



WALSALL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
ASSESSMENT REPORT
MARCH 2016

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF
T 0161 764 7040 ◀ F 0161 764 7490 ◀ E mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ www.kkp.co.uk



WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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GLOSSARY

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
NGB	National Governing Body
FA	Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
FE	Further Education
HE	Higher Education
TGR	Team Generation Rate

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Walsall Council and its partners. This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

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

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Why the PPS is being developed

As outlined by the Council in the preparation stages the study aims to guide future provision and management of the sports pitch provision in the Borough in the context of national and local sports development policy. Specifically the Strategy should contribute to:

“Produce a robust and up to date assessment of the supply of and demand for playing field provision in Walsall and to determine clear priorities and hierarchy of provision within a strategy and action plan”.

Key objectives

The Strategy will seek to:

- ◀ Aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
- ◀ The need for evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ Potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
- ◀ Budgetary pressures to ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- ◀ The need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- ◀ Prioritisation of internal capital and revenue investment.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

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Agreed scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Walsall Council, Sport England and NGBs.

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

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Study area

The study area covered by the PPS is the Walsall Council boundary. Further to this sub areas or analysis areas have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Walsall is divided into the following five analysis areas:

- ◀ Area 1: Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall / Shelfield
- ◀ Area 2: Aldridge / Streetly / Pheasey / Walsall Wood
- ◀ Area 3: Bloxwich / Blakenall / Birchills / Leamore
- ◀ Area 4: St. Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck
- ◀ Area 5: Darlaston / Bentley
- ◀ Area 6: Willenhall / Short Heath

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Figure 1.1: Map of study area



Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Walsall.

Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ▶ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ▶ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

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

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Quantity

All playing pitches in existence, summer 2015, are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches

Accessibility

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.

Quality

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

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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Non-technical assessments using the templates provided within the Sport England guidance and as determined by NGBs were used by KKP's in house site researcher to carry out site assessments. Visits were carried out within the playing season for each sport. Users and providers were also consulted on the quality, and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Walsall tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, and proposed housing growth (if available), an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

The resident population in Walsall is recorded as 272,161 (these are the ONS 2013 mid-year estimates). By 2037, the population is projected to increase to 303,885 (ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037).

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- ◀ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

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A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. These were as follows:

Consultation summary - methods and response rates

Sport	Total number of clubs	No. of responding clubs	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	121	62	51%	Face to Face, Online Survey
Football teams	376	286	76%	
Cricket clubs	8	7	88%	Face to Face, Online Survey
Rugby union clubs	5	5	100%	Online Survey
Hockey clubs	5	4	80%	Online Survey
Bowls clubs	36	21	58%	Online Survey
Secondary schools	23	16	70%	Face to Face
Primary schools	84	47	56%	Online Survey

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

Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Walsall. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

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This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

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

Develop the current picture of provision

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Walsall. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Walsall. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

Staffordshire FA and the Birmingham FA are the primary organisations responsible for the development (and some elements of administration) of football in Walsall. They are also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for 3G artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand to use 3G pitches for competitive fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing in Walsall. Contact details were provided by the County FA with the invitation to complete the survey which was distributed via email. The survey was returned by 62 clubs (including face to face interviews) which equates to a team response rate of 76%. The clubs met with face to face were as follows:

- ◀ Brownhills Community Colts FC
- ◀ Great Barr Harriers FC
- ◀ Lane Head FC
- ◀ Rushall Olympic FC
- ◀ Sheffield United FC
- ◀ Silverdale FC
- ◀ Walsall Phoenix FC

Additionally, the Walsall Junior Youth League and the Lichfield & Walsall District Football League were also consulted. Results from all consultation are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a current total of 195 grass football pitches within Walsall across 66 sites. Of these, 155 pitches are available for community use across 49 sites, as presented in the table below. The majority of community available pitches are found in Area 2 (43), whilst Area 3 is serviced by the least amount of pitches (10).

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Area 1	15	3	4	13	4	39
Area 2	19	1	13	6	2	43
Area 3	5	-	1	4	-	10
Area 4	18	-	8	4	-	30
Area 5	9	4	7	-	-	20

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Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Area 6	9	2	2	1	1	15
Walsall	75	10	35	28	7	155

The table identifies a large number of adult pitches in Walsall when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which is not ideal for players and not in line with the FA Youth Review. This is a key issue which needs addressing and will be further investigated in the strategy document which accompanies this report.

In total, 93 of the 190 teams using adult pitches are youth teams, which may be in part due to a lack of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches rather than a preference for adult pitches. In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91x55 metres for u16s and u15s and 82x50 metres for u14s and u13s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches is 54x37 metres and for 5v5 pitches it is 37x27 metres. All pitch sizes should also include a three metre safety run-off area.

The sites below contain adult pitches that are used by u13s-u16s teams:

- ◀ Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club
- ◀ Bentley South Playing Field
- ◀ Bentley Youth Sports Ground
- ◀ Clayhanger
- ◀ Doebank Park
- ◀ Fordbrook
- ◀ Mckechnies Sport & Social Club
- ◀ Ormiston Sheffield Academy
- ◀ Pleck Park
- ◀ Sheffield Playing Field
- ◀ St Francis of Assisi Catholic College
- ◀ The Streetly Association
- ◀ University of Aston Recreation Centre
- ◀ West Walsall E-Act Academy
- ◀ Aldridge School
- ◀ Bentley West Playing Field
- ◀ Bloxwich United FC
- ◀ Dales Lane
- ◀ Elmwood School
- ◀ King George V
- ◀ Walsall Wood Football Club
- ◀ Pelsall Villa FC
- ◀ Rushall Cricket Club
- ◀ Silverdale Football Club
- ◀ St Thomas More School
- ◀ The Veseyans Sports & Social Club
- ◀ Walsall Academy
- ◀ Willenhall Memorial Park

As a starting point, adult pitches at Bentley West Playing Field, Elmwood School, Rushall Cricket Club and Ormiston Sheffield Academy are used solely by youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s). As a result, no adult teams would be adversely affected by re-configuring the pitches at these sites (although there may be a need to retain adult pitches if shortfalls are identified).

The table below highlights the sites that are unavailable for community use and the reasons why (if known). As seen, the majority of unavailable pitches are located within school sites:

Table 2.2: Sites unavailable for community use

Site ID	Site	Comments
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	The site has two adult, one 9v9 and one 5v5 pitch. All pitches are unavailable for community use on Sundays due to staffing issues.

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Site ID	Site	Comments
11	Reedwood E-Act Primary Academy	The site has a 7v7 pitch, which is unavailable to the community due to poor quality.
19	Blue Coat C of E Academy	The site has two adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch. All are unavailable to the community as they are located off-site and are not managed outside of school hours.
22	Brownhill Community Technology College	The site has two adult, on youth 11v11, one 9v9, three 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch. All pitches are unavailable to the community due to the School wanting to protect them for school use. Community use was allowed up until 2013 and many clubs accessed the pitches.
28	Darlaston Town FC	An adult stadia pitch which is now locked and disused after the Club folded in 2013.
33	Grace Academy	An adult pitch unavailable to the community as the School want to protect it for school use. An additional adult pitch will be provided from September 2016, at which point community use will be allowed.
56	Pool Hayes Arts & Community School	Three adult pitches, all of which are unavailable to the community as they are located off-site and cannot be managed outside of school hours.
73	Streetly Academy	Two adult pitches unavailable to the community as the School wants to protect them for school use.
79	Walsall Academy	The site has two adult and one 9v9 pitch. All pitches are unavailable for community use in order to protect them for school use.
90	The Bloxwich Academy	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch. Unavailable to the community in order to protect them for school use.
97	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	A 5v5 pitch which is unavailable to the community due to a perceived lack of demand.
98	Christ Church CE Primary School	A 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community because of poor quality.
99	Manor Primary School	Two 7v7 pitches unavailable to the community as the site is not managed outside of school hours.
100	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	A 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community as the site is not managed outside of school hours.
101	Greenfield Primary School	A 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community due to a perceived lack of demand.
102	Castlecroft JMI School	A 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community due to a perceived lack of demand.
103	St Peter's Catholic Primary School	A 9v9 pitch which is unavailable to the community due to poor quality.

Future supply

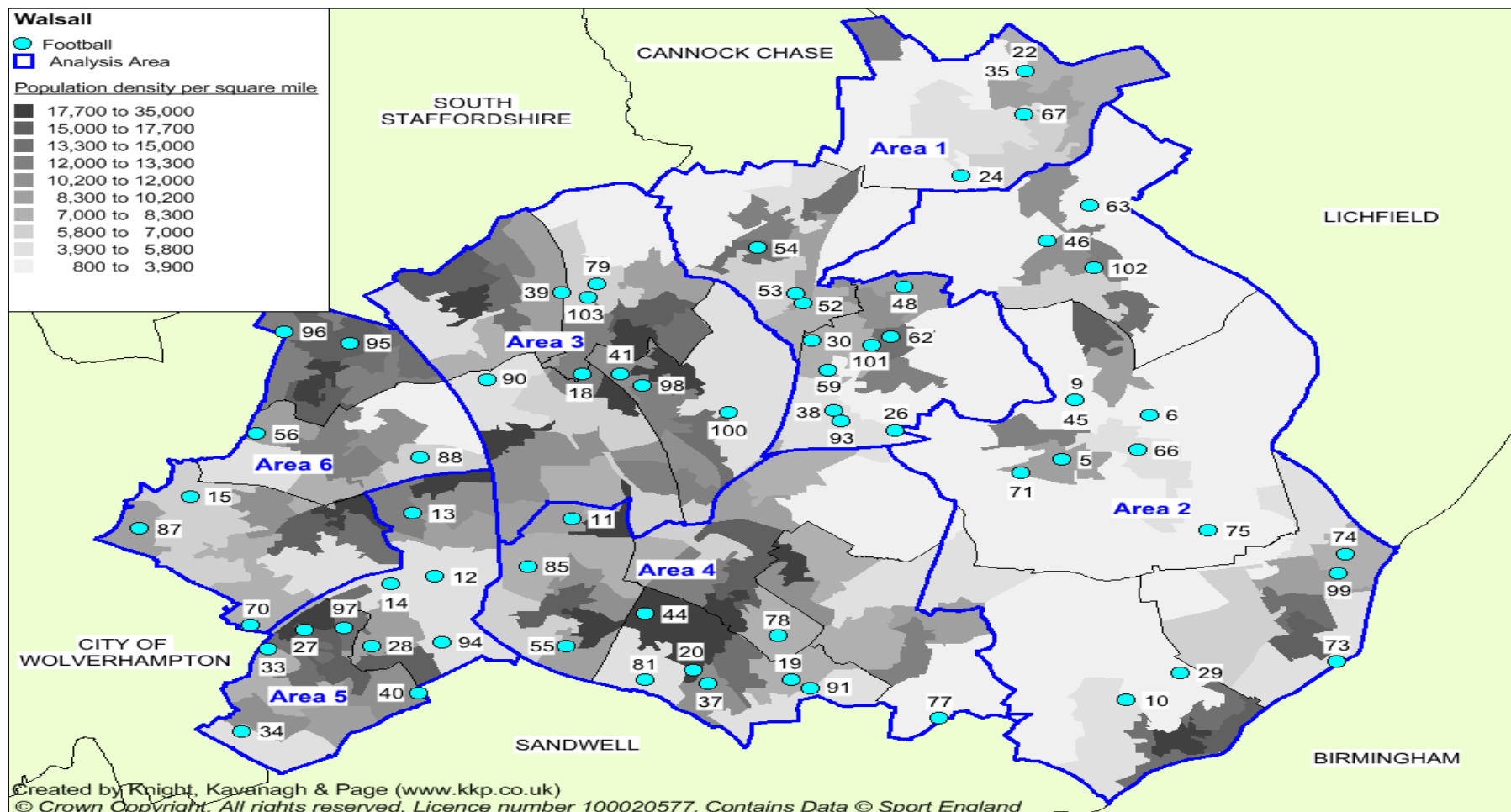
Grace Academy is to provide an additional adult pitch from September 2016. This will also see the introduction of community use at the site, which is not currently offered due to staffing issues. Likewise, Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy is developing an additional adult pitch, which again will be ready for use by September 2016. Community use at this site is already available.

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Figure 2.1 overleaf shows the location of all football pitches currently servicing Walsall.

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Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Walsall



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Table 2.3: Key to the map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis Area
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	WS8 7QG	Area 1
24	Clayhanger	WS8 7EG	Area 1
26	Dales Lane	WS4 1LJ	Area 1
30	Fordbrook	WS4 1NG	Area 1
35	Holland Park	WS8 7QG	Area 1
38	King George Crescent	WS4 1EG	Area 1
48	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	WS4 1BW	Area 1
52	Pelsall Cricket And Sports Club	WS3 4BS	Area 1
53	Pelsall Villa FC	WS3 4BP	Area 1
54	Pelsall Village School	WS3 4NJ	Area 1
59	Rushall Cricket Club	WS4 1NE	Area 1
62	Sheffield Playing Field	WS4 1QW	Area 1
67	St James Primary School	WS8 6AE	Area 1
93	Elmwood School	WS4 1EU	Area 1
101	Greenfield Primary School	WS4 1PL	Area 1
5	Aldridge School	WS9 0BG	Area 2
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club	WS9 8NH	Area 2
9	Anchor Meadow	WS9 8AN	Area 2
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	WS9 0RF	Area 2
29	Doebank Park	WS9 0RQ	Area 2
45	Mckechnies Sport & Social Club	WS9 8AN	Area 2
46	Walsall Wood Football Club	WS9 9NP	Area 2
63	Shire Oak Academy	WS9 9PA	Area 2
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	WS9 0RN	Area 2
71	The Aldridge Airport	WS9 0QE	Area 2
73	The Streetly Academy	B74 2EX	Area 2
74	The Streetly Association	B74 3HR	Area 2
75	The Veseyans Sports And Social Club	WS9 0SQ	Area 2
99	Manor Primary School	B74 3HX	Area 2
102	Castlecroft JMI School	WS9 9JP	Area 2
18	Bloxwich United FC	WS3 2EJ	Area 3
39	King George V	WS3 3NJ	Area 3
41	Leamore Park	WS3 1HF	Area 3
79	Walsall Academy	WS3 3LX	Area 3
90	The Bloxwich Academy	WS2 7NR	Area 3
98	Christ Church CE Primary School	WS3 1EN	Area 3
100	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	WS3 1SP	Area 3
103	St Peter's Catholic Primary School	WS3 3LY	Area 3
11	Reedswood E-Act Primary Academy	WS2 8RX	Area 4

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis Area
19	Blue Coat Church Of England Academy Playing Fields	WS4 4LP	Area 4
20	Broadway West Playing Field	WS1 4DX	Area 4
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	WS5 4PJ	Area 4
44	LMRCA	WS1 4JQ	Area 4
55	Pleck Park	WS2 9AF	Area 4
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)	B43 7AJ	Area 4
78	University Of Wolverhampton (Walsall Site)	WS1 3BD	Area 4
81	Walsall Football Club	WS1 4SA	Area 4
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	WS2 9UA	Area 4
91	Silverdale Football Club	WS5 4DW	Area 4
12	Bentley South Playing Field	WS2 0EA	Area 5
13	Bentley West Playing Field	WS2 0EQ	Area 5
14	Bentley Youth Sports Ground	WS10 8LN	Area 5
27	Darlaston Community Association	WS10 8NL	Area 5
28	Darlaston Town FC	WS10 8ED	Area 5
33	Grace Academy Darlaston	WS10 8QJ	Area 5
34	Great Bridge Road	WV14 8LG	Area 5
40	Kings Hill Park	WS10 9JF	Area 5
94	Salisbury Primary School	WS10 8BQ	Area 5
97	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	WS10 8HN	Area 5
15	Black Country Performance Hub	WV12 8BB	Area 6
56	Pool Hayes Arts And Community School	WV12 4QZ	Area 6
70	St Thomas More School	WV14 7BL	Area 6
87	Willenhall Memorial Park	WV13 3BU	Area 6
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	WS2 9UA	Area 6
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	WV12 5HA	Area 6
96	New Invention Junior School Playing Field	WV12 5DB	Area 6

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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches in Walsall has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. It is likely that pitches which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs (i.e. Walsall Football Club) tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 59 as standard quality and 87 are deemed to be poor quality. It must be noted that these quality ratings may differ substantially from the findings in the previous PPS (2010). This is not uncommon and is due to a change in Sport England guidance, which is now more sport and pitch specific and takes into account more key factors, such maintenance regimes.

Table 2.4: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
7	30	38	2	15	28	-	14	21

The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches are poor or standard quality, particularly at local authority sites. All sites managed by the Council receive a basic level of maintenance, with budgets not allowing for any further level of upkeep. The majority of pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance that in most cases is contracted to external companies. Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies; some clubs hire dedicated ground staff whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.

Of responding clubs, 20 (32%) rate the overall quality of their home pitches as good quality, 28 (41%) rate quality as standard and 14 (27%) rate quality as poor. All clubs assessing their pitches as poor quality use local authority sites, with many reporting that maintenance is not carried out regularly enough and that post-season remedial work is sub-standard. The open

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access nature of these sites is also widely reported as an issue, with unofficial use and dog fouling prominent.

Nine clubs (15%) state that quality has improved since last season, whilst 11 clubs (18%) report that quality has worsened. The most common factors attributed to improved quality is an investment in drainage and more frequent maintenance.

Specific comments relating to pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

Table 2.5: Site specific comments

Site ID	Site	Comments
20	Broadway West	Pitches suffer from poor drainage due to severe undulations. Unofficial use is prominent.
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	Drainage issues culminated in community use ending.
26	Dales Lane	Presence of limestone under pitch causes issues.
35	Holland Park	Pitches are considered poor quality by Brownhills Community Colts FC due to infrequent maintenance.
37	Joseph Leckie Academy	Severe drainage issues lead to 9v9 pitch being unplayable for most of the season.
40	Kings Hill Park	Heavy clay soil visible across the site.
41	Leamore Park	Poor grass coverage and worn goalmouths.
46	Walsall Wood Football Club	Tyre and harrow marks visible on the pitch.
55	Fleck Park	Pitch is often unplayable due to its poor condition.
71	Aldridge Airport	Open access site which suffers from poor drainage. Great Barr Harriers FC reports that cars often drive onto grass pitches.
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	All pitches suffer from poor drainage.
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Poor drainage on youth 11v11 pitch results in many postponements throughout the season.
91	Silverdale Football Club	Drainage issues led to Silverdale FC postponing all fixtures in November.

In addition to the comments above, the Lichfield & Walsall District League reports that pitch quality has improved over the last three years and states that King George V, Pleck Park and Shelfield Playing Field are the best quality pitches used. Conversely, the League deems Anchor Meadow, Holland Park and Walsall Wood Football Club to be the worst quality pitches. The Walsall Junior Youth League reports that there is no difference in quality compared to three years ago.

Over marked pitches

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

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Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.

There are also a number of football pitches in Walsall that are marked onto cricket outfield. This can create availability issues at multi-sport sites as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Walsall Phoenix FC reports that this is a particular issue at Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club as the Club loses access to its preferred adult pitch when the cricket season is ongoing.

Any spare capacity identified later in this section on pitches that are over marked or contain over markings is discounted. The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches.

Table 2.6: Sites containing over marked pitches

Site ID	Site	Comments
6	Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club	An adult and a 9v9 pitch over mark cricket outfield.
45	Mckenchnies Sport & Social Club	A 7v7 pitch over marks a 9v9 pitch.
48	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	A 9v9 pitch over marks a senior rugby union pitch.
52	Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club	An adult pitch over marks a cricket outfield.
77	University of Aston Recreation Centre	An adult pitch is over marked by a 9v9 pitch.
79	Walsall Academy	An adult pitch is dual used for rugby union and also over marked by a 9v9 pitch.
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	An adult pitch is over marked by a 9v9 pitch.
93	Elmwood School	An adult pitch is over marked by a 7v7 pitch.

