Association

- **Rationale:** There is agricultural land to the west and south-west of the Ely Outdoor Sports Association site, that might be leased or purchased for additional grass rugby pitches.
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are that:
 - Additional grass pitches could be created, to provide the extra capacity to meet the club's current and future needs.
 - The club already leases one area of land for its third pitch, so there is a precedent for creating additional capacity at the site in this way.
- **Disadvantage:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - It is unclear whether the landowner would be prepared to lease or sell the land, because given the proximity of the urban area of Ely, there might be potential for higher value housing development.
 - The land concerned is at some distance from the existing pitches and clubhouse, so the area of new pitches would be slightly detached from the club's main centre of operations.
- **Conclusions:** It would be worth investigating further the possibility of leasing or purchasing additional land and the related costs, as part of a wider options appraisal.

7.10.9 Scenario 8: Selling the current site and relocating

- **Rationale:** If the constraints of the current site make it difficult or impossible for the club to identify a cost-effective way of meeting its capacity requirements, selling the site and relocating to a location with sufficient space to meet all its needs should be considered.
- **Advantage:** The advantage of this scenario are that a large capital receipt could potentially be realised from the sale of the current site, which could be reinvested in a purpose-built facility designed to meet all existing and future needs.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that:
 - Ely Tigers RFC does not own the site but leases its facilities from the Ely Outdoor Sports Association. Any decision to sell the site and move would need the approval of EOSA and its other two tenant clubs Ely City Hockey Club and Ely Tennis Club. It is far from certain that this would be forthcoming.
 - The current site is in an excellent location to serve both Ely and the wider district and it is far from certain that an alternative site could be identified with such good accessibility.

- **Conclusions:** Given the site ownership position, it is unlikely that this scenario would be feasible.

7.10.10 Conclusions

Examination of the eight scenarios for developing additional capacity at Ely Tigers RFC have concluded that the only scenario that would meet all current and future capacity needs at the site is the provision of a full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant floodlit artificial grass pitch, although in the short-term, pitch quality improvements and floodlighting to pitch two would provide enhanced capacity on an interim basis.

7.11 Policy recommendations

7.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to rugby union are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of ‘protect’ and ‘enhance’.

7.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for rugby union in the district. The PPS has identified a need to increase local rugby pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used rugby pitch sites to be retained.

It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop rugby pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy. This states that ‘the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development’.

7.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 2 - Enhancing existing pitch capacity: In the short-term, additional pitch capacity would best be developed on an interim basis to meet immediate needs by undertaking pitch maintenance and drainage improvements and providing floodlighting to pitch two.

7.11.4 Provide

Recommendation 3 - Improving existing pitch capacity: In the medium to long term, additional pitch capacity would best be developed by providing a full-sized World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant floodlit artificial grass pitch at the Ely Outdoor Sports Association site and the detailed feasibility of achieving this should be pursued further.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: All the additional demand for rugby arising from the proposed housing development in East Cambridgeshire to 2036, should be accommodated through the developments outlined above. It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of the enhancements.

7.12 Action Plan

7.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the rugby union action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, RFU - Rugby Football Union, ETRC - Ely Tigers Rugby Club and EOSA - Ely Outdoor Sports Association. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's 'Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019' (2019).

7.12.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards improved rugby facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High

7.12.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
EOSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient pitch capacity. • No security of tenure on pitch 3. • Need to improve showers and disabled access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve pitch drainage and maintenance. • Provide floodlights to pitch 2. • Seek secured tenure on pitch 3 through a longer lease. • Feasibility study for a rugby-compliant AGP • Implement RFU-compliant clubhouse improvements 	EOSA	ETRC RFU	£80,000 for pitch drainage £7,500 annually for maintenance. £20,000 for floodlights £10,000 for feasibility study £1,320,000 for AGP £150,000 clubhouse improvements	High

8 HOCKEY NEEDS IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

8.1 Organisational context

- **England Hockey:** England Hockey is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in East Cambridgeshire.
- **England Hockey-affiliated club:** There is one affiliated club in East Cambridgeshire, Ely City Hockey Club, who provide three men's teams, three women's teams, one mixed team one master's team and one junior team.