Ancillary facilities

The non-technical assessment assesses ancillary facilities servicing pitches. This includes the condition of clubhouses, changing accommodation, toilets, showers, car parking and boundary fencing.

Both Sheffield United FC and Silverdale FC report plans to develop new changing facilities at King George Crescent and Silverdale Football Club respectively. There are currently no changing facilities at King George Crescent which therefore prohibits adult football and girls' football being played at the site. Silverdale Football Club is serviced by port-a-cabin facilities only.

Of sites that are currently serviced by changing facilities, 7% have good quality facilities, 33% have standard quality facilities and 60% have poor quality facilities. All facilities assessed as good quality are located at sports clubs such as Walsall Football Club, whilst facilities assessed as poor quality are mostly found at local authority sites. In addition, the following sites are rated as poor by club users:

- ◀ Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club
- ◀ Bentley Youth Sports Club
- ◀ Bloxwich United FC
- ◀ Walsall Wood Football Club

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- ◀ Pelsall Villa FC
- ◀ Shelfield Playing Field
- ◀ Willenhall E-Act Academy

The main complaint by clubs is that sites have dated facilities that are small and do not provide enough rooms in relation to the number of pitches. This results in teams often having to share facilities and also causes an issue during crossover when matches are played back to back.

Car parking is also cited as an issue at many sites, in particular by the Walsall Junior Youth League. The League reports that, due to the nature of youth and mini football which attracts a large audience, most car parks cannot provide enough space to service match goers. This leads to many cars parking in streets which in turn results in neighbourhood complaints.

Pitch hire and costs

The biggest challenge in the current economic climate is to achieve a balance between maintenance and pitch hire costs. A growing number of local authorities (including Walsall) are looking at full recovery costs as a way of increasing maintenance and removing the significant subsidy given to football. By going full cost recovery, will not result in more revenue for football but aiming for the same level of maintenance throughout.

Security of tenure

Tenure of sites in Walsall is generally secure i.e. through a long term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years. An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. For example, Brownhills Community Technology College recently stopped letting out its facilities due to site management issues and also in order to protect the pitches for school use. This led to many clubs being without a home pitch and in turn many teams folded, such as teams from Brownhills Community Colts FC.

The following is a full list of schools that have grass football pitches but do not allow community use:

- ◀ Bloxwich Academy
- ◀ Brownhills Community Tech College
- ◀ Christ Church CE Primary School
- ◀ Greenfield Primary School
- ◀ Pool Hayes Arts & Community College
- ◀ St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St Thomas Canterbury Catholic School
- ◀ Walsall Academy
- ◀ Blue Coat Church of England Academy
- ◀ Castlecroft JMI School
- ◀ Grace Academy Darlaston
- ◀ Manor Primary School
- ◀ Reedswood E-Act Primary Academy
- ◀ St Peters Catholic Primary School
- ◀ The Streetly Academy

Security of tenure is also considered unsecure for Shelfield United FC at King George Crescent. The Club leases the site on a rolling one year contract but reports a need for a longer term agreement in order to secure funding for a new clubhouse. This is also the case for Silverdale FC, which has only two years remaining on its lease of Silverdale Football Club.

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Red Star AFC also reports security of tenure issues as its lease of Mckechnies Sport & Social Club is due to expire. It is recommended that all the aforementioned lease arrangements are extended in order to provide clubs greater security of tenure and to also help with future funding opportunities.

It must also be noted that Lane Head FC, Midland Soccer Academy FC, Walsall Phoenix FC and Pelsall Villa Colts FC report demand to acquire land on a long term lease, although potential sites have yet to be identified.

Football pyramid

There are seven clubs playing within Walsall that compete within the football pyramid:

- ◀ Walsall FC – Step 1
- ◀ Rushall Olympic FC – Step 3
- ◀ Continental Star FC – Step 5
- ◀ Sporting Khalsa FC - Step 5
- ◀ Walsall Wood FC – Step 5
- ◀ Pelsall Villa FC – Step 6
- ◀ Walsall Phoenix FC – Step 7

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground grading requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress in the step system if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. The ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

All clubs in Walsall currently meet the ground requirements for the step they play at, however, many would require improvements if the clubs were to progress through the system. For instance, Rushall Olympic FC requires additional turnstiles and additional seating at Dales Lane should it be promoted to Step 2.

It must also be noted that Continental Star FC currently accesses Dales Lane for its matches. The Club is imported from Birmingham as it does not have access to a pitch within Birmingham that is of sufficient ground grading for Step 5 football.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment a total of 376 teams within 121 clubs are identified as playing within Walsall. This consists of 98 adult teams (90 men's and eight women's), 175 youth teams (170 boys' and 20 girls') and 103 mini teams (of which five are girls' only mini teams).

Table 2.8: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Walsall

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Area 1	13	29	4	23	3	72
Area 2	24	27	25	8	7	91
Area 3	7	8	2	-	-	17
Area 4	26	23	5	20	-	74
Area 5	20	14	19	1	-	54

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Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Area 6	8	16	2	12	29	67
Walsall	98	118	57	64	39	376

The majority of teams play in Area 1 (91), whilst the least amount of teams play in Area 3 (17). The most prevalent playing format across all analysis areas is the youth 11v11 category (118).

Responding clubs were asked whether there has been a change in the number of teams over the previous three years. The response rates for those that answered this question can be seen in the table below.

Table 2.9: Change in the number of teams over the previous three years

Team type	Clubs response		
	Increased	Decreased	Stayed the same
Adult	11%	20%	69%
Youth	15%	14%	71%
Mini	16%	7%	77%

The highest increase in teams is seen in mini football; 16% of clubs report an increase over the last three years and only 7% report a decrease. The Walsall Junior Youth League has seen a similar trend over the same time period with an overall increase of 14% at mini age level. Despite this, the League reports an overall decrease of 9% at youth level and states that many teams fold by the time they reach youth 11v11 football (u13s).

The biggest decrease in teams is seen in adult football. Despite 11% of clubs reporting an increase, 20% report a decrease. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. There is a national trend of players opting to play small sided versions of the game as people want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles. Shorter versions of the sport allow players to do this and if this trend continues there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

For clubs reporting a reduction in youth and mini teams, reasons include a lack of coaches, coaches moving teams to other clubs, a lack of available pitches and poor quality facilities.

The Walsall Junior Youth Football League

The Walsall Junior Youth League is the biggest provider for mini and youth football across Walsall with 268 teams currently competing across 69 clubs. The League uses central venues for all mini and 9v9 football, meaning the majority of use of these pitch types is from the League and any pitch of this type that is not used by the League is often unused by the community completely.

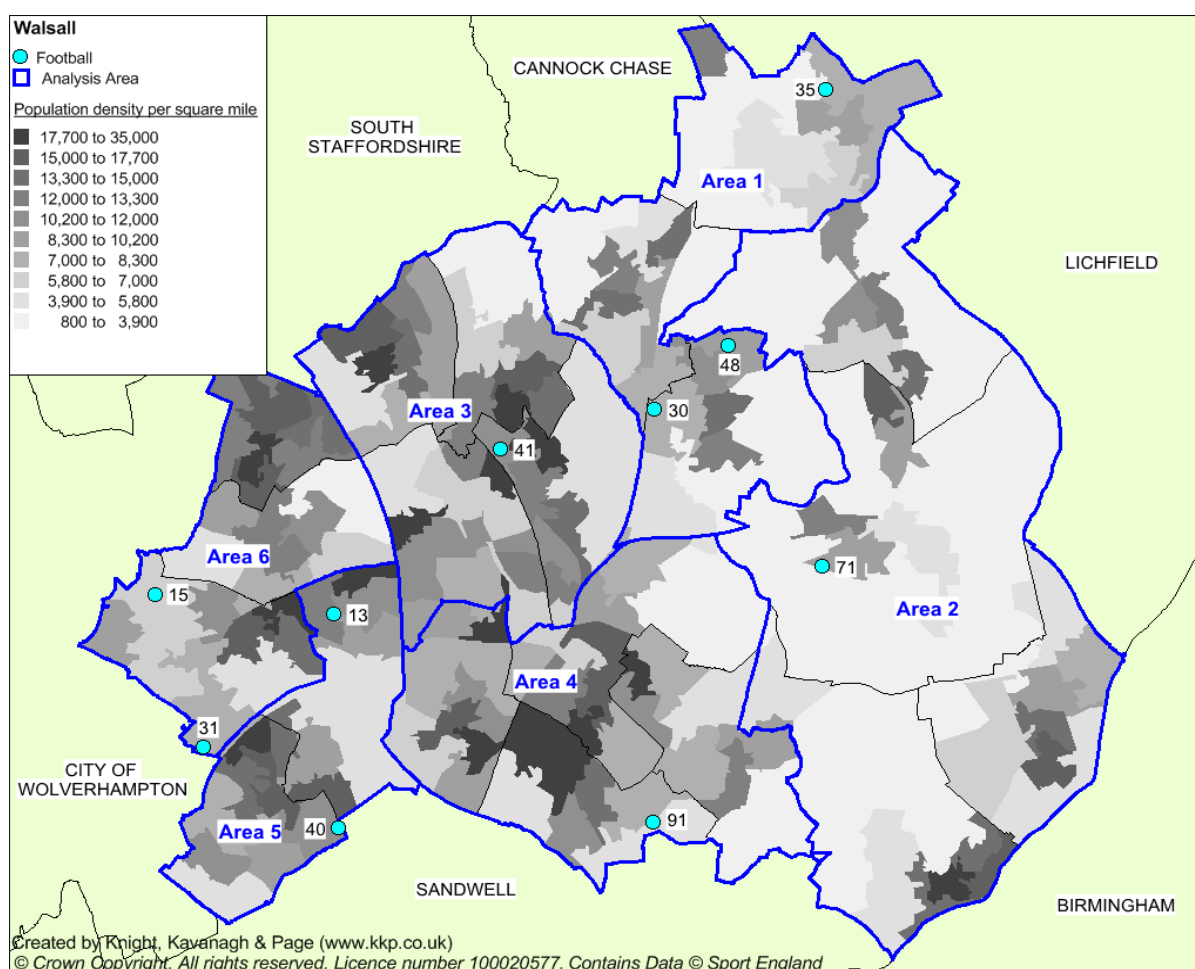
The League reports that its demand for pitches increases year on year as mini football continues to grow. Preference is for an increase of 3G pitches as more matches can be played concurrently and there are no concerns over adverse weather conditions causing fixture congestion. Currently, 3G pitches at Black Country Performance Hub, Goals Soccer Centre and Ormiston Shelfield Academy are used. All sites used as central venues are shown in the table below.

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Table 2.10: Central venues used by the Walsall Junior Youth League

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type used
13	Bentley West Playing Field	Area 5	9v9
15	Black Country Performance Hub	Area 6	5v5
30	Fordbrook	Area 1	7v7
31	Goals Soccer Centre	Area 6	5v5
35	Holland Park	Area 1	5v5, 7v7
40	Kings Hill Park	Area 5	9v9
41	Leamore Park	Area 3	7v7, 9v9
48	Ormiston Sheffield Academy	Area 1	7v7
71	Aldridge Airport	Area 2	9v9
91	Silverdale Football Club	Area 4	7v7

Figure 2.2: Location of central venues used by the Walsall Junior Youth League



Displaced demand

Displaced demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for their home fixtures outside of the area in which they are registered, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met.

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Table 2.11: Displaced demand

Club	Team	Where displaced to?
Bloxwich Rangers FC	U12s	Wendesfield High School, Wolverhampton
Midland Soccer Academy	U13s	Yates Sports Club, Pelsall
	U9s	Yates Sports Club, Pelsall
	U8s	Yates Sports Club, Pelsall
Park Hill Boys FC	U18s	Elwell, Sandwell
	U16s	Elwell, Sandwell
	U15s	Elwell, Sandwell
Walsall FC	U18s	Birmingham County FA, Birmingham
	U16s	Birmingham County FA, Birmingham
Walsall Ladies FC	Ladies	Great Wryley FC, Great Wryley

In total there are 10 teams registered to Walsall that currently play outside of the local authority area. As a breakdown (based on teams playing home and away) this equates to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches (one team), three match equivalents on youth 11v11 pitches (six teams) and 0.5 match equivalents on 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches (one team each).

Reasons for the displaced demand varies, including, for example, Walsall FC, which reports that it accesses sites in Birmingham due to better pitch quality, whilst Midland Soccer Academy FC reports a lack of available pitches in Walsall.

Whilst priority should be placed on ensuring this demand returns to the area, it must be noted that some teams would remain displaced regardless of improvements made. This includes Bloxwich Rangers FC, which is displaced due to the use of central venues in the Bilston Youth Partnership League, and Walsall Ladies FC, which requires a stadium pitch to adhere to league regulations. As such, this demand has been discounted from the conclusion tables later in this section.

A possible resolution to the need for a stadium pitch (Walsall Ladies FC) could be through re-providing the disused pitch at Darlaston Town FC, although investment may be required to bring the site up to ground grading requirements.

Latent demand

During the consultation process a number of clubs identify that if more pitches were available at their home ground or in the local area they could develop more teams in the future (latent demand). The table below highlights latent demand expressed by the clubs (where quantified) that could *potentially* be fielded if more pitches were available.

Table 2.12: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch type	Match equivalents
Hundred Acre FC	Area 2	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Oak Park Rangers FC	Area 1	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Red Star AFC	Area 2	2 x Youth	Youth 11v11	0.5
		2 x Mini	Youth 9v9	0.5
			Mini 7v7	0.5
			Mini 5v5	0.5
Rostance Edwards FC	Area 3	1 x Youth	Youth 11v11	0.5

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Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch type	Match equivalents
Rushall Olympic FC	Area 1	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Pelsall Villa FC	Area 1	2 x Youth 4 x Mini	Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5	0.5 0.5 1 1
Pelsall Villa Colts FC	Area 1	2 x Youth	Youth 9v9	1
Willenhall Harriers FC	Area 5	1 x Youth 1 x Mini	Youth 11v11 Mini 5v5	0.5 0.5
Totals			Adult	1.5
			Youth 11v11	2
			Youth 9v9	2
			Mini 7v7	1.5
			Mini 5v5	2

The largest amount of latent demand is expressed in Area 1, equating to one match equivalent session on adult pitches, 0.5 match equivalents on youth 11v11 pitches, 1.5 match equivalents on 9v9 pitches and one match equivalent on both 7v7 and 5v5 pitches. There is latent demand amounting to 0.5 match equivalents on each pitch type in Area 2 and 0.5 match equivalents on youth 11v11 pitches in Area 3. There is no latent demand expressed in either Area 4 or Area 6, however, there is latent demand in Area 5 equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 and 5v5 pitches.

In addition, 12 clubs indicate that they would field more teams if more or better training facilities were available, and seven clubs state that teams would increase if ancillary provision improved.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

Population increases

Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2037) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be an increase of 22 youth boys' teams (11 match equivalents), two youth girls' teams (one match equivalent) and 10 mini teams (five match equivalents).

Table 2.13: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2037)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Adult Men (16-45)	52,354	90	1:582	52,898	90.9	0.9
Adult Women (16-45)	52,722	8	1:6,590	53,484	8.1	0.1

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Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group (2037)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Youth Boys (10-15)	10,377	155	1:67	11,868	177.3	22.3
Youth Girls (10-15)	10,031	20	1:502	11,309	22.5	2.5
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	13,994	103	1:136	15,387	113.3	10.3

When broken down by analysis area, there is a potential growth of three youth boy's teams and two mini teams in Area 1, six youth boy's teams and one mini team in Area 2 and one youth boys' team and one mini team in Area 3. In Area 4 there is a potential growth of three youth boys' and one mini team, whilst in Area 5 there is a potential growth of four youth boys' teams. In Area 6 there is a potential growth of two youth boys' and three mini teams.

Participation increases

A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 10 adult, 24 youth and 16 mini teams. Latent demand highlighted earlier in the report has been discounted in the table below, as it is presumed to be absorbed in future growth.

Table 2.14: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch type	Match equivalents
Brownhills Community Colts FC	Area 1	1 x Adult 6 x Youth 4 x Mini	Adult Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5	0.5 2 1 1 1
Churchill Rovers FC	Area 5	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Lane Head FC	Area 5	7 x Youth	Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9	2 1.5
Midland Soccer Academy FC	Area 5	3 x Adult 3 x Youth 4 x Mini	Adult Youth 11v11 Youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5	1.5 1 0.5 1 1
Pelsall Villa Colts FC	Area 1	2 x Adult 2 x Mini	Adult Mini 7v7 Mini 5v5	1 0.5 0.5
Red Star AFC	Area 2	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Red Star Alma FC	Area 5	2 x Youth	Youth 11v11	1
Rostance Edwards FC	Area 3	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5
Shelfield United FC	Area 1	2 x Mini	Mini 5v5	1
Silverdale FC	Area 6	2 x Mini	Mini 5v5	1
Stonnall Juniors FC	Area 1	1 x Mini	Mini 5v5	0.5
Walsall Phoenix FC	Area 6	2 x Mini	Mini 5v5	1
Walsall Wood FC	Area 2	1 x Adult	Adult	0.5

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Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch type	Match equivalents
		6 x Youth	Youth 11v11	1.5
			Youth 9v9	1.5

The total future demand expressed equates to 25.5 match equivalent sessions. This is broken down by pitch type and by analysis area in the table below. The majority of future demand is expressed for youth 11v11 pitches and in Area 1.

Table 2.15: Future demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Future demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Total
Area 1	1.5	2	1	1.5	3	9
Area 2	1	1.5	1.5	-	-	4
Area 3	0.5	-	-	-	-	0.5
Area 4	-	-	-	-	-	0
Area 5	2	4	2	1	1	10
Area 6	-	-	-	-	2	2
Total	5	7.5	4.5	2.5	6	25.5

2.4: Capacity analysis

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

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of match equivalent sessions that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting current quality (pitch capacity).

Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following ratings were used in Walsall:

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

Table 2.17 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

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

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Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as such if pitches are available at peak time (actual spare capacity). The peak time for each pitch type in Walsall is considered to be Sunday AM as each pitch type is accessed by the majority of teams at this time.

In total, 100 teams access adult pitches on Sunday mornings, compared to 47 on Sunday afternoons, 38 on Saturday afternoons, 22 on Saturday mornings and 25 mid-week. Of teams accessing adult pitches on Sunday mornings, 37 are youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) and should ideally be accessing youth 11v11 pitches.

Of teams that do access youth 11v11 pitches, 10 access pitches on Sunday mornings compared to six on Sunday afternoons, two Saturday mornings and eight mid-week. For 9v9 pitches, 79 (out of 98) teams access pitches on Sunday mornings, whilst all mini football is played Sunday AM.

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. This adjustment is dependent on the amount of play carried out and also the number of pitches on site. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The remaining capacity available at school sites is also dependant on quality. The table below identifies the school sites and adjusted capacity where required.

Table 2.16: Capacity adjustment of educational sites

Site ID	School/College name	Capacity comments/actions
5	Aldridge School	All pitches are available for community use and are well used by Starlands St Annes FC. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent per pitch.
10	Barr Beacon School	The School is dual use with an onsite sports centre. Pitches are available for community use, however, not on a Sunday (peak time) due to management issues. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
19	Blue Coach Church of England Academy	The pitches are located off site but are managed by the School as per lease arrangement with the Council. No community use is allowed as it cannot be managed. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent per pitch.
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	The School no longer allows community use in order to protect the pitches for school use. Capacity is reduced by one match equivalent session per pitch.
33	Grace Academy Darlaston	No community use is allowed on the pitches, however, this is due to change in 2016 when a new adult pitch is provided. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent sessions per pitch (with the 3G pitch often preferred), although this will reduce when the new pitch is provided.
37	Joseph Leckie Academy	Community is available and used. School use reduces capacity by two match equivalent sessions.

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Site ID	School/College name	Capacity comments/actions
56	Pool Hayes Arts & Community School	Football pitches are off site but are managed by the School. Community use is unavailable. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent session.
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	The School does not have football pitches on site as the sport is not featured on the curriculum.
62	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	Pitches are available to the community and well used. The 3G is mainly used by the School in order to protect the grass pitches. Capacity reduced by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
70	St Thomas More School	The School was unresponsive to consultation and therefore use is not known. Community use is recorded. Capacity reduced by one match equivalent session to take into account any school use.
73	The Streetly Academy	Pitches are not available for community use in order to protect quality for school use. Capacity reduced by two match equivalent sessions.
78	University of Wolverhampton	Pitches are available to the community and used. Use by University teams has been factored into current play.
79	Walsall Academy	No community use due to staffing issues. High levels of school use reduces capacity by two match equivalent sessions.
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	Pitches are available to the community and used. School use reduces capacity by one match equivalent session, which could reduce with 3G proposal.
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Pitches are available to the community and used. School use reduces capacity by 0.5 match equivalent sessions as the sites AGP is more commonly used.
-	Walsall College	The College has not grass pitches itself and instead used the University of Aston Recreation Ground. This use has been factored into current play.

Capacity of independent, primary and special school sites has not been adjusted except for at sites where the School has quantified use for matches/curriculum use.

For the postcodes of the sites in the table below, please refer back to table 2.3. For pitches available in the peak period, this refers to match capacity.

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Table 2.17: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name <i>*Indicates adult pitches that accommodate u13- u16 youth teams</i>	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ²	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ³ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
5	Aldridge School*	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Adult		Standard	2	2.5	2	0.5	0
5	Aldridge School	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	2.5	1	1.5	0
5	Aldridge School	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	1	6	-5	1
5	Aldridge School	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	1	3	-2	0
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Adult		Standard	2	3.5	4	-0.5	0.5
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	0.5	4	-3.5	1
9	Anchor Meadow	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Adult		Poor	2	1.5	2	-0.5	0.5
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Adult		Standard	2	0	2	-2	-
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	1	-1	-
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	0	3	-3	-
11	Reedwood E-Act Primary Academy	No	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	0	2	-2	-
12	Bentley South Playing Field*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Adult		Standard	2	6	4	2	0
12	Bentley South Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	2	2	4	-2	1
13	Bentley West Playing Field*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
13	Bentley West Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	4	4	4	0	0
14	Bentley Youth Sports Ground*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Adult		Poor	2	5.5	2	3.5	0
15	Black Country Performance Hub	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 6	Adult		Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
18	Bloxwich United FC*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 3	Adult		Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	0
19	Blue Coat Church Of England Academy Playing Fields	No	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Adult		Poor	2	0	1	-1	-
19	Blue Coat Church Of England Academy Playing Fields	No	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	0	0	-
19	Blue Coat Church Of England Academy Playing Fields	No	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	0	1	-1	-
20	Broadway West Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Council	Area 4	Adult		Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
20	Broadway West Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Council	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	5	0	10	-10	5
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Adult		Standard	2	0	2	-2	-
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	0	1	-1	-
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	1	-1	-
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	3	0	9	-9	-
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	0	3	-3	-
24	Clayhanger*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Adult		Poor	2	2	2	0	0
24	Clayhanger	Yes-unused	Secure	Council	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	0	2	-2	1
26	Dales Lane*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Adult		Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	1
27	Darlaston Community Association	Yes	Secure	CA	Area 5	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	0	0
28	Darlaston Town FC	No-disused	Unsecure	Club	Area 5	Adult		Poor	1	0	1	-0.5	-
29	Doebank Park*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Adult		Poor	2	2	2	0	0
29	Doebank Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
30	Fordbrook*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Adult		Standard	4	2	8	-6	4
30	Fordbrook	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	4	5	8	-3	0
33	Grace Academy Darlaston	No	Unsecure	School	Area 5	Adult		Standard	1	0	1	-1	-
34	Great Bridge Road	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Adult		Poor	3	2.5	3	-0.5	0.5

² Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council and sports club ownership will be secure.

³ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name <i>*Indicates adult pitches that accommodate u13-u16 youth teams</i>	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ²	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ³ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
34	Great Bridge Road	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
35	Holland Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
35	Holland Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	2	1	4	-3	1
35	Holland Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	1.5	4	-2.5	0.5
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	0	0.5	0
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0.5	0	0.5	0
38	King George Crescent	Yes	Unsecure	Club	Area 1	Adult		Poor	2	1	2	-1	1
38	King George Crescent	Yes	Unsecure	Club	Area 1	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	2	2	2	0	0
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Club	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	0	2	-2	2
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Club	Area 1	Mini	(5v5)	Poor	2	0	4	-4	2
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Club	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	4	0	8	-8	4
39	King George V*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 3	Adult		Poor	4	4.5	4	0.5	0
40	Kings Hill Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 5	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	3	5	3	2	0
41	Leamore Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 3	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
41	Leamore Park	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 3	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	4	5.5	8	-2.5	0
44	LMRCA (London Midland Railway Clubs Association)	Yes	Secure	CA	Area 4	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	0	0
45	Mckechnies Sport & Social Club*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Adult		Standard	1	2	2	0	0
45	Mckechnies Sport & Social Club	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	0
45	Mckechnies Sport & Social Club	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	3	4	-1	0
46	Walsall Wood Football Club*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Adult		Poor	2	4	2	2	0
48	Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy*	Yes	Secure	School	Area 1	Adult		Good	1	1	2.5	-1.5	1
48	Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	School	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	3.5	-3.5	1
52	Pelsall Cricket And Sports Club	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 1	Adult		Standard	1	1	2	-1	0.5
53	Pelsall Villa FC*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 1	Adult		Standard	1	2.5	2	0.5	0
54	Pelsall Village School	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	1	2	-1	0.5
55	Pleck Park*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 4	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	0	0
56	Pool Hayes Arts And Community School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Adult		Poor	3	0	0	0	-
59	Rushall Cricket Club*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 1	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	0	0
62	Shelfield Playing Field*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 1	Adult		Poor	1	2.5	1	1.5	0
63	Shire Oak Academy	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Adult		Poor	2	1	2	-1	2
63	Shire Oak Academy	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	1	0	0
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College*	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Adult		Standard	2	1.5	4	-2.5	2
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	Yes	Secure	School	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	0
67	St James Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	1	4	-3	0
70	St Thomas More School*	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Adult		Standard	3	2.5	3	-0.5	0.5
71	The Aldridge Airport	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
71	The Aldridge Airport	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	6	6.5	12	-5.5	0.5
73	The Streetly Academy	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Adult		Standard	2	0	2	-2	-
74	The Streetly Association*	Yes	Secure	CA	Area 2	Adult		Poor	2	5	2	3	0
74	The Streetly Association	Yes	Secure	CA	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	0
74	The Streetly Association	Yes	Secure	CA	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	2	1.5	4	-2.5	0.5
75	The Veseyans Sports And Social Club*	Yes	Secure	Club	Area 2	Adult		Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	0
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)*	Yes	Secure	University	Area 4	Adult		Good	5	15	15	0	0

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name <i>*Indicates adult pitches that accommodate u13-u16 youth teams</i>	Available for community use?	Type of tenure ²	Management	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity ³ (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (!) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)	Yes	Secure	University	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	1.5	4	-2.5	0
78	University Of Wolverhampton (Walsall Site)	Yes	Secure	University	Area 4	Adult		Standard	2	3	4	-1	1
79	Walsall Academy*	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Adult		Good	2	0.5	2	-1.5	-
79	Walsall Academy	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Youth	(9v9)	Good	1	0	2	-2	-
81	Walsall Football Club	No	Secure	Club	Area 4	Adult		Good	1	0.5	3	-2.5	-
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy*	Yes	Secure	School	Area 4	Adult		Poor	2	2.5	0	2.5	0
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	Yes	Secure	School	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0.5	0	0.5	0
87	Willenhall Memorial Park*	Yes	Secure	Council	Area 6	Adult		Poor	2	4	2	2	0
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes	Secure	School	Area 6	Adult		Standard	2	2	3	-1	0.5
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes	Secure	School	Area 6	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	1	0.5	0.5	0
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	School	Area 6	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	0.5	-0.5	0.5
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	School	Area 6	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	3.5	-3.5	1
90	The Bloxwich Academy	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Adult		Standard	2	0	4	-4	-
90	The Bloxwich Academy	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	-
91	Silverdale Football Club*	Yes	Unsecure	Club	Area 4	Adult		Standard	4	3.5	8	-4.5	0.5
91	Silverdale Football Club	Yes	Unsecure	Club	Area 4	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	4	10	16	-6	0
93	Elmwood School*	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1
93	Elmwood School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4	1
94	Salisbury Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Adult		Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	0.5
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	1
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes-unused	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Mini	(5v5)	Standard	1	0	4	-4	1
96	New Invention Junior School Playing Field	Yes	Unsecure	School	Area 6	Youth	(11v11)	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	0.5
97	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 5	Mini	(5v5)	Poor	1	0	2	-2	-
98	Christ Church CE Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	0	2	-2	-
99	Manor Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	2	0	8	-8	-
100	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	0	2	-2	-
101	Greenfield Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4	-
102	Castlecroft JMI School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	Standard	1	0	4	-4	-
103	St Peter's Catholic Primary School	No	Unsecure	School	Area 3	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	0	1	-1	-

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

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

The table below considers site by site the capacity of the pitches to accommodate further play and for them to be deemed as having 'actual spare capacity'. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting the criteria has been discounted.

Pitches that are of a poor quality or are over marked in any way are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of quality. It must also be taken into account that teams do not want to play on poor quality pitches.

Spare capacity has also been discounted at education sites that were not consulted through face to face meetings (i.e. primary schools). Although these sites may have potential future capacity it is not currently classified as actual spare capacity. Further investigation with the schools is recommended in order to fully understand community use aspects.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.18: Actual spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
5	Aldridge School	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	2	1	-5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
6	Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Adult		2	3.5	-0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted as pitches over mark cricket outfield.
6	Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5	-1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch over marks cricket outfield.
6	Aldridge Stick & Wicket Club	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Mini	(5v5)	1	0.5	-3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
9	Anchor Meadow	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Adult		2	1.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
12	Bentley South Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	2	2	-2	1	Actual spare capacity during peak time.
13	Bentley West Playing Field	Yes	Secure	Area 5	Adult		1	0.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
20	Broadway West Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 4	Adult		1	0	-2	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
20	Broadway West Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 4	Youth	(9v9)	5	0	-5	5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
24	Clayhanger	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	1	0	-2	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
26	Dales Lane	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Adult		1	1.5	-0.5	0.5	Minimal spare capacity discounted to protect quality.
29	Doebank Park	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
30	Fordbrook	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Adult		4	2	-6	4	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
34	Great Bridge Road	Yes	Secure	Area 5	Adult		3	2.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
34	Great Bridge Road	Yes	Secure	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	1	0.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
35	Holland Park	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	2	1	-3	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
35	Holland Park	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Mini	(5v5)	2	1.5	-2.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
38	King George Crescent	Yes	Unsecure	Area 1	Adult		2	1	-1	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	2	0	-2	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	4	0	-8	4	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
38	King George Crescent	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Area 1	Mini	(5v5)	2	0	-4	2	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
48	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Adult		1	1	-1.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
48	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 1	Youth	(9v9)	1	0	-3.5	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch over marks rugby union pitch.
52	Pelsall Cricket And Sports Club	Yes	Secure	Area 1	Adult		1	1	-1	1	Spare capacity discounted as pitch over marks cricket outfield.
54	Pelsall Village School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 1	Youth	(11v11)	1	1	-1	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not known.
63	Shire Oak Academy	Yes	Unsecure	Area 2	Adult		2	1	-1	1	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	Yes	Unsecure	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5	-1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
70	St Thomas More School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 6	Adult		3	2.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
71	The Aldridge Airport	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Adult		1	0.5	-1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
71	The Aldridge Airport	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Youth	(9v9)	6	6.5	-5.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
74	The Streetly Association	Yes	Secure	Area 2	Mini	(7v7)	2	1.4	-2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
78	University Of Wolverhampton (Walsall Site)	Yes	Secure	Area 4	Adult		2	3	-1	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes	Secure	Area 6	Adult		2	2	-1	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 6	Youth	(9v9)	1	0	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Yes-unused	Secure	Area 6	Mini	(7v7)	1	0	-3.5	1	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
91	Silverdale Football Club	Yes	Secure	Area 4	Adult		4	3.5	-4.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity at peak time.
93	Elmwood School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 1	Adult		1	0.5	-1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.

**WALSALL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Type of tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
93	Elmwood School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 1	Mini	(7v7)	1	0	-4	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
94	Salisbury Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 5	Youth	(11v11)	1	0.5	-1.5	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 6	Adult		1	0.5	-1.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 6	Mini	(5v5)	1	0	-4	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
95	Barr Beacon Primary School	Yes	Unsecure	Area 6	Youth	(9v9)	1	0	-2	1	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.
96	New Invention Junior School Playing Field	Yes	Unsecure	Area 6	Youth	(11v11)	1	0.5	-0.5	0.5	Spare capacity discounted as community use aspects are not fully known.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type in the table below.

Table 2.19: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Area 1	5	-	-	1	1
Area 2	0.5	-	1	0.5	-
Area 3	-	-	-	-	-
Area 4	2.5	-	5	-	-
Area 5	-	1	-	-	-
Area 6	0.5	-	-	1	-
Walsall	8.5	1	6	2.5	1

The table shows a total of 19 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Walsall, the majority of which is on adult pitches (8.5).

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain. There are 33 pitches overplayed in Walsall across 16 sites by a total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions.

The majority of overplayed pitches are located at local authority sites, all of which are poor or standard quality and as such have low carrying capacity. An improvement in quality at these sites will result a reduction in overplay.

Many pitches located at education sites are also overplayed. This is due to a combination of curriculum PE use and extra-curricular use including school fixtures that results in only minimal (if any) spare capacity remaining for the community.

Table 2.20: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
5	Aldridge School	Area 2	Adult		2	0.5
			Youth	(9v9)	1	1.5
12	Bentley South Playing Field	Area 5	Adult		2	2
14	Bentley Youth Sports Ground	Area 5	Adult		2	3.5
15	Black Performance Country Hub	Area 6	Adult		1	0.5
18	Bloxwich United FC	Area 3	Adult		1	2.5
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	Area 4	Adult		1	0.5
			Youth	(11v11)	1	0.5
39	King George V	Area 3	Adult		4	0.5
40	Kings Hill Park	Area 5	Youth	(9v9)	3	2
46	Walsall Wood Football Club	Area 2	Adult		2	2

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
53	Pelsall Villa FC	Area 1	Adult		1	0.5
62	Shelfield Playing Filed	Area 1	Adult		1	1.5
74	The Streetly Association	Area 2	Adult		2	3
			Youth	(9v9)	2	0.5
75	The Veseyans Sports And Social Club	Area 2	Adult		1	0.5
85	West Walsall E-Act Academy	Area 4	Adult		2	2.5
			Youth	(9v9)	1	0.5
87	Willenhall Memorial Park	Area 6	Adult		2	2
88	Willenhall E-Act Academy	Area 6	Youth	(11v11)	1	0.5

The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches and is evident in each analysis area. All overplayed adult pitches (with the exception of Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields and Black Country Performance Hub) are accessed by youth 11v11 teams. Transferring this play to dedicated youth 11v11 pitches will result in overplay reducing across Walsall.

Table 2.21: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Area 1	2	-	-	-	-
Area 2	6	-	2	-	-
Area 3	3	-	-	-	-
Area 4	3	0.5	0.5	-	-
Area 5	5.5	-	2	-	-
Area 6	2.5	0.5	-	-	-
Walsall	22	1	4.5	0	0

2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the extent to which the current stock of pitches can meet demand both currently (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay) and in the future (based on latent demand, displaced demand and future demand) in each of the analysis areas.

As displaced demand cannot be quantified by analysis area, the total has been added to the Walsall total in the displaced demand column.

Table 2.22: Spare capacity/overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	5	2	3	1	-	1.5	0.5

⁴ In match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 2	0.5	6	5.5	0.5	-	1	7
Area 3	-	3	3	-	-	0.5	3.5
Area 4	2.5	3	0.5	-	-	-	0.5
Area 5	-	5.5	5.5	-	-	2	7.5
Area 6	0.5	2.5	2	-	-	-	2
Walsall	8.5	22	13.5	1.5	-	5	20

Overall in Walsall there is a current shortfall of 13.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 20 match equivalent sessions. Each analysis area contains both current and future shortfalls, with the exception of Area 1 which has current spare capacity of three match equivalents and future spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalents (although this may be absorbed with displaced demand). As mentioned previously, removing youth 11v11 play from adult pitches will help to reduce shortfalls, as will quality improvements.

Table 2.23: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	-	-	0	0.5	-	3.5	4
Area 2	-	-	0	0.5	-	4.5	5
Area 3	-	-	0	0.5	-	0.5	1
Area 4	-	0.5	0.5	-	-	1.5	2
Area 5	1	-	1	0.5	-	6	5.5
Area 6	-	0.5	0.5	-	-	1	1.5
Walsall	1	1	0	2	3	17	22

The table above shows that youth 11v11 pitches are currently being played to capacity, although overplay is evident in Area 4 and Area 6. Due to high levels of displaced and future demand, there is a future shortfall amounting to 22 match equivalent sessions. In addition, please note that a further 46.5 youth 11v11 match equivalent sessions (92 teams) are recorded as taking place on adult pitches and as such the shortfall of youth pitches is exacerbated. Should this play be transferred to youth 11v11 pitches, there is a clear need for an increase in provision.

Table 2.24: Spare capacity/overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	-	-	0	1.5	-	2.5	4
Area 2	1	2	1	0.5	-	4.5	6
Area 3	-	-	0	-	-	0.5	0.5

⁵ In match equivalent sessions

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

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Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 4	5	0.5	4.5	-	-	1.5	3
Area 5	-	2	2	-	-	4	6
Area 6	-	-	0	-	-	1	1
Walsall	6	4.5	1.5	2	-	14	14.5

The current picture on 9v9 pitches shows that there is current spare capacity totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions, which can be attributed solely to Area 4 and in particular Broadway West Playing Field. With future demand taken into consideration, there is a shortfall of 14.5 match equivalent sessions overall. As the Walsall Junior Youth League reports an expected further increase in 9v9 demand an additional central venue will be needed, as well as quality improvements.

Table 2.25: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁷	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	1	-	1	1	-	2.5	2.5
Area 2	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5
Area 3	-	-	0	-	-	0.5	0.5
Area 4	-	-	0	-	-	0.5	0.5
Area 5	-	-	0	-	-	1	1
Area 6	1	-	1	-	-	1.5	0.5
Walsall	2.5	0	2.5	1.5	0.5	6.5	6

There is current spare capacity amounting to 2.5 match equivalent sessions overall on 7v7 pitches with no pitches overplayed. The outlook alters when taking into account future demand, however, as a shortfall of six match equivalent sessions is evident.

Table 2.26: Spare capacity/overplay of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁸	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Current total	Latent demand	Displaced demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	1	-	1	1	-	4	4
Area 2	-	-	0	0.5	-	0.5	1
Area 3	-	-	0	-	-	0.5	0.5
Area 4	-	-	0	-	-	0.5	0.5
Area 5	-	-	0	0.5	-	-	0.5
Area 6	-	-	0	-	-	3.5	3.5
Walsall	1	-	1	2	0.5	9	10.5

⁷ In match equivalent sessions

⁸ In match equivalent sessions

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Current spare capacity exists on 5v5 pitches amounting to one match equivalent session, however, a shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions exist when future demand is taken into consideration.