8.2 Strategic context

8.2.1 National hockey strategy

England Hockey's strategic plan 2013 - 2017 '*A Nation Where Hockey Matters*' (2013) contains the following priorities of relevance to East Cambridgeshire:

Our vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

- We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.
- Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.
- As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.
- Our core objectives are as follows:
 - Grow our Participation.
 - Deliver International Success
 - Increase our Visibility
 - Enhance our Infrastructure
 - For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club Participation

- Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.
- Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.
- Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks - a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds - in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

8.2.2 Hockey facilities strategy

England Hockey's *Facilities Strategy*' (2016) contains the following key elements:

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

Mission: 'More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities'. The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ***Protect - To conserve the existing hockey provision:*** There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) The current provision must be retained where appropriate, to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ***Improve - To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively):*** The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers and education around owning an asset.
- ***Develop - To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain:*** The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an

identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

8.2.3 Neighbouring local authorities

Playing pitch strategies in neighbouring districts identify cross-boundary issues:

West Suffolk District Council:

The *West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy* (2015) identifies that there is sufficient current and future artificial grass pitch capacity to meet hockey needs, subject to securing community use at the Culford School pitches.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

The *Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 - 2031* (2016) includes an assessment of needs in South Cambridgeshire. This concludes that there are no hockey clubs in South Cambridgeshire and that all needs are met by clubs and pitches in Cambridge.

Huntingdonshire District Council

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

Fenland District Council

The *Fenland Playing Pitch Strategy* (2016) identifies that there is a sufficient pitch supply to meet all current and future hockey needs in the district.

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

The council does not have a current playing pitch strategy so there is no detailed analysis of playing pitch needs.

8.2.4 Implications of the strategic context

Most current needs for hockey are being met in neighbouring areas.

8.3 Hockey demand

8.3.1 England Hockey-affiliated club and teams

Ely City HC has 194 members and fields the following teams.

<i>Club</i>	<i>Home Ground</i>	<i>Men's teams</i>	<i>Women's teams</i>	<i>Mixed teams</i>	<i>Masters' teams</i>	<i>Junior teams</i>
Ely City HC	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	3	3	1	1	1

8.3.2 Demand trends

- **National trends:** National affiliation data for hockey club members provided by England Hockey reveals successive increases in the period since 2010 as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. players</i>	<i>Annual % increase</i>
2010/11	102,313	-
2011/12	106,665	4.3%
2012/13	114,642	7.5%
2013/14	113,575	-0.9%
2014/15	120,404	6.0%
2015/16	129,857	7.9%
2016/17	138,915	6.6%
2017/18	143,762	3.6%

- **Local trends:** The number of teams at Ely City HC has remained static for the past five years.

8.3.3 Displaced demand

Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no significant imported or exported demand in the district.

8.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some pitches may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and consequent limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no unmet demand in the district.

8.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to exist, latent demand is demand that may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Consultation with England Hockey and Ely City HC has confirmed that there is no latent demand in the district.

8.4 Hockey pitch supply in East Cambridgeshire

8.4.1 Quantity

This section summarises the detail of the supply of artificial turf pitches suitable for hockey (water-based, sand-dressed and sand-filled) in East Cambridgeshire.

- Water-based pitches are the preferred surface for elite-level hockey. The sports turf uses a denser pile than other surface types which, combined with the water layer, provides the truest ball roll of any artificial turf system. There are no such pitches in East Cambridgeshire.