In order to reduce shortfalls on both 7v7 and 5v5 pitches it is recommended that community use options are explored at unused primary school sites, which will be explored further within the Strategy. As the Walsall Junior Youth League is the biggest provider of mini football throughout Walsall, additional central venues may also be required (as with 9v9 football). To that end, an increase in 3G provision would be seen as ideal by the League.

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Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 195 football pitches across 66 sites in Walsall. Of these, 155 are available, at some level, for community use.
- ◀ In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 59 as standard quality and 87 are deemed to be poor quality. It must be noted that these quality ratings may differ substantially from the findings in the previous PPS (2010). This is not uncommon and is due to a change in Sport England guidance, which is now more sport and pitch specific and takes into account more key factors, such as maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Of sites that are currently serviced by changing facilities, 7% have good quality facilities, 33% have standard quality facilities and 60% have poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Pitch hire is more expensive in Walsall when compared to neighbouring local authorities Lichfield, Dudley and Wolverhampton. This could lead to high levels of displaced demand and also greater demand for 3G pitches, especially if full cost recovery is implemented and prices increase.
- ◀ Security of tenure is considered unsecure for Shelfield United FC at King George Crescent and for Silverdale FC at Silverdale Football Club.
- ◀ A total of 376 teams within 121 clubs are identified as playing within Walsall. This consists of 98 adult teams, 175 youth teams and 103 mini teams.
- ◀ There are 20 teams registered to Walsall that currently play outside of the local authority area.
- ◀ There is latent demand equating to 1.5 adult, two youth 11v11, two 9v9, 1.5 7v7 and two 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of 22 youth boys', two youth girls' and 10 mini teams.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by clubs equates to five adult, 7.5 youth 11v11, 4.5 9v9, 2.5 7v7 and six 5v5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Peak time demand for each pitch type across Walsall is Sunday AM.
- ◀ There is a total of 19 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity, the majority of which is on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are 33 pitches overplayed across 16 sites by a total of 27.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall on adult and 9v9 pitches, whilst youth 11v11 pitches are played to capacity. Spare capacity exists on 7v7 and 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ Factoring in future demand results in shortfalls across all football pitch types.
- ◀ There is current spare capacity in Area 1 on adult, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, whilst youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches are at capacity. Based on future demand, spare capacity remains on adult pitches but there is an identified shortfall of all remaining pitches.
- ◀ There are current shortfalls in Area 2 on adult and 9v9 pitches, whilst youth 11v11 and 5v5 pitches are at capacity. Spare capacity exists on 7v7 pitches. There is a shortfall of each pitch type based on future demand.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of adult pitches in Area 3, whilst all other pitch types are at capacity. There is a shortfall of all pitch types based on future demand.
- ◀ In Area 4, there is a current shortfall of adult and youth 11v11 pitches, spare capacity exists on 9v9 pitches and 7v7 and 5v5 pitches are played to capacity. Spare capacity remains on 9v9 pitches when taking into account future demand, however, all other pitch types show a shortfall.
- ◀ In Area 5, there is a current shortfall of adult and 9v9 pitches, spare capacity exists on youth 11v11 pitches and 7v7 and 5v5 pitches are at capacity. There is a shortfall of all pitch types based on future demand.
- ◀ In Area 6, there is a current shortfall of adult and youth 11v11 pitches, spare capacity exists on 7v7 pitches and 9v9 and 5v5 pitches are at capacity. There is a shortfall of all pitch types based on future demand.

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

3.1 Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces with an FA approved certificate and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini and youth level. The preferred surface is medium pile 3G (55-60mm). Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on short pile 3G (40mm).

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22, requires a minimum of 60mm. Football surface.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.

3.2 Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100x64 metres (106x70 metres including run-offs). There are no 3G pitches in Walsall which comply with this recommendation, however, for the purposes of this report, the pitches listed in the table below are considered to be full size. There are three in total, all of which are floodlit.

Table 3.2: Full size AGPs in Walsall

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Pitch type	Size (metres)	FA register?
33	Grace Academy	Yes	Area 5	Long pile	100x60	No
48	Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy	Yes	Area 1	Medium pile	98x64	No
81	Walsall Football Club	No	Area 4	Short pile	100x60	No

In addition, there was previously a full size 3G pitch (measuring 91x55 metres) at Goals Soccer Centre, however, this has now been divided into three small sized 3G pitches instead.

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy and Grace Academy are available for community use, whereas Walsall Football Club is considered unavailable as all capacity is retained for the Club itself.

None of the pitches are on the FA register to host competitive matches. That said, both Goals Soccer Centre and Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy are used for matches by the Walsall Junior Youth Football League. It is essential that these pitches undergo FA testing

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immediately in order for match play to continue on the pitches and to avoid FA sanctions being imposed on the League and the pitch providers.

Smaller sized pitches at Black Country Performance Hub are also used by the League. These pitches contribute towards 18 smaller sized 3G pitches in Walsall, all of which are seen in the table below.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of AGPs

Site ID	Site	No. of pitches	Size (metres)	Analysis area	Pitch type	Floodlit?	FA register?
15	Black Country Performance Hub	4	30 x 20	Area 6	Medium pile	Yes	No
31	Goals Soccer Centre	3	50 x 30	Area 6	Medium Pile	Yes	No
		10	30 x 20	Area 6	Medium pile	Yes	No
36	Jane Lane School	1	40 x 30	Area 5	Medium pile	No	No

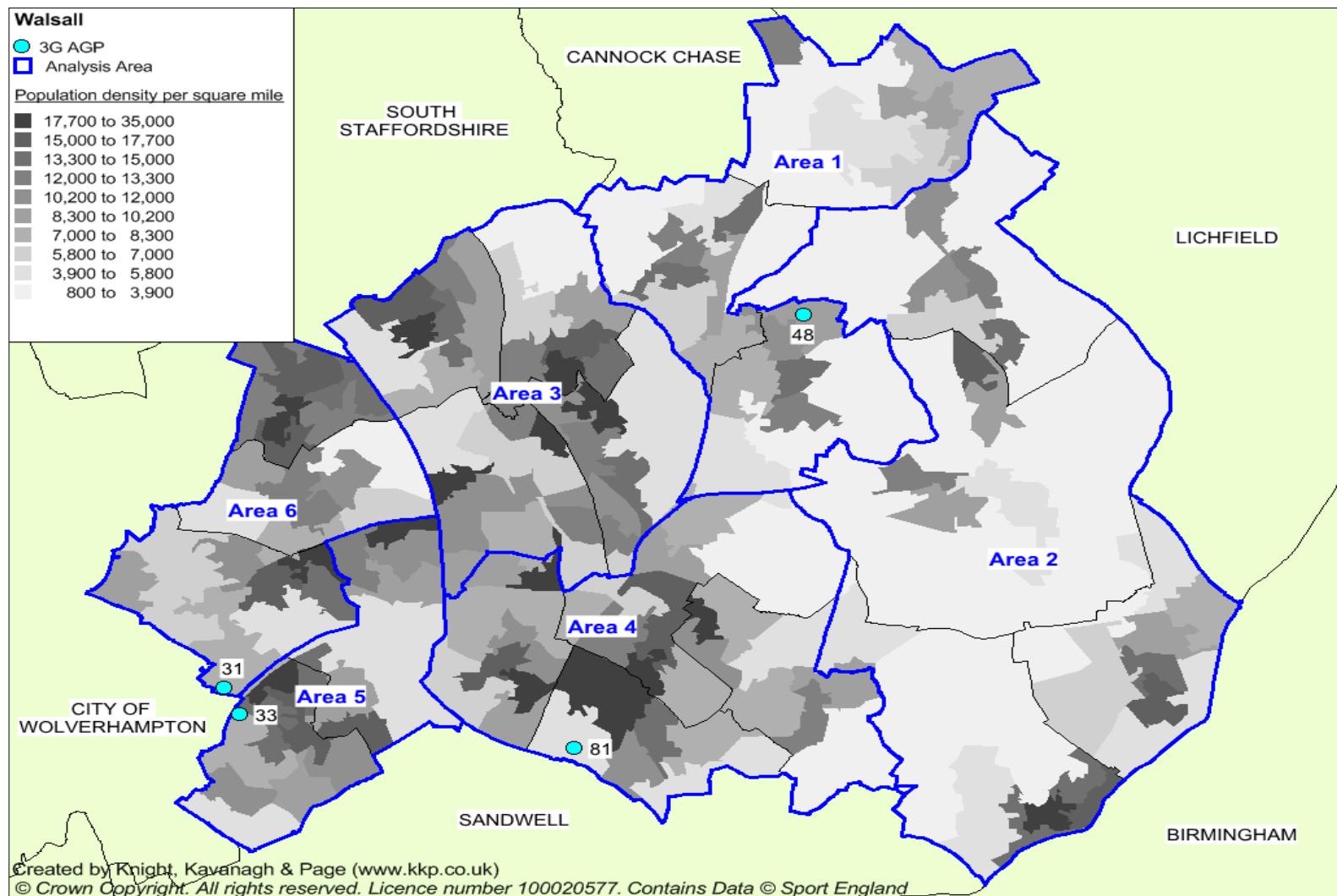
Figure 3.1 overleaf shows all 3G pitches within Walsall, regardless of size.

Table 3.4: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area
48	Ormiston Shelfield Community Academy	WS4 1BW	Area 1
81	Walsall Football Club	WS1 4SA	Area 4
33	Grace Academy Darlaston	WS10 8QJ	Area 5
31	Goals Soccer Centre (Black Country)	WV14 7BL	Area 6

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Walsall



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Future provision

Sand based pitches at Oak Park Leisure Centre, the University of Wolverhampton and West Walsall E-Act Academy are all under proposal to be replaced by a 3G surface. Work has already begun at Oak Park Leisure Centre, University of Wolverhampton has received planning permission and West Walsall E-Act Academy is awaiting planning permission (after gaining Sport England approval). Should all proposals go ahead; there will be seven full size 3G AGPs servicing Walsall.

In addition, Sporting Khalsa FC expresses demand for a full size 3G stadia pitch at Black Country Performance Hub. The Club has submitted an application to the Football Foundation.

Availability

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy is readily available for community use. It is reserved for School use during the week (09:00-17:00) but is available to the community thereafter until 9pm. The pitch is also available during weekends from 9am until 2pm, which amounts to a total of 30 hours of availability each week.

When Grace Academy is available from 5pm until 10pm on weekdays and from 9am until noon on weekends resulting in 31 hours of total availability.

As previously mentioned, Walsall Football Club is not considered to be available to the community.

Quality

Two out of the three full size 3G AGPs in Walsall are assessed as standard quality as per the non-technical assessment. The remaining pitch, Grace Academy, was built in 2013 and is assessed as good quality.

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy reports that its quality is affected due to a lack of specialised maintenance. At present, the pitch is maintained by just one person who is employed by the School and who does not have sufficient training in relation to maintaining 3G pitches. This leads to improper equipment being used and any repairs taking longer than expected.

No issues were reported in relation to Walsall Football Club.

3.3 Demand

The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the Country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

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Of clubs in Walsall that responded to consultation, 68% report that they require additional training facilities, of which, 73% specifically mentioned demand for 3G pitches. Many teams currently access sand based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst other teams travel outside of Walsall in order to access more suitable training provision in neighbouring local authorities, most commonly in Wolverhampton or Birmingham.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be 6pm-10pm Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or into quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is therefore estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training. As there are 376 teams currently playing in Walsall this means there is a demand for nine pitches (rounded up from 8.95).

The table below considers the number of 3G pitches required if every team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training. For the purposes of the table, Grace Academy has been included as it is expected to be available to the community in the near future, whereas Walsall Football Club has not been included as it is not available for community use.

Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Walsall (based on 42 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Area 1	72	2	1	1
Area 2	91	3	-	3
Area 3	17	1	-	1
Area 4	74	2	-	2
Area 5	54	2	1	1
Area 6	67	2	-	2
Walsall	376	12	2	10

There is a requirement for 12 full size 3G pitches based on each team remaining within their respective analysis areas (and based on rounding up the number of teams in each analysis area). This results in an overall shortfall of ten 3G pitches using this method. That said, it must be noted that this approach may not be sustainable and any developments beyond the ten pitches required for Walsall as a whole must have robust business plans to justify further provision.

Please note that the figures above do not take account proposals at Oak Park Leisure Centre, the University of Wolverhampton and West Walsall E-Act Academy. Should all three pitches be provided in the future, demand would be met in Area 4 and the shortfall would reduce to two 3G pitches in Area 2. An overall shortfall of seven 3G pitches would remain if taking into account each analysis area, whilst a shortfall of three 3G pitches would remain if taking a holistic approach.

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Moving match play to 3G pitches

Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football.

The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football. The Walsall Junior Youth League accesses 3G pitches at Goals Soccer Centre, Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy and Black Country Performance Hub as centres for its teams, leading to around 46 teams accessing 3G pitches for matches each week in Walsall (the number fluctuates as some centres contain grass pitches).

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA tested and approved (to either FA or FIFA standard). It is essential that all 3G pitches in Walsall that are currently used for matches undergo testing as soon as possible and they will then appear on the FA Pitch Register: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

3G pitches can also undergo FIFA testing in order to become a FIFA recommended One Star pitch or a FIFA recommended Two Star pitch. Two Star pitches are focused on playing performance as based on UEFA research requirements and is the minimum requirement for all teams playing in UEFA and FIFA competitions (including Step 2 and above in the football pyramid). One Star pitches place more emphasis on the products ability to sustain acceptable performance. A FIFA Two Star pitch can typically be used for 30-40 hours per week with appropriate maintenance and has an estimated lifespan of 5,000 cycles (one cycle equates to one playing hour), whereas a FIFA One Star pitch can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week and has a lifespan of 20,000 cycles.

The majority of teams within the Walsall Junior Youth League that access 3G pitches play mini football, although occasionally 9v9 matches are played at Goals Soccer Centre and Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy. The League reports that it prefers 3G pitches to grass pitches as they can cater for more matches and have less quality issues. The League also expresses demand for increased access to 3G provision due to its number of mini and 9v9 teams increasing each season.

The table below tests a scenario if all 5v5 and 7v7 football was moved to 3G pitches. A programme of play has been created based on the current peak time (Sunday AM).

Table 3.7: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

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

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for six 3G pitches to accommodate all mini football demand. This is calculated from 39 teams playing 5v5 football requiring five pitches (rounded up from 4.88) and 64 teams playing 7v7 football requiring six pitches (rounded up from 5.33).

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The table overleaf tests a similar scenario for 9v9 football. Based on 57 teams playing this format in Walsall, there is demand for five 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.75).

Table 3.8: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

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

Usage

Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy reports that its pitch is operating at capacity during the peak period for football training (Tuesday-Thursday 6pm-10pm), especially during winter months. As well as use by the Walsall Junior Youth League for weekend matches, the pitch is hired by various teams during midweek for training purposes. This includes use by Walsall FC Academy, Stoke City FC Academy and Aston Villa Ladies FC. The pitch is also accessed by Leisure Leagues on a Monday evening and by various social groups throughout the week.

3.4 Supply and demand analysis

There is limited spare capacity on the current supply of 3G pitches when teams require access for training purposes, leading to 68% of clubs reporting a need for increased provision. The FA model suggests that to meet training demand there is a need for at least nine community available pitches within Walsall (12 if each team were to remain within their respective analysis areas), of which there are currently two (discounting Walsall FC). As such, there is a clear need for more 3G pitches to be developed.

Priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls. First and foremost this can be done through ensuring proposals at Oak Park Leisure Centre, the University of Wolverhampton and West Walsall E-Act Academy go ahead. Additional sites which can suitably accommodate a pitch should then be identified within each analysis area where shortfalls remain.

Additionally, it should be ensured that existing 3G pitches undergo FA testing in order to host competitive matches. This is especially true of pitches currently in use by the Walsall Junior Youth League. Potential new pitches should also undergo FA testing when they are provided.

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3G summary

- ◀ There are three full size 3G AGPs within Walsall, all of which are floodlit.
- ◀ Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy and Grace Academy are available for community use, whereas Walsall Football Club is considered unavailable.
- ◀ No pitches are on the FA register to host competitive matches, although Goals Soccer Centre, Black Country Performance Hub and Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy are used for matches by the Walsall Junior Youth Football League.
- ◀ Sand based pitches at Oak Park Leisure Centre, the University of Wolverhampton and West Walsall E-Act Academy are all under proposal to be replaced by a 3G surface.
- ◀ Two out of the three existing full size 3G pitches in Walsall are assessed as standard quality. The remaining pitch, Grace Academy, was built in 2013 and is assessed as good quality.
- ◀ Of clubs in Walsall that responded to consultation, 68% report that they require additional training facilities, of which, 73% specifically mentioned demand for 3G pitches.
- ◀ In order to satisfy training demand, there is a need for at least nine community available full size 3G pitches. If each team were to remain within their respective analysis areas, there is a need for 12 pitches.
- ◀ To accommodate all mini football matches on 3G pitches there is a need for six 3G pitches; to accommodate all 9v9 matches there is a need for five.
- ◀ There is limited spare capacity on the current supply of 3G pitches. As such, there is a clear need for more pitches to be developed.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls.
- ◀ Additionally, it should be ensured that existing 3G pitches undergo FA testing in order to host competitive matches.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

The Staffordshire County Cricket Board is the main governing and representative body for cricket within Walsall. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Consultation

There are eight clubs playing within Walsall, all of which were consulted via an online survey. Only Rushall Cricket Club did not complete the survey, resulting in an 88% response rate. The following clubs did complete the survey:

- ◀ Aldridge CC
- ◀ Bloxwich CC
- ◀ Bronze CC
- ◀ Pelsall CC
- ◀ Streetly CC
- ◀ Walsall CC
- ◀ Walsall YPF CC

4.2: Supply

In total, there are 25 natural turf cricket squares in Walsall, of these 21 are available for community use. Those that are not available are located at Brownhills Community Technology College School, Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields and The Streetly Academy.

Table 4.1: Summary of pitches available for community use

Analysis area	Number of pitches available for community use
Area 1	3
Area 2	7
Area 3	2
Area 4	9
Area 5	-
Area 6	-
WALSALL	21

Non-turf wickets

Non-turf wickets accompany grass wicket squares at the following sites:

- ◀ Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club
- ◀ Bloxwich Cricket Club
- ◀ Bronze Cricket Club
- ◀ Pleck Park
- ◀ Queen Marys Grammar School
- ◀ Reedswood Park
- ◀ Walsall YPF Cricket

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The ECB's TS6 Guidance on performance standards sets requirements for match pitches that are non-turf wickets. The ECB highlights that pitches which follow this guidance are suitable for high level play. It should be noted that this is guidance for clubs and not standards.

Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Walsall

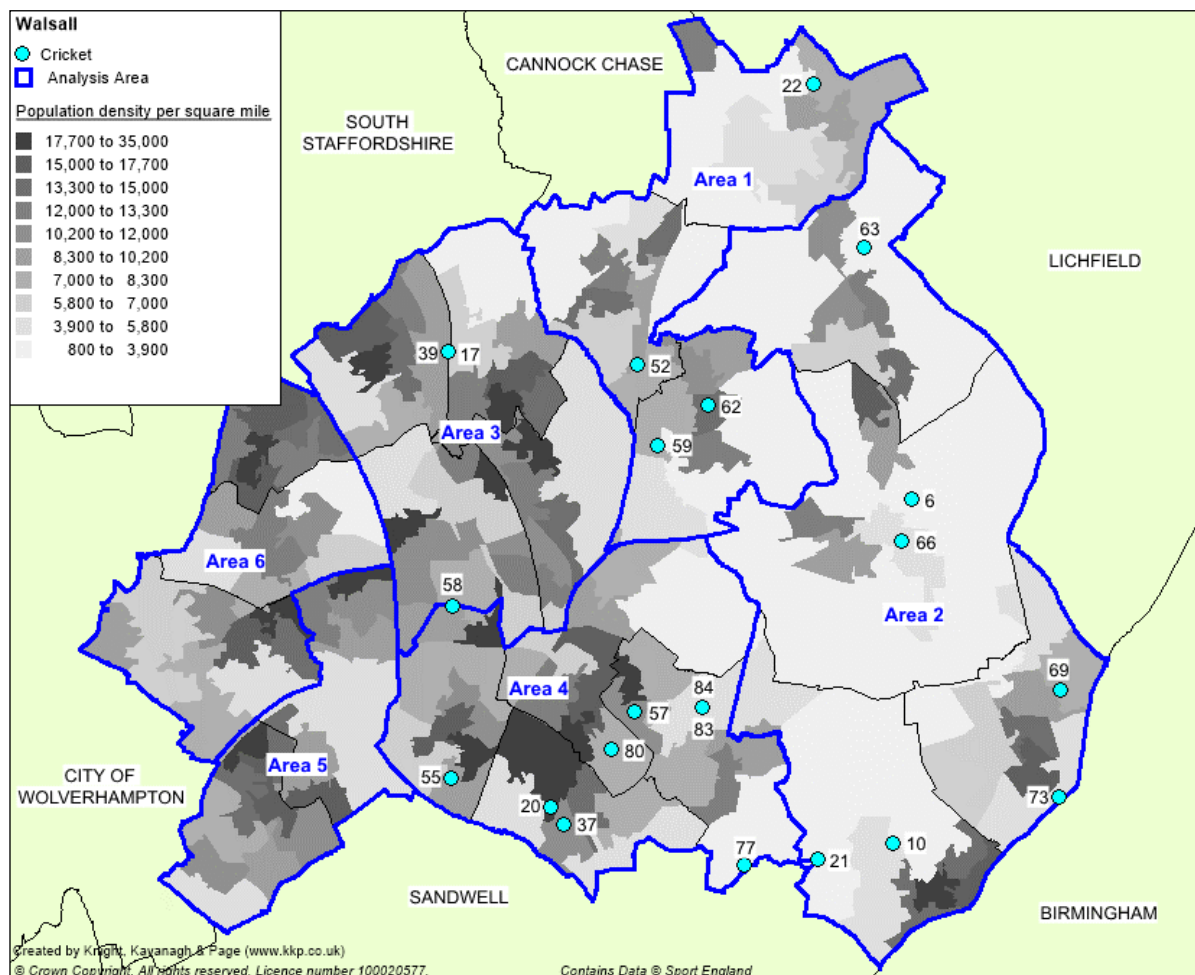


Table 4.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club	WS9 8NH	Area 2	Yes	2
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	WS9 0RF	Area 2	Yes-unused	1
17	Bloxwich Cricket Club	WS3 3NJ	Area 3	Yes	1
20	Broadway West Playing Field	WS1 4DX	Area 4	Yes	1
21	Bronze Cricket Club	B43 7BA	Area 2	Yes	1
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	WS8 7QG	Area 1	No	1
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	WS5 4PG	Area 4	No-disused	1
39	King George V	WS3 3NJ	Area 3	Yes	1
52	Pelsall Cricket And Sports Club	WS3 4BS	Area 1	Yes	1
55	Pleck Park	WS2 9AF	Area 4	Yes	2

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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of pitches
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	WS1 2PG	Area 4	Yes	2
58	Reedwood Park	WS2 8SP	Area 4	Yes	1
59	Rushall Cricket Club	WS4 1NE	Area 1	Yes	1
62	Shelfield Playing Field	WS4 1QW	Area 1	Yes-unused	1
63	Shire Oak Academy	WS9 9PA	Area 2	Yes-unused	1
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	WS9 0RN	Area 2	Yes-unused	1
69	Streetly Sports Club	B74 3HX	Area 2	Yes	1
73	The Streetly Academy	B74 2EX	Area 2	No-disused	1
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)	B43 7AJ	Area 4	Yes	1
80	Walsall Cricket Club	WS1 3BE	Area 4	Yes	1
83	Former Walsall YMF Cricket Club	WS5 3AW	Area 4	No-disused	1
84	Walsall YPF Cricket Club	WS5 3AW	Area 4	Yes	1

Management and security of tenure

Of the clubs that completed the survey seven out of eight own their home ground, Walsall Young People Federation CC leases its facilities from the Council with a 50 year lease. All clubs which lease their home ground have long-term arrangements in place which are considered to be secure.

Table 4.3: Summary of club security of tenure

Own	Lease
Aldridge CC Bloxwich CC Bronze CC Pelsall CC Streetly CC Walsall CC	Walsall Young People Federation CC

Pitch quality

The non-technical assessments carried out on available natural turf cricket squares in Walsall found one square to be of good quality, 23 to be of standard quality, and one poor quality located at Walsall Young People Federation CC.

Of the standalone artificial wicket pitches, all were assessed as standard quality. These are located at;

- ◆ Barr Beacon Sports Centre
- ◆ Brownhills Community Technology College
- ◆ Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields
- ◆ Pleck Park
- ◆ Reedwood Park
- ◆ The Streetly Academy
- ◆ Shelfield Playing Field

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- ◀ Shire Oak Academy
- ◀ St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College
- ◀ Walsall YPF Cricket Club

All clubs with the exception of Aldridge CC express that the pitches are good quality. Through consultation with Aldridge CC, the Club detail that the grass is uneven and that the grass coverage is only acceptable, the quality of the wickets is further reduced by the unofficial use that take place.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report identifies surface issues and suggests options for remediation together with likely costs. For further guidance on this, please contact the ECB.

Walsall Young People Federation CC, Walsall CC and Pelsall CC contain the only pitches in Walsall to have undergone PQSs.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Walsall have access to changing room facilities at their home ground. Whilst the quality varies from site to site, the majority of provision is regarded as fit for purpose; three clubs consider the condition of their clubhouse to be good, the following consider theirs to be standard, Walsall CC and Streetly CC with Aldridge CC rating the facilities as poor and requiring investment.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. In Walsall, Walsall CC, Aldridge CC, Bloxwich CC, Walsall Young People Federation CC, Pelsall CC all state a need for additional training facilities.

Table 4.4: Summary of training requirement

Club name	Summary of training requirement
Walsall CC	Additional and better quality turf and non-turf practice nets
Aldridge CC	Non turf net facility
Bloxwich CC	Non turf practice nets
Walsall Young People Federation CC	Nets and mobile nets cage
Pelsall CC	Indoor Facilities hire for winter training

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4.3: Demand

Cricket clubs in Walsall tend to be large clubs offering several senior and junior teams at different age groups. In total, there are eight clubs servicing Walsall generating 30 senior teams and 29 junior teams. All of which play within the Walsall boundaries.

Table 4.5: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Area 1	6	-	5	-
Area 2	12	-	14	-
Area 3	3	1	-	-
Area 4	8	-	10	-
Area 5	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-
WALSALL	29	1	29	1

Despite a national recognition that cricket is currently experiencing a reduction in participation the amount of teams within Walsall has varied over recent years.

Within adult participation one club, Aldridge CC express an increase, the remaining clubs teams has remained static with Bloxwich CC and Walsall Young People Federation CC teams decreasing.

For junior cricket, Walsall CC, Walsall Young People Federation CC and Bronze CC report that teams have remained static. Whilst Aldridge CC and Bloxwich CC report that the number of teams within the Club has decreased, at U12's and U17's due to limited numbers.

Women's and girls' cricket

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority for the ECB and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.

Women and Girls cricket within the Staffordshire County Cricket Board boundaries is also a major priority. The county is a focus area for the development of the game, with key development programmes such as taster sessions for women and girls being implemented within clubs.

Latent demand

No latent demand was expressed during consultation, that is, no clubs report that teams are unable to play due to a lack of pitches. However; Sport England's Segmentation Tool also enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in cricket but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1002 people, 258 (26%) of which is the segment 'Kev – pub league team mates'.

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and by using population forecasts.

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Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2025) based on population growth. Using this, an increase of three junior teams is to be expected. A decreasing adult population, however, could result in a decrease in adult teams.

Table 4.6: Team generation rates based on population growth

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (18-55)	66,741	29	2301	65,625	28.5	-0.5
Senior Women (18-55)	67,508	1	67508	66,223	1.0	0.0
Junior Boys (7-17)	19,283	29	665	21,604	32.5	3.5
Junior Girls (7-17)	18,608	0	0	20,562	0.0	0.0

In total, two clubs have plans to increase their number of senior teams and three clubs have plans to increase their number of junior teams, amounting to a total potential increase of two senior teams and three junior teams. The table below highlights the future demand expressed by clubs.

Table 4.7: Future demand expressed by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Senior	Junior
Aldridge CC	2	1	-
Bloxwich CC	3	-	1
Walsall Young People Federation CC	4	1	1
Pelsall CC	1	-	1
Walsall		2	3

The potential growth in senior teams equates to the need for one pitch during peak time on the basis that one team can be accommodated on 0.5 of a pitch (playing home and away). There is less need for pitches to accommodate the potential increase in junior teams as junior teams generally play on a variety of days during midweek.

Last Man Stands

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

In 2013 two new cricket pitches were funded at Pleck Park (Site ID 55.) These are managed and maintained by Walsall Council and are bookable through a pay and play system.

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Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for cricket pitches is midweek for senior and junior cricket. In summary, 30 teams play midweek, 20 on a Saturday whilst the remaining nine play on Sunday.

There are a number of local cricket leagues that service teams with Walsall. These include:

- ◀ South Staffordshire Youth Cricket League:
 - ◀ The league is based in South Staffordshire and runs competitions for U9's, U10's, U11's, U12's, U13's and U15's age groups.
 - ◀ Play on Sundays
- ◀ West Midlands Youth Cricket Association:
 - ◀ The league is based across the Midlands and runs competitions for U10's, U11's, U12's, U13's and U15's age groups.
 - ◀ Play on Sundays.
- ◀ Birmingham & District Premier League:
 - ◀ The Birmingham League traditionally covers North Worcestershire, South Staffordshire and North Warwickshire.
 - ◀ Senior cricket with eight divisions.
- ◀ Lichfield & District Cricket League:
 - ◀ Senior cricket league with five divisions.
 - ◀ Play takes place on a Sunday
- ◀ South Staffordshire District Cricket League:
 - ◀ The league consists of 36 Clubs, 89 teams and seven divisions.
- ◀ Warwickshire Cricket League:
 - ◀ The Warwickshire Cricket League is part of the Warwickshire pyramid systems and acts as a feeder league into the Birmingham League
 - ◀ The current League is 98 teams strong organised into 18 divisions, with play taking place on a Saturday.
- ◀ Women's Midlands League:
 - ◀ The league has four lower divisions playing region wide and a fifth social division split into regional areas.
 - ◀ Matches are played on Sundays.

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e., only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a pitch to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current pitch stock available for cricket. It illustrates the:

- ◀ Number of grass and artificial cricket wickets per pitch
- ◀ Number of competitive matches per season per pitch

To help calculate pitch capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- ◀ 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- ◀ 60 matches per season per synthetic wicket (adults)

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

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

No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

As only one senior team is recorded as playing on a non-turf wicket, non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table below.

NB: the pitch capacity above should be used as guidance and consultation with the ECB in Walsall suggests that not all wickets will be able to sustain the five matches identified. This should be considering in the context of any action planning.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.8: Cricket pitch capacity

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ⁹	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
6	Aldridge Stick And Wicket Club	Yes	Area 2	Good	22	-	90	110	-20	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.
					-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	Yes-unused	Area 2	Standard	-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.

⁹ Agreed quality rating based upon non-technical assessments and user quality ratings

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ¹⁰	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
17	Bloxwich Cricket Club	Yes	Area 3			-	28	60	-32	1	Minimal actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Pitch is used by Bloxwich CC.
						1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
20	Broadway West Playing Field	Yes	Area 4	Standard	16	-	0	80	-80	1	Minimal actual spare capacity identified in the peak period.
21	Bronze Cricket Club	Yes	Area 2	Good	16	Standard	12	80	-35	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.
					-		-	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.

¹⁰ Agreed quality rating based upon non-technical assessments and user quality ratings

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ¹⁰	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
22	Brownhills Community College	No	Area 1	Standard	-	1	0	60	-60	-	Not available for community use.
37	Joseph Leckie Academy Playing Fields	No-disused	Area 4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Disused pitch therefore unavailable.
39	King George V	Yes	Area 3	Standard	6	-	10	30	-20	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity identified in the peak period.
52	Pelsall Cricket And Sports Club	Yes	Area 1	Good	14	-	60	70	-10	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.
55	Pleck Park	Yes	Area 4	Standard	6	-	0	60	-60	2	Actual peak capacity in the peak period.
					-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ¹¹	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	Yes	Area 4	Standard	20	-	36	100	64	0.5	Minimal actual spare capacity identified in the peak period.
					-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
58	Redswood Park	Yes	Area 4	Standard	-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
59	Rushall Cricket Club	Yes	Area 1	Standard	12	-	32	60	-28	1	Actual peak capacity in the peak period.
62	Sheffield Playing Field	Yes - unused	Area 1	Good	-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.

¹¹ Agreed quality rating based upon non-technical assessments and user quality ratings

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ¹¹	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
63	Shire Oak Academy	Yes - unused	Area 2	Standard	-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
66	St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College	Yes - unused	Area 2	Standard	-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.
69	Streetly Cricket Club	Yes	Area 2	Standard	12	-	62	60	2	-	Pitch is significantly overplayed by 2 matches per season
73	Streetly Academy	No-disused	Area 2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Disused pitch, therefore unavailable.
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)	Yes	Area 4	Standard	9	-	24	45	-21	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.
80	Walsall Cricket Club	Yes	Area 4	Standard	16	-	76	80	-4	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.

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Site ID	Site name	Community use category	Analysis area	Pitch quality ¹²	Pitches		Play (matches per season)	Capacity (matches per season)	Capacity rating (matches per season)	Actual Spare Capacity (pitches)	Comments
					No. of grass wickets	No. of non-turf wickets					
83	Former Walsall YMF Cricket Club	No-disused	Area 4	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	Disused pitch, therefore unavailable.
84	Walsall YPF Cricket Club	Yes	Area 4	Standard	10	-	50	50	0	-	No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for cricket.
					-	1	0	60	-60	-	The non-turf wicket is not used for competitive matches.

* In order to calculate pitch capacity at sites where clubs have not responded to consultation, the number of matches per season is based on an average taken from the league and division they play in.

¹² Agreed quality rating based upon non-technical assessments and user quality ratings

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

There are 14 natural turf cricket pitch sites (171 grass wickets) of which all are available for community use.

There are also 14 non turf wickets of which three wickets are not available for community use.

There are 14 natural turf cricket pitch sites that have potential spare capacity in Walsall. Nevertheless, there are six pitches that are available for community use, that have actual spare capacity, equating to a total of 6.5 pitches in the peak period (Mid-week), to accommodate cricket:

- ✦ Bloxwich Cricket Club – 1 pitch
- ✦ Broadway West Playing Field - 1 pitch
- ✦ King George V – 0.5 pitch
- ✦ Pleck Park – 2 pitches
- ✦ Queen Marys Grammar School – 0.5 pitch
- ✦ Rushall Cricket Club - 1 pitch

By analysis area this can be summarised as follows:

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (grass pitches)
Area 1	1
Area 2	-
Area 3	1.5
Area 4	3.5
Area 5	-
Area 6	-
WALSALL	6.5

Overplay

Although Streetly Cricket Club is overplayed by a total of two match sessions per season, the Club did not identify overplay as a significant issue during consultation.

4.6 Conclusions

Consideration must be given to the extent in which current provision can accommodate current and future demand.

The table below looks at available spare capacity at peak time for cricket (mid-week) considered against over-play and the future demand highlighted during consultation.

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Table 4.11: Capacity of cricket pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (pitches)	Demand (pitches)			
		Overplay	Total Current	Future demand	Total Future
Area 1	1	-	-1	-	-1
Area 2	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Area 3	1.5	-	-1.5	-	-1.5
Area 4	3.5	-	-3.5	0.5	-3
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-
WALSALL	6.5	2	8.5	1	-4.5

The table above shows that there is a borough wide surplus of 4.5 cricket pitches (based on ten wickets per pitch).

Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 25 natural turf wicket pitches across 24 sites. Of the 25 pitches, 21 are available for community use.
- ◀ In addition, there are four standalone non-turf wicket pitches available for community use and not used. Located at Barr Beacon Sports Centre, Shelfield Playing Field, Shire Oak Academy and St Francis Of Assisi Catholic Technology College.
- ◀ There are eight clubs servicing Walsall generating 30 senior teams and 29 junior teams. Of these, 30 senior and 23 junior teams play within Walsall.
- ◀ In total, two clubs have plans to increase their number of senior teams and three clubs have plans to increase their number of junior teams, amounting to a total potential increase of two senior teams and three junior teams.
- ◀ The potential growth in senior teams equates to the need for one pitch during peak time.
- ◀ Last man stands
- ◀ Women and Girls
- ◀ An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for cricket pitches is midweek for senior and junior cricket.
- ◀ No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket.
- ◀ There are 14 pitches (grass wickets) that have potential spare capacity in Walsall. Nevertheless, there are six pitches that are available for community use, that have actual spare capacity, equating to a total of 6.5 pitches in the peak period (Mid-week), to accommodate cricket
- ◀ There is one pitch overplayed at Streetly CC.
- ◀ Overall in Walsall there is a borough wide surplus of 4.5 cricket pitches (based on 10 wickets per pitch).

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the governing body for the sport across England. A full-time development officer is responsible for Walsall (as part of the Staffordshire region) and works closely with all the clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

Club consultation

There is six clubs servicing Walsall, all of which completed online surveys:

- ◀ Bloxwich RUFC
- ◀ Handsworth RUFC
- ◀ Walsall RUFC
- ◀ Aldridge RUFC
- ◀ Veseyans RUFC
- ◀ Wolverhampton University RUFC

There are also two additional clubs that have been included in the assessment that border Walsall, both of which completed an online survey:

- ◀ Essington RUFC
- ◀ Willenhall RUFC

These clubs are located in Essington which is South Staffordshire. For the purposes of the report a survey was received from both clubs detailing number of teams, aspirations to increase, training and ancillary facilities. As both clubs are located on the border of Walsall, they attract players from the Local Authority. Information with regards to the clubs is detailed within the report however non-technical site assessments were not completed as they fall outside the study area.