- Sand-dressed artificial turf is a higher specification surface designed specifically for fast-paced hockey.
- With sand-filled pitches, the playing surface is only partially filled (usually about two-thirds of the pile height) so the game is played on the sports carpet, not the sand infill.
- Both types of sand-based pitches can also be used for football, but the rubber crumb-filled, long-pile surface of '3G' football turf pitches and/or World Rugby Regulation 22-compliant pitches are not suitable of hockey use.
- **Pitches with community use and used:** These are as follows.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Ely College	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	Sand-filled	100m x 61m	Yes	2003
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Downham Rd., Ely CB6 2SH	Sand-filled	100m x 60m	Yes	2018

- **Pitches with community access but not used for hockey:** There are no pitches with community access that are not used for hockey by external hirers.
- **Pitches not available for community use:** The following pitch is not available for community use:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Floodlit</i>	<i>Built</i>
Kings School	Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DB	Sand-filled	97.5m x 61m	Yes	2007

8.4.2 Use of hockey pitches for football

Both the hockey pitches are used for football training. This reduces the capacity of the pitches to cater for hockey as follows. The usage figures represent hours per week at evenings and weekends:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Hockey use</i>	<i>Hockey use (%)</i>	<i>Football use</i>	<i>Football use (%)</i>	<i>Unused</i>	<i>Unused (%)</i>
Ely College	2 hours	9.1%	16 hours	72.7%	4 hours	18.2%
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	16 hours	53.3%	6 hours	20.0%	8 hours	26.7%

8.4.3 Quality

The qualitative analysis of pitches and related facilities in East Cambridgeshire involved a visit to all hockey pitches, to undertake the sport-specific non-technical visual inspections produced by England Hockey for Sport England's 'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance' (2013). The assessment generates an overall 'score' for each pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The scores for each hockey pitch in East Cambridgeshire are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Ely College	Standard	Good
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Good	Standard

8.4.4 Pitch maintenance

The Ely City HC pitch is maintained by the Ely Outdoor Sports Association and the Ely College pitch by the College's groundstaff.

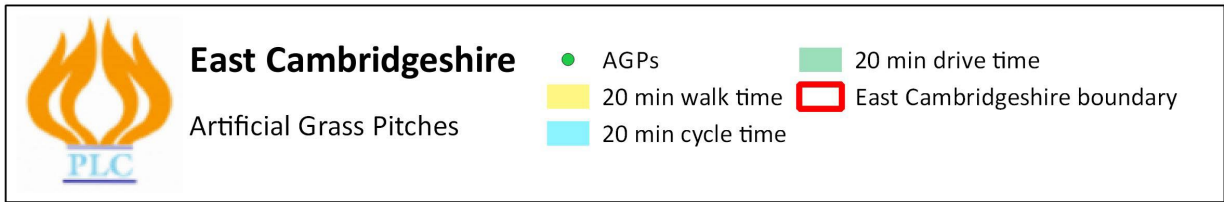
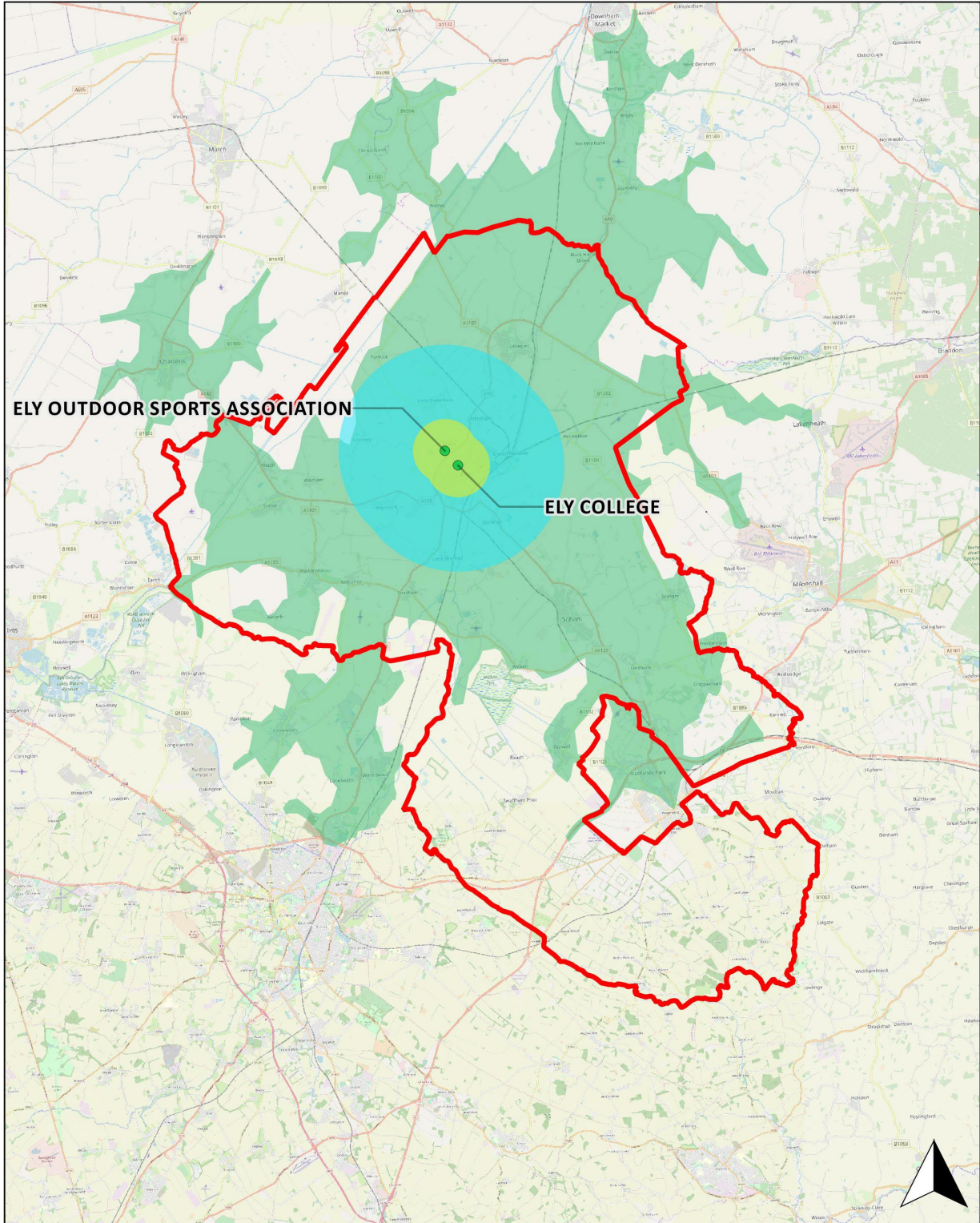
8.4.5 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of the pitches is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Security of access</i>
Ely College	Ely College	Ely College	Unsecured
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	Secured