5.2: Supply

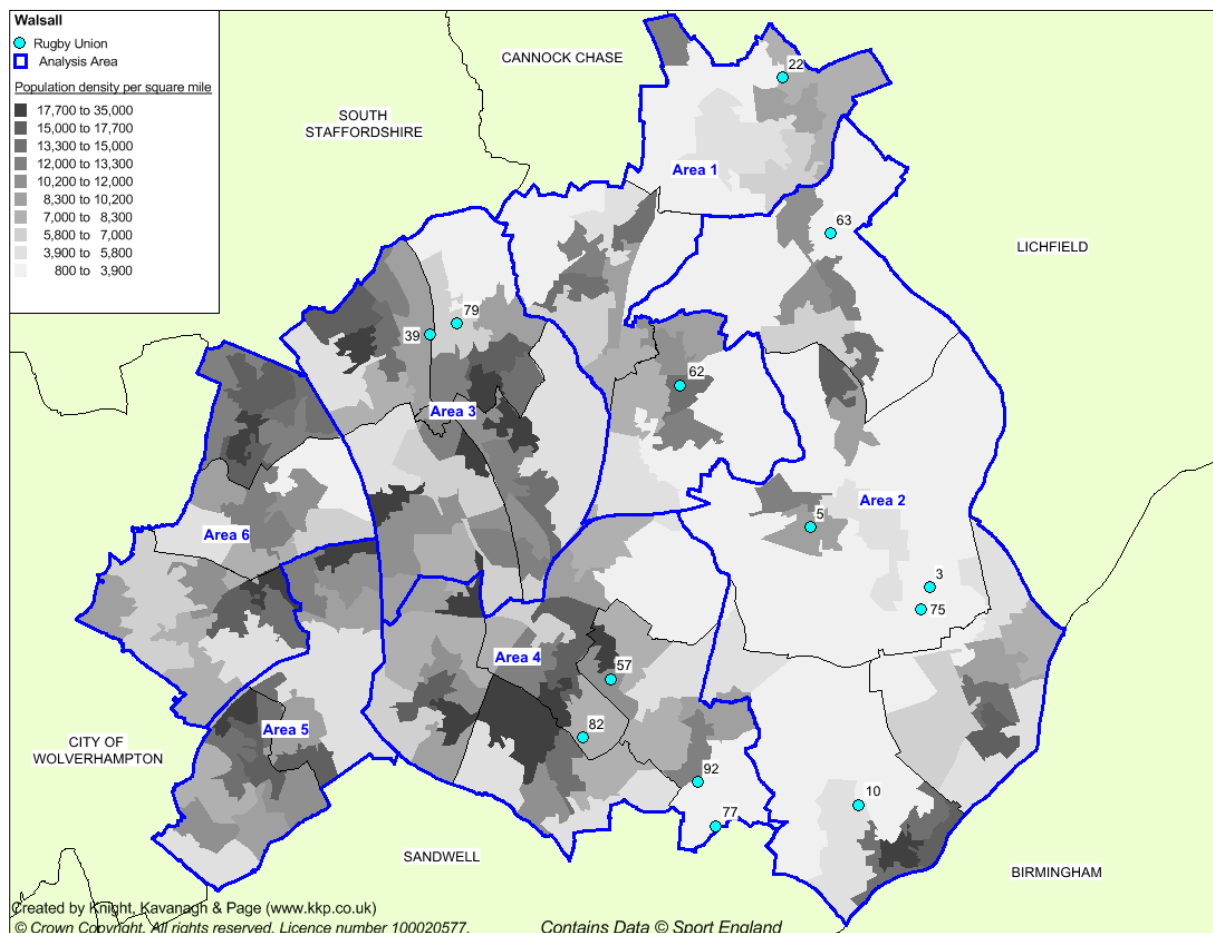
Within Walsall, there are 24 rugby union pitches, 24 are senior sized and located across 10 sites. Of these, 17 are available for community use with pitches at Aldridge School, Barr Beacon Sports Centre, Shelfield Playing Field and Shire Oak Academy available for community use but unused. Pitches at Brownhills Community Technology College, Queen Marys Grammar School and Walsall Academy are unavailable for community use.

Table 5.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of Junior Pitches
Area 1	1	-
Area 2	7	-
Area 3	2	-
Area 4	7	-
Area 5	-	-
Area 6	-	-
WALSALL	17	0

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Figure 5.1: Location of rugby union pitches within Walsall



For a key to the map see Table 5.5.

KKP ref	Site	Postcode	Analysis area
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	WS8 7QG	Area 1
62	Shelfield Playing Field	WS4 1QW	Area 1
3	Aldridge Rugby Club	WS9 0SH	Area 2
5	Aldridge School	WS9 0BG	Area 2
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	WS9 0RF	Area 2
63	Shire Oak Academy	WS9 9PA	Area 2
75	The Veseyans Sports And Social Club	WS9 0SQ	Area 2
39	King George V	WS3 3NJ	Area 3
79	Walsall Academy	WS3 3LX	Area 3
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	WS1 2PG	Area 4
77	University Of Aston (Recreation Centre)	B43 7AJ	Area 4
82	Walsall Rugby Club	WS1 3JY	Area 4
92	C.Q.Levis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	WS5 3JP	Area 4

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Pitch quality

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

Table 5.2: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

Table 5.3: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 5.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

The summary below details the maintenance and drainage on pitches in Walsall:

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	3	1	-
	Natural Adequate (D1)	13	3	-
	Pipe Drained (D2)	-	-	-
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	-	-	-

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The majority of pitches (61%) are assessed as poor quality, with either an M0/D0 or M0/D1 rating. There are four (22%) pitches rated as standard; no pitches were assessed as good quality.

In Walsall the quality of club pitches is generally deemed as poor quality, with a basic level of maintenance. Only the pitches at Walsall RUFC and The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground were assessed as standard quality with a standard level of maintenance.

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Walsall is Saturday PM for Adults (male), Sunday PM for Adults (female) and Sunday AM for mini and junior rugby.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.5: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Tenure	Analysis area	Pitch type	Floodlit?	Non tech score	Quality rating	Comments
5	Aldridge School	Yes-unused	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	A senior pitch available to the community however unused. Used by the School for approximately two match sessions per week.
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	Yes-unused	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	A senior pitch available to the community however unused. Used by the School for approximately two match sessions per week.
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	No	Unsecured	Area 1	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	A senior pitch unavailable for community use.
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	No	Unsecured	Area 4	Senior	No	M0 / D0	Poor	There are four senior pitches unavailable for community use.
62	Shelfield Playing Field	Yes-unused	Secured	Area 1	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	A senior pitch available to the community however unused. Used by the School for approximately two match sessions per week.
63	Shire Oak Academy	Yes-unused	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	A senior pitch available to the community however unused. Used by the School for approximately two match sessions per week.
79	Walsall Academy	No	Unsecured	Area 3	Senior	No	M1 / D1	Standard	A senior pitch unavailable for community use.
39	King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 3	Senior	Yes (partially)	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is partially floodlit used for the majority of senior matches by Bloxwich RUFC.
39	King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 3	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is not floodlit used for the majority of senior matches by Bloxwich RUFC. Pitch is also used for training by the mini/midi teams.
82	Walsall RUFC	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	Yes	M1 / D0	Standard	A floodlit senior pitch which accommodates the majority of training demand by Walsall RUFC. Also used for matches.
82	Walsall RUFC	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	A senior pitch which accommodates training Walsall RUFC. Also used for matches.
82	Walsall RUFC	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	A senior pitch which accommodates training Walsall RUFC. Also used for matches.
3	Aldridge RUFC	Yes	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is not floodlit, used by Aldridge RUFC 1 st team for training and matches.
3	Aldridge RUFC	Yes	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is not floodlit, used by Aldridge RUFC 2 nd team for training and matches.
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 2	Senior	Yes	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is floodlit used for training and matches.
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 2	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	One senior pitch that is not floodlit used for training and matches.
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 2	Junior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	One junior / small pitch that is not floodlit and used for matches by the Vets teams.
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	Yes	M1 / D1	Standard	One floodlit pitch that is used and owned by Handsworth RUFC for training and matches.
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	Poor quality senior pitch that is not floodlit. Used by the club for training. Located separately to the clubs floodlit pitch. Owned and rented off Aston University.
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Yes	Secured	Area 4	Senior	No	M0 / D1	Poor	Poor quality senior pitch that is not floodlit. Used by the club for training. Located separately to the clubs floodlit pitch.

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Ancillary facilities

All rugby pitches in Walsall are serviced with changing rooms.

Walsall RUFC rates the changing accommodation at Walsall Rugby Club as poor quality. The site contains five team changing rooms and one officials changing room, however, issues relating to the size of the rooms and the age of the facility were reported during consultation with the Club. The Club express a requirement for disabled toilets.

Handsworth RUFC rates the changing accommodation at the Charles Lewis Memorial Ground as poor quality. In particular, it has issues relating to the concrete flooring within the changing rooms.

Bloxwich RUFC rates the changing accommodation at King George Playing Field as standard quality. The Club reports issues relating to the showers which require upgrading. It also express that the pitches have floodlighting but it is poor quality.

Aldridge RUFC has access to changing and shower facilities and rates these as good. The changing facilities also have access for people with disabilities. The Club has been in discussions with a local football club to hire and use its facilities.

Veseyans RUFC has access to changing and shower facilities and rates these as good. The changing facilities also have access for people with disabilities. In 2014 the club raised and invested a considerable amount of funding to add four new changing rooms, a strength and conditioning suite, full floodlighting to the training pitch, and acquired and developed a third rugby pitch which due to its size is only suitable for junior rugby activity and training. The RFU and the Rugby Football Foundation also invested in doubling the size of the car park and extending the kitchen and catering facilities.

Essington RUFC has access to changing facilities on site with five changing rooms, showers and an official's room.

Willenhall RUFC has access to changing facilities on site with five changing rooms, showers and an official's room.

Security of tenure

The security of tenure for rugby in Walsall is detailed below.

Table 5.6: Details of club security of tenure

Club	Ownership	Security
Bloxwich RUFC	Rented	Pitches rented from Walsall Council. Clubhouse is owned by Sports Association
Handsworth RUFC	Freehold/rented.	Pitches one and two are freehold; pitch three is rented from Aston University for 10 matches at a time
Walsall RUFC	Owned	Secure
Aldridge RUFC	Owned	Secure
Veseyans RUFC	Leased	Secure

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club	Ownership	Security
Essington RUFC	Leased	Leased from Essington Parish Council (45 years)
Willenhall RUFC	Owned/leased	Two pitches are leased (5 years) from a local farmer. The additional pitches are freehold Tenure of the rented pitches is considered unsecure.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Walsall tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

Table 5.7: Summary of demand by analysis area

Club	Analysis area	Team type	Team play	No. of rugby union teams		
				Senior	Juniors	Mini
Bloxwich RUFC	Area 3	Senior	Sat AM	2	-	-
	Area 3	Mini	Midweek	-	-	1
Handsworth RUFC	Area 4	Senior	Sat PM	4	1	1
Walsall RUFC	Area 4	Senior	Sat AM	3	-	-
	Area 4	Junior	Sat AM	-	5	6
Aldridge RUFC	Area 2	Senior	Sat AM	2	-	-
	Area 2	Junior	Sun AM	-	-	2
Veseyans RUFC	Area 2	Senior	Sun PM	3	-	-
	Area 2	Junior	Sun AM	-	5	7
University of Wolverhampton RUFC	Area 4	Senior	Midweek	1	-	-
Essington RUFC	Outside	Senior	Sat AM	3	-	-
Willenhall RUFC	Outside	Senior	Sat AM	5	-	-
	Outside	Junior	Sat PM	-	7	2
Total				23	18	19

There are a total of 60 rugby teams across the seven clubs. Essington RUFC and Willenhall RUFC which are located outside of the study area account for 17 teams.

Handsworth RUFC has seen an increase over the past three years in senior men's and women's membership, however, due to insufficient players at the younger age groups and players moving to other clubs the number of junior and mini teams has decreased.

Walsall RUFC has also seen a reduction in numbers particularly at junior age groups, however, the Club has been able to retain its teams.

All other clubs in Walsall express that senior and junior membership and the number of teams has remained static.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There have been increases in membership at Bloxwich RUFC, Veseyans RUFC and Willenhall RUFC. Through a variety of development programmes.

Training demand

Training generally takes place either on match pitches which have full or partial floodlighting or on separate floodlit training areas. The summary below provides an overview of training for the Clubs in Walsall.

Table 5.8: Summary of training times by Club

Name of club	Training day/time	Location
Aldridge Rugby Club	All teams; Tuesday PM and Thursday PM at 7:00pm	Home ground
Handsworth RUFC	All senior teams; Tuesdays, Thursday PM and Saturday AM (2 nd Team and Vets) All Junior teams; Thursday PM and Sunday AM Mini teams; Sunday AM	Home ground
Walsall RUFC	All senior teams; Tuesday PM and Thursday PM All Junior teams; Thursday PM and Sunday AM Mini teams; Sunday AM	Home ground
Bloxwich RUFC	All senior teams; Tuesday PM and Thursday PM	Home ground
Veseyans RUFC	All senior teams; Tuesday PM and Thursday PM All Junior teams; Thursday PM and Sunday AM Mini teams; Sunday AM	Home ground
University of Wolverhampton RUFC	Senior team; Wednesday PM	University of Wolverhampton (Walsall Campus) Walsall RUFC

Future demand

Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2025) based on population growth.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.9: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group (2025)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (19-45)	46,978	20	2349	47,222	20.1	0.1
Senior Women (19-45)	47,532	1	47532	48,003	1.0	0.0
Junior Boys (13-18)	10,636	18	591	11,600	19.6	1.6
Junior Girls (13-18)	10,318	0	0	11,109	0.0	0.0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	20,444	6	3407	23,162	6.8	0.8

Using population increases, it is predicted that there will be an increase of one junior team.

Table 5.10: Summary of Walsall Clubs aspirations to grow

Club	Senior men's teams	Senior women's teams	Colt boys (U17-U18) teams	Colt girls (U17-U18) teams	Youth boys (U13-U18) teams	Youth girls (U13-U18) teams	Mini (U7-U12) teams	Where will they play
Aldridge Rugby Club	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Home ground
Handsworth RUFC	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	Home ground
Walsall RUFC	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Home ground
Willenhall RUFC	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	Home ground
Bloxwich RUFC	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	Home ground
University of Wolverhampton RUFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veseyans Rugby and Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Home ground
Essington RUFC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	1	1	-	1	2	5	-

The number of teams that clubs has the aspiration to increase by is detailed in Table 5.7. In total across the seven clubs there is an aspiration to increase the number of teams by four senior, three junior and five mini teams. Excluding the two clubs outside of the study area this reduces to three senior, two junior and three mini teams.

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PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

5.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality, and therefore the capacity, of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ◀ For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one adult team.
- ◀ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- ◀ All U13-18 rugby takes place on a Sunday morning.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents.
- ◀ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

This guide should only be used as a very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres completed in the last five years.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 5.12: Rugby union provision and level of community use for pitches used by Walsall teams

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
5	Aldridge School	Area 2	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D0	No	2	0.5	1.5	The School has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	Area 2	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	The School has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	Area 1	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D0	No	2	0.5	1.5	The School has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.
57	Queen Marys Grammar School	Area 4	Senior	4	Poor M0 / D0	No	2	2	0	The School has four senior pitches that are not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
62	Shelfield Playing Field	Area 1	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	The School has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.
63	Shire Oak Academy	Area 2	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	The School has one senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only.
79	Walsall Academy	Area 3	Senior	1	Standard M1 / D1	No	2	2	0	The School has one senior pitch that is not available for community use. Match equivalent sessions has been accounted for as school use only
39	King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC)	Area 3	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	Pitches are used by the Club's 1st & 2nd teams for matches and training.
				1	Poor M0 / D1	Yes (limited)	1	1.5	0.5	The second pitch is used for training only.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
82	Walsall RUFC	Area 4	Senior	1	Standard M1 / D1	Yes	4	2	2	Pitch is used by the Club's 1st & 2nd teams for matches. Also used by the University of Wolverhampton for matches and many Staffordshire development teams.
			Senior	1	Poor M1 / D0	Yes	3.5	1.5	2	Pitch is used by the Club's 3rd XI, Colts team and two junior teams (u17s and u16s) for matches. Also used by all teams for training.
			Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	4.5	1.5	3.5	Training pitch is used by junior teams (u13s-u15s) for matches (1.5 sessions) and all training (3 sessions). It is also used by the midi teams for training.
3	Aldridge RUFC	Area 2	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	1.5	1.5	0	Two senior pitches that are used by the 1 st and 2 nd teams for matches and training.
				1	Poor M0 / D1	Yes	1.5	1.5	0	Used by mini teams for training and matches.
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Area 2	Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	Yes	3	1.5	1.5	Pitch used for the majority of training activity and some colts/mini matches.
			Senior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by clubs 1 st and 2 nd teams for matches.
			Junior	1	Poor M0 / D1	No	1	1.5	0.5	Pitch is used by juniors and vets.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Area 4	Senior	1	Standard M1 / D1	Yes	5	2	3	One pitch used for matches and training; 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd men's teams and one female team. Pitch is also used for training by senior and junior teams.
				1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	Two additional pitches that are used for training and matches and subsequently overplayed.
				1	Poor M0 / D1	No	2	1.5	0.5	

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

5.5: Supply and demand analysis

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified ‘potential capacity’ can be deemed ‘actual capacity’. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

There is spare capacity on one senior pitch at King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC). The Club retains this capacity due to a desire to retain pitch quality; the pitches are often only used for 1st and 2nd team fixtures as well as cup competitions (Saturday). Minimal spare capacity also exists on one senior pitch at Veseyans RUFC, however, no spare capacity exists during peak time for senior rugby (Saturday PM) and again the Club retains the capacity to protect quality.

Overplay

Ten sites (14 pitches) are overplayed by a total of 18.5 match sessions per week.

Table 5.13: Overplay summary

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Match sessions	Quality rating
5	Aldridge School	Area 2	Senior	1	1.5	Poor M0 / D0
10	Barr Beacon Sports Centre	Area 2	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1
22	Brownhills Community Technology College	Area 1	Senior	1	1.5	Poor M0 / D0
39	King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC)	Area 3	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1
62	Shelfield Playing Field	Area 1	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1
63	Shire Oak Academy	Area 2	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1
82	Walsall RUFC	Area 4	Senior	1	2	Poor M0 / D1
82	Walsall RUFC	Area 4	Senior	1	2	Poor M0 / D1
82	Walsall RUFC	Area 4	Senior	1	3.5	Poor M0 / D1
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Area 2	Senior	1	1.5	Poor M0 / D1
75	The Veseyans Sports and Social Club (Veseyans RUFC)	Area 2	Junior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Match sessions	Quality rating
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Area 4	Senior	1	3	Standard M1 / D1
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Area 4	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1
92	The Charles Lewis Memorial Ground (Handsworth RUFC)	Area 4	Senior	1	0.5	Poor M0 / D1

There is a considerable amount of overplay on pitches in Walsall, in particular club pitches. This is due to the amount of training and matches that take place (see table 5.8 for summary of training times) as well as poor pitch quality.

5.6: Conclusions

Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand above, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas, based on match equivalent sessions.

Table 5.14: Spare capacity of match equivalent sessions per week

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand ¹⁴	Current demand	Future demand	Total
Area 1	-	2	-	2	-	2
Area 2	-	4.5	-	4.5	1.5	6
Area 3	-	0.5	-	0.5	1.5	2
Area 4	-	11.5	-	11.5	2.5	14
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Walsall	0	18.5	-	18.5	5.5	24

Overall in Walsall, there is a shortfall of 18.5 match sessions to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated to account for future demand (5.5 match sessions) resulting in a shortfall of 24 match sessions to meet current and future demand.

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁴ Although unmet/latent demand could not be expressed fully by the clubs, the RFU confirms it does exist and as such two match sessions has been applied to each of the three clubs.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Rugby union summary

- ◀ Within Walsall, there are 24 rugby union pitches, 24 are senior sized and located across 10 sites. Of these, 17 are available for community use.
- ◀ Pitches at Aldridge School, Barr Beacon Sports Centre, Shelfield Playing Field and Shire Oak Academy are available for community use (however unused), whilst pitches at Brownhills Community Technology College, Queen Marys Grammar School and Walsall Academy are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ All pitches are assessed as either poor or standard quality and no pitches were assessed as good quality.
- ◀ In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches in Walsall is Saturday PM for Adults (male), Sunday PM for Adults (female) and Sunday AM for mini and junior rugby.
- ◀ There are a total of 60 teams across the seven clubs playing in Walsall. Essington RUFC and Willenhall RUFC which are outside of the study area account for 17 teams.
- ◀ Population growth is deemed to provide future growth of one junior team. In addition, Walsall clubs have aspirations to provide three senior, two junior and three mini teams.
- ◀ Willenhall RUFC has security of tenure issues as some of its pitches are rented from a local farmer. Bloxwich RUFC and Handsworth RUFC also rent pitches.
- ◀ Walsall RUFC and Handsworth RUFC rate the quality of their ancillary facilities as poor.
- ◀ There is spare capacity on one senior pitch at King George Playing Field (Bloxwich RUFC) and one senior pitch at Veseyans RUFC, however, this should be retained to protect quality.
- ◀ Overplay exists at ten sites (14 pitches) with total overplay amounting to 18.5 match sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall in Walsall, there is a shortfall of 18.5 match sessions to meet current demand. This is further exacerbated to account for future demand (5.5 match sessions) resulting in a shortfall of 24 match sessions to meet current and future demand.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Staffordshire Hockey Association and the Midland Region Hockey Association.