8.4.6 Geographical distribution

The locations of artificial grass pitches for hockey in East Cambridgeshire are shown in the map overleaf. The map shows that the population in the northern part East Cambridgeshire is within 20-minutes' drive time of at least one pitch, with the exception of some sparsely populated areas on the edge of the district. The southern part of the district is not served by pitches within East Cambridgeshire, but provision in Cambridge, Newmarket and St. Ives meets needs in this area:



8.5 The views of stakeholders on pitch supply and demand

England Hockey: Consultation with England Hockey’s Facilities Relationship Manager for the region raised the following issues:

- Ely City Hockey Club is the only club in the district and is based at the Ely Outdoor Sports Association.
- There are hockey clubs in Cambridge, Wisbech, March and Newmarket, but there is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.

Ely City Hockey Club:

The key comments were as follows:

- ‘We have three men’s and three ladies teams, plus a thriving youth section with 115 members’.
- ‘We run a popular summer tournament that attracts more than 20 teams’
- ‘We are proud to have been awarded 'Club Mark' By England Hockey which means we operate to a set of core criteria and have good practices to ensure the delivery of quality hockey in a sustainable and vibrant club environment’.
- ‘Our pitch at Ely Outdoor Sports Association was resurfaced in 2018 and is high quality’.

8.6 The implications for hockey in East Cambridgeshire

Analysis of local supply and demand for hockey pitches in East Cambridgeshire indicates the following:

- **Local clubs:** Ely City Hockey Club is a ‘Clubmark’ accredited club providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups has remained static over the past five years.
- **Imported demand:** There is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the district, with some spare capacity at present even allowing for football usage.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no pitch quality issues, with Ely City HC’s main pitch resurfaced in 2018. However, Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a ‘3G’ football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey.

8.7 Assessment of current needs

To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site and how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of ‘match equivalent’ sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which pitches are being used during their peak periods.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed:** Where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain:** Where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play:** Where use falls below the carrying capacity.

As per England Hockey guidance, pitch capacity is expressed as weekly peak time hours of availability, demand as actual hours of use and the resultant balance is expressed as hours of availability at peak times. The actual used capacity of artificial turf pitches is based upon their hours of use in the peak period supplied by the pitch operators.

Site	Users	Saturday capacity	Saturday demand	Saturday balance	Sunday capacity	Sunday demand	Sunday balance
Ely College	Ely College	6.0	2.0	+4.0	6.0	0.0	+6.0
Ely Outdoor Sports Association	Ely City HC	7.5	7.5	Balanced	6.0	0.0	+6.0
TOTALS	-	13.5	9.5	+4.0	12.0	0.0	+12.0

The split between midweek and weekend use at each pitch is as follows:

Site	Midweek used hours	% capacity	Saturday used hours	% capacity	Sunday used hours	% capacity
Ely College	16.0*	73%	2.0	33.3%	0.0	0%
Ely Outdoor Sports Assoc.	13.0*	65%	7.5	100.0%	0.0	0%
TOTALS	29.0	69.0%	9.5	70.4%	0.0	0.0%

* Includes some football training use

The assessment shows that there is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.

8.7 Assessment of future needs

8.7.1 Population growth

East Cambridgeshire District Council's planners are currently basing population projections on the ONS mid-2014 estimates, which indicate that there will be 104,000 residents in the district by 2036. This represents a 16.1% increase (an additional 14,400 people) from the mid-2018 population estimate. The *'East Cambridgeshire Growth Study'* (2017), recognises the need for 11,400 new homes in the district by 2036, equivalent to 570 additional dwellings per annum.

8.7.2 Potential changes in demand

Notwithstanding the data from the *'Active People'* survey, which shows a fall in adult participation in the game since 2005, England Hockey's national membership figures show an increase of 13% in the past four years, although local club membership has remained static in the same period. Demand increases have therefore been modelled based upon current participation levels.

8.7.3 Site-specific pressures

There are no identified site-specific pressures at present.

8.7.4 Potential changes in supply

Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a '3G' football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey. There is a current aspiration to improve disabled access to the first-floor level of the clubhouse and the toilet facilities at the EOSA site. There is also a recognised need to upgrade the showers within individual changing rooms.

8.7.5 Existing spare capacity

There is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.

8.7.6 Future hockey pitch needs

Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator provides a way of modelling future playing pitch needs. The model applies Team Generation Rates to the projected population increases to estimate the additional pitch needs arising and in addition generates capital and revenue cost estimates for providing the extra pitches. The model needs to be applied alongside an assessment of the various options for meeting unmet demand.

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Expressed demand</i>
Extra peak match equivalent sessions	0.48
Extra training match equivalent sessions	1.81 hours
Extra pitches to meet demand	0.12 pitches
Capital cost of extra pitches	£101,091
Annual running costs of extra pitches	£3,134
Extra changing rooms	0.24
Capital cost of extra changing facilities	£41,916

8.9 Key findings and issues

8.9.1 What are the main characteristics of current supply and demand?

- **Local clubs:** Ely City Hockey Club is a ‘Clubmark’ accredited club providing high quality coaching and playing opportunities.
- **Participation trends:** The number of hockey teams in all age groups has remained static over the past five years.
- **Imported demand:** There is no evidence of any significant imported or exported demand to or from East Cambridgeshire.
- **Pitch supply:** There is no immediate evidence of a shortage of hockey pitch supply in the district, with some spare capacity at present even allowing for football usage. However, Ely College is considering resurfacing its facility as a ‘3G’ football turf pitch, which would mean it could no longer be used for hockey.
- **Pitch quality:** There are no pitch quality issues, with Ely City HC’s main pitch resurfaced in 2018.

8.9.2 Is there enough accessible and secured community use to meet current demand? **NO**

Whilst there is peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district, community use of the Ely College pitch is unsecured.