Competitive league hockey matches can only be played on sand based, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for low level junior training and, in some instances, for school training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces. For senior teams, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 100x60 metres (minimum this excludes a run-off).

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has floodlighting.

Club consultation

There are five hockey clubs within Walsall, of which, four responded to an online survey request equating to an 80% response rate. West Bromwich HC, Aldridge & Walsall HC, Streetly HC and Bloxwich HC completed the survey, whilst Wednesbury HC was unresponsive.

6.2: Supply

There are currently four England Hockey compliant pitches suitable for matches in Walsall, all of which are floodlit and available to the community. Area 4 is serviced by the highest number of pitches (three), whilst Area 1 and Area 5 are not provided for.

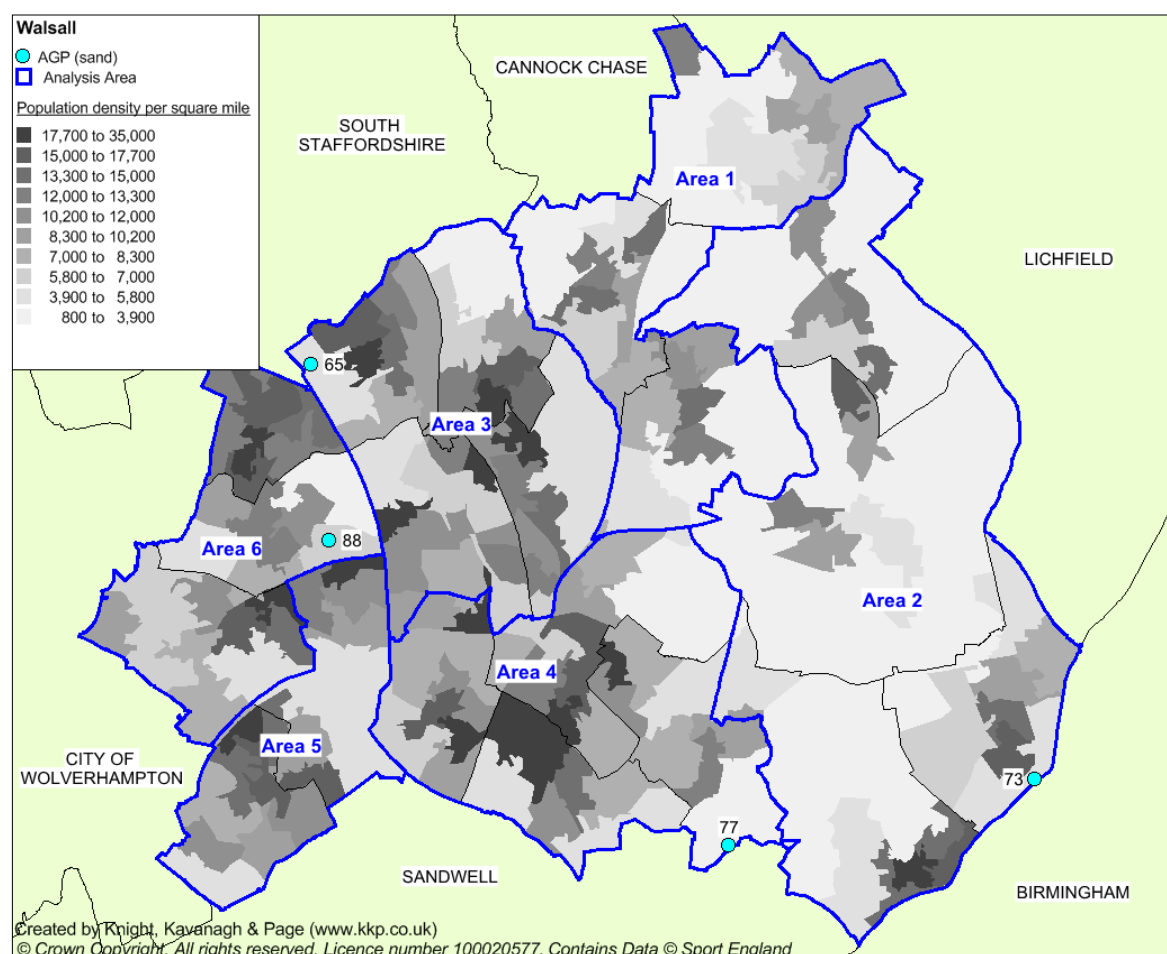
Table 6.1: Sand AGPs by location

Site ID	Site	Number of AGPs	Floodlit?	Analysis area
66	Sneyd Community Association	1	Yes	Area 3
73	Streetly Academy	1	Yes	Area 2
77	The University of Aston Recreation Centre	1	Yes	Area 4
88	Willenhall Academy	1	Yes	Area 6

In addition, there is a smaller sized pitch at Darlaston Community Association which measures 68x47 metres. Although not large enough to host competitive hockey matches it can be used to accommodate some training demand if required. Figure 6.1 overleaf shows the location of all AGPs suitable for hockey, regardless of size.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 6.1: Location of sand AGPs



Ownership/management

The majority of pitches are owned and managed by the education sector. Willenhall Academy, and Streetly Academy are all school based, whilst provision at the University of Aston Recreation Centre is managed in house by the University. The remaining pitch, Sneyd Community Association is operated by the Community Association and the Council.

Quality

Depending on use it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years. The pitches at the University of Aston Recreation Centre and Streetly Academy were last resurfaced in 2015 and 2012 respectively and therefore are considered to be good quality. In order to sustain this, as with all AGPs, providers should be encouraged to put a sinking fund in place so that future refurbishment can go ahead as and when required.

In contrast, the pitches at Sneyd Community Association and Willenhall Academy are both considered to be nearing the end of their lifespan as neither has been resurfaced since 2005. Willenhall Academy is considered to be particularly poor quality and is costing the School financially due to ongoing repairs such as relaying parts of the surface. A sinking fund is in place, however, it currently falls short of the required amount for a full refurbishment.

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In terms of club consultation, both Aldridge & Walsall HC and West Bromwich HC rate the quality of their home pitch at the University of Aston Recreation Centre as good quality, as does Streetly HC in relation to its pitch at Streetly Academy. Bloxwich HC deems its home pitch at Sneyd Community Association to be standard.

Ancillary provision

West Bromwich HC reports that the changing facilities servicing the University of Aston Recreation Centre are basic and situated too far away from the pitch. It is also considered that there are not enough rooms in relation to the number of pitches (including grass) at the site. This is especially problematic when football matches are being played at the same time as hockey fixtures.

Aldridge & Walsall HC also cites an issue at the University of Aston Recreation Centre in regards to the Club being required by the Midlands Hockey League to provide refreshments after matches. Ideally the Club would deliver this itself but instead has to use caterers employed by the University (as per University demands) at a premium cost.

The changing facilities at Streetly Academy are considered dated and in need of refurbishment. The facilities at Willenhall Academy are better quality but there is only one set of rooms (male and female) providing for the School, which again causes an issue when multiple sports are being played at the same time by the community.

No problems were raised in regards to ancillary provision at Sneyd Community Association with changing facilities being assessed as good quality.

Usage

All AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00) as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). All pitches are relatively well used, especially in winter months as football teams hire the facilities for training purposes.

Streetly Academy is available for the least amount of time, which is due to the School not opening on Sundays because of financial and management issues. The School reports that all its mid-week time slots are booked, with the exception of undesirable times such as 20:00-21:00 on a Friday.

The University of Aston Recreation Centre is considered to be running at capacity all year round, in part due to high levels of usage it receives from university students and hockey club training and match play by West Bromwich HC and Aldridge & Walsall HC.

Willenhall Academy is the home to Wednesbury HC and is well used, whilst the pitch at Sneyd Community Association (used by Bloxwich HC) receives the most use from hockey teams and is deemed to be at capacity.

6.3: Demand

There are five hockey clubs in Walsall consisting of 32 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 19 men's, seven women's, one veteran (men's) and five junior teams. All men's teams compete in the Midlands Hockey League, whilst women's teams compete in either the Midlands Hockey League or the Staffordshire Hockey League. The veteran and junior teams tend to play in friendly matches only which are organised by the individual clubs.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, the University of Aston fields three teams (two men's and one women's) which play within Walsall in the BUCS league. The University also states that it has a large group of non-competitive players who attend various hockey sessions and non-playing members who form a social group around the teams.

The average playing membership within the consulted clubs is 76 senior and 26 junior members, with Bloxwich HC containing the highest amount (120 senior and 35 junior). This correlates to the Club fielding the most number of teams, which is in part a result of having three more women's teams than any other club. The table below highlights the number of teams within each club as well as the number of (playing) members.

Table 6.2: Number of teams in Walsall

Name of club	Number of teams				Number of members	
	Men's	Women's	Veteran	Junior	Senior	Junior
Aldridge & Walsall HC	4	1	-	1	65	35
Bloxwich HC	4	4	-	1	120	35
Streetly HC	3	1	-	1	60	15
West Bromwich HC	4	1	-	1	60	20
Wednesbury HC	4	-	1	1	n/a	n/a
University of Aston HC	2	1	-	-	n/a	n/a
Totals	21	8	1	5	305	105

As previously mentioned, Aldridge & Walsall HC and West Bromwich HC use the University of Aston Recreation Centre for their home matches, as do teams fielded by the University. Aldridge & Walsall HC also previously used the University of Wolverhampton before its conversion to 3G as the University of Aston Recreation Centre cannot accommodate all of its teams.

As for the remaining clubs, Bloxwich HC uses Sneyd Community Association, Wednesbury HC uses Willenhall Academy and Streetly HC uses Streetly Academy. All clubs rent their respective pitch on a one year rolling contract, with the exception of West Bromwich HC, which has a three year rolling contract.

All clubs also access their respective match pitches for training purposes.

Imported demand

West Bromwich HC previously played all its competitive matches at George Salter Academy in Sandwell, however, the Club was forced to relocate out of the area when it was converted to a 3G surface. This resulted in the Club importing into Walsall due to a lack of capacity on remaining Sandwell pitches and also due to the University of Aston Recreation Centre providing a better quality pitch than any alternative. Although the Club is happy to remain in Walsall, it reports that pitch hire fees are more expensive and sharing a pitch with Aldridge & Walsall HC has created logistical issues due to matches clashing.

Wednesbury HC is also imported into Walsall from Sandwell following the resurfacing of its previous home pitch at RSA Academy to a 3G surface in 2013. Although it is reported that the Club would prefer to play within Sandwell, it has strong links with Willenhall Academy and would find it difficult to leave.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Unmet/latent demand

Both Bloxwich HC and Aldridge & Walsall HC express unmet demand for one additional women's and one additional junior team. The clubs report that they are unable to increase their number of teams on the pitch supply currently available, despite the demand existing, and state that the only way more teams could be fielded is through access to an additional pitch. In total, Bloxwich HC requires five additional hours of access to fully accommodate its unmet demand (for training and match play), whilst Aldridge & Walsall HC requires three additional hours of access.

This issue is compounded for Aldridge & Walsall HC as from next season it will be unable to access the University of Wolverhampton. The Club reports that it is now in a difficult position as the University of Aston Recreation Centre does not offer enough pitch provision to meet the clubs requirements. If a solution is not identified, there is a likelihood that teams will fold, thus creating more unmet demand.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables the analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in hockey but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 337 people in Walsall. The most dominant segment is 'Jamie – Sports team lads', of which 37 (11%) would like participate in hockey.

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim in England Hockey's strategic plan, which states that the key drivers behind delivering this are working with universities, colleges and schools, working with regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition.

Of the consulted clubs, both Bloxwich HC and West Bromwich HC report that their number of senior teams has increased over the previous three years, whilst Aldridge & Walsall HC reports no change. Bloxwich HC has created a fourth women's team in this time period due to a recruitment drive, whilst West Bromwich HC has created an additional men's team following its move to the University of Aston Recreation Centre. The move has resulted in a partnership developing with the University which leads to players joining the Club once they have graduated.

Streetly HC is the only club to report that senior membership has declined over the last three years, which it mainly attributes to the loss of players to clubs playing at a higher level and also players leaving the area to go to university. The Club states that it is becoming increasingly difficult to retain players when they are due to move from junior hockey to senior hockey, which results in less players at senior level as older players retire.

Similarly, the number of junior teams at West Bromwich HC has decreased, which again relates to the clubs relocation. The Club states that many of its junior players were reluctant to stay at the Club when it left Sandwell due to being unable and/or unwilling to travel the extra distance from their homes. Aldridge & Walsall HC, Bloxwich HC and Streetly HC report that their junior membership has remained static.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Only Bloxwich HC and Streetly HC report plans to further increase their number of teams in the future (discounting previously identified unmet demand). This expressed future demand amounts to one women's and two junior teams at Bloxwich HC and one men's and one women's team at Streetly HC. In order to attract this demand, Bloxwich HC is actively pursuing a programme of community involvement, including linking with local schools (primary and secondary), coaching scout groups and advertising at local sports facilities and NHS physiotherapist centres. As with its unmet demand, however, the Club reports that access to an additional pitch will be required in order for new teams to be fielded.

Streetly HC reports that it is also linking with local schools and delivering coaching sessions in order to increase demand, as well as advertising via social media. The Club states that any reasonable increase in its number of teams can be accommodated at Streetly Academy as the facility retains some spare capacity for growth.

In addition, team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating whether the number of teams is likely to increase in the future based on population growth. Although the population is expected to increase, the growth is not expected to result in an increased number of teams.

Table 6.3: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (16-45)	52,354	20	1:2618	52,898	20.2	0.2
Senior Womens (16-45)	52,722	7	1:7532	53,484	7.1	0.1
Junior Boys (11-15)	8,654	5	1:1731	9,880	5.7	0.7
Junior Girls (11-15)	8,380	0	0	9,398	0.0	0.0

Peak time demand

The majority of men's and women's teams (27) currently play their matches on a Saturday, with the only exception being teams from the University of Aston (three), which play mid-week. Junior teams tend to play friendly matches which are organised on an ad hoc basis and as such can be played on a variety of days, with Sunday most commonly preferred.

6.4 Supply and demand analysis

There are currently 27 senior teams (discounting the University of Aston teams which play midweek) requiring a pitch at peak time (Saturday), however, when including unmet/latent and future demand, this increases to 32 senior teams. Using this figure there is a requirement for four full sized, floodlit, hockey pitches based on teams playing home and away and based on a floodlit pitch being able to accommodate a maximum of four matches on a Saturday. At present there are four pitches being provided.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Although calculations suggest that supply can meet demand both now and in the future, the current playing locations for teams must also be taken into consideration on a site by site basis. As each available pitch can accommodate eight teams (home and away) at peak time, Willenhall E-Act Academy and Streetly Academy are perceived to have current spare capacity as these pitches are home to just five and four teams respectively on a Saturday (with no other recorded, regular use).

Aldridge & Walsall HC can no longer access the University of Wolverhampton, the University of Aston Recreation Centre currently has ten senior teams assigned to it as a home pitch at peak time, meaning there are two teams which will not be able to play next season as things stand. As well as this, Sneyd Community Association is used by eight teams on a Saturday and is therefore running at capacity, meaning Bloxwich HC cannot grow as it would like until it gains access to an additional pitch.

On the other hand, as Aldridge & Walsall HC can no longer access the University of Wolverhampton, the University of Aston Recreation Centre currently has ten senior teams assigned to it as a home pitch at peak time, meaning there are two teams which will not be able to play next season as things stand. As well as this, Sneyd Community Association is used by eight teams on a Saturday and is therefore running at capacity, meaning Bloxwich HC cannot grow as it would like until it gains access to an additional pitch.

In order to accommodate this demand, teams need to transfer from oversubscribed sites (University of Aston Recreation Centre and Sneyd Community Association) to sites with spare capacity (Willenhall School and Streetly Academy). Alternatively, engagement with leagues is required to alter match start times and allow some senior play to be transferred to Sundays. That being said, there is a reluctance from leagues to allow this to happen (particularly men's leagues).

Priority should also be placed on ensuring the sustainability of the current pitch stock. To that end, resurfacing is needed at Willenhall Academy and Sneyd Community Association as both carpets are coming to the end of their lifespan.

As there are less junior teams in the area and given that junior hockey is mostly played on a Sunday, supply is deemed sufficient enough to accommodate junior demand, especially considering matches can be moved to alternative days if required.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are currently four England Hockey compliant pitches suitable for matches in Walsall, all of which are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ The pitches at the University of Aston Recreation Centre and Streetly Academy were last resurfaced in 2015 and 2012 respectively and are therefore considered to be good quality.
- ◀ In contrast, the pitches at Sneyd Community Association and Willenhall Academy are both considered to be nearing the end of their lifespan as neither have been resurfaced since 2005.
- ◀ There are five hockey clubs in Walsall consisting of 32 teams, which as a breakdown equates to 19 men's, seven women's, one veteran (men's) and five junior teams. In addition, the University of Aston fields three teams (two men's and one women's).
- ◀ West Bromwich HC and Wednesbury HC have previously played in Sandwell and as such are considered to be imported demand.
- ◀ Both Bloxwich HC and Aldridge & Walsall HC express unmet demand for one additional women's and one additional junior team as they are unable to increase their number of teams on the pitch supply currently available.
- ◀ Only Bloxwich HC and Streetly HC report plans to further increase their number of teams in the future, amounting to one women's and two junior teams at Bloxwich HC and one men's and one women's team at Streetly HC.
- ◀ There is a requirement for four full sized, floodlit, hockey pitches.
- ◀ Both the University of Aston Recreation Centre and Sneyd Community Association are over capacity and as such a solution is required, such as spreading out the play across all four available pitches.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on ensuring the sustainability of the current pitch stock and working with England Hockey, leagues and clubs to look at alternative days of play, such as Sunday.
- ◀ Resurfacing is needed at Willenhall Academy and Sneyd Community Association as both carpets are coming to the end of their lifespan.
- ◀ It must also be noted that although demand can currently be accommodated, it leaves no spare capacity for further growth. That is, if clubs expanded beyond future demand already expressed, new pitch provision would be required.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 7: BOWLS

7.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Walsall are crown greens. The British Crown Green Bowling Association is the National Governing Body for crown green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of crown green bowls. The bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are 36 clubs identified as using bowling greens in Walsall, of which, 21 replied to an online survey request resulting in a response rate of 58%. The table below highlights clubs that responded.