8.9.3 Is the accessible provision of suitable quality and appropriately maintained? **YES**

The pitch at Ely College will need to be re-surfaced in two to four years’ time.

8.9.4 What are the main characteristics of future supply and demand?

- **Population growth:** The district’s population is projected to increase by 14,400 people by 2036, a 16.1% increase over the 2018 population estimate.
- **Changes in demand:** The projected increase in population will generate 0.48 additional teams and extra demand equivalent to 0.12 hockey pitches by 2036.
- **Changes in supply:** There are no known threats to hockey pitch supply.
- **Existing spare capacity:** There is some peak-time spare capacity on Saturdays at the Ely College pitch and on Sundays at both pitches in the district.
- **Future needs:** Additional spare capacity is sufficient to accommodate all additional demand to 2036, provided access to both existing pitches is maintained.

8.9.5 Is there enough accessible and secured provision to meet future demand? **YES**

Future demand can be accommodate using existing spare capacity, provided access to both existing pitches is maintained..

8.10 Scenario testing

8.10.1 Introduction

Based upon the key findings and issues identified above, some scenarios examining the effect of securing additional pitch capacity have been rehearsed to identify the optimum approach to addressing needs.

8.10.2 Scenario 1: Loss of the Ely College pitch for hockey

- **Rationale:** Ely College hosts a Norwich City FC Development Centre and therefore having a specialist football surface on its artificial grass pitch would have many benefits, particularly since the current pitch is only used for hockey by City of Ely HC for two hours per week..
- **Advantages:** The advantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There are no full-sized ‘3G’ football turf pitches in Ely at present (the pitch at The Hive is under-sized) and re-surfacing the existing artificial turf pitch at Ely College would represent a very cost-effective way of providing such a facility, since the sub-base, fencing and floodlights are already in place.
 - There is minimal use of the existing pitch for hockey, which comprises less than 10% of the used capacity of the facility, with football occupying 90%.
- **Disadvantages:** The disadvantages of this scenario are as follows:
 - There is no secured community access to the existing Ely College pitch, so the full community benefits of a ‘3G’ pitch may not be realised.
 - City of Ely HC’s own pitch is used to capacity on Saturdays and it needs access to a further pitch to meet its current competitive fixtures programme.
- **Conclusions:** Whilst there is a strong rationale for converting the Ely College pitch to a ‘3G’ surface, it should not be sanctioned unless acceptable alternative arrangements can be made for City of Ely HC to meet its additional capacity needs elsewhere.

8.10.3 Scenario 2: Obtaining access to the Kings School artificial grass pitch

- **Rationale:** Kings School in Ely has a full-sized artificial grass pitch which has no community use at present. Negotiating access to this pitch would provide additional capacity to meet any unmet or surplus demand in the event that the Ely College pitch was converted to a ‘3G’ surface.
- **Advantage:** The advantage of this scenario is that the pitch already exists and as such this represents a low-cost solution to providing additional capacity.

- **Disadvantage:** The disadvantages of this scenario are that there is no community use of any of the School's pitches at present and as a boarding school it often uses its facilities on Saturdays for school fixtures. There is therefore no guarantee that access could be achieved.
- **Conclusions:** This scenario should be explored further with Kings School, to establish its viability.

8.11 Policy recommendations

8.11.1 Introduction

The recommendations in relation to hockey are made in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which stipulates that existing open space including playing pitches, should not be built upon unless:

- An assessment has taken place which has clearly shown the open space 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 sport and recreation provision, the needs for which clearly outweighs the loss.

The following recommendations are arranged under the main headings of 'protect' and 'enhance'.

8.11.2 Protect

Recommendation 1 - Safeguarding existing provision: The East Cambridgeshire PPS comprises a robust and evidence-based assessment of current and future needs for hockey in the district. The PPS has identified a need to safeguard local hockey pitch capacity and to this extent, it will be important for all current community used hockey pitch sites to be retained, unless a feasibility study demonstrates that it is permissible for the Ely College pitch to be converted to a '3G' surface. It is therefore recommended that planning policies continue to support the retention of all sites, based upon the evidence in the PPS. If proposals to redevelop hockey pitches do come forward, this will only be permissible they are replaced and meet policy exception E4 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. This states that 'the playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development must be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development'.

Recommendation 2 - Security of tenure: Neither the Ely College or Kings School pitches are subject to formal Community Use Agreements and these should be pursued at both sites to secure external access to the facilities.

8.11.3 Enhance

Recommendation 3 - Maintaining pitch quality: Replacing the pitch surfaces at least once every 10-years is essential to maintain quality. It is therefore recommended that the pitch owners contribute money annually to a sinking fund to cover the costs of resurfacing when they arise.

Recommendation 4 - Developer contributions: It is recommended that the action plan in the East Cambridgeshire PPS be used as the basis for seeking an appropriate level of financial contributions under Section 106 or CIL arrangements, to cover the capital and revenue implications of improving hockey pitches to meet the needs of the additional population arising from housing growth by 2036.

8.12 Action Plan

8.12.1 Introduction

In the context of the high-level recommendations above, the tables below set out the hockey action plan to guide the implementation of the strategy. The abbreviations stand for ECDC - East Cambridgeshire District Council, EH - England Hockey and CoEHC - City of Ely Hockey Club. The capital cost estimates are based upon Sport England's *Facility Costs - Second Quarter of 2019* (2019).

8.12.2 Key strategic actions

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved hockey facilities.	ECDC	Developers	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High

8.12.3 Site specific actions

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Ely College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed '3G' resurfacing No secured access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study to assess the implications of a '3G' surface Negotiate secured access 	ECDC	Ely College	£10,000 for feasibility study	High
EOSA	Need to improve showers and disabled access.	Implement clubhouse improvements	CoEHC	EOSA	£150,000 clubhouse improvements	High
Kings School Ely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No community access No secured access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate community access Negotiate secured access 	ECDC	CoEHC Kings School	-	High

9 APPLYING AND REVIEWING THE STRATEGY

9.1 Introduction

This section identifies the applications of the East Cambridgeshire PPS and the mechanisms for reviewing it to ensure that it remains robust and up-to-date.

9.2 Strategy applications

The success of the PPS will be determined by how it is used. While the use of the PPS should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council, its application and delivery should be the responsibility of the project steering group involving other key local stakeholders including Sport England and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. The PPS has a number of applications:

9.2.1 Sports development planning

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

9.2.2 Planning policy

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with the NPPF.

9.2.3 Planning applications

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.

- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- The Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing pitch provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.

The PPS can also be applied to help the Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:

- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being).

9.2.4 Section 106

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Advocate the need for playing pitch provision to be taken into account when the local authority is developing and/or reviewing an approach to Section 106 contributions and the wider benefits of doing so (e.g. improving health and wellbeing).
- Provide prioritised infrastructure requirements for playing pitch provision including deliverable sport, area and site-specific projects with costings (where known).

9.2.5 Funding bids

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

9.2.6 Facility and asset management

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of playing pitches.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of playing pitch providers.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

9.2.7 Public health

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

9.2.8 Co-ordinating resources and investment

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

9.2.9 Capital programmes

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

9.3 Monitoring delivery

A process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. This monitoring should be led by East Cambridgeshire District Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery.

9.4 Keeping the strategy robust and up-to-date

Along with ensuring that the PPS is used and applied, a process should be put in place to keep it robust and up to date. This will expand the life of the PPS, providing people with the confidence to continue to both use it and attach significant value and weight to its key findings and issues, along with its recommendations and actions.

Sport England advocates that the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

The annual review should highlight:

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

9.5 Strategy implementation

To support the delivery of the actions in all the pitch sport-specific chapters, East Cambridgeshire District Council in consultation with stakeholders will prepare a short-term action plan identifying priorities and actions for year one of the strategy delivery. The action plans in the PPS provide a long list of prioritised actions, but many will not be applicable, appropriate or manageable to deliver initially. This is the first stage of delivering the PPS and essential that this is undertaken as this initiates the delivery and provides momentum following completion of the work.