Table 7.1: Summary of consultation

Name of club	Responded?
Anchor Meadow BC	Yes
Anchorage BC	Yes
Aldridge Cons BC	No
Aldridge Probus BC	-
Aldridge Social BC	Yes
Barhale BC	Yes
Bloxwich BC	Yes
Bloxwich Probus BC	-
Bloxwich Stafford Road BC	Yes
British Rail BC	Yes
Brownhills & Oak Park BC	Yes
Chart Amery BC	Yes
Elmore Row Probus BC	-
Forest Probus BC	-
Gorway Road BC	Yes
Gorway Probus BC	-
Joseph Leckie Sons of Rest BC	Yes
Leamore Bowlers BC	Yes
Lichfield Road BC	Yes
Manor Farm Social BC	Yes
Palfrey & Cladmore Senior Citizens BC	Yes
Pelsall BC	Yes
Pleck Sons & Daughters of Rest BC	No
Queslett BC	Yes
Rushall Labour BC	Yes
Short Heath Liberal BC	Yes
Streetly BC	No
Streetly Meths BC	No
Walsall Ladies BC	Yes
Walsall Probus BC	-
West Bromwich Probus BC	-
Willenhall Chart BC	No
Willenhall Liberal Social BC	No

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Name of club	Responded?
Willenhall Nordley BC	No
Willenhall Trinity BC	Yes
Yale BC	No

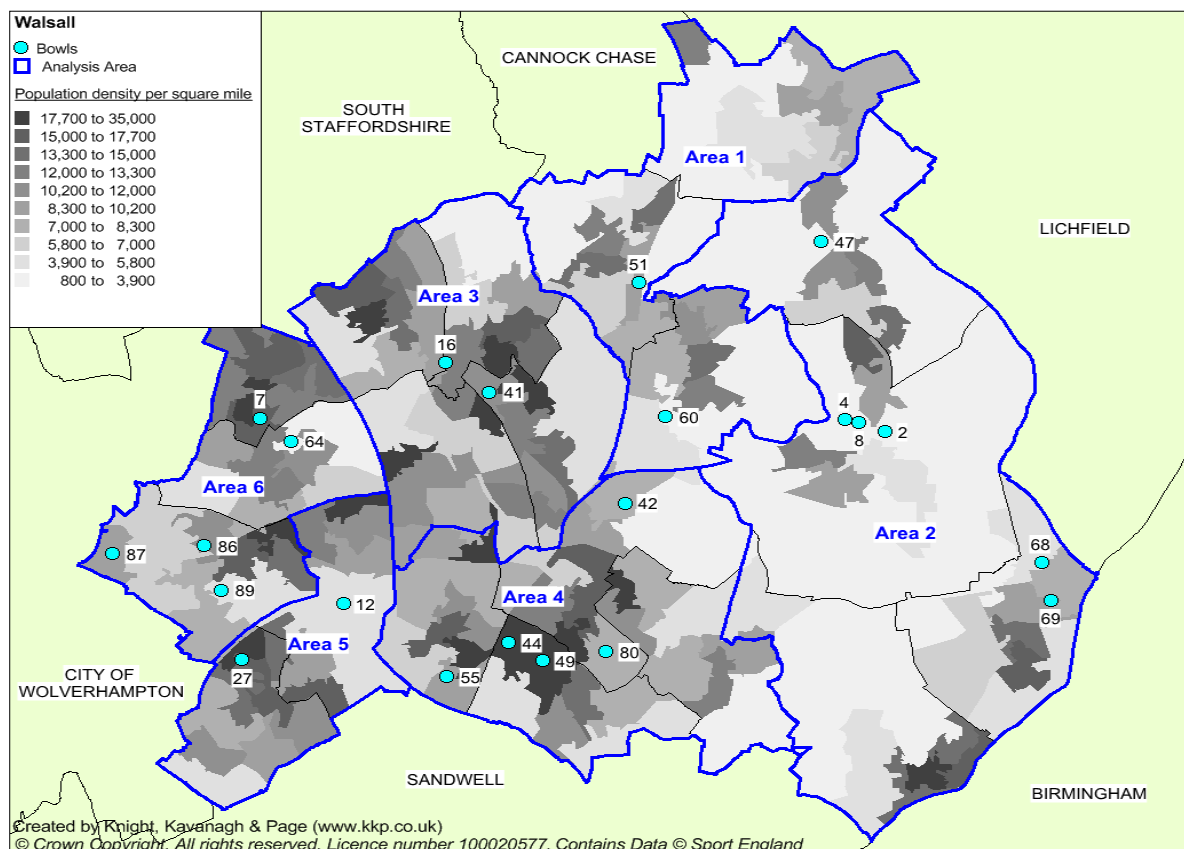
7.2: Supply

There are 29 crown green bowling greens in Walsall provided across 26 sites. Bentley South Playing Field contains three greens and Yale Bowling Club contains two. Area 2 and Area 6 contain the most number of greens (7) whilst Area 1 contains the lowest number (2).

Table 7.2: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Area 1	2
Area 2	7
Area 3	3
Area 4	6
Area 5	4
Area 6	7
Walsall	29

Figure 7.1: Distribution of bowling greens



WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.3: Key to map

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	No. of greens	Quality
4	Aldridge Community Centre	WS9 8AN	Area 2	1	Good
2	Aldridge Library	WS9 8NN	Area 2	1	Good
7	Amery Bowling Club	WV12 5RY	Area 6	1	Good
8	Anchorage 55+ Club	WS9 8AH	Area 2	1	Good
12	Bentley South Playing Field	WS2 0EA	Area 5	3	Good
16	Bloxwich Bowling Club	WS3 3JT	Area 3	1	Good
27	Darlaston Community Association	WS10 8NL	Area 5	1	Good
39	King George V	WS3 3NJ	Area 3	1	Good
41	Leamore Park	WS3 1HF	Area 3	1	Good
42	Lichfield Road Bowling Club	WS4 2DW	Area 4	1	Good
44	LMRCA	WS1 4JQ	Area 4	1	Good
47	Oak Park Leisure Centre	WS9 9PQ	Area 2	1	Good
49	Palfrey Park	WS1 4AN	Area 4	1	Poor
51	Pelsall Community Centre	WS3 4BQ	Area 1	1	Good
55	Pleck Park	WS2 9AF	Area 4	1	Good
105	Queslett Bowling Club	B72 2EY	Area 2	1	Good
60	Rushall Labour Club	WS4 1JT	Area 1	1	Standard
64	Short Heath Liberal Club	WV12 5PG	Area 6	1	Good
68	Streetly Methodise Recreation Centre	B74 3JJ	Area 2	1	Good
69	Streetly Sports Club	B74 3HX	Area 2	1	Good
76	Trinity Bowls Club	WV13 1HG	Area 6	1	Good
104	Walsall Aboretum	WS4 2BU	Area 4	1	Standard
80	Walsall Cricket Club	WS1 3BE	Area 4	1	Standard
86	Willenhall Liberal Club	WV13 1DF	Area 6	1	Good
87	Willenhall Memorial Park	WV13 3BU	Area 6	1	Good
89	Yale Bowling Club	WV13 2HA	Area 6	2	Poor

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment, 23 bowling greens were assessed as good quality, three as standard quality and three as poor quality. Both greens at Yale Bowling Club are rated as poor due to high levels of wear and tear, problems relating to litter and leaf fall and a lack of disabled access. Palfrey Park is also rated as poor due to the same reasons, as well as the condition of ditches/borders and surrounding hard areas.

Walsall Aboretum is assessed as standard quality as the evenness of the surface, grass cover and disabled access is in need of improvement. Walsall Cricket Club is assessed as standard due to high levels of wear and tear and problems relating to leaf fall. Both greens also have poor quality ditches/borders.

Of clubs responding to consultation, 15 rated the overall quality of their home green to be good quality and six rated theirs as standard. The remaining club, Rushall Labour BC, rate the quality of its green (Rushall Labour Club) as poor. The Club states that the Council maintenance is basic and infrequent, causing the grass to often grow too long and the green to become uneven. The open nature of the green also results in high levels of dog fouling.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

A total of 12 clubs report that green quality has improved since last season, the majority of which cite an improved maintenance regime as the main reason why. To that end, many clubs are complimentary towards the Council for dedicating more time and funding into greens under its ownership, especially during the off-season. On the other hand, Pelsall BC report that its green quality (Pelsall Community Centre) has worsened since last season due to a prolonged dry spell creating bare patches. All remaining clubs report no difference in green quality.

Ancillary provision

Access to suitable changing accommodation is reported to be an issue by many clubs across Walsall. This is especially the case for Rushall Labour BC which reports no access to changing accommodation or toilets at Rushall Labour Club. The Club expresses demand to provide the required facilities but states that in order to access funding it needs to lease the site on a long term basis from the Council. This will also enable the Club to begin carrying out maintenance itself and therefore improve green quality.

The following sites contain clubhouse facilities rated as poor by users:

- ✦ Anchor Meadow
- ✦ Oak Park Leisure Centre
- ✦ Rushall Labour Club
- ✦ Walsall Arboretum
- ✦ Walsall Cricket Club

In addition, Pelsall BC expresses a need to improve the surrounding footpaths and fencing at Pelsall Community Centre as it has become dangerous and unsuitable, especially for the disabled. No other issues relating to ancillary facilities were reported.

Playing locations

There are 36 clubs using bowling greens in Walsall. The table below highlights the home green for each club.

Table 7.4: Playing locations of bowling clubs in Walsall

Site ID	Site	Club users
2	Aldridge Library	Aldridge Social BC; Aldridge Cons BC; Aldridge Probus BC
4	Aldridge Community Centre	Anchor Meadow BC; Manor Farm Social BC
7	Amery Bowling Club	Chart Amery BC
8	Anchorage 55+ Club	Anchorage BC
12	Bentley South Playing Field	-
16	Bloxwich Bowling Club	Bloxwich BC; Bloxwich Probus BC; Elmore Row Probus BC; Forest Probus BC
27	Darlaston Community Association	-
39	King George V	Bloxwich Stafford Road BC
41	Leamore Park	Leamore Bowlers BC
42	Lichfield Road Bowling Club	Lichfield Road BC; Gorway Probus BC; West Bromwich Probus BC
44	LMRCA	Walsall Probus BC; British Rail BC

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site	Club users
47	Oak Park Leisure Centre	Brownhills & Oak Park BC
49	Palfrey Park	Palfrey & Cladmore Senior Citizens BC
51	Pelsall Community Centre	Pelsall BC
55	Pleck Park	Pleck Sons & Daughters of Rest BC
60	Rushall Labour Club	Rushall Labour BC
64	Short Heath Liberal Club	Short Heath Liberal BC
68	Streetly Methodise Recreation Centre	Streetly Meths BC
69	Streetly Sports Club	Streetly BC
76	Trinity Bowls Club	Willenhall Trinity BC
80	Walsall Cricket Club	Gorway Road BC
86	Willenhall Liberal Club	Willenhall Liberal Social BC; Willenhall Nordley BC
87	Willenhall Memorial Park	Willenhall Chart BC
89	Yale Bowling Club	Barhale BC; Yale BC
104	Walsall Aboretum	Joseph Leckie Sons of Rest BC; Walsall Ladies BC
105	Queslett Bowling Club	Queslett BC

As seen in the above table, Bentley South Playing Field and Darlaston Community Association are currently unused by clubs. In contrast, eight of the sites are used by more than one club.

7.3: Demand

Current demand

Across responding clubs there are a total of 976 members, which consists of 677 men, 280 women and 19 juniors. The average club membership is 47 members.

Pelsall BC has the highest membership with 111 members overall. The lowest membership is at Joseph Leckie Sons of Rest BC which contains 15 members. Only four clubs currently service junior members.

Table 7.5: Summary of club membership

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Anchor Meadow BC	45	30	0
Anchorage BC	30	20	0
Aldridge Social BC	16	4	0
Barhale BC	30	4	2
Bloxwich BC	41	4	0
Bloxwich Stafford Road BC	53	38	6
British Rail BC	20	2	0
Brownhills & Oak Park BC	28	8	0
Chart Amery BC	31	15	0
Gorway Road BC	27	23	0
Joseph Leckie Sons of Rest BC	12	3	0

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Club name	Members		
	Men	Women	Juniors
Leamore Bowlers BC	22	13	0
Lichfield Road BC	22	0	0
Manor Farm Social BC	20	16	0
Palfrey & Cladmore Senior Citizens BC	30	15	0
Pelsall BC	75	31	5
Queslett BC	33	12	0
Rushall Labour BC	30	1	0
Short Heath Liberal BC	54	6	6
Walsall Ladies BC	0	17	0
Willenhall Trinity BC	60	14	0
	Totals		
	677	280	19

In contrast to a national trend of declining membership, the following five Walsall based clubs report that membership has increased over the previous three years:

- ◀ Brownhills & Oak Park BC
- ◀ Leamore Bowlers BC
- ◀ Short Heath Liberal BC
- ◀ Walsall Ladies BC
- ◀ Willenhall Trinity BC

Brownhills & Oak Park BC report that this is due to increased advertising, whilst Short Heath Liberal BC reports that green improvements have helped the Club attract new members. All clubs reporting a growth in membership also state that new teams have been created because of the increase.

Bloxwich BC, Anchorage BC, Gorway Road BC and Rushall Labour BC all report a reduction in membership. The main reason cited is a lack of younger members coming through as older members stop playing. Rushall Labour BC also reports that it finds it difficult to retain members as green quality and ancillary provision is provided better elsewhere.

In addition, one club (Darlaston Sons of Rest BC) folded last season. The Club played at Bentley South Playing Field but when Darlaston FC acquired the site on a lease from the Council, the bowling club were no longer allowed to access the pavilion. The Council offered the Club the opportunity to relocate to another green but members were against this idea and as a result made the decision to fold.

All remaining clubs report that membership has generally remained static although many express an aspiration to grow in the future.

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2012-2037), the number of persons aged 65 and over is likely to increase from 47,200 in 2012 to 68,524 in 2037 in Walsall. This represents an increase of 46% and accounts for 22% of Walsall's total future population (compared to 17% currently). Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens is likely to increase.

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Of responding clubs, 11 have plans to increase the number of members in the future and believe that improved advertising, links with local schools and green quality improvements are the key factors to attracting more people.

When asked to quantify potential growth, clubs report plans to increase membership by 146 senior members and 27 junior members, as seen in the table below.

Table 7.6: Future demand

Club name	Members	
	Seniors	Juniors
Anchor Meadow BC	30	-
Anchorage BC	-	-
Aldridge Social BC	-	-
Barhale BC	-	-
Bloxwich BC	-	-
Bloxwich Stafford Road BC	10	10
British Rail BC	-	-
Brownhills & Oak Park BC	6	-
Chart Amery BC	-	-
Gorway Road BC	10	-
Joseph Leckie Sons of Rest BC	6	-
Leamore Bowlers BC	10	-
Lichfield Road BC	-	-
Manor Farm Social BC	-	-
Palfrey & Cladmore Senior Citizens BC	-	-
Pelsall BC	8	-
Queslett BC	-	-
Rushall Labour BC	4	2
Short Heath Liberal BC	30	15
Walsall Ladies BC	20	-
Willenhall Trinity BC	12	-
Total	146	27

Latent demand

No clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their ground or in the area would lead to an increase in club membership. In effect, the perception is that any planned increases can be accommodated on existing greens. No clubs currently have a waiting list and the majority would welcome new members.

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 488 people who would like to participate within Walsall. The most dominant segment is 'Elsie & Arnold – retirement home singles' (24%).

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

7.4 Supply and demand analysis

Generally, through consultation, it is considered that most bowling greens have spare capacity, meaning an increase in membership could be sustained. No clubs express demand for an additional green to be provided, meaning all clubs deem the current stock of greens sufficient to meet demand both now and in the future. Priority should therefore be placed on sustaining the greens currently in use and improving green quality and ancillary provision where necessary.

The average club membership in Walsall is 47 members. The following seven clubs are operating above this average:

- ◀ Anchor Meadow BC
- ◀ Anchorage BC
- ◀ Bloxwich Stafford Road BC
- ◀ Gorway Road BC
- ◀ Pelsall BC
- ◀ Short Heath Liberal BC
- ◀ Willenhall Trinity BC

Although none of these clubs express a need for more green space, it is recommended that they are given support in order to ensure their needs continue to be met. It is also recommended that greens which are home to more than one club are regularly assessed as it is these greens which are likely to be the most heavily used and as a result more prone to quality issues.

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are 29 crown green bowling greens in Walsall across 26 sites.
- ◀ Of the greens, 22 are assessed as good quality, three as standard quality and three as poor quality.
- ◀ A total of 12 clubs report that green quality has improved since last season, whilst only one club reports that quality has worsened.
- ◀ Access to suitable changing accommodation is reported as an issue by many clubs across Walsall such as at Rushall Labour BC.
- ◀ Across the 21 consulted clubs there are a total of 976 members, which consists of 677 men, 280 women and 19 juniors.
- ◀ In contrast to a national decline in bowls membership, five clubs report that membership has increased over the last three years. Four clubs report a declining membership.
- ◀ Of the clubs consulted, 11 have aspirations to have more members in the future. Further to this with an ageing population, demand for bowling greens is likely to increase. However, any planned increases can be accommodated on existing greens.
- ◀ It is considered that most bowling greens have spare capacity, meaning an increase in membership could be sustained. However, seven clubs are operating above the Walsall average membership of 47 members.
- ◀ No clubs express demand for an additional green to be provided meaning all clubs deem the current stock of greens sufficient to meet demand both now and in the future.

APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

WALSALL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main priorities are identified as:

- ◀ **Participation**
 - Retain and support existing 119,000 teams.
 - Boost female participation by 11%.
 - Increase number of over 16s playing every week by over 200,000.
 - Innovative programmes and grants to provide a range of playing opportunities.
- ◀ **Player development**
 - Invest £16m into coach education, development, mentor and bursary programmes
 - An extra 1,000 top level grassroots coaches at Charter Standard clubs.
 - Create the best competition formats and environment for young players.
 - Ongoing investment into the FA skills programme.
- ◀ **Better training and playing facilities**
 - Invest £48m in new and improved facilities.
 - Create 100 new football turf pitches and improve 2,000 grass pitches.
 - Invest in new sustainable model for grassroots facilities in 30 cities.
 - Ensure half of mini and youth matches are played on high quality AGPs.
- ◀ **Football workforce**
 - Recruit and develop volunteers and paid staff who service the game.
 - Improve technology to run the game more efficiently.
 - Each county FA to have inclusion Advisory Board with targets to diversify coaching and refereeing.
 - 90% of youth and adult matches to be officiated by a qualified referee.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

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The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)

“Champion Counties” - continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: “Grounds to Play”. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships through effective leadership and governance
- ◀ Building a Vibrant domestic game through operational excellence and delivering a competition structure with appointment to view
- ◀ Engaging participants through the maintenance of existing facilities, supporting club/school links, supporting volunteers and expanding women's and disabilities cricket
- ◀ Delivering Successful England teams and world class global events

The key measures for the life span of the plan are as follows:-

- ◀ Increase the subset of participation measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500.
- ◀ Increase attendances at LV= CC, YB50 and FLT20 by 200,000.
- ◀ Complete sponsorship and broadcasting agreements through 2019.
- ◀ Win the World Test Championship and Women's
- ◀ World Cup in 2017.
- ◀ Win The Ashes and World Cup in 2015.
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest Cricket Force from 2,000 to 2,200.
- ◀ Complete co-operation agreements for each of the 39 County Boards with their First Class County or Minor County partner.

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- ◀ Deliver two world class global events in 2017 which exceed budget and exceed customer satisfaction targets.
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017.
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017.
- ◀ Award all Major Matches through 2019 by December 2014.
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017.
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC.
- ◀ Provide First Class Counties with total fee payments of £144m between 2014 and 2017.
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant programme ensure a multiplier of 3 with other funding partners.
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues.
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million.
- ◀ Leverage the 2014 tour by India to engage with a minimum of 10,000 cricket supporters of Asian origin. Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers.
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000.
- ◀ Deliver an annual fixture for the Unicorns against a touring (Full, A or U19) ICC member nation.
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change.
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017.

The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues

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- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

'The right pitches in the right places'¹⁵

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is

¹⁵

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

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